



January 2018 Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met in January to recap the Legislative Agenda for 2018, which includes securing a dedicated revenue source for the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund, additional property tax relief for low-income homeowners, funding for Reentry housing programs, and exploring blighted property programs. We also went over the chronology of the HousingNOLA action items that the Public Policy Committee will be responsible for, which totals seventeen. The Committee is already working on eight of the action items; the other six and three will be started in 2nd and 3rd Quarters, respectively. The Public Policy Committee will not be solely responsible for all seventeen. We introduced subcommittees and working groups that will be assisting and reporting back to the Public Policy Committee, such as the Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) Coalition, Section 8 Marketing, Short-Term Rental, Language Barrier, Data Working Group, Community Review Team, Blights Out, and Construction Cost Containment. Jane's Place is currently working on an ordinance to strengthen regulations on STR's, which includes a policy briefing. There was also an EEFA site visit from our national partners. We met with Councilman Williams to get his support on energy efficiency and to gauge how the Council's feels on the Entergy Power Plant in New Orleans East. The different subcommittees will work independently and report back to Public Policy for further support. Lastly, we discussed the City Council Hearing on January 26th pertaining to the Master Plan Amendments. We had members of the Committee testify at the hearing in support of increasing density along high frequency transit areas. The Council will be vote on the Master Plan Amendments during one of their February regular meetings on the 8th or 22nd. We will send out a Call to Action for member support as soon as we know which meeting it will be voted on.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in January. At the next meeting, however, the Homeownership Committee will begin work on integrating the Energy Efficiency For All (EEFA) policy platforms into aspects of the Homeownership Committee platform. This will help ensure that homeowners are not cost-burdened due to high energy costs stemming from the older housing stock in the city. By making homes air-, water-, and light-tight, homeowners will see a reduction in their overall energy costs, which in turn reduces the cost of homeownership.

The Committee will also keep close watch on the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) going forward. In January, the Government shut down due to inability to compromise on a fiscal year budget. For Homeowners who had not made a payment to the NFIP, ~~they~~ they experienced a three day lapse in coverage. The program was reauthorized, but only until February 8th. The Committee will continue to support efforts around the NFIP through partner organizations and calls-to-action.

The Committee will also meet to determine the best way to display an excel sheet of data about homes bought and sold during 2016. The data has been sorted and analyzed; the next step is to reconfigure the data for presentation to a public audience. The Committee will decide the best course of action for displaying this data at the next monthly meeting.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable was unable to meet in January, but is aiming for a meeting in February. A letter regarding the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program (NRPP) was drafted with the intentions of being sent to the LHC outlining challenges with the program, what changes can be implemented to improve the program, and what changes can be implemented to help the people whose homes were affected. The Roundtable will also discuss a Shared Solution that tracks client contact and will help clients in finding the right resources for their needs.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee met in January to continue to the conversation on HANO's PBV referral process. HUD issued a guidance on site based waitlist. Site-based waitlist have to be maintained by the Housing Authority to ensure that people aren't skipped from the general waitlist. HANO has reached out to residents with some information about the varying sites and allowed to them to opt into a waitlist for that specific location. As there is still some confusion around how the process works, members of the Committee have drafted a letter detailing their questions and concerns. We also discussed the City Council Hearing on January 26th pertaining to the Master Plan Amendments. We had members of the Committee testify at the hearing in support of increasing density along high frequency transit areas to increase housing opportunities with easy access to transit. The Council will be vote on the Master Plan Amendments during one of their February regular meetings on the 8th or 22nd. We will send out a Call to Action for member support as soon as we know which meeting it will be voted on.

Energy Efficiency for All Coalition

In January, the EEFA Coalition discussed the Energy Smart Workshop for developers which will be held on February 1st at 10am. We will be discussing the results of the survey sent out to developers towards the end of 2017 and suggestions for the program with APTIM Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., the third-party administrator of Energy Smart. There was also an EEFA site visit from our national partners. We met with Councilman Williams to get his support on energy efficiency and to gauge how the Council's feels on the Entergy Power Plant in New Orleans east.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Section 8 Subcommittee met towards the end of the month to continue the conversation on Section 8 marketing and outreach. We won't be moving forward on the HQS pre-inspections as they will create more problems for landlords than issues it would

resolve. Enterprise and GNOFHAC are starting a small project targeting focus groups to landlords in high opportunity neighborhoods about the HCV program. They have already started with the outreach and will begin the work in February. The subcommittee will be supporting HANO on trainings for staff, residents, and landlords. HANO is moving forward with a pilot that will provide increased exception payment standards in 5 higher-cost zip codes, 70116, 70115, 70118, 70124, and 70130, to research the benefits of small area fair market rates. They will run the pilot for 6 months and assess afterwards. After the focus sessions and trainings, the Subcommittee will focus on PR push with support from Eric Paulsen.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee did not meet in January. However, the Committee has members participating in the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's Disaster Recovery calls and their three smaller focus groups: The Need for Data Transparency, Puerto Rico (including Puerto Ricans in Florida), and The Homeless and Federal Disaster Response. The Committee has also helped to bring Harold Lathon from FEMA to GNOHA's monthly meeting on February 19th. Harold worked in Housing, Economic and Community Development with his Subject Matter Expert (SME) expertise in "Whole Community" sustainable development. He's coming to inform our members about the various disaster housing assistance programs. We hope that educating and connecting our members to FEMA would provide them with a connection to the services that would be needed in case of emergency and ensure that we are better prepared.

Capacity Building

The UNO PLUS Development Finance Certificate Program has received the CEA from the City of New Orleans. GNOHA member organizations will be participating, along with the individuals and organizations identified by The Network for Economic Opportunities. Classes began November 2 and will continue into February. The Capacity Building Calendar is complete, and the search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing.

Shared Solutions Initiative

GNOHA continues to gauge interest in the shared solutions initiative, receiving feedback from participating organizations. The top three categories of interest remain as financial services, graphic design services, and tax credit education. GNOHA and *trepwise* is in the process of compiling a preferred vendors list for these services, vetting vendors based on quality of work, pricing, and ability to accommodate to our members' general needs.

GNOHA and *trepwise* are working with Annie Cambria to research and curate a professional development workshop series on tax credits for the review of shared solutions participants. Interest in this series is being fielded and plans to pilot the series at the March Monthly Meeting are underway.

The potential schedule for a lecture seminar on tax credits for CDCs and community members. Topics include:

- Tax Credits 101: the who, what, when, and why of utilizing tax credits for Affordable Housing (covers the basics of LIHTC, NMTC, FHTC/SHTC).
- Tax Reform and Me: what impact does federal tax reform have on commercial and multifamily housing development.
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credits 201.
- New Markets Tax Credits 201.
- Historic Tax Credits 201

In January, GNOHA also began researching and curating professional development opportunities around finance management, marketing, and donor relations/fundraising that are being offered by local organizations and will continue to share these opportunities with shared solutions participants. The two third party professional development workshops GNOHA recommended to shared solutions participants in January are: “Cause Selling” hosted by Xavier’s Institute of Philanthropy on Wednesday, January 31, and “Building a Strong Marketing Communications Program” hosted by Louisiana Association of Nonprofits in partnership with Gambel Communications on Tuesday, March 27, 9:00a – 4:30p at Broadmoor Arts and Wellness Center.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Collaborative held the Quarterly Meeting in January. The LHEC certified one new agency in the last cycle, Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance. The Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance has been introduced to the List of Certified Agencies for 2018-2019. In 2018, any organization currently on the certified agencies list will have to reapply for their good standing status during the 2018-2019 Application Cycle. The Application Cycle will open in August 2018.

HUD released the examination schedule for housing counselor certification for 2017; the announcement proclaims the start of the HUD Certified Housing Counselor Examination will be on August 01, 2017. Registration for the Examination will not be open until August 01, 2017. The Collaborative will be creating a group to support its members in completing the new certification requirements.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee (Put Housing First)

In January, GNOHA drafted a Put Housing First candidate questionnaire for the upcoming election for State Representative District 93. The questionnaire will be distributed to candidates following its review by the Put Housing First working group and ActLocal participants. Questionnaires will be reviewed and a candidate scorecard will be distributed before the early election period.

GNOHA also participated in the Power Coalition Special Election Forum in partnership with Step Up Louisiana and VOTE, in which Put Housing First questions were answered by State Representative candidate.

GNOHA continues to craft a Wish List for Mayor Landrieu, which will be officially distributed in the month of February.

ConnectNOLA

LAHousingSearch.org

GNOHA has been working with LAHousingSearch.org, a property listings website funded by the LHC, to promote the consistent listings of affordable housing opportunities on a centralized website. GNOHA has been fielding our developer members' interest and experiences with the website to determine if it will benefit affordable housing developers, landlords, and renters. In January, GNOHA worked with LAHousingSearch.org and a volunteer landlord to pilot a group of affordable properties to gauge the pros and cons of using the website for our developer members' benefit.

We will be working during the next QAP to advocate that government subsidized housing be required to list on LAHousingSearch.org in order to make affordable housing opportunities more accessible to tenants.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

HousingNOLA Leadership Board

In January, the Leadership Board meeting served as the New Orleans Area Listening Tour. Members of the community joined us to discuss their concerns regarding housing in New Orleans. Community members expressed concerns around the low rate of home ownership, the low quality of homes, blight, homelessness, and other pressing issues in the New Orleans area.

HousingNOLA Community Review Team

While Review Team members attended the New Orleans Listening Tour, the Group is not scheduled to meet until February where it will hear from the Tiny House Group to determine how it should be incorporated into the 2018 Action Plan.

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

In January, the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative had their first annual in person meeting in Baton Rouge. Members convened to discuss the plans moving forward. These plans include a discussion around rebranding, setting a timeline preceding the legislative session, and brainstorming ideas for the legislative bill we are looking to push forward. The group also discussed the possibility of focusing the group's potential revenue on housing for people who are formerly incarcerated.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council met in January for their first meeting of 2018. The group reviewed and approved of the 2018 action plan and discussed plans for the year. As the two co-chairs of the group were unable to attend the meeting, another meeting is being planned for early March so plans can be solidified for 2018.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

At the end of 2017, the city successfully identified additional funding for a supplemental study for the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance on specific issues. The Tiger Team is expecting the City Council to secure funding for additional study needed to refine the Smart Housing Mix.

Assessors Working Group

The Assessors Working Group is currently working on reviewing various models of property tax abatement solutions that could provide assistance to low-income homeowners facing increases in property assessments. In January, staff worked on coordinating a Working Group meeting and discussions with the Assessor to discuss updates around Road Home clients, tax relief initiatives, and non-profit tax issues.

Lenders Roundtable

The Lenders Roundtable did not hold a meeting in January, but will meet to discuss the structure and presentation of the data compiled to project the housing development funding gap over the next five years. Data was provided outlining the city's commitment for 7,500 units; it is projected that 10,952 units needed for <80% AMI renters. The Roundtable will finalize the plans for the analyzed data at the next meeting. The Lenders Roundtable will also discuss the investment opportunities for projects that currently have some public investment but lack the private capital necessary to complete the units.

Currently, Michael Swack, a national expert in community finance solutions has been assisting us in our efforts to secure funding through for housing through the Lenders Roundtable and aligning our efforts with One Table. . The financial investment needed to achieve this goal is the missing piece to solve the affordable housing problem in our city. In order to assist us, Swack is interviewing developers and other allied partners to craft a well-rounded view of the lending situation we face in New Orleans.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in January. The committee continues to follow the current status of the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; GNOHA has signed a Call to Action sent out urging supporters to contact their congressional representative to vote 'Yes' on the continuing resolution in order to keep the flood insurance program authorized. The Call to Action also urged everyone to call their Senators to give their support of the Continuing Resolution, and to complete a speedy, multi-year reauthorization of the NFIP that preserves affordability, increases opportunities for community and individual mitigation, improves the mapping process, and increases program participation.

At the next meeting, the Task Force will discuss the next steps involving the survey that was created for homeowners and developers, in the hopes that these survey results will give a foundation for policy recommendations that can be brought to the commissioner.

Healthy Homes Initiative

The Healthy Homes Initiative is in the process of further developing our work plan with the help of a national group, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and our EEFA partner Philip Henderson of the National Resources Defense Council. Under the new plan, we would partner with a local hospital system to pilot a preventative health program. We are partnering with the Louisiana Public Health Institute to better strategize the work plan. Our Ochsner Hospital Representative met with the Vice President of Community Outreach at Ochsner. She also met with representatives from LPHI. They are focused on the transportation connection. The VP of Community Outreach is meeting with Ochsner's primary care leaders to understand what capacity they have to engage in the overall research agenda. We are currently seeking funding in an effort to pilot the program once all the pieces are in place.

Housing for People with Disabilities Working Group

We are continuing our work with the National Disabilities Institute's working group to assist with the housing side of financial inclusion. The working group is currently working on a resource map for the New Orleans regions to assist people with disabilities in our regions. The Initiative also continues to work with the Advocacy Center of Louisiana and their new policy team to tackle a range of housing issues for people with disabilities in 2018. The Advocacy Center is also working with us to assist the formally incarcerated with disabilities being released by Governor Edwards throughout 2018. We have also nominated two people from the Advocacy Center to our Community Review Team.

At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative

The At-Risk Youth Housing Needs group ended 2017 discussing housing policy and potential service gaps and data that needs to be collected to pull together a legislative agenda for the 2018 session. The group did not meet in January.

New Orleans ReEntry/LAPRI Housing Committee

In January, the New Orleans ReEntry/LAPRI Housing Committee met to discuss the ongoing challenges to developing a housing network for the men and women returning to New Orleans and members presented at the City Council Criminal Justice Committee. The Operators Working Group has added members and new housing opportunities while continuing to create shared policies and procedures. The Developers Working Group has also increased its membership and has identified potential partners for the Network Hub and scattered sites.

Data Working Group

At the suggestion of the Leadership Board in 2017, the Data Working Group will now track homelessness for the past 12 years and the number of Short Term Rental permits for the Report Card. The Leadership Board also made other suggestions to include for the State of Housing report that is currently being researched. A Market Value Analysis is being conducted with New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and HousingNOLA will be included within the first

meeting shortly after Mardi Gras. The group did not meet in January, but they will reconvene soon to discuss the data for the Semi-Annual Report Card which will be released in April.

Social Enterprise

The January 13th Baton Rouge Neighborhood Summit kicked off the community input and discussion around the Housing Plan for East Baton Rouge Parish. The YWCA Greater Baton Rouge, a partner with the Housing FIRST Alliance, and Foundation for Louisiana has opened registration for the Truth, Racial Justice, and Healing training which will begin for housing advocates in February of 2018.

Statewide Housing Alliance

During the month of January, GNOHA and HousingNOLA successfully scheduled and held 5 listening tours in the Baton Rouge, Shreveport, New Orleans Metro, Lafayette and Alexandria regions. Lake Charles and Monroe Listening Tours will have to be reimaged due to time constraint and other challenges. The Baton Rouge Listening Tour was held during the Baton Rouge Housing Summit to discuss the Housing Plan for Baton Rouge by identifying unmet needs in the region and to draft solutions rooted in community. Due to the weather, the Houma leg of the tour was cancelled, but priorities from various community leaders are being compiled from the Houma region for review. Shreveport's Listening Tour was conducted during the Community Needs Assessment Partnership Cluster Meeting. The meeting required resource providers to develop a comprehensive list of existing resources to identify gaps in housing/infrastructure, education, and economic development. Lafayette's Listening Tour was partnered with The Long Term Recovery/Housing Rebuilds Team of Acadiana VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) which is a group of local housing and community based organizations that identify unmet needs and work collaboratively on case management, funding, volunteer resources, and project management in order to get flood-affected families' homes back to livable condition. During the meeting, community leaders and housing advocates announced their intention to form Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance. Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Shreveport's notes from the tour were formulated into a survey and emailed for participant review to begin prioritizing issue areas into a legislative agenda. The notes for New Orleans and Alexandria Listening Tours are still being compiled and will be sent out early February 2018. The newest regional tour for the Northshore is confirmed for February.