



2019 February Report

Highlights

- ❖ **HousingLOUISIANA held their All-Day Planning Session on February 1st in Alexandria, LA. During the planning session every region was given space to discuss their progress and need for support for their Housing Alliance. All regions had issues with affordable housing, energy efficiency, and barriers to revitalization.**
- ❖ **HousingLOUISIANA hosted the fourth successful Houma Listening Tour**
- ❖ **Capacity Building Initiative and Lender's Roundtable defining action items to address challenges identified by GNOHA Affordable Housing Developer Survey results.**

GNOHA Standing Committees Reports

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Initiative met in February with George White of the Alliance of Minority Contractors to discuss issues of inflated construction costs. The group discussed the potential benefits of building a reciprocal relationship between the Alliance for Minority Contractors and GNOHA CDCs in order to establish relationships and more open lines of communication and allow for more fair negotiations, such as establishing a fair pricing model standard for building materials. The group identified that a major contributor to inflated construction cost estimates is the lack of strong relationships and reliability between prime contractors and local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contractors (DBEs). The group plans to build up a local DBE subcontractor categorization system based on specific capacity indicators and make it available to prime contractors with GNOHA's seal of approval. The group also discussed hosting networking events for area contractors in order to strengthen relationships between local prime and subcontractors and encourage participation in categorization system and more use of DBEs. The group also discussed the difficulties faced by DBEs in securing bonding, and will be researching the possibility of crowd-sourced bonding capacity through GNOHA. The Capacity Building Initiative amended the 2019 Capacity Building Training Calendar and it will be finalized the first week of March.

Developer Survey

GNOHA shared the developer survey responses in the February monthly meeting, so that members would have the opportunity to participate in a discussion about developer challenges and share solutions. Members reported details on their challenges accessing capital to fund affordable development. They stated that interest rates on lending products are too high and there have been long waits to open a new line of credit. Further, loan products that developers have typically relied on no longer exist. Both of these challenges have been a barrier to scaling up development. Members also echoed the concerns of Collaborative members regarding the lack of lenders and loan products suitable for first time buyers. Members would like to see more investment in home ownership maintenance, and the scaling of lending institutions like ASI, Hope Credit Union, GNOFCU. GNOHA will be working the Lenders Roundtable to address these concerns about the available products for affordable housing developers. We will also be

hosting a Lender's Networking event in March, to start a conversation amongst new lenders about the best practices and procedures necessary to serve low-moderate income first time homebuyers.

Shared Solutions

In February, the shared solutions participants ultimately chose to hold off on participating in a shared healthcare option. HousingNOLA and GNOHA will pilot the shared healthcare program in order to make it available to new members. Once the pilot is implemented beginning in April, members will have the opportunity to join the Shared Solutions Healthcare initiative at any time during their membership. Contact Bri Foster, bfoster@gnoha.org if your organization is interested in joining the Shared Solutions Healthcare initiative.

Homeownership

There are no significant updates for this committee in February.

Nonprofit Rebuilding Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable met on February 28th. In the meeting, the Homeownership Committee members and nonprofit rebuilding leaders had an opportunity to hear about Historic District Landmarks Commission's unnecessary hardship provisions from Elliot Perkins. Council approved a motion from HDLC on these changes in January and HDLC is creating a commission to design the process for that allows homeowners to report financial or other limitations to HDLC, to lessen the liens and fines imposed by HDLC for noncompliance and gain exemptions to some of the requirements for compliance. HDLC is building a subcommittee of commissioners to guide this process and determine the income qualifications. The Roundtable will provide a summary of the challenges their homeowners face that are specific to HDLC. The Roundtable also discussed shared Solutions and a system for streamlining homeowner needs, based on crisiscleanup.com. There will be a shared list of unmet client needs, which will codify the process for intake. This can be used as a way to manage people on waiting lists. Nonprofit Rebuilders also learned about capacity building opportunities through GNOHA's shared solutions program, such as health care and UNO's CDC Finance Class.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

In February, the Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative did not meet. However, a subcommittee of Collaborative members have been planning for the Lender's Networking Event, which will be held on March 20th at the Albert and Tina Small Center. This event will be a networking and educational opportunity for lenders to build their knowledge of housing policies to support first time homeownership for low to moderate income buyers.

Soft Second Task Force

The Office of Community Development released a notice of the comment period for the 'Substantial Improvements' to their new Homeownership Assistance Program, which was released at the beginning of February. This comment period will close on March 8th and GNOHA received notification from the City that the Soft Second program will begin on March 6th. In February, GNOHA and HousingNOLA drafted a response letter based on feedback from the Homeownership Committee, sharing the concerns GNOHA has about the program in its current form.

The Office of Community Development has \$4.2 million in CDBG funds to allocate this year. \$3 million will be allocated to the Soft Second Mortgage Program. The amount any first time buyer can receive in soft seconds will be capped at \$35,000 and \$5,000 in closing costs. Qualifying buyers must be under 80% Area Median Income, must remain in their home for 10 years and their homes must pass HQS inspection. GNOHA and HousingNOLA will also submit a 'Homeownership Fact Sheet' to Marjorianna Willman and OCD to demonstrate the risks that this program could present to buyers, given the affordability terms and decreasing availability of affordable housing stock in our city that is both affordable and likely to pass housing quality standards.

Rental

Section 8 Subcommittee

There were no significant updates from the Section 8 Committee in February.

Homelessness/Supportive Services/Transitional Housing

The Service Providers and Professionals Association (SPAA) met on February 15th, 2019 for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Members were delighted to announce that, on top of the extra \$2.15M in funds granted to the Unity Continuum of Care (COC) based on improved performance outcomes, the COC was also ranked number 1 out of over 950 other COC's in major cities for its proficiency in HMIS (Homeless Management Information Systems) data reporting by the latest HUD analysis. Overall, this recognition contributes to continued or increased funding, stability, and support for the service providers in the continuum to address homelessness in the community.

It was also announced that UNITY will have an increase in its committee activities in the upcoming months. On February 27th, UNITY held a Continuum of Care Advocacy Committee meeting to determine and discuss the top three advocacy priorities for the year. It was determined that the committee will focus on:

- **Congressional Funding for Homeless Services**
- **Smart Housing Mix and Affordable Housing Creation**
- **Dedicated Local Funding to reduce homelessness including Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Rapid Resolution**


The committee believes that these three advocacy priorities will help us to continue to reduce the homeless population in New Orleans. Other policy/advocacy priorities that UNITY and SPAA will work on are: decriminalization of homelessness, expanding mental health resources, homeless preferences and policies in local Public Housing Authorities (PHA), and educating candidates and community leaders.

GNOHA recently joined a working group that focuses, specifically, on *Housing Insecurity and Homelessness in Cancer Patients*, and attended its first meeting on February 28th. There are a great number of people who, upon being diagnosed with cancer, become so financially, emotionally, and physically strained that the negative impacts often lead to housing insecurity and/or homelessness. This can be caused by high medical bills, strained family relationships, the inability to continue to work and earn a decent living, depression, being physically sick due to cancer and treatment, etc. The working group met to determine if there is an interest and need to focus on this very vulnerable

population, and to discuss the inter-relationships between a cancer diagnosis and housing insecurity. Moving forward, the group aims to come up with effective solutions to prevent a cancer diagnosis from also becoming a prescription for homelessness. The group will meet the last week of March to strategically plan activities next steps.

Resiliency

The Resiliency Committee met on February 28th to discuss upcoming initiatives for 2019. The committee listened to a presentation from Urban Conservancy concerning a new 2-year grant to create green infrastructure in the Hoffman Triangle. Umbrella partners include SOUL, Green Light New Orleans, Launch NOLA, Water Block LLC, and the City of New Orleans Office of Resilience. Through this program, Urban Conservancy will strategically install (100) 15-gallon trees, 35 rain barrels, and remove at least 1500 square feet of impermeable surface. LaunchNOLA Green Graduates will provide the installations. They aim to get 80 or more residents involved in the program. GNOHA members have committed to helping with outreach, and connecting key stakeholders and developers to the program for partnership opportunities. For more information on Urban Conservancy and their initiatives please visit their website: <https://www.urbanconservancy.org/>

The committee also heard from representatives of Life City, *an organization that helps businesses make social and environmental changes in a profitable way by helping partners strategically analyze their business practices to cut costs and improve their environmental and social impact*. GNOHA will be partnering with the Regional Sustainability Committee, a subcommittee of Life City, to collaborate on outreach strategies surrounding the implementation of green infrastructure projects in the Mid-City and Broadmoor neighborhoods. 

Ryan Mast, from the City of New Orleans' Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, gave an update on the scientific rain gauge program. This program encourages everyday citizens to track rainfall and the effects it has on their neighborhood storm water management systems over time. The city has about 300 scientific rain gauges to distribute to interested residents. Once given the rain gauge, participants can not only track rainfall, but upload the information and pictures of flooding, and other problems, to a newly developed phone app called 'iseexchange.' This allows the city to compile the data to determine what type of flood activities are happening in the city and help them to stay informed on what storm water management issues need to be addressed at a given time. Another interesting program that was brought to our attention is the Car Thermometer program through EMS. If residents take their car seats to EMS to get checked, they can be given a car thermometer that helps to remind them when car temperatures are too hot for children and pets.

Moving forward, GNOHA will help with a major campaign push and shared messaging between with UC, Life City, and City of New Orleans in efforts to bolster these green infrastructure, storm water management, and resiliency projects—as they all cross-intersect and work towards the same goal. In the March meeting, we hope to meet with Officers from 'Resilience NOLA' to get updates, and strategize on advocacy work surrounding the Green New Deal.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/14/politics/green-new-deal-proposal-breakdown/index.html>

Insurance Task Force

The GNOHA Insurance Task force did not meet in February, but the committee plans to meet to discuss shared messaging around flood insurance policies—in time for the start of Hurricane Season in Louisiana. The committee continues tracking the implementation of a timely, long-term solution for the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and plans to join with Housing Louisiana to gain support from other regions and their elected officials to advocate for a housing policies that they are affected by.

Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

The Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition tracks, monitors, and advocates for recovery in low-income areas impacted by natural disasters. Currently, the coalition has been tracking recovery efforts from Hurricanes: Florence, Harvey, and Michael as well as recovery efforts from the wild fires in California.

On February 6th, the DHRC sent out reports about partners in California and Florida. In California, FEMA has committed to providing 1,800 direct housing units but is struggling to find appropriate land for placement. The City of Chico is working with FEMA and residents to find additional housing options, especially since the last Red Cross shelter closed last week. In the Florida Panhandle, homeless counts in schools have risen dramatically and legal aid attorneys are beginning to hear that survivors are being denied assistance because of title issues – a problem that occurs after almost every disaster. Much of the region’s infrastructure remains damaged and local governments and FEMA are still working to remove debris and place trailers. In both places, local officials and advocates have struggled with FEMA’s lack of transparency and limited communication. The DHRC and the National Low-income housing coalition drafted a letter to the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security – asking them to hold FEMA accountable for its failure to meet the immediate housing needs of low-income survivors and begin working with stakeholders on reforms to address the reoccurring issues.

Also, on February 15th, President Trump signed the final spending bill for fiscal year 2019, preventing another government shutdown. Unfortunately, this package did not include disaster funding, and the timing for a disaster supplemental is uncertain. A bipartisan group of senators recently sent a letter to Congressional leadership stressing the importance of funding for communities impacted by recent disasters. Because the spending package did not include the funding requested by President Trump for a border wall, he has declared a national emergency in an effort to redirect funding for construction. Although, he had previously suggested using disaster recovery money for a wall, this possibility no longer seems likely. Several senators introduced a bill to stop him from doing so and two Florida representatives vowed that disaster money would not be jeopardized.

[HelpNOLANow](#)

ConnectNOLA

There are no significant updates for ConnectNOLA in February.

LA Housing Search

There are no significant updates in February for LAHousingSearch.org. GNOHA and HousingNOLA will continue to engage LAHousingSearch.org to be involved in our Council District Housing Summit Series in the coming months.

Metro New Orleans Regional Updates

Jefferson Parish

The Jefferson Parish City Council voted on February 22nd to ban short-term rentals in residential areas. There were no significant updates from the Kenner, Westwego, or Jefferson Parish Housing Authority in February.

St. Bernard Parish

HousingNOLA and GNOHA partners met with St. Bernard Parish government officials on February 12th to discuss new affordable housing initiatives in St. Bernard and how we might be able to partner on some of their goals. In the meeting, we heard about new programs to increase services for the homeless in St. Bernard and support Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher Program participants. St. Bernard Housing Authority is interested in starting homeownership and Family Self Sufficiency programs, which members of GNOHA have offered to support with. We also discussed St. Bernard joining the Balance of State statewide C.O.C. HousingNOLA and St. Bernard Parish will continue to communicate on these new initiatives moving forward.

Plaquemines Parish

In February, GNOHA attempted to secure meetings with Plaquemines Parish officials to discuss housing priorities and how to build bridges between community, elected officials, and developers in Plaquemines Parish. While Plaquemines officials are not amenable to meeting at this time, we plan to continue working with developer partners in Plaquemines to explore other ways to address NIMBY issues they are facing. We hope to fully integrate the community development corporations and civic leaders in 2019 and foster robust discussion of their housing issues.

St. Charles Parish

There were no significant updates for this areas in February.

St. John the Baptist Parish

There are no significant updates for St. John the Baptist Parish at this time.

St. James Parish

In early February, Federal and State environmental officials met in St. James Parish with representatives of Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC to discuss efforts to prevent a potential collapse of a 200-foot-tall wall of mineral waste and the subsequent release of acidic wastewater into nearby waterways and wetlands. According to representatives from one of its fertilizer plants, there are 700 million gallons of processed water sitting atop a vast mound of phosphogypsum east of the Mississippi River. The company is already under a federal consent decree to pay \$1.8B to clean up its production waste, specifically its corrosive waste waters stored at eight plants in Florida. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Mosaic Fertilizer is one of the biggest makers of fertilizer.

Public Policy Committee/Working Group

The Public Policy Committee met in February to discuss recently passed legislation for Short-Term Rentals and the Smart Housing Mix, while also preparing next steps for both items as there were public

hearings for each near the end of the month. The Committee was also briefed on GNOHA and HousingNOLA's position on Entergy's New Orleans East Gas Plant and the progress of HousingLOUISIANA and other statewide initiatives. Tyra Brown, Director of Housing with the City of New Orleans, discussed the details of the Office of Community Development's Action Plan amendments. Public Policy will be working on research to complete HousingNOLA Action Items that are expected to be completed during the first and second Quarter of 2019. The committee is seeking feedback to help build capacity and better collaboration.

Energy Efficiency for All

The Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) Coalition held calls in February to discuss the Whole-Building Data Access docket, an effort to get anonymize energy benchmarking data for entire buildings. HousingNOLA is also supporting the Office of Resilience and Sustainability NOLA energy challenge, a challenge to building owners to be more energy efficient. Originally, only for buildings in the Downtown area, but expanded to all buildings with support for energy benchmarking and Energy Smart incentives. Entergy New Orleans also has a docket open for their rate case filing. Entergy held several community meetings across New Orleans to inform residents about the impacts of the filing. Additionally, the Council's Utility, Cable, Telecommunications, and Technology Committee met on February 14th for a public hearing on a resolution and order imposing sanctions on Entergy. Initially, the meeting was scheduled to be a rehearing for Entergy's proposed gas plant in New Orleans East, but the Committee moved the resolution forward to the full Council with no action.

The New Orleans City Council held a public hearing for the resolution as well as the Gas Plant; however, the Council felt that if the resolution from the committee was moved forward and passed, there was no need to vote on the gas plant. HousingNOLA and GNOHA advocated for energy efficiency improvements and investment. The New Orleans City Council voted unanimously to move the resolution, ergo the Gas plant, forward imposing sanctions on Entergy and providing for modifications and improvements at New Orleans Power Station to improve outcomes and cost protections for ratepayers. The coalition is working to build capacity and support for the Alliance for Affordable Energy.

Homelessness/Service Providers & Professionals Association (SPPA)

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Elderly/Age Friendly Task Force

There are no significant updates for this initiative in February. However, HousingNOLA plans to join or create a more robust activity around this special needs group by connecting with the Advocacy Center and the New Orleans Council on Aging in 2019.

Minority Populations with Language Access Barriers

GNOHA and HousingNOLA continue to work with the Louisiana Language Access Coalition (LLAC) to increase language access in New Orleans. The LLAC is preparing for their 2019 Conference in New Orleans, "Securing the Future of Language Access in Louisiana." HousingNOLA will be responding to a request for presenters at the conference to discuss the HousingNOLA 10 Year Plan with language access advocates.

Culture Bearers/Artist Outreach

There were so significant updates in February. In March, HousingNOLA Staff will meet with Jonah Tobias from Prosper Affordable housing to discuss their efforts around affordable housing initiatives and community engagement for culture bearers in New Orleans.

Short Term Rental (Ad hoc)

On February 7th, GNOHA met with the City Planning Commission regarding the timeline for the Short Term Rental (STR) study. It was determined that the Upcoming dates regarding the STR study are as follows:

March 4th: Public Hearing: Grandfathering and Economic Zones

March 6th: Release of Packet for Zoning Text Changes

March 12th: Public Hearing for Zoning Text Changes: Linking affordable housing (and funding the NHIF) to commercial units.

April 29th: Last date for public Comments on STR study

May 14th: Release of Study (could be deferred)

On February 25th, GNOHA facilitated a conference call to discuss the upcoming hearing on the STR study. Our recommendations remain the same in that we support a 1 to 1 match for affordable housing, increased fees that will contribute \$20M per year to the NHIF, and requiring a homestead exemption. On February 26th, GNOHA attended a public hearing on the STR study. The City Planning Commission listened to comments from the public around STR economic zones, but no voting took place at that time. Affordable housing advocates and STR operators alike showed up to express their concerns regarding proposed STR regulations. GNOHA will continue to monitor the process and keep members informed.

Title Clearing Initiative (Ad hoc)

The Title Clearing Initiative Committee met on February 25th and discussed their collective goals for 2019. Committee members outlined many of the overarching title clearing challenges they faced, and explored which sectors and departments are responsible for specific bureaucratic processes (i.e. debt collection, permits, code enforcement, succession, adjudication, etc.)

The group began to craft language for a problem statement that explains the specific problem/goal this committee is trying to address. Further work needs to be done to finalize the problem statement, but thus far the group agreed upon the following statement: “The goals are to create affordable housing in areas of blight, abandonment, and adjudication and to create policies (at the city, state, and federal levels) and processes in areas of debt, succession, covenants, and development that further creates affordable housing opportunities”. The committee also explored possible advocacy strategies they can utilize during the year to address their concerns.

HousingLOUISIANA is planning to host a semi-annual summer meeting with support from the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority to discuss title clearing solutions across the state.

HousingNOLA Action Plan Updates

Leadership Board

There were no updates for the Leadership Board in February. The Leadership Board will next meet in March.

Assessor’s Working Group

On February 7th, City Council approved Resolution 19-63, directing a state delegation to work with the City Council to consider constitutional amendments or legislative initiatives to create tax exemptions or relief for long-term residents, who are impacted by the rising costs of property values in their neighborhood. The Assessor’s Working Group have been researching policies that provide tax relief to residents in the most rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods in Philadelphia and D.C. The Council unanimously voted to pass this resolution. In March, HousingNOLA will convene a delegation of state representatives and local elected officials, along with the Assessor’s Working Group, to discuss the process to enable New Orleans to implement such a tax relief policy.

Health Homes Initiative (Rental Registry/Dampness/Mold)

HousingNOLA is continuing efforts to get the Rental Registry back on the City Council agenda and is working with the New Orleans Health Department on healthy homes and their impact on

communities. HousingNOLA is in discussions with the Human Relation Commission on housing as a social determinant of health. HousingNOLA is working with the Foundation for Louisiana's BUILD Health Mobility Leadership Program to learn about and support efforts to increase transportation access and ensure better health outcomes in the Claiborne Corridor through the RTA's Comprehensive Operations Analysis. HousingNOLA is also continuing its efforts to further develop a work plan with the help of a national group, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative. The Healthy Homes committee will be meeting in March to discuss next steps.

Lenders Roundtable/OneTable/CDFI Lending Fund

The HousingNOLA Lender's Roundtable is continuing to seek additional funding for the Community Development Finance Plan to meet the housing needs of New Orleanians, which has an estimated cost of \$6B. HousingNOLA will be working with National Community Reinvestment Coalition to seek funding from the IberiaBank and other CRA agreements throughout the region. HousingNOLA and its Community Development Finance partners are preparing for a second quarter launch of their program for the Claiborne Corridor. HousingNOLA is conducting interviews with developers to help design loan products with CDFI partners for a spring release. The Lender's Roundtable is also researching ways to implement opportunity zones to leverage funding.

ReEntry Housing Consortium

The HousingNOLA Reentry Subcommittee did not meet in February, but submitted an informal letter of interest to the Department of Corrections for a one-time funding opportunity for transitional reentry housing. If awarded, funds would be used for operational costs, rehab and construction of properties, and to bolster services already provided by partners in the ReEntry Housing Consortium.

On February 1st, the New Orleans ReEntry Task Force launched its Reentry Pilot Program. The Implementation steering team for the taskforce met twice to discuss ensuring continued operation standards and to develop PR and outreach strategies to gain support from the community and distribute information about services offered.

The triage team met once to give updates on reentry partners and data sharing. The team continues to be a useful network in providing services to returning citizens upon meeting with triage team members at Probation and Parole. Data sharing has gone from mostly paper to mostly electronic making response time for service providers that more quick and efficient when providing services to newly released persons. The next triage meeting will be on March 8, 2019.

Workforce Housing Council

HousingNOLA's Workforce Housing Council did not meet in February, but partners are doing an internal and environmental scan of housing assistance programs within their business or organization. HousingNOLA is reaching out to Harrah's Casino Human Resources Department to learn how their down payment assistance program is administered.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team (Ad hoc)

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team developer partners met with HR&A and Urban Focus to discuss the feasibility of mandatory inclusionary zoning and incentives that would work in their developments. The City Council's Community Development Committee hosted a public hearing on February 21st for HR&A to release the findings of their [Smart Housing Mix Feasibility Study](#). HR&A recommended a requirement of 5-10% of units affordable at 60%

AMI for 99 years in market-rate developments with more than 10 units. They are recommending a 5% premium PILOT to encourage on-site production with density bonuses, restorative tax abatement, and parking reductions incentives. HousingNOLA, GNOFHAC, and many members of the Council believe more studying is needed around additional incentives, such STR permits; areas for mandatory; and affordability requirements. The law department will be using the feasibility study to help draft the Smart Housing Mix law, and the Tiger Team is preparing to relaunch their media campaign that will last until the 2019 Legislative Session.

Spirit of Charity Innovation District (Ad hoc)

As a result of the Spirit of Charity Innovation District Housing Subcommittee process, GNOHA members have expressed strong interest in acting as an advocate and watchdog for the SCID redevelopment. GNOHA will be working with GNOF to establish working groups for Market Rate Housing, Low-Income Attached Housing, and Transitional Housing/Supportive Services. The Market Rate Housing Working Group will focus on the development of housing intended to serve households earning 50%-120% of Area Median Income and will also encourage the private sector to develop market rate for-sale housing for middle income or upper-middle income households within or near the District.

Community Review Team

The Community Review Team met on February 27 and heard from the Census Bureau partnership specialist, Nilimia Mwendo, to learn about and potentially form a Complete Count Committee. The Review Team also discussed HousingNOLA's 2019 campaigns and mechanisms to best utilize public participation. Some of these initiatives include a public education campaign around title clearing, statewide support around Richmond's American Housing & Economic Mobility Act", and targeted advocacy efforts around the Smart Housing Mix. The meeting included an education component about the importance of opening succession, as well as a larger conversation about large scale title clearing challenges and common trends.

Community Engagement Working Group

Neighborhood Housing Plans

There were no updates for the overall initiative in February.

Claiborne Corridor/7th Ward

On February 20th, the NewCorp group had a Stakeholders Social to discuss the current status of the Claiborne Corridor revitalization efforts. The group reviewed their strategic direction and creative place making efforts in the 7th ward. NewCorp is making investments specifically around health outcomes and would ideally like to create a health center to support these efforts. The next social gathering will take place in March.

Leonidas/Hollygrove Neighborhood Housing Plan

On February 19th, the HANO Development Committee Meeting brought in Iris Development to discuss their development plans in the Carrollton Neighborhood. Iris submitted an RFP to HANO and are now in the negotiations period with the HANO board and community members. Negotiations continued in the HANO Board Meeting on February 26th as the Development Committee members had further clarification and reservations about the proposal. The project will have 98 total units, 80 rental and 18 for sale. The Board would like to know how Iris will

have the capacity to work on a project of this scale. Iris plans to have a full-time construction manager for the project. They're a growing organization and believe they will build capacity as they continue to grow. Iris projects multiple phases of development for both rental and homeownership units. They will be using the market rate homeownership units to subsidize the affordable units; there will be 18 units, and 8 of them will be market rate. Iris is partnering with Crescent City Community Land Trust (CCCLT) on the homeownership side to create a permanent affordable model through a community land trust. Board members and community members offered perspectives for and against Iris's proposal. Ultimately, the board passed the proposal due to the growing affordable housing crisis and because there was no other proposal available. Iris Development also did a thorough job accounting for market factors when developing their proposal.

Lower Ninth Ward/RU/DAT

There are no significant updates for the L9 R/UDAT housing working group at this time. However, at the City Planning Commission meeting on February 26th, the CPC voted unanimously to approve a text amendment to the CZO to amend Article 19 Temporary Prohibitions to establish a new Interim Zoning District named 'The Lower Ninth Ward Housing Development IZD.' The proposed IZD attempts to reconcile an error made with the adoption of the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance in 2015, when these areas were assigned to the "Suburban Neighborhoods" place category despite having a historic development pattern more consistent with the "Historic Urban Neighborhoods" place category. This IZD is intended to remove barriers that make it hard for developers to obtain permits, and encourage more economic development in the area.

Algiers

On February 25th, HousingNOLA met with members of the Old Algiers Main Street Corporation to discuss the District C Housing Summit in Algiers, which will be held on April 8th. Old Algiers residents shared their views on the most important housing and affordability issues for residents on the West Bank, which include planning issues such as transportation and economic development. These topics will be addressed through the panels and roundtable discussions. Members of the board highlighted that the Entergy rate adjustments for the West Bank are one of the most pressing housing affordability issues for residents of Algiers. This will also be a focus of the event and there will be representatives from Energy Efficiency for all and Entergy's Energy Smart program available to discuss cost saving measures that could prevent cost burden in Algiers, when new Entergy rates kick in.

Hoffman Triangle

There are no significant updates for The Hoffman Triangle working group in February. The group will begin convening in 2019.

Bunny Friend

The initiative will begin work in 2019 to engage this community.

Data Working Group

The Data Working Group did not meet in February, but the group is finalizing a data request letter that will be sent out to our public partners every 6 months. This letter is meant to streamline data collection efforts for the Semi-Annual report and Annual Report card, respectively, in order to most accurately reflect the city's State of Housing and the updated demand model. The data working group will next meet in March, where they will hear from the Census Bureau to learn about the 2020 Census Count and find out how they can outreach to their colleagues about the census.

LGBTQ & People Living with HIV/AIDS

In February, the LGBTQ+ Task Force planning committee had a productive meeting to define the goals of this committee for 2019. The main goals are focused on three main action areas: Data collection, education and training and policy recommendations. Sydney received an update on the Point in Time from Robbie Keen at UNITY. HousingNOLA will also be requesting data on youth homelessness from the Drop-in Center and Covenant House in March. We need to identify funding gaps, for shelters and supportive housing for LGBTQ people and youth. In the spring, Renee Corrigan from the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance and Stacey Horn-Koch will be collaborating on Equal Access trainings for shelter providers. A long-term goal is to secure funding and a program for permanent supportive housing for LGBTQ Youth as an alternative to foster care. This program would require services and support so they are not required to be total autonomous, but gain support towards becoming employed or enrolled in training programs. HousingNOLA also attended a Rainbow Friends Coalition with UNITY in February. They will be contributing to the planning efforts for a LGBTQ Friendly Hiring Fair in the summer of 2019.

People with Disabilities

There are no significant updates for February, however, the Initiative will continue to seek ways to work with the Advocacy Center of Louisiana and their new policy team to tackle a range of housing issues for people with disabilities. HousingNOLA is continuing to support UNITY of Greater New Orleans and their work around ending chronic homelessness among disabled individuals.

Aging In Place

There are no significant updates for this initiative in February. However, HousingNOLA plans to join or create a more robust activity around this special needs group by connecting with the Advocacy Center and the New Orleans Council on Aging in 2019.

Assisted Outreach Treatment (Substance Abuse and Mental Disabilities)

The New Orleans Assisted Outpatient Treatment Workgroup (AOT) met on February 13th, 2019. Since the AOT monitor program launched on December 14, 2018, the program has continued to be fully operational. As the program grows, the working group aims to become a "seamless and coordinated multi-system program that builds interrupted continuity of care to serve the needs of the seriously mentally ill people who are in the revolving doors of incarceration, homelessness, and expensive institutionalization." During the meeting, the working group discussed member updates, including a presentation from the LSU Residents of Psychiatry, considerations to accept referrals beyond University Medical Center (where they are currently only taking referrals from), and transportation and housing barriers. The working group plans to meet next on March 13th.

Opportunity Youth

The Opportunity Youth Working group had a successful meeting on February 25th . In the meeting, HousingNOLA shared data from the state student homelessness tracker, received by OPSB at the beginning of the month. According the LEA October report on homelessness, there were 2,438 students identified as homeless by Orleans Parish and Recovery School District Local Education Agencies in New Orleans the 2014-15 school year and 2,825 in 2015-16. 360 were unaccompanied youth and only 2 were awaiting foster services. In our review, Ayesha Buckner, Orleans Parish School Board's homeless liaison reported these numbers are low, given that they are self reported by families or student support staff, which many schools don't have. Further, many LEA's don't report at all. This is an issue that OPSB is currently working to address, so McKinney Vinto and other state and federal funds are allocated to support homeless and housing insecure students. Some overall trends from this data are as follows: 1) The number of homeless students is rising due to housing crisis. 2) There are more families doubling up and there are larger families that are homeless (5+ children who are unhoued) 3) There are more men in shelters with children 4) Families are being turned away from shelters due to size/gender of family members, which is a violation of HUD equal access protections.

Committee Chair Joy Bruce reported out that the State Task Force on Extending Foster Services to 21 has been submitted. Representative Gatti and Senator Barrow are both reserving one of their 5 bills for legislation based on this report. CASA youth were strongly involved in lobbying for the extension of services for youth over the age of 18. HousingNOLA will continue to advocate for this legislation. In March, HousingNOLA will submit a letter to all policy makers who voted against S.B. 102 extending Foster Care services in 2018, urging them to support this legislation in April 2019. The next Opportunity Youth meeting will be on March 25th.

Domestic Violence Survivors

There are no significant updates for this initiative in February. However, the Initiative will seek ways in 2019 to work with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Hotel Hope, the New Orleans Family Justice Center and various individuals who work with survivors to tackle a range of housing issues for this population.

Veterans

There were no updates for the Veterans initiative in February.

Golden Pearl Neighborhood Typology Project (Ad hoc)

There were no updates for the Pearl Neighborhood Project in February.

Put Housing First (Outreach & Advocacy)

General Advocacy

On February 19th and 20th, GNOHA sent out a call-to-action asking affordable housing advocates and community partners to urge the City Council to approve Motion M-19-73 to update density bonuses, height limits, and additional affordable housing requirements for the Bywater and Marigny. This supports initiatives contained in the Smart Housing Mix and HousingNOLA's 10-Year Strategy and Implementation Plan. The proposed amendments, introduced by District C Councilmember Kristin

Gisleson Palmer, greatly incentivize quality developments along the riverfront and help to combat the city's current affordable housing crisis. On February 21st, the motion was passed thanks to GNOHA members, supporters, and other advocates. Additional agenda items that passed were the calling for a public park on 1141 Esplanade Avenue and a resolution regarding the imposition of a \$5M fine on Entergy in connection with the New Orleans Power Station.

Outreach through strategic partnerships, community events, and social media continue to be a driving force in making GNOHA's advocacy work a success. We will prepare for another large PR campaign concerning resiliency and storm water management in partnership with Urban Conservancy, Life City and their Regional Sustainability Committee, and the City of New Orleans. All parties will collectively support and advocate for green infrastructure projects happening in New Orleans, in preparation for Hurricane season. GNOHA also continues to schedule statewide listening tours throughout various regions in Louisiana to collaborate on statewide housing initiatives.

Advocacy Community of Practice (CoP)

The Advocacy Community of Practice (CoP) exists to: 1) learn advocacy practices with and from one another and use them to strengthen our individual and collective advocacy efforts and 2) work together to better understand and address systemic inequities in our communities in the city, state and the South.

In February, the Advocacy Community of Practice hosted a Mixer for the New Orleans City Council staff members to address our desire to work with City Council on issues relating to our constituents ahead of the public hearing date, specifically addressing the Entergy Gas Plant Rehearing and the changes to the rules for public comment. The Mixer received turnout from every Council office except District D, Councilmember Jared Brossett. The staff members were receptive to our message and enthusiastic about working with us more proactively in the future, requesting that the CoP convene with the staffers more frequently and consistently in order to establish a routine line of communication between the two groups.

The Community of Practice also planned and executed a Funder Roundtable, in which the CoP had the opportunity to hear from representatives from JP Morgan Chase Foundation and Ford Foundation on how the CoP can better appeal to funders to support our work and how we can align our mission with the interests of major foundations and charitable individuals to create a funding match. The CoP will be continuing discussions with the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Ford Foundation, Baptist Community Ministries, and other key funders who were not able to be present in the February meeting.

Council District Housing Summit Series (Ad hoc)

In 2019, GNOHA is hosting a Council District Housing Summit Series in which we will work with each Councilmember to bring community together to address neighborhood-specific housing issues in their district. Our first successful District Housing Summit was January 26 in District E with Councilmember Cyndi Nguyen.

District C Housing Summit

The District C. Housing Summit is an outreach effort coordinated between GNOHA and Councilwoman Kristen Gisleson Palmer. The first Summit will be held at the Algiers Regional Library on April 8th from 9:30-2 p.m. and it will focus on the particular issues that impact residents of the

West Bank. The second fair will be later in the month of April. This event will be focused on District C neighborhoods on the East Bank: the French Quarter, St. Roch, Tremé, Marigny and Bywater. The purpose of both summits will be to facilitate community engagement, and create more awareness around the planning issues that impact housing affordability. The District C summits will engage residents on topics such as transportation and Entergy rates, first time homeownership and tax relief for long-term residents, Short Term Rental Policy and the Smart Housing Mix through specialist panels and breakout roundtable discussions. There will be opening remarks from Councilwoman Gisleson Palmer, and then we will do an overview of the State of Housing with specifics around District C.

HousingLOUISIANA

HousingLOUISIANA held their All-Day Planning Session on February 1st in Alexandria, LA. During the planning session every region was given space to discuss their progress and need for support for their Housing Alliance. All regions had issues with affordable housing, energy efficiency, and barriers to revitalization. The network will be hosting a summer meeting in Lake Charles to discuss blight and unclaimed property. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Manager for Field Organizing presented the housing issues facing Louisiana and how the coalition could support our network. The Power Coalition was present and discussed upcoming initiatives and their support for HousingLOUISIANA. The details of our partnerships with NCRC, NACEDA, and other statewide partners were outlined.

The network also prepared for the 2019 Louisiana Legislative Session by discussing policy priorities, such as securing a dedicated source of revenue for the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund and tenant's rights. The network hopes to work with Senator Wesley Bishop and other regional legislators on a mortgage recordation bill in the upcoming session. HousingLOUISIANA will be participating in the LHC's CONNECTIONS Conference, hoping to discuss its relationship with entitlement communities. The network has also started the 2019 Listening Tour.

Regional Alliance Network Development

Housing FIRST Alliance of the Capital Area is focused on finalizing the data that will be used in their housing plan for Baton Rouge, the *Housing East Baton Rouge* (HEBR) plan. While working on the plan, the Alliance is working to incorporate community input for the plan. The Housing First Alliance is also working with its LEAD Cohort and the Power Coalition on an Anti-Retaliation Bill in the Baton Rouge City Council, which was delayed on February 13th and unanimously pulled from the Council on February 27th. The bill will prevent landlords from retaliating against tenants who have fair complaints about their housing situation and complaints about their landlord's failure to meet their responsibilities. The Housing First Alliance is planning for Listening Tour in March.

Alexandria Housing Alliance is currently focused on building capacity and building relationships with the incoming Mayoral administration and City Council members. City Councilman Evan Larvadain III came to HousingLOUISIANA All-Day Planning Session to show support for the network. The Housing Alliance is planning to have their 2019 Listening Tour on March 18th.

Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance

There were no significant updates for this region in February. Next month, HousingNOLA will meet with our partners to discuss next steps following the Greater Acadaiana Listening Tour that took place in January.

Northshore Region

There were no significant updates for this region in February.

Lake Charles Region

There were no significant updates for this area in February. HousingLouisiana is working with our housing partners in Lake Charles to schedule a Listening Tour in early April.

Monroe Region

GNOHA continues to reach out Monroe housing officials to plan a listening tour on local and state housing policies with the Monroe region officials.

Houma Region

Housing Louisiana held a housing listening tour with StartCorps and 15 housing providers and public servants in the Houma/Thibodaux Region on February 28th. In this session, we presented data on the state of housing and poverty in the region, and shared our goal of getting the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund fully funded. We heard from partners about their challenges, needs and goals. HousingLOUISIANA will be looking at their regional concerns and compile a survey that will be used to set priorities for the region and the 2019 Legislative Session.

Shreveport Region

GNOHA continues to reach out to Shreveport to plan a listening tour on local and state housing policies with the Shreveport housing officials.

LA Safe/LEAD the Coast/Coastal Master Plan/Community Capacity Advisory Committee

There are no significant updates for LEAD the Coast in February. HousingNOLA will be recruiting program participants for the next LEAD the Coast cohort during its Statewide Listening Tour stops in the Greater New Orleans region, Northshore region, River parishes, and Bayou parishes.

Statewide Listening Tour & Policy Agenda

HousingLOUISIANA will be reviewing the regional concerns and compiling data from a survey from the Greater Acadian Region that will be used to set priorities for the region and the 2019 Legislative Session. The Houma/Thibodaux Listening Tour was held on February 28th in Houma, LA.

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Trust Fund was reintroduced to the HousingLOUISIANA state-wide coalition at the all-day planning session on February 1st. Every region's #1 housing priority is to secure a dedicated revenue stream for the state housing trust fund. Steering committee members also reviewed legislation involving mortgage recordation fees that will likely be proposed in the 2019 legislative session.