



June 2020/Mid-Year Report

Highlights

- The City Unanimously passed Smart Housing Mix and the Community Endeavor Agreement was introduced
- Calls-to-Action have been well-received leading to increased voter engagement
- Legislative Agendas and Scorecards released
- The City Planning Commission has taken a deep dive into the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to incentivize affordable housing production
- The continuum housed over 200 families in late 2019.
- Kenner Housing Authority announced that it would set-aside vouchers for the chronically homeless
- There has been creation of a Nonprofit Parcel Fee Taskforce to create ballot initiatives that would require some tax-exempt nonprofits to pay a fee to balance out the costs of essential public services provided.

GNOHA Standing Committees Reports

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Initiative is the result of an extensive assessment sent out to the community development corporations and community housing organizations, as well as housing counseling agencies. The purpose of the program is to increase organizational capacity and provide resources and trainings to organizations who work in housing or provide housing in and around the New Orleans area. This effort is led by HUD and GNOHA, and the University of New Orleans.

In June, the Capacity Building group hosted the monthly meeting discussion addressing questions about the economy and how it relates not only to housing, but housing organizations and our clients' source of livelihood. Leaders Downtown Development District, and GNO, Inc. attended the monthly meeting. The DDD shared that they have an economic recovery development plan for the downtown development district that is in lockstep with GNO Inc in diversifying economy and getting businesses back up and running so people can restore their income.

The group met to discuss the potential for partnering with Social Health Bridge, and discuss GNOF full survey results. GNOHA requested GNOF to drill down further on data around interest in mergers and partnerships in the housing industry. The group decided to send out an email to the membership asking them what their needs are, with the intention of allowing members to easily respond without filling out a survey. What GNOHA has to offer has been outlined and shared with the membership for discussion at the July 13 Monthly Meeting.

Shared Solutions

The shared-solutions initiative seeks to reduce cost burdens for member organizations to enable them to focus the resources they have on the common goal of working to produce and preserve affordable housing opportunities. The primary uses of the shared solutions model are for financial needs (bookkeeping, development finance, construction management, IT, software purchases, and client management services).

In June, the shared solutions initiative was discussed in the Capacity Building meeting. The group met to discuss the potential for partnering with Social Health Bridge and discuss GNOF full survey results. GNOHA requested GNOF to drill down further on data around interest in mergers and partnerships in the housing industry. The group decided to send out an email to the membership asking them what their needs are, with the intention of allowing members to easily respond without filling out a survey. What GNOHA has to offer has been outlined and shared with the membership for discussion at the July 13 Monthly Meeting.

Homeownership

The Homeownership committee promotes homeownership in New Orleans by advocating for policies and funding to assist low-to-moderate-income individuals and families with acquiring homes, by creating innovative strategies that facilitate homeownership, and by partnering with local agencies and businesses to combine and leverage resources for prospective homebuyers. The Homeownership Committee also influences the development of the Own the Crescent, as well as exploring shared solutions to reduce costs and build capacity.

In June the Homeownership Committee continued to advocate for policy recommendations for the City's Soft Second Mortgage Program and NORA homeownership programs. GNOHA also engaged Urban Footprint, NORA, NCRC, and other stakeholders to carry out a COVID-19 homeowner impact assessment study to determine how much and what types of assistance homeowners will need due to loss of income from COVID-19 impact.

GNOHA is also partnering with Solar for All NOLA. The program has not had its official launch; however the Solar for All Team is still planning and fielding calls. The Solar for All team has reached 25 sign-ons, earning one free solar install for a family of GNOHA's choice. GNOHA will be working with TCA and the Collaborative to design a process through which to select people and develop a pool of eligible clients. At the end of June, the initiative had the following indicators of success: There were 104 Inquiries; 43 Appointments; 25 Clients signed; 5 units installed.

Nonprofit Rebuilding Roundtable

The Nonprofit Rebuilders Roundtable seeks to address service gaps for low-moderate income, elderly and disabled and/or fixed-income homeowners and property owners dealing with the residual impacts of Hurricane Katrina and home maintenance challenges. The committee is comprised of organizations that provide both disaster recovery services and ongoing owner-occupied rehabs to maintain housing quality, prevent displacement and get ahead of the Code Enforcement and sheriff sale cycle. The committee seeks capacity building opportunities to sustain these necessary services in the absence of Road Home and other rebuilding funds and loan opportunities. The Roundtable also will contribute to the HelpNOLANow web site, which will provide a back-end referral system for homeowners struggling to finance home maintenance projects or access services to preserve housing safety and quality.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative (LHEC) is the name of the accreditation body. The Collaborative is the GNOHA committee of Homebuyer Education agencies. The Collaborative meets quarterly at the Neighborhood Development Foundation.

The Collaborative met in June to discuss selecting a homeowner to receive the free Solar installation from Solar for All. The group agreed to participate upon verification that there are no hidden expenses that the homeowner will have to shoulder after the installation. The group also discussed the impending foreclosure crisis once COVID-19 impacts catch up to homeowners and how the Collaborative is equipped to counsel clients to find solutions to keep their homes and how we can advocate for funding for homeowners. The Collaborative continues to prepare for the HUD Certification, with the opportunity to take the test in-person at a local site still available.

Soft Second Task Force

The Soft-Second Task Force is an ad-hoc committee comprised of the Homeownership Committee and the Collaborative. The committee exists to solve issues with the policies and implementation of the City of New Orleans Soft-Second Mortgage Program, and other mortgage assistance, mortgage buy-down, or closing-cost assistance programs. The group flourished out of the overwhelming issues that our members are having with these programs from every perspective and the amount of time needed to understand and create solutions to these issues.

The task force continues to adamantly advocate for a holistic adoption of our policy recommendations in order to fully restore the effectiveness of the program as a tool to increase first-time homeownership among the average New Orleanian. In June, GNOHA continued to engage OCD and NORA around first-time homebuyer program recommendations.

Rental

The Rental Committee addresses issues where policy disrupts practice. It seeks to inform policy makers of both the advantages and challenges associated with the development of “affordable” rental housing – i.e. the green building, sustainability, and resident/developer subsidy. This committee also reviews programs that will have a direct impact on affordable housing management and vulnerable rental housing populations like veterans, public and supportive housing tenants, and low-income renters.

In June, the Rental Committee met to discuss the 2021 QAP, citing most of the same flaws and inconsistencies that have been present for the last three years. GNOHA submitted a letter of public comment to the LHC, and publicly delivered the comment at the QAP hearing.

GNOHA continues to attempt contact with HANO representatives regarding the HCVP and the issue that many PBV units remain open while people are on the waiting list. While Shelley Smith has submitted a couple of referrals since we began reaching out to HANO, not much has moved on this issue and we will be advocating for HANO to resume making vacancy payments to developers who are not receiving referrals for their PBV units due to HANO’s failure.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Section 8 Subcommittee represents the interests of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and other HANO rental programs. The Subcommittee is comprised of developer partners, residents, and resident management leaders.

There were no significant updates for the Section 8 Subcommittee in June. GNOHA has been communicating with HANO regarding Housing Choice Voucher under-utilization. GNOHA is also working with HCVP director, April Kennedy, to expedite property owners who are interested in working with Section 8 and match them with families in need as well as Shelley Smith with the PBV program.

Homelessness/Supportive Services/Transitional Housing

HousingNOLA's Short Term Rental Pilot Program

HousingNOLA's COVID-19 Short Term Rental Pilot Program aims to pair supportive services with temporary housing for homeless or housing insecure families and young adults during this emergency period. Participants in the HousingNOLA Program are referred through various case management partners and will have their rent and utilities covered for three months while working with Community Navigators to achieve long term housing and sustainable goals. For referral of participants we work with CASA and LCCR as our referral partners so that we have established partners in case management able to introduce us with a warm handshake.

As of June 2020, 8 households totaling people 17, have been housed under our program. For June more housing placements have been put on hold because there are not more available units within the program. Focus for the STR steering committee has been shifted to the search for more landlords and shot term rental operators willing to join the program.

Essential documentation was created for the program such as payment information for landlords, lead disclosure forms, W-9s and the Rental Assistance Agreement for Tenants. All HousingNOLA documentation is stored under the HousingNOLA> STR Program folder on drop box. Other essentials include our referral form and landlord intake form which are available on survey gizmo. We track all referrals and landlord information on our google sheet documentation which is a working document for collaboration between HousingNOLA staff and community navigators.

Regarding program documentation all placed households have completed finalized packets in their folder, under their name in the STR Program folder on Drobox. Additionally, the Landlord Verification form has been updated with better language to track financials for three month's rent.

Resiliency

The Resiliency committee met ahead of and after Tropical Storm Cristobel and discussed some issues with the Sewerage and Water Board. The committee fears that CARES Act funds will be funneled into the Sewerage & Water Board, rather than rental assistance. Thus, the Committee is devising a strategy to monitor the Sewerage & Water Board. Additionally, GNOHA is participating in the national No Water Shut Offs committee to monitor federal policy in regard to water utilities.

HousingNOLA Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force has not met during the month of June but continues monitoring Homeowners Insurance issue in Louisiana and nationally.

Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

DHRC is meeting on a weekly basis through the Coronavirus: Housing and Homelessness national calls. These calls include updates from congressional members as well as field updates from organizations around the country. On the federal level the DHRC is monitoring and advocating for housing to be a top priority in any spending package that is pushed through. DHRC emphasis the need to contact legislatures to advocate for housing even if they are conservative since some conservative leaders are willing to agree with housing issues outside of the public light. The big push is to move the HEROS Act out of the senate with \$3 Trillion in rental assistance and a federal eviction moratorium.

Gulf South for a Green New Deal

GS4GND's June call focused on how COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting Black Lives. GS4GND also stood in solidarity with the call to action for a social media black out to demand the rights of protestors be respected, divest from the police, immediate relief for Black communities, community control of public institutions and end the war on Black people. Finally, GS4GND reminded us that we have entered hurricane season and that that the systems of extraction and exploitation from Black communities have also cause climate change. These systems are interconnected.

HelpNOLANow

In 2018, GNOHA consolidated its efforts to create a portal or access point for people with housing needs under the HelpNOLANow banner. When launched, the portal will be a one stop for people who are seeking housing, including LAhousingsearch.org, Own the Crescent, and resources from the Non-profit Rebuilder's Roundtable.

In June, GNOHA and HousingNOLA Staff worked to update the websites that will be featured on HelpNOLANow. Changes are being made to the Own the Crescent website and staff will be speaking with lahousingsearch.org representatives about featuring new landlords who reach out through HelpNOLANow on lahousingsearch.org.

ConnectNOLA

ConnectNOLA is dedicated to bringing together local nonprofit organizations (NPOs) from the Greater New Orleans Area for the benefit of all. ConnectNOLA is a movement designed for the purpose of "Serving the Servers" throughout the GNO area bringing together NPO Leaders through various large and small venues. Through these gatherings, relationships are built, learning across ecosystems occur, and new trusts and collaboration are established. The result: Greater participation and teamwork among NPO's which provide greater and more expansive care into our communities. ConnectNOLA hosted their first virtual meeting in June. GNOHA will be attending virtual meetings moving forward.

LA Housing Search

LAHousingSearch.org is a property listings website funded by the LHC to promote the consistent listings of affordable housing opportunities on a centralized website. In 2018, GNOHA began fielding our developer members' interest and experiences with the website to determine if it will benefit affordable housing developers, landlords, and renters. We hope to use the data to advocate in the next QAP that government subsidized housing be required to list on LAHousingSearch.org in order to make affordable housing opportunities more accessible to

tenants. There were no updates for lahousingsearch.org in June. Staff will meet with lahousingsearch.org team in July.

Metro New Orleans Regional Updates

Jefferson Parish

On May 8th it was announced that, according to the Louisiana Department of Health, Jefferson Parish leads the state in coronavirus cases with 6,679 reported cases — just 5 more than neighboring Orleans Parish. Jefferson also ranks second with COVID-related deaths at 396.

On May 11th, Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee-Sheng announced that the parish would enter phase 1 of reopening on May 15th. Some of the changes includes restaurants and bars with food permits can re-open with 25 percent of their normal capacity. However, high contact industries, such as spas, massage establishments and kids play centers, remained closed.

St. Bernard Parish

No updates at this time.

Plaquemines Parish

GNOHA is working with affordable housing developers in Plaquemines Parish regarding issues with NIMBYism and lack of support from local officials to develop desperately needed affordable housing for most of the population in Plaquemines.

St. Charles Parish

No updates at this time.

St. John the Baptist Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish officials held a press conference to outline their plans as the state moves into Phase 1 of reopening. Government buildings in the parish remained closed as workers prepared their buildings for a future reopening. St. John Parish President Jacyln Hotard says some businesses will reopen but she's asking residents to wear masks when going out in public.

St. James Parish

The construction of a \$2.2 billion methanol plant in St. James Parish was suspended in late April because of the economic downturn from the coronavirus pandemic. On May 6th, the advocate reported that South Louisiana Methanol LP sent a letter to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality on April 22 about the project hitting the pause button and requested an extension from the agency for its permits.

Public Policy Committee/Working Group

The goal of the Public Policy Committee is to educate, engage, inform and guide affordable housing developers and non-profits to be influential policy advocates at all levels of government in order to support the building of safe, high-quality affordable housing.

The Public Policy committee met on June 4th to discuss the end of 2020 Legislative Session and the beginning of the 2020 Extraordinary Legislative Session, which convened on June 1st and end on June 30th. GNOHA sent out call to actions to local and statewide partners in addition to letters to legislators to support the Rep. Magee's Historic Tax Credit bill, HB4, and Rep. Jenkins' essential workers bill, HB70. HB 4 was amended by the Senate and nearly put a cap on the state historic tax credit would've reduced its impact and target the success of projects across the state. The house rejected some of the amendments, but the bill was approved and extends the effectiveness of the program from 2022 to January 1, 2028. GNOHA also urged legislators to support HB 70 and amend it to increase the hazard pay to essential workers to \$250/month for the rest of the year in addition to using coronavirus relief funds to provide housing assistance for all to meet the estimated need, particularly with the Governor's evictions moratorium ending on June 15th. The bill was approved and will provide a one-time payment of \$250 to essential including grocery store workers, housekeeping, waste management, etc. GNOHA and HousingNOLA committed to working with the Louisiana Budget Project on the 2nd 2020 Extraordinary Session in the fall and the 2021 Legislative on housing bills for statewide policy agenda.

Energy Efficiency for All

The Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) Louisiana Coalition held multiple calls in June to discuss COVID-19's impact on utilities and residents throughout the state. The EEFA coalition worked with partners to get the New Orleans City Council to approve a resolution and order to establish the City Council Cares (CCC) program, which would provide residents unemployed by the COVID-19 pandemic up to a total of \$400 of direct Entergy bill credits, a maximum of \$100 per month for four months, with all current late fees waived. The resolution was approved by the City Council on June 4th, and they are also expected to vote on a separate resolution and order suspending Entergy utility service disconnections for nonpayment until August 1st in early July. The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) also approved two policies aimed at protecting consumers, with one allowing for payment plans up to 12 months while lifting the disconnection prohibition on July 16th. The other order provides additional protections including waiving late fees and/or interest on balances accrued during the shutdown, prohibits negative credit reporting on behalf of customers, and requires utilities work with customers to get them on payment plans or levelized billing. Further, it allows for utilities to petition the Commission for cost recovery of actual revenue lost but does not guarantee approval.

The EEFA Coalition continues to work on the benchmarking ordinance for New Orleans. GNOHA supported outreach for Entergy's Landlord portal that provides benchmarking data, and the Alliance for Affordable Energy is working with the city's attorney's office to get the ordinance passed. The City Council originally did not pass the ordinance because the Mayor's Office told they wouldn't be able to enforce it, which led to the meeting with the city's attorney. The coalition met with national partners near the end of the month to plan and prepare for the future of the coalition.

The Energy Future New Orleans coalition has been working to develop recommendations for the 100% Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard (RCPS) that was approved by the City Council. There is a six-month procedural timeline for stakeholders to outline cost management policy, set mandatory deadlines for emissions reductions, and prepare for implementation. The coalition worked to develop its comments and recommendations for the first technical meeting held on June 5th. The coalition will work to address their issues with the current version of the RCPS before the next technical conference to ensure affordability and sustainability of the RCPS. The coalition is also continuing its advocacy against the New Orleans East Gas plant by trying to get the case heard by the Supreme Court after the Court of Appeals decision.

Homelessness/Service Providers & Professionals Association (SPPA)

The SPAA met in May to review their advocacy committee action plan to get advocacy updates from partner organizations. UNITY of Greater New Orleans released an RFP for a 20-2 HOPWA Permanent Housing Project targeting individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are low-income (at or below 80 percent of area median income) and to assist such households to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Clients prioritized for this program include those who are unsheltered, homeless living in a non-congregate shelter or an emergency shelter, as referred by the CoC Coordinated Entry System. Clients with prior episodes of homelessness will also be prioritized for this program. UNITY sought proposals from non-governmental agencies in Orleans and Jefferson Parish.

Elderly/Age Friendly Task Force (Senior Housing Think Tank)

The Senior Housing Think Tank has been absorbed into the Vulnerable Populations call. Due to Corona virus we've consolidated the group so that we can get feedback about GNOHA/HousingNOLA's policy and platforms from different groups like Veterans, people with disabilities etc. For May onwards the Vulnerable Populations call has been coordinated by Jaleesa Jackson.

When regular social interaction begins again the ideal committee composition would like to include: New Orleans Council on Aging, Enterprise, Belle Reve Nola, A Home to Call My Own, NOAGE, AARP, and Data Center. We are looking for committee members from organizations such as HANO (Guste Homes, Providence, Colombia, River) Habitat for Humanity, Brush with Kindness, Untied Saints Recovery Project and the Advocacy Center. It is necessary to reach out to all these different partners.

Minority Populations with Language Access Barriers

For this group we tried to reconvene with Scarlet Garcia, to work on a translation project about homeownership with her high school students. However, due to COVID-19 the progress for this group has stalled again. Scarlet Garcia was contacted and added to the Community Engagement Working Group, perhaps work with language access can continue in some capacity within the Community Engagement Working Group and Neighborhood Housing PLANS.

Culture Bearers/Artist Outreach

Since partnering with Ashe Cultural Arts Center and UJAMAA for the *Right to Stay! Anti-Displacement Conference* in January the Culture Bearers group has not reconvened. We are still awaiting a report from UJAMAA about the outcomes and next steps post- conference.

Short Term Rental (Ad hoc)

No updates

Title Clearing Initiative (Ad hoc)

The Title Clearing Committee has met twice in June. We have finalized the design criteria and are stick with 500-700 square foot tiny homes for the substandard lot initiative. A couple updates need to happen to our pricing guide, but we were able to keep costs of the homes below \$100,000. We will be filtering out parcels of land that are not able to hold a tiny home due to their geometry and are putting a cap on properties at \$25,000.

HousingNOLA Action Plan Updates

Leadership Board

The Leadership Board is HousingNOLA's volunteer advisory board that meets every other month. The HousingNOLA Leadership Board brings together the usual participants in civic engagement as well as Neighborhood Associations, Policy Developers, and representatives from education, philanthropy, and criminal justice.

Assessor's Working Group

In May GNOHA sent the Assessor follow-up emails after not receiving a response to inquiries in April as to whether the Assessor had started the reassessment of properties, and whether the Assessor's office had developed a plan for handling documents in light of COVID-19.

The Assessor's Working Group sent an official letter to Assessor Williams, asking for further clarification regarding the process for filing for homestead exemptions, age, and disability freezes while city buildings are still closed due to COVID-19. The letter also asked whether the Assessor's office had begun assessing the 17.9% of properties that were missed last year. The committee will continue to report out on the Assessor's response.

Healthy Homes Initiative (Rental Registry/Dampness/Mold)

The Healthy Homes Initiative is a HousingNOLA working group looking into the problem of mold and dampness in New Orleans' homes and seeks to identify policy interventions, such as a citywide rental registry, that can help regulate the issue and improve home health.

The Healthy Homes Committee met on June 12th to discuss the end of the legislative session and the bills that could impact the committee's work, such as Sen. Cloud SB 375. The would've prohibited landlords from being required to register their property with a political subdivision and prohibits a political subdivision from requiring people who offer, rent, or lease a property for long-term residential rental purposes to obtain a license as a prerequisite to offering the property. The bill would have effectively kill current efforts to get a rental registry passed by the city and other parts of the state, but the bill wasn't heard during the Regular or Extraordinarily Legislation Session.

HousingNOLA will be moving forward with efforts to get the rental registry and healthy home ordinance back on the agenda and passed by the New Orleans City Council. HB 665 by Rep. Cormier passed out of session as Act 157 by Gov. John Bel Edwards with an effective date of August 1, 2020. The bill reestablishes the Louisiana Toxic Mold Task Force, and HousingNOLA will be following up with the state on how the task force is going to be established to lay out a plan of action. There was also an amendment to the bill that might allow one of the committee members to join the task force. With the strong need for rental assistance, the Healthy Homes Committee committed to working to ensure that rental assistance programs that are developed pay for housing that can pass a basic Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspection test so substandard housing is not being paid for with CARES funding. Though some funding, like Emergency Solution Grant (ESG), has HQS built-in, we may need to advocate for the inclusion.

The Committee also discuss the Regional Convening being worked on by HousingNOLA, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative. They are working with the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs and aim to have the convening in late 2020 or early 2021, with the potential for virtual convening due to COVID-19. The Healthy Homes Convening Subcommittee held their first meeting in late June to discuss the initial planning phase for the convening.

Lenders Roundtable

This group met in May to review the 2020 Community Development Finance Plan. Members of the group volunteered to become part of the Community Development Finance Planning Committee in March 2020. Those members reviewed the 2020 Housing Demand Model which detailed housing supply and demand in New Orleans for the next 10 years.

Cost projections were estimated for how much funding may be needed to create or rehabilitate units within the city. There is a need for 73,156 homeownership opportunities over the next 10 years with an estimated cost of \$11 billion. 8,346 opportunities will be needed for extremely cost burdened totaling a need for \$188 million over the next 10 years, or \$18.7 million per year through 2029. There is a need for 27,556 rental units at an estimated cost of \$3.4 billion for the next 10 years. The group has been working to assess current policies and funding allocations to make recommendations.

Own the Crescent CDFI Edition

In acknowledgement of the interruption of normal activities prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Own the Crescent Collaborative submitted a work scope to JPMorgan Chase to make slight changes to the Own the Crescent/PRO Neighborhood program. The COVID-19 crisis is having a devastating impact on New Orleans' affordable housing crisis and immediate action must be taken. As of March 1, 2020, 63% of renters in New Orleans, 50,812 households, were cost-burdened by rents and utility costs that they could not afford. With layoffs, furloughs and reduced income caused by efforts to flatten the curve in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic many more household will join those ranks.

There are many small landlords in New Orleans with property that can be utilized by low-to-moderate-income renters but lack the capital to activate these properties for potential use. The Own the Crescent Collaborative wants to help those landlords and developers increase production of units in a timely matter. The Collaborative will begin marketing, targeting, and implementing loan

programs for projects that can be brought online within the next 30 – 90 days. While they intend to focus efforts within the footprint of the Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District, the collaborative does not want to limit opportunities across the City to activate more units for more families in need. The Collaborative has developed a work scope outlining these objectives for JPMorgan Chase to expedite critical financial services for the community.

ReEntry Housing Consortium

In May, the Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish Reentry Housing Committees collaborated to create a list of Reentry Housing COVID-19 Policy priorities, released on May 28th. Members and partners are encouraged to sign-on and share with their elected officials. Priorities include:

1. Immediately house at-risk populations, like the formerly incarcerated, in hotels and short-term rentals (including operations costs, case management, and social services) with rental assistance funding from the state. This includes leveraging 75% reimbursable FEMA funding and savings from the JRI.
2. The state should use CARES ACT funding and other resources to provide emergency support to grassroots reentry housing providers, such as LACOR (who also provide housing for sex offenders) to expand operating capacity, increase the number of beds, and allow for the deployment of desperately needed wrap-around services.
3. The state should work with operators to acquire blighted/vacant properties and lots to create transitional, long-term, and permanent housing by equitably allocating CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds. Developers should be required to hire at least a 50% skilled trade and licensed FIP workforce.
4. The state should collaborate with HousingNOLA's Reentry Housing Consortium, composed of reentry housing operators, and designed to house up to 300 FIPs upon release with proper support. The consortium has built a comprehensive housing plan complete with data and research.

In May, the combined committee met with representatives from New Orleans Council Member Jay H. Banks' Office, and Representatives from Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Li Sheng's Office and Scott Walker's Office. Members asked officials to sign-on and support the reentry housing policy platform.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council was created to connect the HousingNOLA plan to business and industry leaders in order to meet our goals of increasing access to affordable housing close to job centers, ensuring connectivity to existing affordable housing and employment opportunities and stabilizing workers who are struggling as a result of housing insecurity. Many New Orleans neighborhoods have jobs in the music, restaurant, hospitality, and various other sectors while the surrounding community's rental and home costs are going up. As a result, many New Orleanians have been pushed away from job centers and their wages don't support the rising housing costs. The Workforce Housing Council was created to address these issues by supporting HousingNOLA policies, conducting research on how to engage the private sector to pursue development and implementing their own programs to address these challenges.

HousingNOLA's Workforce Housing Council held a conference call on June 1st to discuss how the economic impact that the coronavirus could and will have detrimental impacts overall without rental and mortgage assistance, which could impact the insurance market overall if it continues.

Businesses will not be able to get insurance, so HousingNOLA asked the Workforce Housing Council for support with the Insurance Taskforce. The Workforce Housing Council also started conversations with Life City about hosting an Employer Assisted Housing Informational with its Regional Sustainability Committee. HousingNOLA, Crescent City Community Land Trust, and the New Orleans Business Alliance will work on an outline and curriculum for the informational, while Life City and the other members of the Workforce Housing Council will work on stakeholder engagement. The informational sessional will be used to gauge interest and the need for outreach for employer assisted housing programs in a post-COVID New Orleans.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team (Ad hoc)

The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team met on June 11th to discuss the next steps with the Smart Housing Mix. The City Planning Commission (CPC) passed the staff recommendations for the Smart Housing Mix mapping ordinance and zoning docket 031/20 is now in the hands of the city council. Cm. Banks is being caution with land use items during COVID-19 and wants to delay some until we're allowed back into a physical space to ensure adequate engagement and representation from communities. However, the suspension on deadlines ends on July 1st and the 60 day timeline for passing the docket will begin then. There was concern amongst Tiger Team members regarding the implementation of the Smart Housing Mix due the uncertainty of the New Orleans Housing Market. HousingNOLA reached out the Mayor's Office in addition to Councilman Banks and Williams to check in on the status of the Smart Housing Mix and recommend a city code amendment. After not receiving an adequate response, the Tiger Team developed a letter, and reached out to partners to sign on, to the City Council and Mayor's Office with their concerns and an amendment that provides for a reevaluation process of the maps of Core and Strong neighborhoods after 2 years to be done by a third party with funding set aside. The letter will be sent the City in July.

Masterplan/CZO

The City Planning Commission is still working on the affordable Housing Opportunities study, where they were directed to look at CZO/Master Plan amendments, such as incorporating ADUs, yard regulations, etc. The last round of Master Plan amendments was approved before city council but still needs to be implemented. Additionally, the Master Plan will not be open in 2020. Such as changing mixed-use low density to mixed-use medium density. Prewar category has not changed, but parts of it will be covered in the Housing Opportunities study and could open up the potential for more multifamily districts. The study is now being done 2 phases. Phase 1 is going to address the Master Plan issues, such as low hanging fruit like SF zoning/trending around the country. Every month through December the CPC plans to give updates on study. The second phase of the study will focus on four deliverables to address affordable housing: CZO standards/processes, anti-gentrifications strategies, losing units with subsidy, code enforcement.

Maple Area Residents worked with Cm. Giarrusso to introduce an IZD that is currently in effect that adds a requirement that any increase in bedrooms (in the area bounded by St. Charles, Carrollton, Broadway, and Claiborne Ave.) means you also have to increase parking. CPC considered the IZD and recommended denial but it's in effect since IZD go in effect once the motion is made. The residents feel developers max out their variance and rent individual

bedrooms on the market to college students. The CPC felt the IZD was being used as a blunt tool and could impact all housing. If you have four bedrooms, you will need four parking lots. HBA and HousingNOLA testified against the IZD. Off street parking adds about \$5-\$15k for each space. A motion was introduced to study the parking situation in that area. The IZD will go to the Council but no expectation on when they are going to vote on it. We still want to talk about incentivizing affordable housing in smaller units and parking waivers could be one way, just as they are for larger units through the Smart Housing Mix. The neighborhood is quite willing to get this done but also willing to make changes. It's in place now with a one-year time clock. They are jobs in area and HANO has properties on the boundaries. The Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team committed to monitoring the situation.

Community Review Team

The Community Review Team is composed solely of community members that assume an advisory role over HousingNOLA processes. The group reviews documents produced by HousingNOLA's working groups. They meet every other month to provide feedback on HousingNOLA documents, their relevance, clarity, and pertinence to community issues. The Community Review Team also directs and approves of HousingNOLA's overall priorities.

After the January meeting the group decided to set an agenda for the year surrounding topics to frame each meeting's conversation. The February meeting revolved around Property Tax Discussion. The March meeting revolved around briefing the Review Team on the Housing Response to Corona Virus. Due to the COVID-19 Outbreak forcing statewide shut downs and orders of "social distancing" The Review Team will continue to meet monthly for the time being and will be conducted as calls until further notice.

The Review Team did not meet in June however, the group will meet in early July to discuss updates to the HousingNOLA Plan as well as review other HousingNOLA documentation throughout the summer. The Review Team also highlighted the importance of finishing this report during the summer and releasing it before the November election.

Community Review Team members are expected to complete a demographic survey on Survey Gizmo so that we can better assess the composition of the Review Team:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5444604/Community-Review-Team-Demographic-Survey>

Community Engagement Working Group

The Community Engagement Working Group is a group of community members, community organizers, cultural bearers, professional developers, and local leaders. The Engagement Working Group is overseen by at least one professional and one community leader. The Community Engagement Working Group identifies points of engagement throughout the city and works closely with the Community Review Team to execute educational initiatives. A primary goal of the group is community outreach to educate and engage the everyday New Orleanian on the affordable housing crisis.

The Community Engagement Working Group will continue to meet monthly in 2020. Coronavirus has completely changed our engagement strategy to be all about online social media engagement and content. If the engagement group is not able to meet we have to transition to creating content online and reaching a wider audience. We hope that with more folks at home they will tune into these issues on a local level.

The group did not reconvene in June however, there have been challenges within HousingNOLA's capacity to get real volunteer buy in and complete the social media strategy and video engagement that were discussed in the first couple of months of 2020. Given the challenges of COVID-19 the group's participation has dwindled. A conversation with Co-chair Lucas Diaz indicated that it might be good to pivot and take the work to another level that will foster engagement.

Neighborhood Housing Plans

The purpose of the Neighborhood Housing Plans is to involve neighborhoods in HousingNOLA's 10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan. The neighborhood housing plans are meant to be a community driven process, where neighborhood residents aren't solely educated and informed about the housing crisis in their area but are empowered to act and direct change in their favor. Community input legitimizes the efforts of the 10-year plan and ensures that developers and city officials implement the plan in ways that cater to each neighborhood's distinct vision for their community. Thus far, HousingNOLA has partnered with Hollygrove, Leonidas, and the Lower 9th Ward to begin the process of developing neighborhood plans. The overarching goal is to ideally partner with several other neighborhoods in order to create their respective neighborhood plans.

City Works

City Works is a new initiative absorbing in to the HousignNOLA wheelhouse that is focused on the strategy for neighborhood engagement. This branding will unify the Community Engagement and Neighborhood Housing Plans pieces of HousingNOLA's work.

Claiborne Corridor/7th Ward

No updates to report at this time.

Leonidas/Hollygrove

In May a conversation regarding the HANO developments in the Leonidas/ Carrollton area were reignited. IRIS developers are in tense conversations with the community about the design of the development of a HANO property. IRIS has had some difficulty continuously engaging with the community and responding to their feedback. The Neighborhood Associations in the area such as (Carrollton United) have been in communication with the developers despite the limitations of COVID-19. HousingNOLA will serve as a moderator between the developer and community in a hope to develop strategy for developers to engage with community as they work on development plans. We hope that the community engagement strategy will be used as a standard for other developer's community engagement plans.

Lower Ninth Ward/RU/DAT

No updates

Bunny Friend

The initiative will began work in 2020 to engage this community.

Algiers

No updates

Hoffman Triangle

No Updates

Tunisbourg/McClendonville

Leslie Ellison, a resident of Tunisbourg / McClendonville, got in touch with HousingNOLA to discuss the need for her neighborhood to be recognized apart from the US Naval Base. Tunisbourg / McClendonville is a neighborhood on the west bank that has not be officially recognized by the city or distinguished on maps. Terez Hobson and Andreanecia Morris toured the neighborhood to hear about the history and the boundaries of the neighborhood, discuss the community's needs, and talk about the impending HANO project that will be developed nearby. The developers working on the HANO deal would like to work with community input for the development and are interested in engaging and informing the community about the project.

Aside from community engagement with the HANO developments and the neighborhood's need for revitalization the community would benefit from information about title clearing and succession. Leslie mentioned the connection with the Tulane Law Clinic and LA Appleaseed around legal services for the community. Tunisbourg / McClendonville is being added as a priority for HousingNOLA's Neighborhood Housing Plans and will hopefully find distinction as an official New Orleans neighborhood.

Data Working Group

HousingNOLA Semi Annual Report

HousingNOLA published the Semi-Annual Report April 7, 2020. State of Housing Data comes from multiple sources at the local state, and national level. The report focuses on local agencies such as HANO, FANO, LHC, Unity, etc. for City data of affordable housing units made available. Based on the unit projections from the public partners in the HousingNOLA plan, we should have created a net of 6,000 affordable housing opportunities, but we have only produced 1,274 units thus far. New Orleans has lost 353 opportunities between September 2019 and February 2020. This semiannual report also features market vacancies. There are over 14,000 rental homes and STRs (short term rentals) in the City. The Data Working Group is researching this information to determine where vacant units are and what policy recommendations will allow successful reinstatement.

HousingNOLA 10 Year Strategy & Implementation Plan

2020 marks the 5-year anniversary of HousingNOLA's 10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan. HousingNOLA plans to review the current plan and determine updates necessary to reflect the state of housing in the city. Planning sessions will begin in April 2020. HousingNOLA will work with city and state partners, researchers, and staff to devise updates to a 2020 version of this plan. An extensive list of Action Items is currently under review. It has been determined that there should be some evaluation process of past goals and present standings to determine successes, failures, and any corrective policy endeavors that should be enacted. The group has suggested there be components to simplify or summarize processes of state and local housing programs, specifically HANO's Voucher Program. Other components intended to be addressed include rental registry, the Smart Housing Mix, employer assisted housing programs, introduction of a referral system or opportunity to highlight partnering agencies and other resources, and more focus on community impacts, especially in the wake of COVID-19. HousingNOLA's Community Review Team has suggested a release date of September 2020 to coincide with the release of the annual Report Card and Semi-Annual Report.

Community Development Finance Plan

HousingNOLA's original Community Development Finance Plan was released in November 2018. The Community Development Finance Plan examines the cost and financial gap that will need to be filled by private investment for projects funded through public partners. HousingNOLA's 10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan calls for 33,600 units of affordable housing opportunities—whether this is through new construction, substantial rehabbing of existent properties, policy changes or other investments. Previous estimates suggest that would require approximately \$6 billion in investment from a wide variety of sources. As of 2020, this need has increased to \$14 billion. This includes multiple income levels (0-100% MFI) and unit types (0-3+ bedrooms). The document serves to educate and inform lending and financial institutions of investment opportunities that will produce the affordable housing necessary to end New Orleans' housing crisis.

The committee is currently reviewing additional content such as Rental and Homeownership assistance needs for the city of New Orleans. A study was completed by Enterprise estimating that \$290-\$456million will be needed to keep Louisiana renters in their homes until the end of 2020. New Orleans would need \$66,703,946 through December 2020.

The Community Development Finance Planning Committee was formed to discuss 2020 updates to the current plan. Participants include members for our Data Working Group, Lenders Roundtable, and New Orleans City Planning Commission. The group plans to develop a strategy to address the latest challenges identified in the 2020 New Orleans Housing Demand Model.

HousingNOLA Neighborhood Typologies

In 2014, HousingNOLA introduced its neighborhood typologies to provide a framework for assessing challenges and policy recommendations. Precious stones were used to categorize neighborhoods as Emerald, Sapphire, Diamond, Ruby, and Topaz neighborhoods. HousingNOLA reviewed its neighborhood typologies based on current data and has found that there have been significant changes in the city's housing market.

In 2017, we saw a slight increase, an average of 10% change, of Emerald, Diamond, and Topaz neighborhoods from 2014. According to recent data, just over 30% of New Orleans neighborhoods are categorized as Emerald Neighborhoods, having high rates of vacant lots and homes and limited housing market activity. 25% of neighborhoods were categorized as Diamonds, with drastic increases in household income, home prices, and rent. Sapphire neighborhoods have decreased by 44% from 2014 to 2017, meaning New Orleans continues to lose neighborhoods with affordable rents and is seeing less market activity. There was also a 9% increase in the number of Ruby neighborhoods in 2017 keeping with the trend of higher-cost neighborhoods riddling the city.

While the neighborhood typology continues to use gemstones to describe our neighborhoods, we have changed one of the names. While Ruby is a precious stone, it does not match color scheme and Amber has been substituted. An updated version of the Neighborhood Typologies was posted to the HousingNOLA website February 2020.

Golden Pearl Neighborhood Typology

The Golden Pearl Neighborhood typology serves as an ideal benchmark and, alongside existing typologies, will be used to inform housing policy decisions and allocate funds for rental and homeownership programs. HousingNOLA recognizes that there are components common to all great neighborhoods; each of New Orleans' neighborhoods possess unique characteristics that contribute to a

family or individual's decisions to settle or live elsewhere. The Pearl Neighborhood Typology serves as an indicator to measure how close a neighborhood is to becoming more equitable. Important components of a Golden Pearl Neighborhood would include socioeconomic conditions that are met by way of accessibility to high functioning public service institutions, diversity and equity among residents, and safe, family-friendly environments.

HousingNOLA SRPP Landlord Survey

The Small Rental Property Program (SRPP) is a federally funded program administered by the Louisiana Housing Corporation. The program was implemented to provide assistance to landlord applicants renting residential properties to income-eligible tenants.

HousingNOLA is currently working to identify the amount of Small Rental Property Program units currently available in the City of New Orleans. According to records provided by the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development, 1,120 units have expired since the program was first implemented. The study will determine if any of these units are still being provided at affordable rates. Survey to be completed by July or August 2020.

Cost Burden Analysis

Housing cost burden relates to housing costs as a share of income. The government standard for cost-burdened household is one where 30% or more of household income goes towards housing costs. This 30% housing cost does not take into consideration expenses for utilities, transportation, property taxes, etc. HousingNOLA will be examining these parameters at a local level to determine what the true cost burden percentage is for renters and homeowners in New Orleans. This research is to be completed by July 2020.

Opportunity Zone Analysis

LGBTQ & People Living with HIV/AIDS

There were no significant updates from the LGBTQ Taskforce in June, but the Taskforce met in June to check in partners regarding the coronavirus. The Taskforce will be meeting in early July to plan for the rest of the year and discuss next steps.

Persons with Disabilities/Supportive Services/Transitional Housing/ Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (AOT)

Due to a city funding freeze, the funding for the AOT court monitor has been cut, and she is currently working in a volunteer capacity. The AOT monitor currently has four active clients with one going long-term. The working group has also decided to increase its focus on data collection to reflect total costs of homelessness, incarceration and death for seriously mentally ill population versus providing a full continuum of coordinated psychiatric treatment and care in the community.

Other action items that the group has resolved to complete at the May meeting include: Working with the NOPD to identify AOT participants and re-energizing the budget and fundraising subcommittee to address city funding freeze. The committee will meet again on June 17th.

The Opportunity Youth Committee met on June 29th to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on Opportunity Youth in New Orleans. The Opportunity Youth committee continues to work with GNOHA's Capacity Building Committee on the Short-Term Rental Housing pilot program to house homeless and housing insecure families and opportunity youth. Opportunity Youth committee

members will serve as referral partners for the pilot program. The committee committed to working on with Urban Fellows to develop recommendations to the Orleans Parish School Board regarding housing insecure students. HousingNOLA will be reaching out to HUD to learn more about, and possibly bring to New Orleans, their Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative, which provides vouchers for youth that are aging out of foster care. Youth can sign up while they are currently aging out, and former foster youth are eligible for the initiative from ages 18 to 24. Once he or she moved on to other housing, the voucher would recycle back for use with another foster youth.

Domestic Violence Victims

No updates

Veterans

Due to our limited capacity working from home the veteran's data working group has been invited to the Vulnerable Populations call. Members from Bastion, VOA, and VOSELA have attended the call where we discuss HousingNOLA/GNOHA's platform and receive feedback about the policy.

When the regular committee is able to convene again, we have identified several other organizations to invite to the table such as HANO and the VOA. We will work on brainstorming certain policies that will help veteran housing such as expanding upon Bastion's policy advocacy in DC. With the current global pandemic, the timeline and need for reconvening the veterans' data working group is unclear.

Put Housing First (Outreach & Advocacy)

In May, #PutHousingFirst released the following calls-to-action:

May 5th—Support HB665, a bill that will reestablish the toxic mold taskforce. (passed)

- **May 13th**—Support HB388, statewide evictions protections for renters.
- **May 20th**—Support Utility Bill Moratorium, Smart Housing Mix Pilot Program, & Rent and Mortgage Relief from Governor Edwards (passed)

#PutHousingFirst also supported HousingLOUISIANA in its emergency preparedness work by helping to distribute an insurance FAQ in time for Hurricane Season.

Revision Recovery Screenings

In May, GNOHA began a partnership with Working Films, an organization that uses documentaries to increase civic engagement and shift culture at the local, state, and national level. They offer funding and in-kind support to underrepresented filmmakers, and lead conversations and trainings with nonprofits to ensure that nonfiction media is increasingly embraced as a critical resource in their strategies for social change. GNOHA has committed to hosting a film series that will have post-screening discussions around civic engagement.

Advocacy Community of Practice (CoP)

In May, the advocacy COP sent a letter to New Orleans City Council expressing support for the 95,000+ hospitality and gig workers affected by COVID-19, asking them to reach out to

commissioners and remind them to support ALL hospitality workers including: musicians, artists, entertainers, gig workers, hotel and motel workers, casino employees, pedicab drivers, second line vendors, sex workers, trade show workers, tour guides, and horse carriage drivers. On, May 7th the council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. R-20-111 recognizing that \$1 million is not enough and that *all* affect workers in the hospitality and tourism industries, “whether employees, gig workers, or independent contractors” should be able to receive relief from the EHA’s tax-funded reserves.

(Milestones completed significant activities, issues resolved, etc.)

- GNOHA was nominated to serve as administrator of the CoP.
- The Advocacy CoP was selected for a \$25K grant in collaboration with GNOF
- Selected for an opportunity with Advancing cities to perform a Community Development Scan

HousingLOUISIANA

HousingLOUISIANA is a statewide initiative aimed to meet Louisiana’s housing needs and create a statewide network of regional housing alliances to ensure better collaboration across the state. HousingLOUISIANA works on an annual Statewide Listening Tour with partners around the state to collect policy priorities for the Legislative Session. HousingLOUISIANA has been working on a Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative and seeking ways to secure a dedicated revenue source for it. HousingLOUISIANA also provides technical assistance for statewide partners.



HousingLOUISIANA held its monthly conference call on June 15th to discuss the coronavirus’ impact across the state. HousingLOUISIANA and the Louisiana Association of Affordable Housing Providers (LAAHP) did an analysis of the need for rental assistance are asked Governor John Bel Edwards to identify funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for rental assistance funding through the end of 2020. It is estimated that a range of \$250-\$500 million will be needed to keep Louisiana renters in their homes through the end of this year. HousingLOUISIANA’s Ad hoc Convening Planning Committee scheduled the date for the Semi-Annual Convening (July 21, 22, 28, 29, 30), with the last days being used to provide TA to the regional housing alliances. HousingLOUISIANA’s will work Enterprise Community Partners to host informational sessions on affordable housing funding that also involves practice. The Center for Planning Excellence of Baton Rouge and Urban Footprint released an analysis of the housing crisis amid the pandemic. The analysis found that Louisiana ranks 3rd in the nation for having a high risk for evictions due to job losses and 130,000 households across Louisiana are at risk of evictions, with the parishes most in need of rental assistance beyond July 31st when federal protections and assistance expire are in order of need, Orleans, Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, Caddo, Lafayette, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Calcasieu, Ouachita, and Bossier. In mid-June, the governor’s office announced the state had a 55.7% response rate, compared to the national average of 61.4%. About 1.3 million households have filled out the census, but Louisiana ranks 44th in the country for response rate and last in the Deep South.

HousingLOUISIANA continues to work on Resident Organizing with Community Change.

HousingLOUISIANA is working with partners in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans, and Shreveport to organize a statewide organizing group. Representatives will be participating in Community

Change's 4th Annual Building a Housing Movement Training to be strategize with other states: California, Oregon, and Washington.

Regional Alliance Network Development

CenLa Housing Alliance

The CenLA Housing Alliance is currently focused on building up their capacity and relationship with the new Mayoral administration and City Council members. The Alliance for Affordable Energy worked with CenLa to develop recommendations in support lower utility bills and affordable housing in the Mayor's study of Alexandria Utility Services. . The EEFA-LA Coalition is working to get the CenLA Housing Alliance additional resources to support their efforts on the ground. The City's Community Development Office is looking into creating a Rental Registry for the city and HousingLOUISIANA is providing some technical assistance. The City of Alexandria will be getting \$248,812 in CBDG CARES Act allocation. The Alliance is also working to address community concerns with the Pineville Housing Authority

Housing FIRST Alliance of the Capital Area

The Housing First Alliance of the Capital Areas is working to finalize their housing plan for Baton Rouge, the Housing East Baton Rouge (HEBR) plan and will be releasing a preliminary report in 2020. Build Baton Rouge is continuing their efforts to revitalize Plank Road. Baton Rouge will be getting \$1,932,038 in CDBG, \$955,859 in ESG, and \$370,057 in HOPWA funding. The City of Baton Rouge launched a commission to study racial inequities that will focus on four main areas of improvement: community and economic development; education, health and human services; arts, culture and community based nonprofits; and government entities.

Mid-State Housing Alliance

No updates to report at this time.

Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance

No updates to report at this time.

Northshore Housing Alliance

No updates to report at this time.

Lake Charles Region

No updates to report at this time.

Monroe Region

HousingLOUISIANA will be working with the Monroe region and community members and the city to develop and provide assistance for the development of a Monroe or North East Louisiana Housing Alliance. The city has also been impacted by COVID-19 and their Office of Community Development will be getting \$436,363 in CDBG funds through the CARES Act. Ellen Hill, Monroe's Community Development Director, designed a plan to take advantage of the city's emergency CDBG allocation and stretch the fund further by allotting \$250,000 out of its annual HOME allocation with the coronavirus CDBG award, pooling \$686,000 altogether for its relief program. Monroe was also pushed into using most of its CARES Act funding for direct housing assistance.

Houma Region

No updates to report at this time.

Shreveport Region

No updates to report at this time.

Statewide Listening Tour & Policy Agenda

HousingLOUISIANA has reached out to all regions to prepare for the 2020 Listening Tours to find dates and locations. All regions have scheduled their listening tours, which also be used to continue developing a large list of Louisianans working on affordable housing across the state.

Shreveport Region – January 15th @ 3pm

Houma/Thibodaux Region – January 16th @ 12pm

Greater New Orleans Region – January 29th @ 6pm

Lake Charles Region – February 3rd @ 3pm

Northshore Region – February 4th @ 5:30pm

Central Louisiana Region – February 6th @ 6pm

Baton Rouge – February 19th @ 6pm

Monroe Region – February 19th @ 4pm

Acadiana Region – February 27th @ 11am

HousingLOUISIANA has scheduled all of the Listening Tours before the March 9th start of the 2020 Legislative Session and has sent out surveys of challenges expressed on the listening tours to develop priorities for each region, which will ultimately be used to develop the statewide housing priorities. The priorities will be used to create a Legislative Agenda and prepare for the 2020 and 2021 Legislative Session. The priorities will be shared back with the regions in March.

Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative

The Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative (LHTFI) was formed in 2014 as a broad-based statewide coalition of housing developers, advocates, local and state banks, small business owners, and a regional economic alliance.

HousingLOUISIANA has been working on a Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative and seeking ways to secure a dedicated revenue source for it. HousingLOUISIANA also provides technical assistance for statewide partners.