



*Advancing Affordable Housing Policy and Practice for a More Equitable Economic Recovery
Highlights*

COLLABORATE. INNOVATE. ACCELERATE.

- ***Building Healthier, More Equitable Housing Strategies through Economic Recovery***
 - Developed SAHF Racial Equity Pledge, which will guide SAHF's work in a more holistic approach to incorporating racial equity in our policy and practice work.
 - Developed our policy agenda, A More Equitable Future Beginning at Home and provided a memo outlining key administrative actions that could be taken immediately.
 - Engaged with HUD and Treasury around proposals and implementation of relief programs to ensure that people with the lowest incomes are served by relief efforts and new programs.
 - Provided analysis and recommendations for programs that support resilience of nonprofit housing organizations. These recommendations included principles for supporting sustainability and liquidity through advocacy on the Paycheck Protection Program, the Fed's Mainstreet lending program, and the Capital Magnet Fund.
- ***Supporting Health and Recovery through Housing Stability***
 - Robust peer exchange (increased exponentially to approximately 80 meetings over grant period) around engagement, delivery of rental assistance and repayment agreements and policies.
 - Development of proposals for swift flexible rental assistance (together with HPN)- helped inform advocacy and decision making.
 - Used peer exchange learnings around barriers to accessing rental assistance to inform conversations with treasury around ERA policy- resulting in greater flexibility around landlord assistance, eligibility for residents of affordable housing.
 - Developed lessons learned/key principles for rental assistance/housing stability programs to be shared with field (refining in 2022).
 - Hosted information session/discussion with federal officials about roll out of Child Tax Credit to increase uptake among affordable housing residents and support income/housing stability/well-being.
- ***Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing; Leveraging Recovery and Stimulus Funding to Preserve Affordable Housing and Support Inclusive Communities***
 - Deeply engaged on implementation of HOME ARP program, including detailed comments, to ensure that funds can be used to create new homes that best meet the needs those at the greatest risk of homelessness. SAHF successfully engaged with HUD as guidance was developed to ensure that these funds could be paired with Housing Credit funds to create mixed income/mixed population housing.

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future

- Successfully advocated for inclusion of fixes to qualified contract and rights of first refusal provisions in the Housing Credit program in the Build Back Better bill. If enacted this would help ensure that affordable rental homes remain available to the people they are intended to serve and preserves the integrity of a key tool for fostering resident ownership/control in housing credit properties.
- In collaboration with SAHF members and the Low Income Investment Fund, supported development of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund proposal included in the Build Back Better bill.
- Actively identified through peer exchange and lifted up to policy makers barriers to using funds in the development of new housing – this included identified issues around HOME funds and state and local recovery funds use with the Housing Credit.
- Engaged with the Domestic Policy Council and HUD around recommendations for reducing transaction costs and time to help accelerate preservation and production of affordable rental housing.
- ***Supporting Policies and Programs that Foster the Health of Residents***
 - Developed and maintained COVID 19 resource center
 - Responded to need from field around help finding trusted guidance throughout 2020
 - Updated to include vaccine roll out
 - Developed examples of vaccine and health care partnerships that were shared with HUD as part of HUDs FQHC/Housing vaccine partnership work
 - Digital inclusion guide and work
 - Created a place of peer exchange for practitioners figuring out how to connect residents
 - Used insights gathered through peer exchange to advocate for policy change to better create access. Wins included establishment of the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and the Affordable Connectivity Program although SAHF continues to advocate for lower barriers to uptake for affordable housing residents.
 - Robust engagement in public comment process around roll out of ARPA digital inclusion funds and multiple national speaking engagements to share resources with practitioners.
 - Created a resource guide for practitioners in the field.
 - Providing input to HUD and HHS on resources for housing providers seeking to connect residents to supports for good health, through resident services coordination, access to health care and partnerships with healthcare actors.
- ***Incorporating Resident Voice and Fostering Community Engagement***

- Facilitating deep peer exchange around strategies for creating more equitable communities through use of person-centered strategies to lift up the voice of residents and foster agency. Through these discussions, we have seen SAHF members deepen their commitments to this work across their organization and even include voice and agency as key concepts in their strategic plans.
- Continue to advocate for policies that make space for resident voice in the preservation of properties – including developing a proposal for formal notifications to community-based groups from owners opt out of subsidy contracts and advocating for resident voice in physical inspection.
- Developed an [article for Shelterforce](#) outlining considerations and practices for housing operators looking to better incorporate resident voice and support agency.
- Published and disseminated “[Measuring Resident Agency and Voice in an Affordable Housing Setting: A Set of Guiding Questions to Move Forward](#)” which outlines measures and data gathering practices to assist housing practitioners with measuring organizational policies and approaches that support resident voice and agency while also building off measures many housers are already gathering.