

## 2019-2021 CR&D NAHRO Report

The Community Revitalization and Development (CR&D) Committee is tasked with discussing, reviewing, and analyzing housing, revitalization, and development issues through legislative, administrative, and judicial lenses. Throughout the 2019-2021 term, the Committee identified and engaged with legal and policy experts and assisted NAHRO staff in communicating to the administration and Congress via comment letters and other policy correspondence. The Committee also leveraged existing strengths to proactively respond to community revitalization and development issues through the promotion and discussion of new, innovative legislation on topics like LIHTC, homelessness, resident services, and other development mechanisms.

### Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

*Goal A: Maintain NAHRO's position as the preeminent organization for the development and implementation of responsible housing and community development policy by vigorously advocating for legislation, regulations, core programs, and innovative initiatives.*

- Objective 2: Discuss, review, and analyze housing, revitalization and development issues through legislative, administrative, and judicial lenses.
  - o Identify and engage legal and policy experts in topics as appropriate
  - o Leverage existing strengths to proactively respond to community revitalization and development issues including those related to the COVID-19 crisis through the promotion of new, innovative legislation on topics like LIHTC and homelessness
  - o Continue assisting NAHRO staff in communicating to the administration and Congress via comment letters and other policy correspondence to further promote NAHRO policy positions

Throughout the 2019-2021 term, the Committee featured a variety of expert guest speakers. These speakers focused on a range of issues including: LIHTC pricing and the state of the market, housing for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, the four percent tax credit and the bond market, innovative affordable housing building technologies, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Committee was also very involved in discussing current housing and redevelopment issues. This included those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, like CARES act funding and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The Committee also discussed new proposals from the incoming Biden Administration, including the American Jobs Plan, as well as proposed legislation including the Affordable Tax Credit Act, Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, and the Affordable Housing Preservation Act. The Committee provided feedback in drafting NAHRO's regulatory comment letters including Family Self-Sufficiency regulations, the Federal Reserve and OCC/FDIC Community Revitalization Act regulations, and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. Lastly, the Committee also helped draft one-pagers on the four percent tax credit and the bond market.

#### Guest Speakers:

Richard Baron – McCormack Baron Salazar  
Margaret diZerega – Vera Institute of Justice  
Michael Gaber – Affordable Housing Tax Coalition  
Josh Levy – Vessel Technology

Frederic Marienthal – Kutak Rock  
Dr. Michael McAfee – PolicyLink  
Rebecca Reape – Wells Fargo  
Cat Vielma – Redstone Equity

*Goal B: Strengthen NAHRO's role as the leading resource in developing the professional expertise and credibility of housing and community development practitioners*

- Objective 1: Act as a community development program and operations expert resource
  - o Subject matter experts for National, Regional, and State chapters of NAHRO by acting as a resource for PD, conferences, and ad hoc sessions
  - o Promote and develop resources for PHAs and CD agencies on traditional CR&D tools, revenue shortfalls relating to COVID-19, homelessness, and race justice disparities
  - o Engage with National, Regional, and State conference planning staff on community development sessions
  - o Develop downloadable case studies and materials for affordable housing preservation tools and other PHA-focused areas
  - o Promote and develop tools to help agencies with resident engagement

The Committee acts as community development program and operations experts for NAHRO. Committee members remain engaged in the state and regional NAHRO chapters, and many committee members attended other NAHRO committee and advisory committee meetings. Throughout the 2019-2021 term, CR&D provided critical information to NAHRO staff, including information pertaining to preparing for and preventing the coronavirus at the agency level, and Congressional and HUD asks for agencies during the COVID-19. Committee members have also participated and presented on NAHRO webinars, including on Emergency Solutions Grants and COVID-19 preparedness, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

*Goal C: Expand NAHRO's reach and improve it's effectiveness by building and reinforcing traditional and non-traditional partnerships, both with NAHRO's regions and chapters, and with outside organizations.*

- Objective 1: Improve communication and outreach related to topics pertinent to the committee between CR&D committee members with other NAHRO committees within the general membership and with the public.
  - o Actively work to improve connections between PHAs and CD agencies.
  - o Outreach and build partnerships efforts with program funders.
  - o Work closely with other NAHRO committees, staff, and partners to promote relevant community development policies.

The Committee worked with NAHRO staff to ensure that staff could respond to community development regulations and legislation, including the Emergency Rental Assistance Program new proposals from the incoming Biden Administration, including the American Jobs Plan, as well as proposed legislation including the Affordable Tax Credit Act, Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, and the Affordable Housing Preservation Act. The Committee provided feedback in drafting NAHRO's regulatory comment letters including Family Self-Sufficiency regulations, the Federal Reserve and OCC/FDIC Community Revitalization Act regulations, and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. Lastly, the Committee also helped draft one-pagers on the four percent tax credit and the bond market.

The Committee also worked to improve connections between PHAs and CD agencies by inviting guest speakers to committee meetings for peer exchanges.

*Goal F: Advance diversity, equity and inclusion as crucial to healthy communities.*

- Objective 3: Examine all community development issues through a diversity, equity, and inclusionary lens.
  - o Consider a range of perspectives and experiences when discussing community development issues.
  - o Engage with individuals and professionals with different perspectives and backgrounds.

Most importantly, the committee examined all community development issues through a diversity, equity, and inclusionary lens to engage in equity issues more meaningfully. The Committee worked closely to advance NAHRO's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework and with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee. This included passing one resolution by the BOG – an equity-based housing policy resolution.

Resolution:

Be it resolved, to meet the goals of NAHRO's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Framework, NAHRO and supports the following legislative priorities and will work to embed these priorities in its own equity agenda as a strategic priority both now and in the future until resolved:

- Robust and intentional educational resources are needed for low-income families;
- Housing policies should include resources, partnerships and programs that are needed to address the mental health needs of low-income families;
- Equitable zoning should be supported thru nationwide adoption of best practices with zoning and planning communities;
- Additional employment opportunities are needed to provide livable wages, create equity and address the wealth gap; and
- Successful MTW initiatives focused on self-sufficiency and educational support should be available to all Public Housing Authorities