

2019-2021 Small Agency Advisory Committee Transition Report

The Small Agency Advisory Committee (SAAC) is tasked with discussing, reviewing, and analyzing housing issues and their impact on small agencies throughout the country through legislative, administrative, and judicial lenses. The SAAC provides a critical role by providing small agency perspectives to NAHRO staff for regulatory comment letters and other policy correspondence to further promote and refine NAHRO policy positions. The SAAC is also important for advocating to Congress on behalf of small agency needs and priorities.

Strategic Plan 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 6: Discuss, review, and analyze housing issues and their impact on small agencies throughout the country through legislative, administrative, and judicial lenses.
 - o Assist NAHRO staff by providing small agency perspectives for regulatory comment letters and other policy correspondence to further promote and refine NAHRO policy positions.
 - o Promote new, innovative legislation to assist small agencies better serve their communities.

The Advisory Committee played a crucial role in ensuring the small agency concerns were included in NAHRO regulatory comments. The SAAC provided feedback on a variety of comment letters including, Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH), and National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE). Through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework, the SAAC also provided feedback to the Housing Committee on NAHRO's Universal Voucher Proposal.

- Objective 7: Develop an advocacy work plan to guide the advocacy efforts of the Small Agency Advisory Committee.
 - o Advocacy trainings.
 - o Targeted advocacy campaigns.
 - o Engagement with small agencies that do not regularly attend NAHRO conferences utilizing webinars, go-to meetings, and other means to minimize cost to small agencies.

The SAAC has also been active in providing a small agency perspective for NAHRO's Congressional advocacy. The Advisory Committee discussed best practices for getting better engagement from small agency members and contributed to NAHRO's August Advocacy Campaign.

During the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SAAC convened weekly to share their experiences and lessons learned during the public health emergency. Throughout the term the Advisory Committee continued to discuss issues tied to the COVID-19 pandemic including small agency operations and resident interactions, the eviction moratorium, COVID-19 waivers, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Goal E: Strengthen NAHRO as a thought-leader by improving communication, networking, information exchange, and knowledge transfer with and among members, partners, and stakeholders, and by enhancing the experience of members and next-generation professionals.

- Objective 10: Strengthen communication and small agency representation with NAHRO's Housing and CR&D committees, Legislative Network, and Member Services' Emerging Leaders to ensure small agency perspectives are considered at all levels of NAHRO policy making.
 - o Have Small Agency Advisory Committee representatives join Housing, CR&D, and Legislative Network meetings when feasible.
 - o Report back to Small Agency Advisory Committee on topics and conversations being shared across NAHRO leadership.
 - o Provide small agency perspective to NAHRO leadership.
 - o Actively seek out Emerging leaders for membership of Small Agency Advisory Committee to ensure the next generation of NAHRO members will be actively engaged, mentored, and placed in positions of leadership.

During the 2019-2021 term, the SAAC worked to strengthen communication and small agency representation with NAHRO's Housing and CR&D committees and Legislative Network to ensure small agency perspectives are considered at all levels of NAHRO policy making. This ensured small agency perspectives are included in NAHRO's policy and advocacy work.

The Advisory Committee has also begun gathering documents to create a Small Agency Resource Library, managed by the SAAC.

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

- Objective 12: Examine all policy concerns through a diversity equity and inclusionary lens
 - o Consider a range of perspectives and experiences when discussing small agency issues.
 - o Engage with individuals and professionals with different perspectives and backgrounds.

Lastly, throughout the 2019-2021 term, the SAAC examined all policy concerns through a diversity equity and inclusionary lens and considered how a range of perspectives and experiences impacts small agency operations. Small agency members represent different geographies and communities across the country. This variety of experience was acknowledged as the Advisory Committee discussed diversity, equity, and inclusion. This included the SAAC's work on NAHRO's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework. Through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework, the SAAC also provided feedback to the Housing Committee on NAHRO's Universal Voucher Proposal.