



The Commissioners Committee works for programs and resources that impact affordable housing needs in their communities. Committee members encourage others to become H/CD Ambassadors and increase its reach locally and nationally. To accomplish this, they champion the need for viable communities to the public, elected representatives and the media. Commissioners Committee also support professional development opportunities for commissioners. The Committee is comprised of: 3 representatives from each regional committee and 14 Presidential at-large members (at least one representative per region).

Advocate

- [Advocacy Action Center](#) – When decisive, collective action is needed, a call to action prompts a visit to the advocacy action center! Here you will find resources like elected officials' information, policy tools. Get information at your fingertips with the **NAHRO ADVOCACY APP**. Download the app at [Google Play](#) or [iStore](#).
- [Advocacy/PR Toolkit](#) – This page contains valuable resources such as best practices, how to work with congressional staffers, and more!

Communicate

- [Commissioners Contact Form](#) – Are you receiving email communications from NAHRO? If not, provide NAHRO with your contact information and find out how to become a NAHRO Associate.
- [Commissioner Mentors List](#) – New to the industry and have questions? Our Commissioner Mentors can help!

Empower

- [Housing America – This](#) campaign that aims to raise national awareness of the need for and importance of safe, quality, affordable housing through education, advocacy and empowerment.
- [Little Libraries – Plans/Tips for Library Builders](#) – The Little Libraries is based on the “take a book leave a book” concept in neighborhoods.

Honor

- [Commissioner of the Year Award](#) This NAHRO individual award honors a current commissioner, or one who has served within the past 12 months, who has demonstrated excellence in advocating for and developing the financial, political, and community support necessary to ensure the continuation and expansion of housing or community development programs. The award, established in 1987 and originally named for **Elizabeth B. Wells**, provides a living

acknowledgment of the outstanding contributions Ms. Wells made to the housing field as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the King County (WA) Housing Authority and as NAHRO's first Vice President of the Commissioners Committee.

Learn

- [Diversity Reference Materials](#) – To keep you informed.
- [NAHRO Commissioners Certification \(NCC\)](#) – Acquire and maintain the skill set you need to be an effective Commissioner.
- [Certification Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **Seminars for Commissioners:**
 - [Commissioners' Fundamentals](#)
 - [Ethics for Commissioners](#) (e-Learning)
 - [Ethics for Commissioners](#) (in-person)
 - [Marketing, Image-building and Community Engagement](#)
 - [Strategic Planning, Agency Development and Policy for Commissioners](#)
 - [Succession Planning & Hiring Executive Staff](#) (e-learning)
 - [Succession and Sustainability Planning and CEO Search](#)

Committee's Goals/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 (Keeping in mind NAHRO's 501(c)3 status parameters).

A4. Advocacy Subcommittee works with Legislative Network Advisory Committee (LNAC) and Congressional Relations to establish measurable goals and all Commissioners to meet goals.

- a. Actively engage in development of an annual advocacy work plan that includes targeted legislative campaigns with measurable outcomes, this may include a focus on updated social media and effective visuals, and responses to media, Congressional, and administration inquiries.
 - STATUS: Requests to meet with Leg Net & NAHRO staff re development of annual advocacy work plan; staff noted work plan is developed internally
- b. Send letters to Congress and The White House for additional funding for universal vouchers, emergency housing vouchers, resident services, etc. Ensure letters are sent by Commissioners from each region. Seeking 95% participation by committee members.
 - STATUS: Requests to develop Commissioner-specific template declined due to system/administrative capacity. Advocacy Action campaign forwarded to Commissioners Committee members with recommendation to personalize.
- c. Provide Advocacy training for Commissioners, online, in person, or through other resources.
 - STATUS: Completed | Advocacy for Commissioners launch - 8/16/23

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

B11. DEI Subcommittee to work with DEIAC and Professional Development (PD) to develop additional external relationships with "non-traditional" organizations and establish measurable goals for all Commissioners to meet.

- a. Reach out to sectors/organizations outlined in the NAHRO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Framework (ex: criminal justice; education, such as TK-12, colleges, universities, non-traditional higher ed institutions; access points for healthy food, dental and medical care)
 - STATUS: Deferred | Talking points for outreach prioritized; new term leadership to develop list of sectors/organizations
- b. Develop talking points regarding NAHRO and PHAs to share with non-traditional partners.
 - STATUS: In Progress | Talking points developed by DEI sub-committee and Commissioners Committee, to be finalized
- c. Ask each committee member to conduct outreach to at least one non-traditional to share information on NAHRO/PHAs and identify opportunities for collaboration.
 - STATUS: Deferred | Talking points for outreach prioritized; new term leadership to develop list of sectors/organizations
- d. Reach out to sectors/organizations outlined in the NAHRO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Framework (ex: criminal justice; education, such as TK-12, colleges, universities, non-traditional higher ed institutions; access points for healthy food, dental and medical care). Seeking 95% participation of committee members.
 - STATUS: Deferred | Talking points for outreach prioritized; new term leadership to develop list of sectors/organizations

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

C7. Communications Subcommittee to work with LNAC to establish measurable goals. Work with LNAC to expand NAHRO's reach, improve advocacy effectiveness and sphere of influence by building and reinforcing outside partnerships through joint advocacy and social media campaigns. Build stronger regional and state-level communication networks to share, coordinate, and expand NAHRO's legislative work and advocacy campaigns.

- a. Focus on Commissioners Resources webpage
 - STATUS: Completed/Ongoing | Continue to update Commissioners at Work on an annual basis
- b. Help develop communications to Federal & State legislators (Commission-specific language for action center templates, and to encourage robust funding for supportive services).
 - STATUS: Requests to develop Commissioner-specific communications declined due to system/administrative capacity. Advocacy Action campaign forwarded to Commissioners Committee members with recommendation to personalize.
- c. Develop communications to engage more Commissioners (talking points for local Commission meetings).
 - STATUS: In Progress | Talking points developed by DEI sub-committee and Commissioners Committee, to be finalized
- d. Incorporate House America efforts into communications and advocacy.

- STATUS: Completed/In Progress | House America media communications sent to Commissions Committee members; consider request for agencies to report activities to House America committee

C8. DEI Subcommittee to work with Housing America to establish measurable goals. Promote academic achievements of public housing residents through connections with non-traditional partners, based on NAHRO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Framework.

- STATUS: Completed | introduction to House America staff and committee leadership. Talking points for outreach prioritized; new term leadership to work with House America committee to establish measurable goals.
 - a. Target efforts to improve internet/digital access in low-income areas
 - b. Universal access to preschool
 - c. Highlight the impact that under-resourced schools have on education gaps and upward mobility, and advocate for equitable funding for neighborhood schools.
 - d. Establish formal partnerships with continuing/higher education institutions to ensure residents (children and heads of household/parents/guardians) have access to educational opportunities and resources.

Goal D | Ensure NAHRO's continued financial stability by expanding revenue sources, exploring new business opportunities and maximizing efficiency.

D.7 (new objective) DEI Subcommittee to work with DEIAC to target business opportunities within underserved communities, ensure diverse representation from those businesses, and ensure revenue sources lift up DEI.

- a. Recruit one business from each DEI framework-defined non-traditional partnership, within each region.
 - STATUS: Deferred | Talking points for outreach prioritized; new term leadership to develop recruitment strategy

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.

E10. Communications Subcommittee (Commissioner of the Year Group) - work with regions to ensure nominees for Commissioner of the Year Award.

- a. Ensure there is at least one nominee from each region.
 - STATUS: Completed | Outreach to regions regarding award completed in 2022 and 2023

E11. Advocacy Subcommittee (Commissioners Track Group) - create substantive, relevant topics, and sessions for the national conf. track and other tracks.

- a. Propose 3-5 sessions via calls for proposals and/or submissions by the Commissioners Committee.
 - STATUS: Completed | 3+ sessions submitted for each applicable conference, 1+ accepted in each round
- b. Promote NAHRO Certification programs.
 - STATUS: Completed/Ongoing | NAHRO certification programs promoted in meetings and communications with Commissioners Committee members; consider opportunities to promote to broader Commissioners base

E12. DEI Subcommittee collaboration with DEIAC. Assign/delegate representatives to roundtable discussions with national standing committee leadership members to discuss ways to advance DEI, to increase participation by Next Gen Professionals, and to encourage cross committee goal alignment.

- a. A minimum of one discussion per year with national standing committees which will produce cross-committee goals and initiatives to advance DEI and increase participation by Nex Gen professionals in policy discussions relative to advancing DEI.
 - a. STATUS: Completed | several meetings held with DEIAC (Commissioners committee and sub-committees), yielding collaborative conference session proposals
- b. DEIAC representatives report to Commissioners committee, Regional representatives, State representatives, and BOG.
 - a. STATUS: Completed/Ongoing | regular communications between DEIAC and Commissioners committee/sub-committees

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

F14. DEI Subcommittee to work with DEIAC and PD to establish measurable goals.

- a. Work with PD staff to ensure the curricula for many of NAHRO's key courses includes material related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - STATUS: Deferred | meeting/presentation request sent to NAHRO staff, deferred due to capacity
- b. Provide recommendations on how to include diversity, equity, and inclusion e- Learnings and in-person trainings.
 - STATUS: Deferred | meeting/presentation request sent to NAHRO staff, deferred due to capacity

F15. DEI Subcommittee to work with DEIAC to establish measurable goals. Provide tools for our members to use to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in their communities including HR recruitment tools, board and staff development tools, communication tools, and DEI planning for succession and sustainability.

- a. Make sure best practices are documented and shared (consider size of agency and programmatic and development makeup).
 - STATUS: In Progress | Talking points developed by DEI sub-committee and Commissioners Committee, to be finalized
- b. Collect and share demographics (staff leadership, Commissioners); consider adding optional questions to conference registration, and/or adding to Commissioners committee survey.
 - STATUS: survey did not yield results representative of NAHRO membership

F16. DEI Subcommittee to work with LNAC to establish measurable goals.

- a. Engage in facilitated discussion of the role Leg Net plays in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at NAHRO and through the work we do with Congress.
 - STATUS: Deferred | meeting/presentation request sent to NAHRO staff, deferred due to capacity
- b. Apply those lessons to all the work Leg Net does including, but not limited to, its advocacy annual work plan, advocacy campaigns, trainings, and communications.
 - Deferred | meeting/presentation request sent to NAHRO staff, deferred due to capacity

GOAL G | Clarify and strengthen relationships between National NAHRO and its partners – the regional councils and state chapters.

G5. New Objective: Communicate upcoming issues (events, awards, strategic plans) to Regional Presidents/VPs and Regional Commissioners VPs.

- a. Share DEI policy framework from NAHRO.
 - STATUS: Completed | shared with Commissioners committee and sub-committees during meetings and via e-mail communications
- b. Share other communications (Housing America, etc.)
 - STATUS: Completed | shared with Commissioners committee and sub-committees during meetings and via e-mail communications

FINAL COMMENTS

How much time do you want for your progress?

“What is it you wanted me to reconcile myself to? I was born here, almost 60 years ago. I’m not going to live another 60 years. You always told me ‘It takes time.’ It’s taken my father’s time, my mother’s time, my uncle’s time, my brothers’ and my sisters’ time. How much time do you want for your progress?”

James Baldwin in “The Price of the Ticket” (PBS)