

IL NAHRO

Housing Focus



FEBRUARY EDITION

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME

CAREER GPS

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

POSTER
CONTEST

DEADLINE: March 14, 2022 at 5PM

Contest participation is open to all children in 5-12 residing in affordable housing assisted directly, supported under community development, or participants in affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO member authority.

Age Categories

- Elementary: K to 5th grade
- Middle: 6th to 8th grade
- High: 9th to 12th grade

CONTACT US:

815.904.2681

DAIfredson@NiReach.org



UNCOMMONLY STRONG FOR 30 YEARS

Thank you for being a valued partner in our mission to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainability of affordable housing.
We're stronger together.

INSURANCE | RISK MANAGEMENT | TRAINING | RESEARCH



www.housingcenter.com

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The Contents

Advertising Rate Sheet

4

What's going on?

9

Poster Contest

5

Career GPS

12

Cyber Security

6

Take action

13



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Come Advertise with Us!!

Advertising Rate Sheet

The Illinois Chapter of NAHRO is a professional membership association of housing and community development agencies and individuals. All editions will be sent by e-mail to the entire ILNAHRO membership and posted on the ILNAHRO website.

The newsletter is distributed the entire year and our current subscription list encompasses over 200+ members/individuals.

Submission deadlines are 20th of each month.

The advertising rates for the newsletter are as follows:

Finished Ad Size (width x length)		Cost Per Issue	Cost For All 10 Issues
Full page	7.5" x 10"	\$75.00	\$675.00
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$50.00	\$450.00
Quarter Page	3.5" x 5"	\$30.00	\$270.00
Medium/Small	3.5" x 3.5"	\$25.00	\$225.00
Business Card	3.5" x 2.5"	\$15.00	\$135.00

Website Company Link

Cost for Link—1-Year

Banner Logo Link

\$100.00

If you are interested in advertising with us, please send a high-resolution file (at least 300 dpi) to latinaf@sha1.org by submission deadline indicated above. Acceptable files include: .tiff, .eps, .pdf, or .jpeg or .png. If you have any questions please contact Latina Faulkner, Executive Assistant at the Springfield Housing Authority at 217/753-5757, ext. 206 or by email at latinaf@sha1.org.

Return this form to ILNAHRO, Springfield Housing Authority, 200 North Eleventh Street, Springfield, IL 62703

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Print our ad in the following newsletter issues (circle):

January	February	March	April	May
June	July/August	September	October	November/December



"What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest

All states must have their poster submissions to NCRC by April 1, 2022!

Return State Organized Poster Entries to:

Dakota County CDA
Anna Judge – NCRC Housing America Task Force Chair
1228 Town Centre Drive
Eagan, MN 55123

Each agency should submit applications to their state chapter first. Contact your state chapter to inquire about the state deadline.
If your state chapter is not hosting a contest then submit to the regional level.

The "What Homes Means to Me" poster contest is for youth, Kindergarten through Grade 12, who live in affordable and assisted housing. The NCRC NAHRO regional council will recognize our region's three winners (one from each age group) at the regional conference in St. Paul, MN on May 25, 2022. Those 3 winners will then be sent on to the national level for consideration.

(Send poster contest entries to your State Chapters for selection process and the top 3 state chapter winners from each age group will be forwarded to NCRC NAHRO for regional selection. Submissions sent directly to National NAHRO will be disqualified.)

As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, a poster contest is held each year for children residing in affordable housing and community developments owned or administered by NAHRO member agencies. Posters reflect the national theme of "What Home Means to Me." The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO's chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. National honorees are selected from chapter/state-level winning entries.



[Order Calendar](#)

Questions: [Anna Judge](#), NCRC NAHRO Housing America Chair

How to Enter

Housing authorities submitting entries to the national poster contest must first send entries to its local/state NAHRO chapter. Local/state NAHRO chapters are encouraged to host their own poster contests and submit the winning posters from each age category to their regional council. Local/state chapter contests are optional. Each regional council will determine a deadline for poster contest entries and a date for regional judging. National NAHRO is not involved in the scheduling or conduct of regional council contests. The regional council will select three winners – one from each age category – and forward those on to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

National NAHRO will not accept submissions from individual housing authorities. Any submissions sent directly to national NAHRO will be disqualified.

[WHMTM-2022-23-Contest-Application.doc](#)



[Illinois NAHRO \(ilnahro.org\)](http://ilnahro.org)

****Remember--We can use your story...please submit to latinaf@sha1.org by mid-week of the month.****

CYBER SECURITY



Easy, Inexpensive Cybersecurity Tips That Work

By: Amy Hourigan, [HAI Group](#) Marketing Director

Cybercriminals continue to target public and affordable housing organizations at an alarming rate. The good news? Protecting yourself doesn't have to be complicated—or expensive.

HAI Group's Amy Hourigan sat down with cybersecurity expert Jonathan Hochman (pictured below) to get his best advice for housing organizations that are looking for better ways to safeguard their systems and data. Hochman, the founder of [CodeGuard](#), a website security company, and [Hochman Consultants](#), a boutique search marketing agency, holds two computer science degrees from Yale University and regularly serves as an expert witness in disputes involving online reputation and other computer-related issues.



HAI Group: Thanks for talking with us today, Jonathan. Our policyholders and members are juggling multiple responsibilities on limited budgets, yet they want to make sure they're also protecting their organizations—and their residents' data—from cybercriminals. What advice would you give them?

Jonathan Hochman: There are five things I recommend: patch your software, secure your business email, retire your obsolete systems, make sure your data is backed up automatically, and inventory your hardware. All of these activities fall under what we call "defense in depth." No single defense is perfect, but taken together, they work. You can think of each cybersecurity measure like a piece of Swiss cheese. If you take the pieces and layer them on top of each other, the holes won't always align. Add enough layers and eventually, those holes will stop.

HAI Group: I like that analogy. Probably because I like cheese. OK, so let's talk about your first recommendation. Since software companies regularly issue updates that fix security vulnerabilities, patching as a cybersecurity measure makes sense.

JH: It's critical. Cybercriminals target known vulnerabilities. Making sure your software is up to date goes a long way toward helping keep you safe. If you have Windows, type Windows Update in the search bar (look for the magnifying glass next to the Window icon in the bottom left corner of your screen. If you use Apple products, you can learn how to [update your Apple software here](#)). Make sure to set it for automatic updates so the system will just update itself. Then keep an eye on it to make sure these updates are happening.

HAI Group: Can't organizations just rely on antivirus programs?

JH: Antivirus programs, which try to stop the bad stuff from getting on your systems, aren't perfect. Sometimes you'll get something on your system called an advanced persistent threat, or APT for short. It's software that's just sitting on your system snooping on your network and collecting data. It's not actually doing anything you'll notice, but it's gathering and sending out your data, which somebody somewhere is accumulating. Eventually, they're going to use it against you. For this reason, it's important to periodically scan your systems for malware. There are a variety of vendors you can use. The simplest one is called [Malwarebytes](#), and you can download it for free. Run it and see what you've got.

HAI Group: Sounds easy enough. OK, so we'll patch our software and scan for malware. What's next? What did you mean when you said that housing organizations need to secure their business email?

JH: Email hacking is a huge problem for businesses. An easy way for cybercriminals to send you harmful attachments and links is through fake emails that look legitimate. Having everyone in your housing organization practice good password hygiene is a simple but powerful defense. You want everyone to use different passwords for different accounts, choose phrases that are easy to remember but hard for others to guess, and enable [multi-factor authentication](#). Even better, use a password service like [LastPass](#). There is a bunch of these types of password lockers, and they enable you to have a unique and complex password for each site you use. I have no idea what any of my passwords are; they're like 15-character strings of gobbledygook that I couldn't possibly remember.

HAI Group: So, password lockers like LastPass don't get hacked?

JH: Well yeah, they could get hacked. It certainly is a worry, but the theory is to put all your eggs in one basket and watch that basket very carefully. I protect my Google account, which is where the passwords end up stored, with two-factor authentication. You should enable multi-factor authentication for all of your important accounts

HAI Group: OK. What's next?

JH: Alright, so another big avenue by which people are getting attacked is through obsolete systems. If you have an old computer system that is at the end of its life, replace it, because it's not getting patched. It's going to be exposed, and you're going to get attacked.

Continues on page 7



HAI Group: Yikes. I didn't think about that.

JH: It's critical. Another thing you need to do is ensure that your important data is being backed up automatically. I use [Microsoft OneDrive](#) (a cloud service). I have two computers. With OneDrive, my computers automatically upload copies of their data files to OneDrive and then OneDrive syncs them so I can switch between computers and the files are the same. If something happens to one of my computers, it's not a big issue because the files are stored in OneDrive (not on the computer's hard drive), so I can restore them. Housing organizations that aren't automatically backing up their data to the cloud should talk to their IT vendor. Tell them that you need to make sure all your systems are being backed up so that if you get hit you're protected. Then, if you get hit, you can do what's called the "whack and back," which means you whack the system that's been compromised—you just erase it—then you reinstall the software and restore your data from your backup and go on your merry way.

HAI Group: Sounds easy enough.

JH: It's important to have those good backups. In order for that to be successful, you also need to have an IT inventory. You need to know every computer and device that's in your organization. Every router. Every web camera. Every keyless lock. And you need to make sure that every single one of those devices is being properly backed up and patched. I've seen demonstrations where a simulated attacker will go into an organization and hack the web camera that's in the office to monitor people from a security standpoint, and they'll use the web camera to watch people working. They'll watch someone type their password and get that password from the hacked camera. So even if you patch all your computers, if you have an old router and your old router isn't patched, malware can get in through the router, so you need to be vigilant. In fact, that inventory of everything might be step zero. That might come before everything else. Ask your IT professional: Do we have an inventory of our assets? Do we know every system that we've got? Do we know all the sources of data that we have? That's important because you'll want to discover if someone has an ad hoc database they've created and maybe they're doing something with it on the side and mishandling sensitive information. If you have that inventory you can get a handle on things.

HAI Group: Is there an easy way to find out if you have a rogue video camera or router you forgot about?

JH: That's a job for an IT vendor. There are products you can use to scout around; I believe there are some that can even do automatic inventories and discover all the devices.

HAI Group: I didn't know routers needed to be patched. I don't think I've ever gotten any kind of notification for the one I use in my home, which I've had for a few years.

JH: Yes, routers get patches, they get firmware upgrades, they have problems and if you patch them then you have less trouble.

HAI Group: Good to know. What other advice would you give housing professionals who want to protect themselves from cybercriminals?

JH: Practice good hygiene with your accounts. A lot of businesses still have old accounts and access credentials for employees who left the organization because they never canceled their accounts. That's a problem because it can be a vector for a criminal to get in. So, you need to maintain hygiene not only with regard to your active employees' passwords, but you also need to make sure you remove inactive user accounts from your systems. Another thing to do when you take that inventory is to make sure that any devices like your routers, cameras, internet locks on doors—whatever you've got, make sure that none of those things still have the default password that came with the device.

HAI Group: Everything you're describing seems pretty simple. Is it?

JH: Yeah, I think so. Every bit helps, OK. Like if we just tell people, make sure you patch your systems. Make sure you replace your end-of-life systems. That's good. Doing automatic backups is good. You can spend a little money now to secure everything. Or you can spend a lot of money later to try to clean up. If you don't prepare now, inevitably, you will get hit. And it's much cheaper to prepare than to clean up.

HAI Group: Public and affordable housing organizations typically don't have big IT budgets, though.

JH: You don't need to do anything too fancy. I don't want people to go out and buy super expensive contracts. All this stuff should be done relatively cheap. You need a simple solution. You don't need the fanciest, greatest solution, you need the basics. I recommend that housing organizations shop around and get a good, solid basic solution from a known vendor. When anybody is spending a lot of time and effort to sell you something it probably means the product is overpriced. I'm not talking about huge corporations. For them, it's worth it to send a salesperson, but if you're a small operation you should be able to go out and shop and pull something fairly simple off the shelf, which is going to take care of your needs. Or go to your local IT vendor, where you know the person. Local vendors should be able to provide the services I've described and they shouldn't be super expensive.

HAI Group: When you talk about cleaning things up after the fact, how much money are we talking? Is there an average cost per crime per industry or business size?

JH: We have some statistics, but data breaches are expensive. And they can be very expensive if you lose your residents' or tenants' personally identifiable information. If you end up with payment fraud, where someone gets ahold of bank account information and commits fraud, that can be very, very expensive. The average breach I think is in the million-dollar range in terms of total costs and liability. Obviously, that includes some larger enterprises so that's why these averages are not that meaningful. But it can be very expensive. Surprisingly expensive.

Continues on page 8



HAI Group: Anything else affordable housing organizations should know about cybersecurity?

JH: Again, they need to patch their systems and they need to have backups. You have to understand that you're going to be attacked, so you may as well just practice so you know how you're going to restore your systems when it happens. If you're using Microsoft software, just get OneDrive and use it to back up all your files for each computer. That will give you a definite leg up. Housing organizations might also consider buying cyber coverage.

HAI Group: We offer cyber coverage to our members, but it has caps, so we encourage them, and all other policyholders, to discuss their needs with their account representative since they most likely need additional coverage.

JH: It's hard because businesses have to put resources into cybersecurity. I know affordable housing organizations don't always have the resources they need, but if they don't invest in cybersecurity, worse things are going to happen that is going to cost them even more.

HAI Group: I would imagine the firms that help you with the public relations angle aren't cheap either.

JH: None of it is cheap. You've got a PR problem. You've got a legal problem. You've got potential lawsuits. You've got, potentially, government fines. It's a huge cascading problem that you want to avoid.

HAI Group: What about training your staff not to click on bad links or download attachments that look legitimate?

JH: You do need to train people, and there are people who do it, but housing authorities might not be able to afford that type of training. Plus, training people not to click on bad links is a very hard thing to do. There's always a message that's a little bit more seductive and people will forget to use caution. They're in a hurry. There's not a whole lot you can do on the human factor.

HAI Group: We've all heard a story from a colleague or friend who clicked on an email with a highly charged message, even though they had cybersecurity training.

JH: Oh yeah, I know, because these criminals will send you a message that is emotionally charged and you get the adrenaline rush, and once that sets in, your IQ drops by like 50 points. And there's nothing you can do about it. That's just the way it is for all of us. People will always get phished. You really need to have your system patched because then you're less vulnerable to phishing. And if you have a backup, you're able to restore yourself better. Another thing you can do is make sure your email provider has good spam filtering because the more spam you can eliminate, the better. A great, yet inexpensive, solution for this is Google's email suite. For, I don't know, under \$100 a month or so for 10 users you get a nice business email system that has filtering and safety built-in (the system can scale up).

HAI Group: If a housing organization has an IT department, does it typically take care of cybersecurity?

JH: IT should set up these measures but they may be overwhelmed. These are good questions for the executive director of the housing authority to ask their IT person—not to put them on the spot but to offer support. Ask them: How are we doing on all these measures? What can we do to make sure that these things are being taken care of? Ask them if they're encountering any difficulties and whether they need additional resources or support.

HAI Group: What if they don't have an IT expert on staff?

JH: If they don't have an expert maybe they're affiliated with an organization or government entity that does have one who would be willing to informally lend a hand.

HAI Group. That's a great idea.

JH: Yeah, just ask for help. Go to the town and say we're concerned about cybersecurity. Could you help us? We're doing good things in the community and you want us to succeed, and this is what we need. It's a good idea to ask for help. It's a good idea to ask for advice and not to be too proud.

HAI Group: Thanks, Jonathan.

JH: My pleasure.



IL NAHRO would like to tell your Authority's story . Have you meet a milestone or participated in something amazing in your community, maybe even created something fun to do with your staff. This is the time to tell your story. Please submit your happenings to latinaf@sha1.org. Your Housing Authority can be featured in a future IL NAHRO newsletter.

What's Going On?



Aurora Housing Authority – Southwind Apartments

Some of the affordable housing provided by local housing authorities and IHDA funding.



Joliet Housing Authority –Heritage Place



Decatur Housing Authority – Lexington Hi-Rise



IHDA Affordable Housing Tax Credit – Bellwood, IL





The sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place **from 14 to 25 March 2022**. Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSW66 will take place in a hybrid format. All side events and parallel events will be fully virtual.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to contribute to the session.

- **Priority theme:** Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;
- **Review theme:** Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session);

For more information, please visit: [CSW66 \(2022\)](#) | [Commission on the Status of Women](#) | [UN Women – Headquarters](#)

IL NAHRO Mission

NAHRO makes available resources for its members and others who provide decent, safe, affordable housing, and viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income by:

- Ensuring that housing and community development professionals have the leadership skills, education, information and tools to serve communities in a rapidly changing environment;
- Advocating for appropriate laws, adequate funding levels and responsible public policies that address the needs of the people serve; are financially and programmatically viable for our industry; are flexible, reduce regulatory burdens and promote local decision-making; and,
- Fostering the highest standards of ethical behavior, service, and accountability to ensure public trust.

NAHRO enhances the professional development and effectiveness of its members and the industry through its comprehensive professional development curriculum, including certifications; conferences; and publications. These efforts work to equip NAHRO's members with the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to succeed and prosper in a changing environment.



Start the Year with Professional Development!

It's a new year, which means you can get started on all your professional goals by registering for one of NAHRO's upcoming trainings!

- HMIS Lead and System Administrator Webinars (Third Wednesdays; Webinar)
- Biweekly Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response for Homeless Assistance Providers (Fridays; Virtual)
- 2022 Fair Housing Office Hours (Starting March 8; Virtual)
- Weekly Office Hours: Emergency Housing Vouchers (Tuesdays; Virtual)
- NLIHC's Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice (March 22-23; National Low-Income Housing Coalition)
- NCHV Quarterly Webinar: Effectively Including the Voices of Those With Lived Experience (March 10; NCHV; Webinar)
- Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing Homelessness (April 12; Webinar; National Center for Homeless Education)
- McKinney-Vento 101: Basic Requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act (April 28; Webinar; National Center for Homeless Education)

Please visit : [Upcoming Events for Preventing and Ending Homelessness | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#)



Train to Grow!

Washington Conference



Join us for the **2022 NAHRO Washington Conference**, taking place March 28-30, at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, in Washington, DC.

We are currently planning for an in-person meeting with a limited virtual package. We are closely monitoring developments with COVID-19 and the Omicron variant and will provide registration and program information in late January.

For more information on [Washington Conference sponsorship opportunities](#), contact NAHRO Exhibits/Sponsorship Account Manager: **Pat Price, Sales Manager** pprice@smithbucklin.com | 202-367-2462

Questions? Please e-mail us at conferenceregistration@nahro.org so we can assist you!

National Housing Conference 2022



The National Housing Conference, Australia's premier housing event returns in 2022 – to be staged in Melbourne, the perfect location to unpack the learnings for our housing system from the unprecedented challenges from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Convened every two years by AHURI, the National Housing Conference (NHC) is a 3-day forum that examines the latest evidence, significant policy reforms and the shining examples of best practice in delivering social and affordable housing options to Australians. More than 1,100 delegates joined us in Darwin for a memorable 2019 conference and we expect an even larger audience will join us in Melbourne, or for the first time, online, for NHC 2022.

PART-TIME MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN I

Job Description: We are currently seeking a Maintenance Technician to join our team! You will be responsible for completing work orders and other required tasks. Duties include but are not limited to mowing with push-type and riding mowers, edging, trimming, raking and debris pick-up, reseeding, fertilizing, installing, and repairing curbing, pavement and sidewalks, cleaning out vacant units, repair/replace toilets, troubleshoot clogged drains and repair, painting, drywall, providing labor support to other maintenance technicians and any other tasks as assigned. The Maintenance Technician is responsible to dress for the weather. This position has the potential to work on-call hours and the person hired must be available.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV) CASE MANAGER I

Job Description: Waukegan Housing Authority is looking for a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Case Manager I. Under the direction of the HCV Supervisor, the HCV Case Manager I is responsible for assisting clients and evaluating their continued eligibility for housing assistance. This position ensures that clients understand the requirements of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program in accordance with the Housing Authority's Administrative Plan, HUD and all other applicable Federal, State and local policies and regulations. The incumbent works with Authority personnel, landlords, and clients to conduct housing inspections, interviews, certify client eligibility and changes, and support clients throughout their time on the HCV program. The HCV Case Manager I assists with the wait list as needed. The person in this position must be able to work independently with little supervision.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Peoria (IL) Housing Authority (PHA) is seeking a highly qualified candidate to lead and manage the portfolio that includes 659 owned housing units and 2048 housing choice vouchers. PHA is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners, employs 40 staff, and has an operating budget of \$21 million. Peoria is the principal city of the Peoria Metropolitan Area which includes the Counties of Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford, and which contains a metro area population of approximately 375,000.



**For more information about your career opportunity,
please visit ILNAHRO website:**

www.ilnahro.org/careerOpp.aspx



Take Action!

Advocate for housing by signing our **Build Back Better Act letter**. Show your organization's support for this once-in-a-generation investment!

Sign the letter now!



www.nahro.org

NCRC Awards

The Charles A. Thompson Memorial Award for Distinguished Service recognizes an individual who has exhibited outstanding leadership qualities, involvement in his/her community and sincere interest in the citizens served. Application must be received by **April 1, 2022**.

[Charles A. Thompson Memorial Award Nomination Form](#)

The Alvira B. Long Memorial 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 was established in the name of Alvira B. Long to provide a living acknowledgment of the outstanding contributions she made to the housing field. Each nominee must be an individual or associate member of NCRC and National NAHRO and have contributed in the areas of community leadership, advocacy, and public relations as well as to the activities of NAHRO. Application must be received by **April 1, 2022**.

[Alvira B. Long Memorial Award Nomination Form](#)

The Rising Star Award recognizes an individual at the regional level, who has been involved at the NCRC or National NAHRO level for 4 years or less and has distinguished themselves as an emerging leader. Nominations must be submitted by someone other than themselves and award winners can only receive the award one time in their career. Application must be received by **April 1, 2022**.

[Rising Star Nomination Form](#)



Illinois NAHRO (ilnahro.org)

****Remember--We can use your story...please submit to latinaf@sha1.org by mid-week of the month.****

Dear ILNAHRO Member:

It is that Time of Year!!! Time to consider *renewing* your membership or consider *joining* the Illinois Chapter of NAHRO. Your decision to **continue** or **join** ILNAHRO through membership **keeps the association strong** and **helps us in our common mission** of seeking excellence in both public and affordable housing, as well as, community and economic development.

During a time when our agencies are facing a decline in economic support, the question may be – “*Why Membership?*” Your membership in the state chapter of NAHRO provides services that benefit you and your organization every day. ILNAHRO has committed itself to providing services such as:

Training and networking through ILNAHRO's cutting edge annual conference that offers the best in our training fields. Additionally, ILNAHRO offers centrally located training opportunities throughout the year at its Peoria Training Center in Peoria, Illinois.

Legislative Advocacy and Legislative Advocacy Opportunities by providing sample ‘sign-on’ letters to issues affecting affordable housing; Senate and House Bills that directly affect and shape public policy.

Informational Resource through a monthly newsletter that contains up-to-date information on housing issues, regional, and national trainings, workshops, and the latest in legislative developments.

“*Hot-Off-The-Press*” e-mail blasts that provide information on legislative issues that affect agency operations.

State recognition of resident accomplishments through its annual Resident Recognition Award.

Your membership gives you access to members-only discounts for training, to name a few benefits!

Annual Membership Period: October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

If you are not a member, **this is your opportunity** to join forces with other PHA's and CD organizations. Please consider joining us this Fiscal Year, there are exciting things on the horizon as we “Build Communities Together—Through Affordable Housing”.

Please **renew or join TODAY**. Complete the attached form and return it with the appropriate payment to: Latina Faulkner, Executive Assistant, Springfield Housing Authority, 200 North Eleventh Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703. This will ensure your membership benefits will begin promptly.

Let us know if we can be of service at any time.

Sincerely,

Jackie L. Newman

Illinois NAHRO President



Illinois NAHRO (ilnahro.org)

****Remember--We can use your story...please submit to latinaf@sha1.org by mid-week of the month.****

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Illinois Chapter of NAHRO

(Please Print or Type All Information)

Contact Name:					
Agency/Company Name:					
Address					
City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Telephone:	()	Fax Number:	()		

Please provide up to five (5) staff emails for "Agency" membership:

E-mail:		Name:	
E-mail:		Name:	
E-mail:		Name:	
E-mail:		Name:	
E-mail:		Name:	

Type of Membership (Check one or both):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency (\$75.00) from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (\$25.00) from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Check the one below that applies to the business of your agency / company:

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing/Section 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor/Supplier	<input type="checkbox"/> CDBG (other government agency)
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioners	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Affiliated Member (specify): _____

Please make your check payable to: **Illinois NAHRO**

Mail to:

Jackie L. Newman, President
 Springfield Housing Authority
 200 North Eleventh Street
 Springfield, Illinois 62703
 Phone: (217) 753-575, Ext. 206 or info@ilnahro.org



Why some Illinois landlords are unhappy with proposed mandatory participation in Section 8

[Ken DeCoster](#)

ROCKFORD — An organization [representing landlords across Illinois](#) has concerns that more choices for residents in public housing could translate into less autonomy for landlords.

Illinois House Bill 2775 amends the state's [Homelessness Prevention Act](#) by creating additional legal defenses for renters and protections against discrimination based on source of income, as well as preventing undue administrative burdens when applying for housing assistance.



Protected sources of income under the bill includes emergency housing assistance, social security, disability support and federal Section 8 housing vouchers.

Housing: [Winnebago County Board members at odds over affordable housing incentive](#)

According to the Illinois Rental Property Owners Association, the legislation would mandate that landlords participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly referred to as the Section 8 program.

Section 8 is a federal rental assistance program for low income individuals whereby monthly rent is determined by income. Participation in the program is currently voluntary for landlords.

“The legislation will have the effect of mandating that a property owner enter into a non-negotiable contract with a unit of government, regardless if the property owner is willing to do so,” said Paul Arena, director of legislative affairs at the Illinois Rental Property Owners Association. “It is unreasonable to accuse a property owner who declines to accept such non-negotiable terms as having violated a person’s human rights. If a government program is not gaining sufficient participation, the solution is to correct objectionable elements of the program. There are remedies other than forced participation.”

The bill also effectively eliminates the use of an income threshold to qualify tenants, Arena said.

Rockford landlord Mary Snyder has been active in the Section 8 program for years.

“The biggest problem we have with entitlement programs like food stamps and Section 8 is there’s no time limits and there’s no incentive for them (participants) to get off of it,” Snyder said. “I’ve had tenants turn down promotions because then they’d no longer qualify for the program.”



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Rockford peace activist Stanley Campbell calls on churches to make a difference

Snyder said forcing landlords to accept Housing Choice Vouchers from low-income tenants is unfair to landlords.

“It comes down to tenant accountability,” she said. “There’s some long term tenants and there are people who come and go quickly. You’ve got to get more landlords to participate but forcing them to do it is not the way.”

The bill passed the House last fall and is currently pending in the Illinois Senate.



Debate over the bill coincides with two local public housing agencies preparing to implement a program designed to increase the number and quality of affordable housing options for their tenants.

The Rockford Housing Authority and Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing, representing the Winnebago and Boone County Housing Authorities, have been designated “Moving to Work” agencies by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“With this new business model, we are able to provide incentives for our landlords to encourage them to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program, thereby giving our residents greater access to areas of higher opportunities,” RHA Executive Director Laura Snyder said in a news release.

In addition to boosting the number of affordable housing options, the Moving To Work program strives to increase the number of public housing residents toward self-sufficiency while reducing the agency’s administrative costs.

“We are excited to see the future of RHA and the Rockford community through the Move to Work program,” Snyder said. “We cannot wait to start implementing the local goals that we have set in order to help the residents and the community.”

The vision for the expansion of the Moving to Work program is to improve the delivery of federally assisted housing and promote self-sufficiency for low-income families across the nation, according to NI ReACH Executive Director Alan Zais.

“The succinct way of saying it is the program gives you more flexibility,” Zais said. “You report your progress so HUD and Congress can see what might make sense to adopt for housing authorities nationwide.”



