



WE ENVISION...

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
CLPHA'S *HOUSING IS* INITIATIVE



HOUSING IS A CLPHA INITIATIVE



“When CLPHA created our cross-sector initiative, we needed a name that would capture the scope of our goals. We considered what housing brought to cross-sector partnerships. We know housing is essential to building pathways to success for every facet of life. We know housing is essential to improving the health of low-income children and families. We know housing is central to increasing educational attainment for students of all ages. We know housing is critical to bridging the digital divide. We saw the name was right in front of us. That’s how the *Housing Is* Initiative was born.”

—Jeffery K. Patterson, President, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and CEO,
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

WE ENVISION...

...a world without poverty.

...a world where race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, income level, or zip code does not determine the success of low-income children and families in America.

...public housing authorities serving as the anchor when building partnerships with school districts, health care providers, social service organizations, internet service providers, and community-based organizations.

...children accessing education, health, transportation, the internet, and all social services to keep them on pace for all the opportunities life has to offer.

...systems working together seamlessly to deliver services and programs for low-income families efficiently and effectively.

...partners communicating, sharing data, and coordinating efforts so that residents can easily access more streamlined services.

...low-income communities and communities of color having access to healthy environments and public spaces.

...low-income individuals seeing a physician when they have health concerns because they are nearby, affordable, and attuned to their needs.

...better educational outcomes for low-income individuals because they have the time and resources to stay in school and attend it regularly.

...social services, opportunities, or human connection within reach of low-income individuals because internet and digital devices are fast and reliable.

...economic security for low-income families through stable incomes, regardless of whether or not they are able to work, and services at their doorsteps.

...the Housing Is Initiative driving the conversation to improve life outcomes for low-income families through wide-spread adoption of cross-sector principles in the next decade.



A New York City Housing Authority resident attends one of NYCHA's Baby Shower Resource Fairs, where expecting and pregnant NYCHA residents from across the city receive baby and child supplies such as diapers, blankets, books, baby bouncers, pajamas, stuffed animals, baby bags, medicine kits, gift cards, baby baskets, swaddles, toys, and more.

CONTENTS

THE HOUSING IS INITIATIVE: FROM THE BEGINNING	1
CLPHA Launches the <i>Housing Is</i> Initiative	2
Capturing the Growth of PHA Cross-Sector Initiatives	4
Legislative Advocacy	4
The <i>Housing Is</i> Summit	5
The Importance of Data Sharing	6
Lessons Learned from Our Work	7

WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS EDUCATION	8
PHA Collaborations Improve Educational Outcomes for Low-income Students	8
Early Childhood Education	8
Supporting K-12 Students	9
Out-of-school Time	9
Eliminating Barriers to Postsecondary Success	10
Workforce Development	11
Two-Generation Approaches	12

WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS HEALTH	13
PHAs Partner with the Health Sector to Improve Resident Outcomes	13
Aligning Health and Housing with UnitedHealthcare	13
Maternal Health Equity	14
Supporting Seniors	15
Behavioral Health and Trauma-Informed Housing	16
Bringing Services to PHA Residents	17
Addressing Environmental Impacts on Health	18

WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS DIGITAL EQUITY	20
PHAs Are Well-positioned to Bridge the Digital Divide	20
Connecting Hope	20
The Affordable Connectivity Program and Federal Advocacy on Digital Equity	21
Center for Disaster Philanthropy Grants Overwhelmingly Focus on Digital Connection	21
Spotlight on the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's Digital Equity Initiative	22
Spotlight on Jersey City Housing Authority's Partnerships to Bridge the Digital Divide	23

WE ENVISION...

A 10-YEAR ROADMAP FOR PUBLIC HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY	24
We Envision the Future	24



“A public housing authority wants its housing to be a transforming experience for people, and that’s the goal of cross-sector partnerships with the health and education sectors championed by *Housing Is: transformation*. We want this not just for adults, but for children and young people so they do not need housing assistance when they grow up.”

—Michael Mirra, Former Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority

THE *HOUSING IS* INITIATIVE: FROM THE BEGINNING

From our founding in 1981, CLPHA has maintained that PHAs are crucial hubs working within local communities to preserve and improve their existing housing stock and to provide housing-insecure families with decent and affordable housing.

However, in a landscape of chronic underfunding of PHA programs and fragmented systems, low-income families are falling through the cracks of the social safety net. Siloed sectors prevent effective delivery of resources and lead to duplicative work, lack of communication among local service providers, and service gaps among PHAs and other sectors that serve low-income individuals.

Systemic racism has long been a key factor enabling these cracks to form and deepen. Just as people of color are twice as likely to be low-income than their white peers,¹ PHA residents are disproportionately people of color. 43% of all assisted households, and 80% of households served by CLPHA member PHAs, are comprised of people of color. Housing segregation, racial discrimination, redlining, and other negative effects have long kept them from accessing housing, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Furthermore, data show that low-income

individuals who experience housing instability have worse life outcomes than their more affluent peers. Across their lifespans, these individuals are at increased risk for mental illness, chronic conditions, and lower life expectancy.² Housing insecurity also negatively affects school performance—it is one of the primary causes of poor attendance, contributes to high student turnover in struggling schools, and causes emotional stress that prevents children from engaging in school.³

A 2013 survey of CLPHA members confirmed that many PHA residents had unmet health, education, and other social service needs contributing to these diminished outcomes. Many PHA members expressed difficulty at prioritizing the great demand for assistance and services, with lack of resources and flexibility identified as the largest barriers to providing resident services. Another major challenge was that housing authorities were not perceived as interested partners by entities that also serve low-income individuals, such as school districts and other systems. Additional challenges included an absence of data sharing and a lack of familiarity with other human services systems. CLPHA members identified homeless youth, youth aging out of foster care, and families experiencing homelessness as populations most likely to be left behind by social service systems. Lack of childcare, transportation,

Photo Credit: Virgin Islands Housing Authority



¹ Published by Statista Research Department. (2023, November 3). Poverty Rate by Race and Ethnicity U.S. 2022.

² Poverty - Healthy People 2030. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.).

³ Cunningham, M., & MacDonald, G. (2012). Housing as a Platform for Improving Education Outcomes among Low-Income Children. What Works Collaborative - Urban Institute.

and job training were identified as roadblocks to resident self-sufficiency time and again.

Many of our members needed help figuring out how to start, sustain, or grow their partnerships with local service providers from other sectors. In particular, members wanted CLPHA to help by promoting housing authorities as key partners in improving life outcomes for vulnerable households, creating platforms for housing authorities to share successful resident service models and partnerships, finding additional funding opportunities to support these efforts, and engaging in federal, state, and local systems alignment work.

In the early 2010s, **King County Housing Authority, Seattle Housing Authority, Tacoma Housing Authority, Vancouver Housing Authority, and Home Forward** (Portland, OR) began working with their local school districts to improve education outcomes for low-income children. These five PHAs formed the Pacific Northwest Housing & Education Innovation Team to share best practices with one another. CLPHA published [*Elements of a Successful Partnership*](#) in 2016 to share the learnings gleaned from these collaborations.

For this work to have significant impact, CLPHA understood a national approach to cross-sector collaboration was necessary. This led to the creation of CLPHA's *Housing Is* Initiative. The efforts of these PNW PHAs were seminal to CLPHA's decision to invest in cross-sector collaboration and undertake our role as a convener for peer learning and best practices around this work.

CLPHA Launches the *Housing Is* Initiative

In 2013 the CLPHA board launched a “systems alignment” initiative to focus attention on the “people outcomes” achieved by PHAs and reaffirm the vital role housing authorities play in improving lives. In 2017 CLPHA relaunched these efforts under the name the *Housing Is* Initiative alongside housingis.org, a new online resource clearinghouse to help enhance and strengthen our community of practice.

We chose the name *Housing Is* because stable, affordable housing is the foundation for increased success in other areas of life. Housing authorities are a natural anchor for education, health, digital



Photo Credit: Wilmington, NC Housing Authority

connectivity, and other services and resources that their low-income residents need. As former HUD Secretary Julián Castro [said](#) upon our 2017 relaunch, “Where people live shapes how they live, from the schools their kids attend, to the jobs they can find, to the health options they can access. *Housing Is* will be a resource to help more families find opportunity in this 21st century global economy.”

At its core, *Housing Is* helps build a future where systems work together to improve life outcomes.

The Initiative is based on the premise that systems can better meet these needs and improve life outcomes when they work together. In order to solve challenges associated with poverty and other social determinants, we must break down silos and create opportunities for different systems and sectors (including public, private, and nonprofit) to collaborate. Collaboration across these entities—through shared goals, focused resources, and coordinated efforts—strengthens our collective ability to serve low-income individuals and families effectively and efficiently.

We are proud of the success *Housing Is* has achieved over the last decade in building momentum for cross-sector work at the national level and in reframing safe, stable, and affordable housing as a crucial foundation for improved life outcomes. Our groundbreaking work as a national convener supports scale and replication of successful cross-sector partnerships and has helped to change the conversation about what housing, and specifically PHAs, can do to help residents achieve their goals, work towards educational success, and live healthier lives.

Housing Is fosters improved, sustained alignment and collaboration across systems and sectors by leading the following efforts:

PARTNERSHIPS
Foster new and strengthen existing partnerships across systems and sectors to more effectively and efficiently improve life outcomes.



CONVENING
Bring together experts, stakeholders, and practitioners from various sectors at our *Housing Is* Summit and other national forums to learn from each other, share best practices, and establish joint goals and efforts.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
Create and strengthen our community of practice to support on-the-ground efforts, shape policymaking, and inform advocacy benefiting low-income individuals and families.



BEST PRACTICES
Identify and promote program- and system-level best practices proven to positively address social determinants and improve life outcomes.



PEER LEARNING & COLLABORATION
Offer webinars, meetings, roundtables, and HousingIs.org to facilitate peer learning, promote effective programs, and share innovative ideas.



POLICY
Advocate for smart policies across systems and sectors as an intersectional thought leader in the housing field, as well as improve policies and practices that directly impact low-income residents and those experiencing homelessness.



ADVOCACY
Lead federal advocacy for the funding, resources, and tools needed to start, sustain, and scale cross-sector collaborations that improve life-outcomes for low-income families. We urge Congress and Administrations to encourage interagency collaboration to support efforts that PHAs and their partners are undertaking at the local level, including through crafting and advising Members of Congress and federal agencies on legislation and program implementation.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
Develop interdisciplinary resources that support sustained collaboration such as cross-system data sharing agreements.



TRAINING & EDUCATION
Provide training and education aimed at establishing housing as a cornerstone social determinant.



FUNDING
Connect our members to funding to support their cross-sector work, including through applying for grants from foundations, nonprofits, and for-profit companies and awarding subgrants to CLPHA member PHAs and their partners.



Capturing the Growth of PHA Cross-Sector Initiatives

Housing Is conducted surveys of CLPHA members in 2017, 2018, and 2022 to learn about health, education, and other related initiatives provided by PHAs and cross-system partnerships between community providers. In our 2022 survey, we were pleased to see significant growth in the number, type, and scope of PHA cross-sector partnerships and initiatives over the intervening five years.

88%

Respondents who provided education services independently or through a partner

up from 50% in 2017

32

PHAs partnered with schools within their district

compared to 20 PHAs in 2017

34

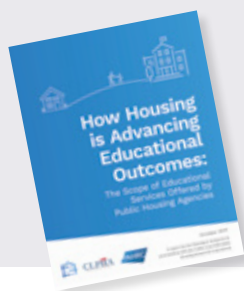
PHAs offered health-related initiatives either alone or with a partner

up from 20 PHAs in 2017

94%

An impressive number of respondent PHAs stated that they partner with organizations that provide health services and programming to their residents, with a small subset of that group also providing health services directly from their organization.

Our 2018 survey showed 86% of PHA respondents had formal or informal partnerships with health service organizations.



Legislative Advocacy

The *Housing Is* Initiative is well-positioned to lead federal advocacy for the funding, resources, and tools needed to start, sustain, and scale cross-sector collaborations that improve life-outcomes for low-income families. We have long urged Congress and Administrations to encourage interagency collaboration to support efforts that PHAs and their partners are undertaking at the local level, including through crafting and advising Members of Congress and federal agencies on legislation.

For example, CLPHA worked closely with Senator Patty Murray's (D-WA) office to draft the Affordable Housing for Educational Achievement Demonstration (AHEAD) Act. First introduced in 2017, the AHEAD Act would incentivize partnerships between housing organizations and other industries (such as local education agencies and community-based organizations) that would provide new

funding for planning and implementation grants for partnering organizations to begin and/or increase their efforts to improve educational and life outcomes for low-income children and youth. CLPHA also provided feedback to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help shape the Emergency Broadband Benefit and Affordable Connectivity Program, efforts that provided affordable, high-speed internet to low-income families.

In March 2024 *Housing Is* held our first-ever Capitol Hill briefing. The briefing showcased to Congressional staff the important cross-sector work our members are undertaking in their communities to help improve life outcomes for low-income families and provided expert insight about how best to approach legislative solutions to the challenges our members face in providing crucial services for the nation's most vulnerable populations.

The Housing Is Summit

Our annual *Housing Is* Summit has evolved from our first small “Affordable Housing & Education Summit” in 2015 to the dynamic, multi-disciplined *Housing Is* Summit it is today. We are proud that our Summit has become the preeminent event dedicated to collaboration among the housing, education, and health sectors. Summits span two days and feature sessions discussing policy, local work, peer learning, funding ideas, and research focused on the intersection of housing, education, and health. The Summit shares lessons learned in cross-sector collaboration, including deep dives into systems change, embedding equity practices, and case studies for attendees to replicate in their communities. The Summit is a time for partners—current and emerging—to come together to learn from each other, share best practices, and forge new collaborations.



Dr. Camara Jones, MD, Ph.D., MPH gives keynote remarks at our 2019 Summit

Summit sessions have focused on:

DATA SHARING **IMPROVING COMMUNITIES**
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME **CARE COORDINATION**
RESIDENT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS **COLLECTIVE IMPACT**
CENTERING RESIDENT AGENCY AND VOICE
CHILDCARE AND HOUSING **MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY**
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY/MOBILITY
EXPANDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING **DIGITAL EQUITY**
EARLY LEARNING **CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS**
FUNDING MODELS **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) addresses 2019 Summit attendees

We have been honored to host some of the nation's most powerful stakeholders, thought leaders, and changemakers at our Summit. Past keynote speakers and their topics have included:

- **Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC)** and **Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (D-IL)**, on Congressional efforts to advance maternal health equity
- **Former HUD Secretary Julián Castro**, on cross-sector partnerships
- **Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA)**, on the bold actions that Congress can take to address childhood poverty
- **Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)**, on making childcare more accessible to people who live in affordable housing
- **Dr. Camara Jones, MD, Ph.D., MPH**, on getting to the root of health disparities through understanding and addressing social inequities
- **FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks**, on bridging the digital divide and the Affordable Connectivity Program



“Cross-sector collaboration is going to be the future of this country and of this work. We can’t be housers, educators, and healthcare providers. We need to be really leveraging the strengths of each sector, and sharing information, and sharing resources to best impact the results of the people trying to access each of our individual programs.”

—April Black, Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority, in *Elements of a Successful Partnership* (2016)

The Importance of Data Sharing

Housing Is promotes data sharing across sectors to streamline access to services for low-income people. When agencies share data, not only do they obtain a better understanding of the people seeking their resources and services and better meet their needs, but they also help partners collaborate to create more targeted and effective services.

Housing Is advocates at HUD and on Capitol Hill for the creation of federal agency data sharing agreements, safe harbor for PHAs and local partners to share data, and integration of data systems. We frequently call attention to the importance of data sharing at the national level through presentations at national conferences. *Housing Is* also offers technical assistance to PHAs and their community partners looking to begin or broaden data sharing.

To support replication of successful data sharing partnerships, *Housing Is* created a data sharing template for housing and education sector partners in 2016. We created the template with the help of existing data sharing agreement language used by pioneering PHAs and their school partners. By using this template, PHAs and their local school districts have improved operational efficiency, reduced duplication of efforts, and increased holistic care to improve education outcomes for low-income individuals. Following the success of our housing/education data sharing template, in 2019 *Housing Is* made a similar template for PHAs and their health partners.



Photo Credit left to right: District of Columbia Housing Authority; Participants in the Boston Housing Authority's youth program build and plant a new garden to revitalize green spaces at BHA's Archdale community; Los Angeles County Development Authority

Lessons Learned from Our Work

Over the last decade, *Housing Is* has gleaned several lessons from our work to support cross-sector partnerships, foster peer learning, and convene stakeholders. Disseminating these learnings so that local entities can better serve low-income households in their communities is a cornerstone of our practice.

- Partnerships are crucial to the success of this work—PHAs and other local service providers need each other's support, resources, and expertise to move the needle on the life outcomes of low-income community members.
- To be successful, cross-sector partnerships require time, resources, and leadership buy-in, particularly early in the collaborative process, to build trust, establish shared goals and responsibilities, implement and evaluate programs, and coordinate data collection processes.
- Peer learning provides crucial guidance to organizations undertaking cross-sector efforts to help communities learn new ideas, troubleshoot, and advance their programs and services.
- Convening stakeholders, practitioners, and experts from various sectors that serve low-income populations forms common goals and identifies roadblocks and opportunities in this work.
- Resident engagement and leadership are vital when making decisions about PHA programs and partnerships.
- Establishing joint goals and strategic planning allow potential partners to see the benefit of working together and strengthen their potential impact. Understanding the expectations of partnerships and defining what success looks like are key considerations when undertaking cross-sector collaborations.
- Consistent funding for program evaluation and implementation is needed to build evidence-based strategies. This funding can come from stakeholders, philanthropies, and other granting organizations, but it must also be built into program design and financing.
- Having cross-sector data sharing agreements strengthens existing partnerships and service delivery while also creating the ability to form new ones.
- Collecting good data is vital for understanding how the components of different partnerships are funded, staffed, and evaluated.
- Hiring and training dedicated staff for cross-sector partnerships greatly enhances implementation and success.
- Establishing co-location of services at PHA sites significantly reduces barriers and optimizes service provision.
- Congress and the Administration should facilitate and incentivize interagency collaboration to support local cross-sector partnerships.

WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS EDUCATION



PHA Collaborations Improve Educational Outcomes for Low-income Students

Housing Is focuses on housing and education partnerships at all stages of an individual's education career, from early childhood to K-12 school, college and postsecondary education, and workforce development. PHAs are important partners for education providers because they house some of the most vulnerable students in their communities. We are thankful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for their initial operational support of the *Housing Is* Initiative's work to align the housing and education sectors.

Early Childhood Education

Housing Is partners with national early childhood education-focused organizations like the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and Parents as Teachers to elevate CLPHA member early childhood initiatives and share best practices for undertaking this critical work of starting low-income children's education journeys as early as possible.

One [successful example](#) is the **Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's** (HACP) partnership with ABK Learning & Development Center and Duquesne University to operate a 24-hour childcare facility for HACP's Bedford Dwellings community. This collaborative intervention not only addresses the complex childcare needs that low-income workers face, but also integrates crucial early childhood learning strategies to prepare HACP's youngest residents for school.



Young Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh residents at HACP's onsite early childhood center.

The **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority** and **Home Forward** (Portland, OR) also offer early childhood education programming and support for parents through the Evidence-Based Home Visiting Model offered by Parents As Teachers.



"Everyone thinks we're responsible for building houses. But we build homes, we build lives, and that's what really makes a difference."

—Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh



Left: The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and partners celebrate the expansion of their Stable Homes, Stable Schools program. Right: The Chicago Housing Authority's Counselor-in-Training program provides teens an opportunity to learn and gain skills in leadership and financial literacy while earning a stipend. It is one of several paid opportunities that CHA offers young residents every summer.

Supporting K-12 Students

Children facing housing instability often face much lower educational outcomes than their stably housed peers. Many PHAs allocate vouchers for students and their families who are experiencing homelessness in their communities. Because data sharing partnerships with local school districts and other stakeholders make identifying these students and assisting their families much easier, *Housing Is* created a data sharing agreement template for PHAs and their partners to employ. *Housing Is* also disseminated lessons learned from **Vancouver Housing Authority** and **King County Housing Authority** programs that use shared data to redress student homelessness and family unification at national conferences.

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority's [Stable Homes, Stable Schools](#) program also works to address student homelessness with help from partners the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the YMCA of the North. Stable Homes, Stable Schools was made a permanent part of the City of Minneapolis budget and continues to link elementary school families with stable housing. A partnership between **Boston Housing Authority** and the Boston Public Schools also identified students at risk of displacement and experiencing homelessness and provided housing vouchers to their families.

Housing Is also works with national partner Attendance Works to build and strengthen housing authority programs that address chronic absenteeism—a major cause of learning difficulties, poor school performance, and reduced graduation

rates. The **Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee** was an early leader on this front with their Education Initiative, which employs education specialists to work with directly with families to strengthen school attendance, academic achievement, and parental involvement in their children's education.

Out-of-school Time

Helping young residents stay engaged after school and over summer break not only helps low-income students access the same opportunities as their higher-income peers, but also provides safe and productive ways to fill out-of-school time. Many PHAs work with partners to operate afterschool and summer programming. *Housing Is* has strong partnerships with nonprofits like the Afterschool Alliance and National Summer Learning Association to keep PHAs informed of out-of-school time best practices and keep partners up to date on the innovative PHA programs.

The **Chicago Housing Authority** offers numerous programs for teenage residents to keep them learning and engaged outside of the classroom. For example, Chicago HA collaborates with the Chicago Park District on a summer [Counselor-in-Training Program](#) that mixes recreational activities like swimming, ball games, and tie-dying with life lessons and workforce development tips. To make programming even more attractive to its young clientele, Chicago HA surveyed teen residents to learn what kinds of summer activities appealed to them and will use their responses to plan for summer 2024.



“We’re proud of our decades-old Work Force Program and the life skills and vocational training it has offered for our young residents. *Housing Is* provides us a national platform to share our successes with housing authorities across the country looking to provide similar opportunities for low-income teens.”

—Michael Johnston, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority

Cambridge Housing Authority’s award-winning [Work Force Program](#) has been offering low-income teens comprehensive life skills and vocational training since 1984. Through this initiative Cambridge HA provides over 350 residents from sixth grade through high school with out-of-school opportunities that offer educational enrichment, college prep, and work-readiness. Work Force employs a highly structured “whole person” approach: program staff maintain a regular presence at participants’ schools and job sites and form partnerships among parents, teachers, employers, and other key people in the students’ lives.

Eliminating Barriers to Postsecondary Success

Postsecondary educational success is a proven disruptor of the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Higher education levels are linked to better earnings and benefits, steadier employment, and more opportunities for economic empowerment. With this in mind, *Housing Is* sought to learn from and support CLPHA member PHAs who were helping to expand access to postsecondary education for their residents and share their expertise with other PHAs and postsecondary education partners across the country looking to replicate these successful collaborations.

Thanks to generous support from The Kresge Foundation, *Housing Is* convened five pioneering PHAs (**Chicago Housing Authority, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Louisville Metro Housing Authority, and Tacoma Housing Authority**) and their postsecondary partners in Washington, D.C., in November 2018. Our 2019 report [Eliminating Barriers to Postsecondary Success](#) elevates

11 shared learnings from this convening and offers a series of recommendations to policy makers, PHAs, and philanthropic organizations seeking to develop emerging cross-sector collaborations between housing and education organizations. The report also includes an overview of the federal policies that support and limit postsecondary achievement for students served by PHAs and profiles of the five partnerships. Building off this work, the Kresge Foundation supported CLPHA in the creation of a Postsecondary Leadership Institute which facilitated peer learning and fostered efforts between PHAs and postsecondary partners.

Students supported by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and SoCal CAN celebrate their graduation.





Left: Sixth grade students work with Cambridge Housing Authority's Work Force Middle School program team to research different careers as part of the Careers Alphabet unit. Right: HACLA President & CEO Doug Guthrie and Former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis with youth workers.

“Without stable housing, college would not have been possible.”

—Dawn, Tacoma Community College Student

Since this report's publication, other PHAs have begun to develop partnerships with local colleges and universities. For example, in 2022 **Fresno Housing** and Fresno State University leaders signed a memorandum of understanding to commit to improving life outcomes for low-income residents of California's Central Valley and to strengthening opportunities for academic and programmatic cooperation through education, affordable housing, and community empowerment.

Workforce Development

Offering residents workforce development opportunities to assist them on the path to economic stability is a key facet of PHA programming. *Housing Is* works at the national level to promote PHAs as natural anchors for workforce development and financial self-sufficiency programming and connect PHAs with funding opportunities and other resources to support these efforts.

A longtime leader in this area, the **Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles** (HACLA) has operated their [Watts/Los Angeles WorkSource Center](#) for over thirty years. This center, serving over 1,600 clients annually, receives funding from the City of Los Angeles' Economic Workforce Development Department, amongst other grants, to provide residents with job training, client support, business development, job placement, and continued education. HACLA estimates they have placed nearly 15,000 residents in growth-sector employment industries.

The **Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency** (SHRA) offers a [Resident Trainee Program](#) that fosters on-the-job training at SHRA in the clerical, janitorial, and painting disciplines. The program emphasizes not only technical education such as office skills and proper ways to clean and paint, but also how to become a reliable, productive employee that has a positive work ethic and is well-positioned to function in a professional work environment.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) in Toledo, Ohio also provides resources to help residents build economic self-sufficiency. LMH's Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) operates under the premise that the best way to improve the financial situation of low-to-moderate income families is by helping them boost earnings, reduce expenses, and increase savings simultaneously. Their FOC, with help from local government agencies and community-based organizations, provides a suite of services



“Our WorkSource Center has helped thousands of HACLA residents build towards employment and economic security. Working with our local partners from other sectors has been crucial to its success, and *Housing Is* has led the way in promoting the importance of similar cross-sector partnerships for PHAs and their community collaborators across the country.”

— Doug Guthrie, President & CEO, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles



Cambridge Housing Authority Work Force Juniors visit Bentley College for a tour and information session led by Work Force Alumni attending Bentley.

to residents, including employment assistance, financial education and coaching, and access to income supports through long term one-on-one site-based coaching and community collaborations. These services work together to maximize impact and build generational wealth for families and individuals within their community.

Two-Generation Approaches

Many PHAs work with partners on two-generation (“2Gen”) initiatives, which work to address the needs of both parents and children simultaneously, through interventions like job training, postsecondary education, strengthening parenting capacity and/or economic supports for parents, and high-quality early care and education opportunities for their children. By working with the whole family, multiple challenges can be addressed concurrently, creating a better environment for success.

In 2017, the Annie E. Casey Foundation asked *Housing Is* to publish a report elevating two successful 2Gen initiatives implemented by CLPHA member PHAs and their partners. [*Two-Generation Strategies in Public Housing: Promoting Success for the Whole Family*](#) explores local collaborations led by **Opportunity Home San Antonio** and **Durham**

Housing Authority and examines the key components that help families be successful: social capital, early childhood education, postsecondary education and workforce development, economic assets, and health and well-being. *Housing Is* promotes the importance of 2Gen approaches to improving outcomes for low-income families through presentations at national conferences and other forums. Our elevation of this work has contributed to the creation of similar 2Gen initiatives in Columbus, OH and Louisville, KY.



WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS HEALTH



PHAs Partner with the Health Sector to Improve Resident Outcomes

Housing Is focuses on building, strengthening, and elevating housing and health partnerships that offer healthcare and wellness programming to low-income individuals at all stages of life, from gestation through aging in place, that improve residents' physical and mental well-being. We extend our thanks to The Kresge Foundation for their initial operational support of our housing and health-focused efforts.

Aligning Health and Housing with UnitedHealthcare



In 2020, we entered into a [groundbreaking and innovative partnership](#), the UnitedHealthcare Catalyst™ initiative, funded and convened by UnitedHealthcare. The concept is an evolution of an initiative shaped in 2018 between the Corporation for Supportive Housing, CLPHA, and UnitedHealthcare supported by a planning grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to design how housing authorities, local health organizations, and health insurers could partner to address health inequities for public housing residents.

Catalyst combines localized data with community-level collaborations to improve health outcomes, address inequity, and drive meaningful change. Catalyst identifies community needs using population health data, convenes local organizations to form community-based partnerships, encourages collective intervention development, defines plans with measurable outcomes, creates lasting

relationships, plans for programmatic sustainability, and advances health equity. These steps ensure the community itself helps to guide the decisions and actions that address the most impactable health and social needs.

Ten Catalyst initiative sites launched in 2021, leveraging PHAs as lead partner institutions paired with health care provider partners such as federally qualified health centers and community-based organizations who share a mutual commitment to close gaps in care, address health equity challenges, and positively impact health in local communities. CLPHA member PHA partners in Catalyst sites have included **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Atlanta Housing, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Detroit Housing Commission, Houston Housing Authority, Indianapolis Housing Agency, Memphis Housing Authority, Housing Authority of New Orleans, Seattle Housing Authority, and King County Housing Authority.** These sites have grown and evolved their partnerships, with some creating new collaboration models and focusing on the upstream social factors that affect health outcomes in their neighborhoods. *Housing Is* facilitates this work by maintaining a deep partnership with UnitedHealthcare, providing thought leadership about how PHAs can partner with managed care organizations and health providers, supporting partnership development, offering technical assistance at the local level, and aligning health policy goals across sectors.

For example, the **Memphis Housing Authority (MHA)** and community partners such as Metropolitan Interfaith Association (MIFA) launched the Memphis, TN Catalyst initiative together in collaboration with other community-serving organizations. Compared to county averages, rates of chronic

conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension are highest in low-income Memphis zip codes and surrounding neighborhoods where many residents live. Nutrition needs are also high in these areas due to limited access points for healthy foods—62% of MHA residents surveyed identified access to healthy food as an immediate need. To address this lack of access, partner The Works, Inc. brings their mobile grocery store to MHA housing sites on a bi-weekly basis where MIFA provides nutrition education and cooking demonstrations. Residents are also screened for food insecurity and, if positive, referred to additional community resources. The partners are currently expanding this health and nutrition programming to additional MHA locations and will also offer free blood pressure and A1C screenings to MHA residents.

Maternal Health Equity

Maternal health is an issue embedded with racial, health, and housing disparities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that Black pregnant persons are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts. Furthermore, the historical and structural institution of racism has worked to deny Black parents the ability to have stable housing and economic independence.

In December 2021 *Housing Is* and CLPHA signed onto a letter of commitment for the Biden-Harris Administration's Maternal Health Call to Action. As part of that commitment, *Housing Is* hosted a [MLK Day webinar](#) in January 2022 on the intersection of race, housing, and maternal health equity and showcased maternal health initiatives at our 2022 Summit. The webinar featured Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) and Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL), co-chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus and co-sponsors of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, and the National Partnership for Women and Families. The **Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority** also presented on their Healthy Beginnings at Home initiative.

The **New York City Housing Authority** (NYCHA) is another example of a PHA that offers programming to advance maternal health equity for pregnant residents and their babies. NYCHA's initiative helps



“When we raise the tide for black women, who are among the most marginalized, we raise the tide for all women.”

—Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) at our 2022 maternal health equity webinar



create safer homes and connections to resources for families that are expecting or have a newborn in the home. They work in partnership with City of New York agencies and non-profit organizations to connect residents to newborn home visiting, doula services, safe sleep education, childcare, and more. NYCHA also strives to identify and address potential hazards in the apartments of expecting families and offers regular community baby showers as part of the program.

Supporting Seniors

Over 35% of households served by PHAs contain one or more individuals over the age of 62. PHAs provide resources and services specifically to assist seniors who often have complex health needs and reduced abilities to access support. *Housing Is* works closely with HUD, HHS, and nonprofit partners like LeadingAge to elevate successful senior-focused interventions at PHAs and advocate for better linkages between the housing and health sector to facilitate programs that address the myriad needs of low-income seniors.

The **Denver Housing Authority** (DHA) is [working with local hospital system](#) working with local hospital system Denver Health to house seniors, individuals with disabilities, and patients exiting hospital care. DHA's newly renovated, 110-unit 655 Broadway property is located across from a Denver Health medical center and includes 14 apartments designated to help Denver Health transition patients experiencing homelessness out of the hospital. The property was thoughtfully designed with older adults and individuals with complex health needs in mind: the building includes an on-site health and wellness program to promote aging in place and coordinate long-term housing options.

The **Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO** uses an innovative approach to stably housing older residents through its Pemberton Park for Grandfamilies community. The property is reserved exclusively for grandparents raising their grandchildren and provides on-site case management services that help with the unique needs of these families.



Top: Community members attend the grand opening of the Housing Authority of Kansas City's Pemberton Park community for grandfamilies. Bottom: Residents celebrate Easter at Pemberton Park.

“

“We’re proud of HAKC’s community for grandfamilies and the services that it provides these households with complex, multigenerational needs. We thank *Housing Is* for uplifting our innovative model to their nationwide audience.”

—Edwin Lowndes, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO

Behavioral Health and Trauma-Informed Housing

Housing instability not only worsens behavioral health for low-income individuals, but behavioral health issues and past trauma can also make it difficult for individuals to secure and retain affordable housing. PHAs build mental health sector partnerships and implement trauma-informed approaches to housing and services to meet the complex needs of their residents. By understanding the effects of community and interpersonal trauma that are experienced at higher rates in these populations, PHAs work to create welcoming and healing home environments and train their employees to approach resident interactions with compassion and understanding.

Housing Is advocates at the national level for funding and other resources that help PHAs better serve their residents. We disseminate information to our networks about federal, state, and nonprofit tools and resources that assist behavioral health-focused and trauma-informed programs and services at PHAs. For example, *Housing Is* has a deep relationship with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to educate PHAs about effective, evidence-based permanent supportive housing models and best practices for implementing them in their communities. Additionally, we have brought trauma experts and PHAs implementing trauma-informed approaches to our webinars and conferences to discuss these practices and actions that service providers should take to better meet their residents where they are at.

Elm City Communities (ECC) focuses on implementing a trauma-informed approach and providing mental and behavioral health services



Elm City Communities and their partners cut the ribbon on a new housing community.

to low-income individuals in their community. ECC's approach focuses on prevention, helping the community respond to things themselves through peer-to-peer support, and interventions and partnerships to help address behavioral health challenges and the effects of trauma. ECC engages health sector partners to come onsite to their communities to case-manage, connect residents to treatment, and operate mental and behavioral health clinics.

Housing Is advocates for co-locating health services at PHA communities in order to better serve residents who need frequent and consistent health care. One example is **Opportunity Home San Antonio's** (OHSA) partnership with their county agency partner Center for Health Care Services. OHSA's public housing community Victoria Plaza now features an in-house health clinic operated by CHCS. The clinic provides mental health care with supportive services, including skills training, psychosocial rehabilitative services, and case management to residents.

“Trauma-informed approaches to housing and programming are crucial to supporting the mental and behavioral health of our residents. Through webinars, working groups, panels, and other forums for peer learning, *Housing Is* promotes strategies for housing low-income individuals with compassion and understanding.”

—Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton, President, Elm City Communities



“We’re immensely proud of our partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to bring nutritious, healthy food directly into our low-income residents’ communities. *Housing Is* has spent a decade elevating cross-sector partnerships like ours so that other entities that serve low-income populations can learn from successful collaborative interventions and replicate them at the local level.”

—Mark Gillett, Executive Director, Oklahoma City Housing Authority

Bringing Services to PHA Residents

Low-income residents often have health issues, unreliable transportation, or other barriers that make accessing services in other parts of town challenging. Therefore, many PHAs bring in service providers and operate programming onsite at their properties to improve access to these crucial supports. Place- and community-based approaches, such as co-locating social services and PHA sites, are a cornerstone of the *Housing Is* Initiative’s best practices, and we frequently share successful examples of PHA onsite services and programming that their peers can replicate at national conferences, on webinars, and in other public forums.

A patron peruses the shelves at a food pantry operated by the Oklahoma City Housing Authority and Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.



More and more PHAs are working with federally qualified health centers or other health service organizations to operate health clinics at PHA properties. PHAs with onsite healthcare services include **Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Denver Housing Authority, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Development Agency, Memphis Housing Authority, Elm City Communities, Housing Authority of the City Austin,** and the **Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO.**

A common focus of service co-location is improving access to healthy, nutritious foods. HUD data show that food access is a national problem for low-income families—32.7% of HUD-assisted households reported in 2019 that they still struggle with food insecurity, let alone affording nutritious and diverse foods. These findings are not surprising given the populations and neighborhoods that PHAs tend to serve. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, low-income neighborhoods and areas with high concentrations of people of color are much more likely to be “food deserts,” or areas where people have limited access to a variety of healthy and affordable foods. The program provides free greens weekly as well as nutrition and cooking classes.

The **Oklahoma City Housing Authority (OCHA)** and Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma (RFBO) are longtime partners in increasing food access for OCHA residents: RFBO has provided over 500,000 pounds of food through their Mobile Market Senior Feeding Program, and the partners worked together diligently during the COVID-19 pandemic to bring healthy food to more OCHA sites so that vulnerable residents did not have to risk COVID

infection at the grocery store. RFBO has opened onsite food pantries at PHA buildings that mirror grocery stores so residents have the dignity and choice of browsing and picking their own foods. In Jersey City, Healthy Greens JC operates on-site indoor vertical farms at the **Jersey City Housing Authority's** Marion Gardens and Curries Woods communities. The program provides free greens weekly as well as nutrition and cooking classes.

Addressing Environmental Impacts on Health

The legacy of redlining and other racist policies practiced in the expansion and modernization of our nation's cities has resulted in many PHA properties located in environmentally unsafe areas, such as flood plains, brownfields, and heat zones. As a result, many PHAs are working to address environmental hazards at their properties and make their properties greener and more climate resilient. In addition to our leadership on the formation of a 10-year roadmap for public housing sustainability, *Housing Is* supports this crucial work by keeping PHAs informed of the changing field of regulations and funding opportunities from federal agencies that facilitate healthier and more sustainable construction, renovation, and rehabilitation efforts.

The **Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers** (MHACY) is taking unprecedented steps to make its communities safer, greener, and more resilient. MHACY partnered with local environmental change nonprofit Groundwork Hudson Valley to develop an innovative green infrastructure plan across MHACY's portfolio to prevent heat islands and flooding at housing authority properties. MHACY is undertaking this massive project as part of a larger environmental justice effort to correct



Groundwork Hudson Valley volunteers assist in a cleanup at a Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers property.

policies that in the past have caused Yonkers' communities of color to suffer a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences. *Housing Is* has frequently spotlighted this impactful partnership as part of our Housing Is Working Group and other national forums.

In Baltimore, health and housing partners are working together to redress another negative effect of environmental injustice: the prevalence of asthma in low-income children. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health worked with the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP)—a subcontractor of the **Housing Authority of Baltimore City**—on improvements in asthma as children move to neighborhoods of higher opportunity through BRHP's Mobility Asthma Project. In this program, families with a child with persistent asthma were provided housing vouchers and assistance moving to low-poverty neighborhoods. The researchers found that these moves had profound effects on reducing childhood asthma, even more so than the use of inhaled corticosteroids. The study found that reducing environmental stress was one the biggest mitigators. *Housing Is* elevated these important findings through our *Housing Is* Working Group webinar series.



“The Mobility Asthma Project documented the tremendous impact that BRHP’s housing mobility program has had on children’s health. We greatly appreciate the chance to talk about the project as part of the *Housing Is* Working Group’s webinar series, highlighting the critical role that housing plays in health.”

—Dr. Craig Pollack, MD, MHS, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University



A San Diego Housing Commission resident signs up for reduced cost internet under the ACP.

WE ENVISION...

HOUSING IS DIGITAL EQUITY



PHAs Are Well-positioned to Bridge the Digital Divide

Housing Is advances digital equity because low-income individuals having access to reliable, high-speed internet and devices is critical to advancing our work in other areas. Digital connectivity allows students to do homework, attend classes virtually, and access educational support and opportunities. It is essential for applying to jobs or performing remote work functions. Internet access is also becoming increasingly important for contacting health care providers, accessing telehealth appointments, finding health resources, and reducing social isolation. PHAs are uniquely well-positioned to help bridge the digital divide given that they house and provide services to households that are disproportionately comprised of people of color. PHAs are committed to advancing racial equity in their communities, and advancing digital equity is a crucial component of that mission.

Connecting Hope

Published in November 2022, our publication [*Connecting Hope: How Public Housing Authorities Bridge the Digital Divide*](#) examines the current landscape of the digital divide, efforts to advance digital equity at the federal level, and the *Housing Is* Initiative's past, current, and future advocacy work in this space on behalf of public housing authorities and the low-income families they serve. The publication also highlights examples of how PHAs are leading efforts in their communities to provide internet access, devices, digital literacy training, and technological support for their residents. Most importantly, *Connecting Hope* offers several policy and funding recommendations to federal decision makers and stakeholders, such as:



Senior Jersey City Housing Authority residents receive new digital devices.

- Digital equity initiatives, through policy or programming, should include internet connection, access to devices, and digital literacy training in order to comprehensively address the digital divide.
- Support from HUD through initiatives like ConnectHome should include funding so PHAs have the resources needed to actually implement meaningful change.
- HUD should allow internet as an eligible project expense for PHAs for those that would like the option of allowing internet for their residents as an expense.
- Funding for infrastructure should include support for PHAs to make necessary wiring modifications.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should further regulate internet service providers to prevent them from being predatory in low-income communities and to induce them to provide equitable services.





A San Diego Housing Commission resident gets connected with help from the ACP.

The Affordable Connectivity Program and Federal Advocacy on Digital Equity

Housing Is regularly provides feedback to the FCC, HUD, and Congress on federal digital equity initiatives and funding opportunities including ConnectHome USA, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), the ACP grant program, and the “Your Home, Your Internet” pilot program. We advise federal policymakers on how to improve efforts to bridge the digital divide and meet the needs of PHA residents in this area.

In 2022 *Housing Is* promoted the availability of ACP grants and strongly urged PHAs to apply. Thanks in part to our advocacy, fifteen CLPHA members [received](#) a combined more than \$4 million in grants from the FCC in 2023 to help bridge the digital divide for their communities.

Center for Disaster Philanthropy Grants Overwhelmingly Focus on Digital Connection

CLPHA was honored to receive a grant in November 2020 from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy to help our members better protect and support vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. CLPHA subsequently conducted a competitive application process to provide ten of our member PHAs with subgrants, funded by CDP, to support COVID-19 relief efforts for their residents. Grant recipients included **Home Forward, INLIVIAN, Jersey City Housing Authority, Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Oklahoma City Housing Authority, Wilmington Housing Authority, Elm City Communities, Housing Authority of the City of Goldsboro, and Tacoma Housing Authority**. Grantees focused on a range of COVID-19 responses, but bridging the digital divide proved the most common intervention undertaken by PHAs.



“CLPHA’s *Housing Is* Initiative shares our vision of helping people in public and affordable housing achieve their full potential, and expanding digital connection opportunities is an important part of achieving that vision. Together, we share cross-sector partnership successes and innovations, gaining valuable insight into how best to advance digital equity. Together we go further, faster, than we could alone.”

—Mike Gerber, President & CEO, Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Spotlight on the Housing Authority of the City of Austin’s Digital Equity Initiative

The **Housing Authority of the City of Austin** (HACA) is one of the leading housing authorities in the field of digital equity, offering several services to residents to improve digital inclusion. A decade ago, HACA identified that their residents were missing out on the many online services and opportunities due to the digital divide. At that time, when 94% of the city’s residents had an internet plan, only about 4% of HACA residents had one.

Driven by this alarming data, in November 2014 HACA launched their Unlocking the Connection initiative to bridge the digital divide for their residents. Under the initiative, residents at fourteen properties receive free, high-quality internet through Google Fiber, refurbished devices, and digital literacy training catered to all ages. Key to the success of the initiative was HACA’s investment in “Digital Ambassadors,” a group including 157 IT interns from Austin Community College and over 120 HACA residents who have been hired, trained, and paid stipends. The Digital Ambassadors act as liaisons between residents and technology companies, informing the companies of HACA’s built environments and needs, while serving as a bridge to ensure residents are informed about how to use a company’s technology safely. By the end of 2023, thanks to Google Fiber, 90% of HACA’s residents had access to free in-unit high-speed broadband.



HACA families learn to register for Austin Independent School District’s Parent Portal at a 2019 Back to School event. Laptops were provided by Charter Spectrum.

HACA also centered digital equity in their Catalyst initiative work. With their partners, they focus on the power of digital health literacy and accessing health and medical records and information online, integrating it with chronic condition management. Through the Catalyst initiative, residents put what they learn about technology and online information to work to better manage their health and advocate for their health needs.

Spotlight on Jersey City Housing Authority's Partnerships to Bridge the Digital Divide

The **Jersey City Housing Authority** (JCHA) collaborates with a variety of nonprofit, for-profit, and government entities to expand access to affordable high-speed internet and devices for its low-income residents. Some of JCHA's efforts to advance digital equity include:

- Receiving two grants from the FCC to assist them in raising awareness of the ACP and in helping residents apply for the subsidy; JCHA [received nearly \\$500,000](#) from the FCC under two separate grant awards, including one award that funded twelve “digital navigators” that conducted outreach and offered application support to eligible households at community events
- Winning a [2022 AARP Community Challenge grant](#), which helped JCHA purchase Amazon Fire Tablets for senior residents and fund stipends for 12 student instructors from Hudson County Community College who helped residents sign up for the ACP and offered one-on-one digital literacy training sessions to residents
- Partnering with internet service providers Starry and Andrena to bring affordable internet access to JCHA public housing communities
- Employing a full-time Digital Inclusion Coordinator to help identify and educate residents about programs and services that offer digital connectivity or devices, partner with other organizations to host digital literacy programming, and promote affordable broadband opportunities



Young Jersey City Housing Authority residents take advantage of JCHA's digital equity programming.

“JCHA had the foresight to recognize how important bridging the digital divide would be for public housing residents and Section 8 participants as these programs become ever more digitally dependent. We are proud of our progress and recognize that its success in implementing these programs and resources could not be achieved without our diverse partners, including the federal government, the City of Jersey City, nonprofits, internet service providers, and most importantly, the *Housing Is Initiative*.”

—Stephen Cea, Executive Director, Jersey City Housing Authority

WE ENVISION...

A 10-YEAR ROADMAP FOR PUBLIC HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY



To create the future we envision, we must invest in public housing authorities, partners, programs, and residents. However, PHAs are greatly challenged in this work due to decades of underfunding at the federal level. Our nation's public housing portfolio has a \$100 billion capital needs backlog—and growing.

We have the tools, methods, and mechanisms needed to redress this deficit, but we do not have a strategic framework for committing resources and policies to achieve these goals. In 2024 CLPHA is creating a 10-year Roadmap for Public Housing Sustainability. The roadmap will establish cross-sector service and investment connections that promote other social goals, such as co-location of healthcare facilities that serve residents, green building and energy investments that address climate change and promote resilience, and education initiatives including early childhood interventions, development of job skills, and life-long learning.

This roadmap will not just seek to repair and rebuild units—it will center low-income individuals and families as the most important focus of our investments. This multi-faceted approach will bring climate resilience, energy efficiency, resident health improvements, educational opportunities, and better service connections to our country's most disadvantaged families.

We Envision the Future

Housing Is believes that a future where low-income individuals can attain the same education, health, economic, and digital connectivity opportunities as their more affluent peers is possible, and we are working to make it happen. Our efforts will continue to center our goals of improving life outcomes, aligning systems, and advancing racial equity. We will keep reiterating that PHAs and affordable housing providers are the anchor through which our nation's social safety net can catch individuals that have previously fallen through the cracks.

Housing Is will also continue to seek more funding opportunities for PHAs and their partners to advance this work. We will redouble our legislative and federal government advocacy and push for increased funding and expanded implementations of successful innovations, such as data sharing between PHAs and school districts, using Medicaid dollars to fund housing-based interventions, and providing low- or no-cost internet service to all families. We will continue to serve as a national convener of the housing, health, and education sectors, offering best practices, lessons learned, and support for our ever-expanding nationwide community of practice. We will encourage PHAs and their partners to grow and evolve their collaborations to meet their community needs. We will use examples of successful cross-sector partnerships to urge our nation's decision makers to allocate the tools and resources to scale and replicate these interventions in communities across the country.

We are excited about this vision for the future, and we hope you will join us as we make it a reality.



HOUSING IS

BY THE NUMBERS

97

Webinars held

9

Publications
published

15

Advisory councils
served on

96

Housing Is Summit
sessions held

2,855

Attendees at ten years of
Housing Is Summits

30

PHAs utilizing data
sharing agreements
with their partners

\$11,770,350

Funding received from philanthropies and other
partners to support *Housing Is* and PHA work

CLPHA is immensely grateful to the philanthropic foundations that have provided generous financial support to make our cross-sector work possible.

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

MacArthur
Foundation

THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

Housing Is extends our deepest thanks to all our funders, partners, and PHAs, past and present, who have collaborated with us over the last decade on our shared goal of improving life outcomes for low-income families.



The *Housing Is* Initiative, led by the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, helps build a future where sectors work together to improve life outcomes. Housing stability is a critical first step to improve life outcomes for low-income children, families, and seniors; CLPHA's *Housing Is* Initiative is based on the premise that sectors can better meet needs when they work together. *Housing Is* establishes, broadens, and deepens efforts to align affordable housing, education, and health systems to produce positive, long-term results.

Learn more at housingis.org.



The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) is a non-profit organization that works to preserve and improve public and affordable housing through advocacy, research, policy analysis, and public education. Our membership includes more than 80 of the largest and most innovative public housing authorities across the country. The CLPHA membership collectively owns and manages nearly 40 percent of the nation's public housing stock, administers more than a quarter of the Housing Choice Voucher program, and provides a wide array of other rental assistance. CLPHA members also make vital services available to the more than one million low-income households they serve in federally assisted housing.

Learn more at clpha.org.