

Save the Date for the 2019 *Housing Is* Summit

Plus: updates about our other cross-sector initiatives

Summer always flies by, but the *Housing Is* team has been hard at work. We have already begun planning next year's *Housing Is* Summit. After record-breaking attendance at our 2018 event, we are excited to share details about our 2019 Summit with CLPHA members.

CLPHA will be hosting its fifth annual *Housing Is* Summit on May 16-17, 2019. The event will again be hosted at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C.

We will welcome policymakers, practitioners, and researchers from the affordable housing, education, and health sectors for two full days of exciting content that centers housing as a platform for services and cross-sector partnership as critical to improving life outcomes. Our plenary sessions tackle major issues that cut across sectors, and our breakout sessions are action-oriented presentations and discussions that explore education and health in greater detail. We look forward to next year's Summit as we continue to build on progress we see on-the-ground in driving cross-sector partnership, as well as learn from cutting-edge research and policy experts. **We encourage all CLPHA members to attend the upcoming Summit and invite their cross-sector partners.**

We also would like to introduce you to an important new member of the *Housing Is* team, Mica O'Brien (mobrien@clpha.org). Mica is a one-year fellow from Princeton University's Project 55 Fellowship Program. She has been hard at work on HousingIs.org — our online clearinghouse — as well as participating in conversations with funders and resource development.

CLPHA's *Housing Is* Initiative is engaged in a number of activities, which you can read more about on the following pages. As always, if you have other thoughts or ideas related to better aligning systems to improve life outcomes, we'd love to talk to you. Shoot Abra (abra@clpha.org) or Steve (slucas@clpha.org) an email, or give us a call anytime.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

(since the Summer 2018 meeting)



Partnerships

Foster new and strengthen existing cross-sector partnerships to more effectively and efficiently improve outcomes.

- **Kresge Foundation:** In order to improve post-secondary matriculation and outcomes for low-income individuals, we are partnering with the Kresge Foundation to create a report and hold a convening at the end of November. Through this partnership, we hope to disseminate lessons from housing organizations with innovative postsecondary initiatives and inform the broader field about promising practices at the intersection of public housing and higher education, as well as better understand how the two sectors are partnering, what role philanthropy can play, and how policy and capital can be influenced to improve outcomes. CLPHA members Chicago Housing Authority, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Tacoma Housing Authority, and non-CLPHA member, the Louisville Housing Authority, will be profiled for their efforts in this area.
- **RWJF Aligning Housing and Health Project with CSH & UnitedHealthcare:** CLPHA is working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and UnitedHealthcare Community & State on a cross-sector project aimed at aligning systems to improve health outcomes. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's support for the Aligning Housing and Health (AHH) Project has expanded capacity for local and national partnerships to serve Medicaid-insured individuals living in federally assisted housing. The five sites selected — Akron, Columbus, Austin, Houston, and King County/Seattle — are moving forward with one-year planning grants in which they will identify population health priorities at the person, program, and system level. Sites are currently negotiating a comprehensive data sharing agreement with UHC, and the national partners (CLPHA, CSH, UHC) are currently interviewing finalists for project evaluators. This planning grant will extend into Spring 2019.
- **Campaign For Grade-Level Reading (GLR) Annual Conference:** *Housing Is* presented during two sessions at GLR's annual conference in Philadelphia. One session was a panel on technology and housing about how different services like texting can help communicate with residents and improve educational outcomes. Other panelists included Bright by Text, Sesame Street, and the Bezos Foundation. Many attendees followed-up post session with more questions about how PHAs have been involved with technological efforts, as well as how to get involved with PHAs. The other session was on trauma-informed care with *Housing Is* moderating. CLPHA members Home Forward and Fairfax Department of Housing and Community Development presented on their efforts with trauma-informed care for residents; the Urban Institute also presented their research on TIC.
- **National Housing & Education Collaboration:** *Housing Is* kickstarted a new coalition of organizations comprised of Partnership for Children & Youth, Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, and NeighborWorks to determine a joint project aimed at improving educational outcomes for low-income residents. The group has met twice and will be focusing on metrics and increasing usage of housingis.org in the following year.



Community of Practice

Facilitate a cross-sector community of practice to support on-the-ground efforts, shape policymaking, and inform advocacy efforts.

- **HUD & Dept of Education:** *Housing Is* continues to participate in monthly phone calls with representatives from the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Department of Education. The calls discuss current and future efforts by CLPHA and the two federal agencies.
- **Education Working Group:** Since the Summer Meeting, the CLPHA Education Working Group organized webinars on the following topics:
 - **Early Learning Interventions**—11 participants, including non-CLPHA members, joined in to hear SPARK Ohio and the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority present on the nonprofit’s mission to improve educational outcomes for low-income children and how housing agencies can work with them to benefit their youngest residents. AMHA shared how they work with SPARK and how it has helped their residents. Participants also had a chance to ask questions and get more information from the presenters.
 - **Clearinghouse**—11 CLPHA members joined this roundtable to hear about updates and plans for housingis.org and share feedback on the site.
 - **Technology and Housing**—26 participants, including non-CLPHA members, joined the webinar to hear Bright by Text present on their work to use text messaging to improve educational outcomes for low-income children and how housing agencies can access their services. A few attendees were able to share that they already work with Bright by Text and participants had lots of questions for the presenters at the end of the webinar.
- **Health in Housing Working Group:** The new Health in Housing Working Group has been meeting on a monthly basis, primarily focused on the topic of data sharing with health sector partners. Working group participants have provided input on an upcoming health webinar series.
- **Health Webinar with PAHRC:** In late August, CLPHA co-hosted a health partnership webinar attended by over 170 people with the Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation (PAHRC). Highlighting the results of a new CLPHA-PAHRC national survey about PHA health initiatives, the webinar identified successful models of partnership and popular priorities. CLPHA will be hosting additional health webinars this fall and into early 2019 tied to a new series of health system “explainer” briefs. *(More information about these explainers can be found in the Resource Development section of this update.)*



Resource Development

Develop interdisciplinary resources that support sustained collaboration such as cross-system data sharing agreements and other implementation tools.

- **Cross-Sector explainer Series:** We are developing a series of explainer briefs that will help break down complex health and education systems, policies, financing mechanisms, and opportunities for partnership. By unpacking the intricacies of topics such as Medicaid and early learning, the explainers will help housing authorities engage with their external

partners using a common language and basic skill set. We will be pairing these explainers with learning opportunities for PHA staff such as webinars.

- **Health in Housing Publication:** *Housing Is* recently released *Health Starts at Home: A National Snapshot of Public Housing Authorities' Health Partnerships*, which provides the first national snapshot of the health partnerships PHAs engage in and the health initiatives they manage. The initial findings of the CLPHA member survey were also released in an edition of *Cityscape*, HUD's policy and research journal. Partnering with the Public and Affordable Housing Corporation at Hai Group, the expanded survey captures a vast array of PHA health initiatives and partnerships, sources of funding and staffing capacity, opportunities for collaboration, and barriers PHAs face with these cross-sector efforts.



Best Practices

Improve and promote best practices proven to positively address social determinants and improve life outcomes at the program and system level.

- **Health Data Sharing Agreement Template:** Housing Is will release a new data sharing agreement template intended for use with health sector partners. The DSA template takes into consideration the requirements set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which has often been viewed as a barrier to sharing data with health partners. The template will help facilitate data sharing between PHAs, health partners, and data intermediaries, with the PHA receiving what is known as deidentified health data. The template can be modified and customized to suit the needs of individual partnerships but will act as a critical first or next step for PHAs' health data collaborations. CLPHA drew on the insights from our previous effort to develop an education data sharing template, as well as insights from recent health data collaborations between PHAs and healthcare service providers and government entities.



Online Collaboration

Maintain HousingIs.org, a virtual gathering place for experts from various support systems to promote effective programs and share innovative ideas.

- **Join HousingIs.org:** We continue to welcome new members to our Clearinghouse communities. We encourage our members to join the *Housing Is* Clearinghouse to explore the latest research, discover cross-sector best practices, and connect with new partners.
- **Clearinghouse Phase II Contractor:** We are continuing to enhance the HousingIs.org clearinghouse to improve the user experience. The site has been converted to a new software platform and users should now experience a faster interface, including a more streamlined registration process. Users should also now get email notifications when someone replies to your post or likes your resource. We hope this helps interaction and collaboration for the community of practice.
- **Want to Organize a Community on HousingIs.org?** Several of CLPHA's cross-sector partners have expressed interest in establishing communities on HousingIs.org to share learning and facilitate discussion. If you and your partners are looking for a place to connect with other practitioners and policymakers online, we can help you find a community or establish/manage a new one.



Policy & Advocacy

Convene researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to advocate for smart policies that impact low-income people.

- **Opportunity Starts at Home:** *Housing Is* participated in the first roundtable for the advocacy coalition to help determine the group’s next steps. *Opportunity Starts at Home* takes the same cross-sector approach as *Housing Is*, promoting the idea that the housing sector should work with other sectors like education and health with a focus on advocacy at the federal level for increased funding for housing.



Training & Education

Provide training and education across systems and sectors aimed at treating housing as a cornerstone social determinant.

- **ProInspire Leadership Institute:** *Housing Is* applied for and was accepted to a two-day convening on leadership training that was sponsored by the Kresge Foundation. There were about 30 attendees made up of other D.C. professionals from Kresge-funded organizations.
- **CORES Certification:** *Housing Is* accepted an invitation to join the CORES Advisory Committee to help review applications for the Certified Organization for Resident Engagement and Services (CORES), which is part of Fannie Mae’s Healthy Housing Rewards-Enhanced Resident Services Initiative. This initiative aims to provide a financing incentive for resident services coordination, including in the areas of education and health. We review applications as requested by the CORES committee.
- **Call for Ideas:** We welcome CLPHA members to suggest topics for new training resources, especially those concerning intersectional work among housing, health, and education. If you would like to share ideas with the *Housing Is* team, contact Abra at abra@clpha.org or Steve at slucas@clpha.org.