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| **Providers of Education, Training, and Technical Assistance on Local Housing Policy**The following is an annotated list of 43 providers of education, training and technical assistance (TA) on local housing policy. Abt Associates compiled the list as part of an environmental scan that we conducted of organizations providing these services. The descriptions are adapted from content posted on the organizations’ websites, which are provided in the descriptions below:The **American Planning Association (APA)** is a membership organization dedicated to advancing the field of urban and community planning. While the APA covers a wide range of topics, its *Planning Home* housing initiative strives to “reshape the way planning is used to address America's housing affordability crisis.” Six key policy principles comprise the *Planning Home* agenda, include ***reforming local housing codes, promoting inclusionary growth, and removing barriers to multifamily housing***. *Planning Home* includescity case studies, a housing blog, and community engagement actions.*Website:* <https://www.planning.org/> |
| **Bloomberg Associates** is a philanthropic consulting firm that works directly with city governments to develop solutions to difficult challenges to improve the quality of life of their citizens. Bloomberg Associates assembles teams of experts to ***address top city priorities, often at the intersection of housing, affordability and climate***. TA engagements usually last two to four years, and are mostly geared towards larger cities with higher capacity. Recent work includes helping Atlanta’s Chief Housing Officer convene agencies, build working groups, and develop a housing affordability plan. |
| *Website:* <https://www.bloombergassociates.org/>The **Center for Popular Democracy (CPD)** works with ***a network of state and local partners to advocate for “equity, opportunity and a dynamic democracy.”*** Among CPD’s campaigns is *Organizing for Housing Justice* and *A Home to Thrive*, which focuses on tenant protections and rent control. CPD produces reports, new updates, and blog updates on these topics.*Website:* <https://populardemocracy.org/> |
| **ChangeLab Solutions** is a national organization that works with state and local governments, advocacy organizations, and anchor institutions to create healthier communities through equitable laws and policies. ChangeLab creates free toolkits, factsheets, and roadmaps that demonstrate how communities can achieve healthier housing through actionable steps. In addition to educational resources, ChangeLab offers ***tailored housing policy development as well staff training and capacity building on housing policy*** and legal issues as well as program implementation. *Website:* <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/>**Community Change’s Housing Trust Fund Project** is an ***information repository and technical assistance resource*** created in 1986 for local organizations and agencies that implement housing trust funds. The Project provides technical expertise at each stage of the process, from developing trust fund proposals, to securing revenue streams and partners, to the logistics of fund distribution. Since 2018, the Housing Trust Fund Project has helped secure a total of $293 million in commitments towards affordable housing funds in twelve states. Community Change is a national organization that “builds the power of low-income people to win changes on the issues that impact their lives.”*Website:* https://communitychange.org/ |
| The **Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)** is a membership organization comprised of state agencies and non-profits focused on community development. COSCDA ***advocates for increased funding and leadership of states in community development***. COSCDA members can receive peer-to-peer TA to government staff looking to improve or start new housing programs funded by CDBG and HOME grants.*Website:* <https://coscda.org/> |
| **Enterprise Community Partners (ECP)** promotes affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households through ***investment of capital in underinvested areas and development of policies and solutions to address local challenges***. ECP policymaking at the state and local level focuses on four areas: expanding local funding resources, supporting inclusive development, promotion racial equity and economic opportunity, and protecting low-income renters. Enterprise Advisors provides direct TA to local governments and their stakeholders, mostly around housing strategy and implementation of HUD program areas. ECP also makes available a wide range of resources for communities, including reports, toolkits, webinars, case studies, and policy briefs. *Website:* <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/> |
| **Grounded Solutions** **Network** is a nonprofit network that ***supports the development and preservation of long-term affordable housing***. Members include Community Land Trusts, affordable housing developers, and the staff of government agencies and nonprofits overseeing inclusionary housing programs. Grounded Solutions collaborates with a wide variety of clients to provide TA on housing plans, inclusionary housing policy design, and homeownership program design. Network members have access to a help desk, and Grounded Solutions offers a vast resource library to the public searchable by topic, resource type, and learning goal.*Website:* <https://groundedsolutions.org/> |
| **Habitat for Humanity** is a nonprofit housing organization with over 100 local affiliate organizations in all 50 states. Habitat focuses on ***increasing homeownership through home building, homeowner finance and education, and affordable housing advocacy***. Habitat educates affiliates on housing-related issues through conferences, in-person trainings, online affinity groups, and newsletters. Their *Cost of Home* campaign empowers community members to effect housing policy and system change by creating templates for op-eds, letters to policymakers, and community presentations, to name a few.*Website:* <https://www.habitat.org/> |
| The **Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies** produces ***research to help civic leaders understand and address housing issues in local communities.*** The Center produces reports and conducts public outreach in eight main areas: housing markets and conditions, homeownership, rental housing, remodeling, aging, affordability, demographics & projections, and neighborhood change. *Website:* <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/> |
| The **Housing Partnership Network (HPN)** is a ***collaborative of over 100 of the nation’s leading affordable housing and community development nonprofits***. HPN focuses on three key strategies to increase the capacity and impact of its network; leadership exchange (communities of practice, peer convenings), advocacy for affordable housing and community development programs, and supporting social enterprises that are creating stable, affordable homes.*Website:* <https://housingpartnership.net/> |
| **HR&A Advisors** is a ***consulting firm providing services in real estate, economic development, and program design and implementation***. HR&A’s affordable housing practice focuses on improving housing affordability through strategies that include land use, regulatory authority, local public funding, and strengthening tenants’ rights. HR&A typically engages in cities with relatively inexpensive but developing housing markets for six to nine months on anything from understanding a city’s housing market to designing an inclusionary housing policy to gap financing and braiding federal subsidies.*Website:* <https://www.hraadvisors.com/> |
| **Living Cities** is a ***nonprofit organization comprising large foundations and financial institutions that seek to close racial income and wealth gaps*** in American cities. The Integration Initiative (TII) brings together leaders in selected cities to fund large public sector system changes that may include housing. In San Francisco, TII funded an initiative created mixed income housing in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty. TII funded cities also participate in knowledge sharing and TA opportunities including “one-on-one meetings, site visits, online collaboration tools and conferences with other sites known as Learning Communities.”*Website:* <https://www.livingcities.org/> |
| The **Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)** supports a range of community development projects through grants, investments, and TA. LISC’s local offices ***provides TA to “leverage funding opportunities, navigate complex housing regulations, and develop comprehensive housing strategies.”*** Affordable housing issues that LISC works on includes single and multifamily development and financing, layering subsidy sources for affordable housing preservation, and environmentally sustainable construction and renovation. LISC also shares knowledge through webinars, conferences, and data and mapping tools. LISC’s large database helps communities identify affordable housing creation and preservation opportunities.*Website:* <https://www.lisc.org/> |
| **Local Progress,** a project of the Center for Popular Democracy,is a ***movement of local elected officials in underrepresented communities advancing a racial and economic justice agenda***. While Local Progress publishes policy briefs, toolkits, and reports on a variety of issues, the primary way Local Progress seeks to affect local housing policy through convenings and TA cohorts. In 2019, Local Progress launched a Mid-Size City Affordable Housing Cohort. Cohort members will have access to TA coaching from policy experts and organized peer collaboration opportunities. *Website:* <https://localprogress.org/> |
| The **National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL)** advances and supports the use of ***private capital for affordable housing and inclusive neighborhood revitalization***. Members, which include banks, community development financial institutions, and housing nonprofits, are offered spots at NAAHL’s annual policy and practice conference, daily newsletters, and periodic policy analysis. NAAHL’s policy priorities include preservation and expansion of LIHTC, financing affordable rental properties, preserving naturally occurring affordable housing, and ending predatory lending.*Website:* <https://naahl.org/> |
| The **National Association of Counties (NACo)** is a membership organization comprised of county government staff and elected officials. NACo ***advocates for counties in federal policymaking and shares information to its memberships to strengthen county governance***. NACo offers a range of housing-related resources to local governments, primarily focused on increasing affordability, including case studies, report, toolkits, and news updates. NACo also convenes the Housing and Health Action Learning Cohort, which offers in-person and virtual trainings to a select number of counties to “support counties in their exploration, learning and action in understanding the impact of housing quality, stability, affordability, and neighborhood on county health outcomes.”*Website:* [https://www.naco.org](https://www.naco.org/) |
| The **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)** represents the interests of homebuilders and developers through knowledge sharing, networking opportunities, ***federal advocacy focused on increasing funding for federally-backed mortgages, and eliminating onerous housing regulations and restrictive zoning policies***. While most of their resources are not targeted to local government or non-profits, NAHB has produced a blueprint for creating affordable housing for all. NAHB has overviews of strategies such as mixed-income development, “by-right” zoning, and tax credits. For each strategy, NAHB includes checklists for developing housing codes and ordinances, along with numerous case studies of city’s who have implemented such strategies. NAHB also offers TA on these strategies.*Website:* <https://www.nahb.org/> |
| The **National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) *supports its members in the administration of HUD funded housing programs***. NAHRO’s certification program includes online trainings in areas such as Housing Choice Vouchers eligibility and calculation, housing inspection, and public housing management. NAHRO can also provide customized on-site training and TA to member agencies directly. NAHRO’s best practices database contains thousands of award-winning programs implemented since 2000 to spark ideas for new programs and services for members.*Website:* <https://www.nahro.org/> |
| The **National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies (NALHFA) *brings together professionals working to finance affordable housing at the local level***, which include staff from city and county agencies, financial advisors, bond counselors, and rating agents. NALHFA's publications and educational resources range from the “ABCs of Housing Bonds” and “Bonds for Beginners” to “Tax Credits for Low-Income Housing.” NALHFA provides networking and learning opportunities at conferences and workshops, and facilitates TA virtually from peer organizations.*Website:* <https://www.nalhfa.org/> |
| The **National Community Development Association (NCDA)** is a nonprofit organization comprised of local governments that administer federally-supported community development, economic development, and affordable housing programs. NCDA ***provides member agencies with on-site trainings on CBDG or HOME grant management***, professional development conferences, and federal policy updates and advocacy. NCDA’s online documents archive allows members to post and share program documents to share best practices and increase efficiency of program management. *Website:* <https://ncdaonline.org/overview/> |
| The **National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA)** is a nonprofit organization focused on ***strengthening state Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs) and their partners to administer affordable housing programs***. NCSHA’s *HFA Institute* is an in-person gathering of key federal officials, industry professionals, and experienced practitioners to cover all aspects of numerous HFA programs. Each year, NCSHA conducts a comprehensive survey of State HFAs and publishes a Factbook which analyzes HFA staffing, budgets, consolidated plans, and federal program utilization, among other key indicators.*Website:* <https://www.ncsha.org/> |

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| The **National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA)** is a consortium of fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individual dedicated to ending discrimination in housing. NFHA conducts a number of activities to accomplish its mission; educating housing providers about their legal obligations, advocating for expanding the Fair Housing Act, and provides training and consulting services to develop capacity of organizations to implement fair housing best practices. NFHA ***covers issues such as access to credit, foreclosure crisis and recovery, and source-of-income discrimination***.*Website:* <https://nationalfairhousing.org/> |
| The **National Housing Conference (NHC)** organizes housing and community development sectors to “***advance best practices, share ideas, and objectively advocate for effective affordable housing policy***.” NHC convenes task forces and working groups on issues such as Black homeownership, housing finance reform, and the Community Reinvestment Act. NHC also produces webinars and develops communications toolkits that helps housing practitioners communicate effectively about affordable housing using values-based messages and other best practices. *Website:* <https://www.nhc.org/> |
| The **National Housing Trust (NHT)** is an organization solely ***dedicated to preserving, improving and maintaining affordable housing***. NHT achieves its mission by providing loans to support housing preservation, directly managing affordable properties, and raising awareness for about the need for and methods to preserve affordable housing. NHT runs *PrezCat*, an online catalog of affordable housing preservation policies. Users can search *PrezCat* for preservation methods by state, such as LIHTC, housing trust funds, predevelopment/acquisition funds, and green preservation strategies. *Website:* <https://www.nationalhousingtrust.org/> |
| The **National League of Cities (NLC)** is an organization that serves as a resource and advocate for the over 2,000 member cities. NLC provides ***housing education and TA through its national office and 49 state league affiliates to dozens of affinity groups*** (e.g. staff from large cities or suburbs), professional development groups (e.g. Spanish or Black caucuses), and cohorts of cities. NLC University helps municipal leaders develop skills needed to govern through online classes and webinars, in-person summits, and fellowships. NLC convened and facilitated a housing task force comprised of city elected officials who created a new housing agenda using lessons from their city’s housing challenges.*Website:* <https://www.nlc.org/> |
| The **National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)** is a nonprofit organization educating, organizing and advocating for decent low income housing. NLIHC members include community development corporations, public housing authorities, city housing departments, and individuals. NLICH’s policy advocacy, research, and educational ***priorities include expanding the national Housing Trust Fund, increasing housing programs serving extremely low-income families, and protecting low-income renters***. NLIHC hosts an annual Housing Policy Forum that brings together affordable housing providers, policy experts, researchers, low income residents, and elected leaders to discuss these priorities. *Website:* <https://nlihc.org/> |

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| The **National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** is a nonprofit environmental advocacy group. NRDC’s housing related work comes at the intersection of sustainability and affordable housing. NRDC ***works with utilities and state regulators to design incentives that fund affordable rentals with high efficiency standards.*** NRDC also provides assistance to housing finance authorities make their housing stock more energy efficient, and they helped launch the *Energy Efficiency for All* project to “bring the benefits of efficiency to affordable housing in a dozen states across the nation.”*Website:* <https://www.nrdc.org/> |
| The **National Urban League (NUL)** is a civil rights organization dedicated to ***economic empowerment in historically underserved urban communities***. NUL operates its local programs through its 90 affiliate organizations that work directly with impacted communities. NUL has two major housing-related initiatives; 1) *Home is Where the Wealth Is*, that supports HUD-approved NUL affiliates to conduct financial education and coaching to families looking to purchase homes; 2) *Restore Our Homes*, which provides financial, educational, and technical support to NUL affiliates working to “increase financial stability and property values in minority communities affected by subprime loans and foreclosures.”*Website:* <https://nul.org/> |
| **NeighborWorks America** is a congressionally chartered nonprofit with a member network of over 250 nonprofits with missions to provide people with safe, healthy and affordable housing. NeighborWorks offers grants, capacity-building, and peer-exchange opportunities designed to ***help members expand their work or pilot and replicate new approaches to community development, including affordable housing and homeownership counseling***. *Website:* <https://www.neighborworks.org/> |
| The **Partnership for Working Families** is a network of regional advocacy organizations creating jobs and solving economic and environmental problems. In its work on affordable housing, The Partnership supports ***campaigns to generate new revenue sources for affordable developments, promote inclusionary zoning, and lessen the impacts of gentrification*** on low-income families. The Partnership’s *Community* *Benefits Law Center* provides legal assistance to community-based efforts to improve the development process and create development standards that guarantee affordable housing projects. *Website:* <https://www.forworkingfamilies.org/> |
| **PolicyLink** is a research and action institute advancing equitable policies and practices. In the housing space, PolicyLink ***works directly with cities on issues such as anti-displacement, racial equity in housing, and fair housing policies***. In their work, PolicyLink focuses on defining problems and priorities in collaboration with the community, identifying those in power, and working to advance solutions to the defined problems. Publically available policy toolkits offer actionable strategies to advance racial equity in a number of arenas, including preventing housing displacement. PolicyLink launched its Anti-Displacement Policy Network to bring together city staff and community leaders fighting displacement. *Website:* <https://www.policylink.org/> |
| The **Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC)** is a civil rights law and policy organization that ***promotes strategies to disrupt systems that disadvantage low-income people of color***. One of PRRAC’s main priorities is fair housing; PRACC monitors the implementation of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFHH) mandate, and advocates for expanding federal housing programs at HUD, the Treasury Department, and state housing finance agencies. PRACC also provides TA to local housing agencies on AFFH, the Housing Choice Voucher program, and comprehensive housing mobility strategies (through a partner nonprofit called Mobility Works).*Website:* <https://prrac.org/> |
| The **Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA)** provides policy analysis, professional development, and advocacy for its 1,900 public housing agency members and other affiliates. PHADA’s priorities include ***maintaining local control of housing authority operations and funding MTW and RAD demonstration programs***. PHADA educates its members on relevant issues through policy briefs, position papers, reference guides, conferences, and scholarship programs. PHADA partners with Rutgers University to offer a certificate program for aspiring PHA executive directors. *Website:* <https://www.phada.org/> |
| **Shelterforce** is an independent publication reporting on and ***advancing the field of community development, affordable housing, and neighborhood stabilization***. Shelterforce publishes a quarterly magazine, weekly newsletters, editorial columns, and expert interviews on a variety of housing topics such as eviction, affordable housing, rent regulations, and housing vouchers. Shelterforce also collaborates with other researchers to release reports that are useful to community development and housing practitioners.*Website:* <https://shelterforce.org/> |
| **Smart Growth America** is a nonprofit organization that works with a variety of stakeholders to ***promote and develop smart growth policies in U.S. cities***. Smart growth “encourages a mix of building types and uses, diverse housing and transportation options, development within existing neighborhoods, and community engagement.” Smart Growth America’s National Opportunity Zones Academy provides customized TA and peer learning about Opportunity Zones to attract investments that will build housing for families of all income levels.*Website:* <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/> |

**Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)** is a nonprofit collaborative of thirteen exemplary affordable housing providers. SAHF promotes the successes of its member organizations and developed a data-driven narrative website that explores the many ways service-enriched housing is a platform for improved resident outcomes. SAHF is a partner in the *Strength Matters* initiative, which is a resource for affordable housing enterprises to improve their financial strength and access to capital. SAHF also has a resource library that provides ***templates, toolkits, and best practices around service coordination in affordable housing communities***.

*Website:* [https://www.sahfnet.org](https://www.sahfnet.org/)

**UnidosUS**, formerly National Council of La Raza, is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to progressive policy changes that better the lives of Latinos in the United States. In the domain of housing, UnidosUS runs a HUD-approved training and certification program for housing counselors to help and its National Homeownership Network advises families through all aspects of the home-buying process. UnidosUS also provides ***capacity-building assistance to its 272 community based organizational affiliates that directly serve Latinos across the country***.

*Website:* [https://www.unidosus.org](https://www.unidosus.org/)

The **United States Conference of Mayors** is an organization comprised of the mayors of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000. The Conference ***advocates for city priorities, convenes and shares best practices, and connect mayors to other mayors and business leaders***. The Conference has a standing committee on community development and housing, and publishes city case studies and advocacy statements, such as maintaining CDBG funding. The Conference provides avenues for networking and knowledge sharing among cities but little in terms of training, capacity building, or TA.

*Website:* [https://www.usmayors.org](https://www.usmayors.org/)

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** is ***responsible for funding and administering federal housing and community development programs***. HUD provides TA to recipients of HUD funding, such as state and local government agencies, public housing authorities, Continuums of Care, and nonprofits. HUD’s TA varies in depth and intensity, from its “Ask A Question” virtual help desk that quickly responds to program and policy questions, to longer term program assistance and capacity building engagements that strengthen the design and delivery of HUD-funded programs. HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is responsible for “maintaining current information on housing needs, market conditions, and existing programs, as well as conducting research on priority housing and community development issues.” PD&R funds studies and evaluations, publishes research in its *Cityscape* journal, and maintains policy clearinghouses and databases to support HUD-funded programs. PD&R’s *Regulatory Barriers Clearinghous*e (RBC) collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on state and local regulations and policies affecting the creation of affordable housing.
*Website:* <https://www.hud.gov/>

The **Urban Institute** is a nonprofit research organization with expertise in numerous policy areas. Urban’s Housing Finance Policy and Metropolitan Housing and Communities Centers ***conduct research and evaluation of programs aimed to reduce the racial homeownership gap, increase access to mortgages, and build more affordable housing***, such as HOPE VI and Promise Neighborhoods. Besides publishing research and evaluation reports, Urban produces webinars, convenes panels, and sends newsletters about these topics to clients and the general public. In a number of large cities, Urban is documenting housing trends and convening policymakers and practitioners to propose and implement solutions to housing challenges.

*Website:* <https://www.urban.org/>

The **Urban Land Institute’s Terwilliger Center for Housing** (ULI-TCH) seeks to catalyze the adoption of ***best practices in residential development and policies that create and sustain housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households***. ULI-TCH convenes experts and practitioners in forums and symposia on topics ranging from developing a local housing strategy, multi-family housing, and rental housing affordability. ULI-TCH organizes advisory services panels, in which housing experts and city leaders participate in interviews and site visits to study a particular issue (e.g. adding affordable units). At the end of five days, the panel drafts a report outlining the problem and proposing solutions.

*Website:* <https://americas.uli.org/research/centers-initiatives/terwilliger-center-for-housing/>