



Housing Solutions Lab

Building and sharing knowledge to advance equitable local housing policy.



LINCOLN INSTITUTE
OF LAND POLICY

Call for Applications: 2022 Housing Solutions Workshop

The NYU Furman Center's Housing Solutions Lab, Abt Associates, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy are pleased to invite applications to the Housing Solutions Workshop from interested small and midsize cities and counties—those with populations between 50,000 and 500,000.

The lack of affordable, quality housing is a major threat to the quality of life and economic competitiveness of many of the nation's small and midsize cities. To counter these challenges, localities need to act boldly and at scale. Small and midsize cities are often less restricted by bureaucracy and are better able to engage senior staff and elected officials, gain visibility for new strategies, and establish trust and engagement across the community. These benefits position small and midsize cities to effectively develop and implement a local housing strategy. The Housing Solutions Workshop is designed to help localities develop comprehensive and balanced housing strategies to better address affordability and other housing challenges.

A comprehensive and balanced local housing strategy provides a guiding framework for cities, towns, and counties to identify and coordinate the many policy tools and stakeholders that will be required to make substantial progress toward meeting their housing needs. A local housing strategy that (a) clearly identifies a jurisdiction's housing objectives, (b) includes a comprehensive and balanced set of policies for meeting those objectives, and (c) specifies numerical goals for tracking progress is essential to organizing and coordinating the many moving parts of an effective local housing policy response. Since the available policy tools fall within the jurisdiction of multiple local agencies and departments, this work is necessarily an interagency effort.

The Housing Solutions Workshop will include six 90-to-120-minute virtual training sessions and be held from October 3 through October 20, 2022, as well as one individual session for each delegation to collaborate with Workshop facilitators. The six main sessions are expected to be held on Mondays and Thursdays each week from 3 to 5 pm eastern time. There is no cost to localities to participate in the Workshop.

KEY DATES

Proposal submission deadline:

August 26, 2022

Virtual interviews with finalists:

Sept 5 - Sept 9, 2022

Selection notification:

September 9, 2022

Attendance at workshop:

October 3-20, 2022, Mondays
and Thursdays (by Zoom)



Questions?

Contact HSW@abtassoc.com

Housing Solutions Workshop Overview

About the Workshop

Four to five cities or counties with populations between 50,000 and 500,000 will be selected to attend the Workshop (see below for information on joint applications including multiple localities). Each delegation is expected to include five to six members to participate in all of the training sessions. At least four members of the delegation must be senior local government officials.

Sessions will include a combination of group discussions and presentations designed to facilitate sharing among participating jurisdictions and to guide individual delegations in designing or refining local housing strategies. Additionally, to encourage each locality to progress towards a comprehensive and balanced housing strategy, each delegation will participate in one individual session with Housing Solutions Lab facilitators to discuss a topic or topics specific to its housing goals. By the end of the Workshop, participants will have (a) a strong understanding of how to develop or refine a local housing strategy, (b) taken initial steps toward this work, and (c) determined next steps to continue progressing after the Workshop.

The Workshop will combine asynchronous learning, group discussions with peer localities, and working sessions in which each jurisdiction focuses on its specific housing challenges and develops its policy toolkit. Participants will:

- Share local housing challenges and policies with other participating localities and Lab facilitators to obtain feedback
- Participate in small group discussions with peer jurisdictions to exchange ideas for how to optimize policy toolkits
- Identify options for strengthening local housing strategies and improving coordination across departments/agencies
- Learn about ways to use data to assess housing needs and track progress
- Refine ways to engage the community to address housing challenges and advance racial equity

Schedule

Session 1 October 3 Workshop Kickoff	Session 2 October 6 What is a Comprehensive Local Housing Strategy?	Session 3 October 11 Assessing Housing Needs and Objectives
Session 4 October 13 Exploring Housing Policies to Build a Balanced and Comprehensive Approach	Session 5 October 17 Advancing Racial Equity through Community Engagement	Session 6 October 20 Strategy Development and Implementation

Criteria for Localities to Apply

The Workshop is intended and most beneficial for cities or counties that are in the early stages of developing a local housing strategy. Applicants should have a strong commitment to developing a new comprehensive and balanced local housing strategy or refining a strategy that is older, outdated, or narrowly focused.

Localities must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria to be considered for the Housing Solutions Workshop:

1. Be a small or midsize city or county in the United States (population between 50,000-500,000) that has not recently developed a comprehensive local housing strategy. Joint applications—for example, one city and the surrounding county or two adjacent jurisdictions located in one county—may also be submitted if each of the following conditions are met:
 - a) At least one of the localities has a population of at least 50,000,
 - b) The combined population of the localities is no greater than 500,000, and
 - c) The localities can demonstrate previous collaboration on housing policies and a commitment to future collaboration on a local housing strategy.
2. Demonstrate an interest in developing or refining a comprehensive local housing strategy, including evidence of recent steps taken by the city/county or consideration of one or more housing policies.
3. Identify a delegation of five to six participants from local agencies or partner organizations to participate in the training who demonstrate a commitment to work collaboratively towards achieving their housing goals. At least four participants should be senior local government officials. Participants should represent senior leadership with decision-making authority to influence and advance the strategies developed during the training in their communities and organizations.

In addition to the above requirements, delegations will be selected based on the extent to which they:

- Include senior-level officials with decision-making authority from a diverse set of government agencies (and non-governmental partners, if applicable) most responsible for the coordination of housing policies;
- Articulate clearly their city's and/or county's key housing challenges and housing policies it is implementing or considering to address those challenges;
- Commit to attend and actively participate in all of the training sessions and to complete the self-guided components.

Recommended Makeup of City Delegations

Delegations must include five to six senior leaders—generally, heads or deputies—of city/county or partner agencies that are critical actors in the development of a comprehensive, balanced, and coordinated local housing strategy. We expect that delegations will include no less than four local government representatives. Applicants may also choose participants from external partners that are essential to and closely involved in the city's or county's housing strategy. Applicants are encouraged to include among their delegations:

- Both the public housing authority that serves the city/county, and the city/county agency most involved in the production of affordable rental housing (usually the housing department or redevelopment agency). These agencies are strongly encouraged to participate.

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- Other local government agencies such as the planning department, planning or zoning commission, continuum of care, local housing finance agency, local or regional transit authority, or a special purpose agency set up to oversee the implementation of a neighborhood or area plan or tax increment financing (TIF) district.
- Other departments or agencies, nonprofit organizations, or legislative leaders, as long as they are key actors whose collaboration is needed to advance and implement the locality's housing strategy. Nonprofit partners may include organizations that advocate for local housing policies or implement housing programs, developers of affordable housing, and foundations supporting housing and community development efforts.
- The coordinating official in localities with a Chief Housing Officer or in which the Mayor or City Manager's office otherwise plays an active role in coordinating housing policies across agencies. The coordinating official is strongly encouraged to participate.

Each delegation must identify one leader to serve as the primary point of contact for the Workshop (and who will be named in the application form). All participants should be prepared to actively engage in all Workshop sessions and have an enthusiasm for shared learning, problem solving, and networking with colleagues from around the country. The estimated time commitment is 8-10 hours per week.

Submission Process

Cities and counties interested in participating in the Housing Solutions Workshop must submit a complete application using the [online application](#) form by August 26, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please check the Application FAQ page or submit any questions about the process to HSW@abtassoc.com by August 10, 2022. We cannot guarantee a timely response to questions submitted after that date.

Proposed delegations will be notified if they have been selected for interviews by August 31, 2022. Delegations will be notified of their selection to participate by September 9, 2022.

Facilitators and Partners

Housing Solutions Workshop will be led jointly by staff from Abt Associates and the NYU Furman Center's Housing Solutions Lab. Facilitators will include:

- Ingrid Gould Ellen, Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at NYU Wagner and Faculty Director of the NYU Furman Center
- Martha Galvez, Executive Director, Housing Solutions Lab
- Jeffrey Lubell, Director of Housing and Community Initiatives, Abt Associates
- Matt Murphy, Executive Director, NYU Furman Center
- Stephen Whitlow, Senior Associate, Abt Associates
- Mark Willis, Senior Policy Fellow, NYU Furman Center

The Housing Solutions Workshop is made possible through partnership with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. The Lincoln Institute seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A non-profit operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges. More information is available at lincolninst.edu.