

2025 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

HOUSING WORKS:

*BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO
ADVANCE HOUSING SOLUTIONS*



WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Southern Conference on Homelessness and Housing. This year's theme, "Housing Works: Bringing Communities Together to Advance Housing Solutions," highlights the power of housing not only as a basic need but as a foundation for stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities. Housing is more than shelter—it is a catalyst for lasting, positive change.

Across the nation, programs focused on ending homelessness face unprecedented challenges. Federal funding for Homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs) is under debate, and communities risk cuts to essential services—especially in states like Alabama, where nearly 85,000 affordable housing units are needed for extremely low-income families. The stakes are high, but together, we have the power to make a difference.

Throughout the conference, you will hear from leaders, advocates, and innovators who are on the frontlines of making affordable housing a reality. The Southern Conference on Homelessness and Housing is more than a conference—it's a catalyst for change. Through sessions, discussions, and collaborative activities, you'll gain practical tools, bold ideas, and inspiration to strengthen housing solutions in your communities. You'll explore creative strategies, share success stories, and build the bridges needed to ensure every individual and family has a place to call home.

Your participation reflects a collective commitment to addressing homelessness and housing insecurity. Together, we can drive meaningful change that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and fosters a brighter future for all. We hope you leave energized, equipped, and inspired to advance housing solutions in your own work.

Welcome once again, and thank you for being part of this essential work!

With gratitude,

Rusty Bennett
Executive Director
Low Income Housing
Coalition of Alabama



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DAY 1 AGENDA

7:00a-5:00p- Conference Registration

Grand Foyer

1:30-3:30p- Opening Plenary

Emerald DE

3:45-5:00p- Breakout Sessions Round #1

See pgs. 8-9 for options

5:30-7:30p- Opening Reception

Sunset Deck

7:00a-5:00p- Conference Registration

Grand Foyer

7:00-8:00a- Breakfast Buffet

Grand Foyer

In Partnership with Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

8:00-9:30a- Plenary Session

Emerald DE

9:45-11:00a- Breakout Sessions Round #2

See pgs. 12-13 for options

11:15-12:30p- Breakout Sessions Round #3

See pgs. 14-15 for options

12:30-2:00p: Lunch (On Your Own)

2:00-3:15p- Breakout Sessions Round #4

See pgs. 16-17 for options

3:30-4:45p- Breakout Sessions Round #5

See pgs. 18-19 for options

8:00-8:30a- Coffee Service

Grand Foyer

8:00-10:00a- Policy in Action: 'Housing Now' Panel & Interactive Session

Emerald ABC

10:30-12:00p- Closing Plenary Brunch

Emerald DE

DAY 2 AGENDA

DAY 3 AGENDA



2025 SCHH APP INSTRUCTIONS DOWNLOAD!

Follow the steps below:

1. Scan the QR code using your mobile device.

2. Open the app and tap the icon to log in



3. Download the app before you go! Wi-Fi connection on-site can affect the functionality of the app.



Looking to receive Continuing Education Credit?

1. Download the Conference App
2. Be sure to sign in and sign out of each session
3. After the session, use the mobile app to complete the evaluations.
4. CE credits will only be given with a check in/out & completed evaluation.

*Note: If you are licensed and are receiving credits for New York- please reach out to Mary Lolling at Mary@lihca.org.

Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (ACE Provider Approval #1548) is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. Collaborative Solutions, Inc. maintains responsibility for this course(s). ACE Provider Approval Period: 05/16/2024 - 05/16/2027. Social workers participating in this conference will receive up to 10.25 continuing education credits.

DAY 1 AGENDA

Housing Works: Bringing Communities Together
To Advance Housing Solutions

7:00a- 5:00p- Conference Registration

Grand Foyer

1:30- 3:30p- Opening Plenary

Emerald DE

3:45- 5:00p- Breakout Sessions Round #1

See pgs. 8-9 for options

5:30 - 7:30p- Opening Reception: Beachside Luau



Opening Reception 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Sunset Deck

(Rain Backup: Emerald C)

Kick off the conference in style at our luau-themed Opening Reception! Enjoy the beautiful weather, savor delicious appetizers, and connect with fellow attendees in a relaxed, festive atmosphere. This is the perfect opportunity to network, make new connections, and set the tone for an engaging and inspiring conference. Don your tropical attire, and get ready for a warm welcome to the Southern Conference on Homelessness & Housing!



Opening Plenary Session

1:30–3:30 PM

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

The State of Housing: Finding Stability Amid Shifting Ground

Emerald DE

1 CE Credit

Housing in America stands at a pivotal moment. Escalating costs, shifting policies, uncertain funding, and deepening inequities have left many communities facing instability while striving to meet growing needs. This keynote address will explore the current state of housing—what has evolved, what challenges persist, and where opportunities for resilience and innovation exist.

Participants will gain insight into the forces shaping today's housing landscape and discover strategies that promote stability and long-term solutions. This session invites reflection on the urgency of the moment while inspiring a collective vision for a stronger, more equitable housing system.

David Gonzalez Rice, *Senior Vice President of Public Policy,* *National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)*

David Gonzalez Rice is NLIHC's Senior Vice President of Public Policy. In this role, David provides strategic direction for NLIHC's federal advocacy, advancing policies and programs that promote accessible and affordable housing for all, as well as equitable federal disaster response and recovery. David brings extensive experience with federal policymaking, systems improvement, and program delivery across housing and human services sectors.

Prior to joining NLIHC, David served as a policy advisor in the Biden-Harris administration, where he led initiatives to advance equity in housing, homelessness, and child welfare programs. He previously held roles supporting the state of Connecticut's homeless response system. He holds a BA from Rutgers University and a PhD in Political Science from Duke University.



**National Low Income
Housing Coalition**

Breakout Session Round #1

3:45–5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Keys to Wellness: How Affordable Housing Supports Mental Health

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald A

Presenter: Marcella Roberts, M. Roberts & Associates & Ketcia Barlow, Alabama Department of Mental Health

Affordable housing supports mental health by reducing the financial stress and instability that often come with high housing costs or insecure living conditions. When individuals and families can access safe, stable, and affordable homes, they are less likely to experience chronic anxiety about eviction, homelessness, or meeting other basic needs. We will discuss how housing stability fosters a sense of security and belonging, which can lower stress hormones, improve sleep, and enhance emotional well-being. Affordable housing can also often connect residents to supportive services, community networks, and safe environments, all of which promote social connection, resilience, and access to mental health resources. We will show how over time these factors can reduce depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges, leading to healthier, more productive lives. Attendees will participate in case studies, live feedback, and group discussions.

Self Leadership: Centering Self Care and Self Compassion in Chaotic Times

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald DE

Presenter: Kerry Littlewood, PhD, MSW, Collaborative Solutions

This session equips leaders and practitioners to sustain impact without burning out. Drawing on science-based micro-practices and reflective dialogue, this interactive session reframes self-care as an ethical leadership competency. Participants will explore the core domains of self-leadership (self-awareness, self-management, self-care, self-compassion), practice brief tools (self-compassion meditation, “Three Good Things,” “Best Possible Self,” digital detox micro-steps), and engage in an appreciative interview to surface what already works. A writing prompt invites encouragement to a peer—and then to oneself—building a culture of care that is actionable back at work. The session closes with rapid action-planning to test one micro-practice over the next 21 days with simple, trackable indicators and peer accountability.



Breakout Session Round #1

3:45-5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

From Voices to Power: Engaging and Organizing Tenant Leaders in Community Change

Room: Emerald B

Presenters: Nada Hussein, National Low Income Housing Coalition

Tenant leadership is at the heart of advancing housing justice and building stronger, more resilient communities. This 75-minute fireside chat highlights tenant leaders who are organizing in their communities to share their lived experience, strategies, and lessons learned. Panelists will explore what it takes to engage tenants meaningfully, create space for leadership development, and build collective power to influence housing policies and practices. Attendees will gain practical insights and inspiration to strengthen tenant engagement and leadership in their own communities.



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At Tapestry Development Group, we believe housing is more than bricks and mortar—it's the foundation for stronger, more vibrant communities. With deep expertise in affordable housing development, preservation, and consulting, we partner with mission-driven organizations to create lasting impact for families across the Southeast. Together, we can turn vision into reality—one community at a time.

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DAY 2 AGENDA
Housing Works: Bringing Communities Together
To Advance Housing Solutions

7:00a- 5:00p- Conference Registration
Grand Foyer

7:00-8:00a- Breakfast Buffet
Grand Foyer

In Partnership with Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

8:00-9:30a- Plenary Session
Emerald DE

9:45-11:00a- Breakout Sessions Round #2
See pgs. 12-13 for options

11:15-12:30p- Breakout Sessions Round #3
See pgs. 14-15 for options

12:30-2:00p- Lunch (On Your Own)

2:00-3:15p- Breakout Sessions Round #4
See pgs. 16-17 for options

3:30-4:45p- Breakout Sessions Round #5
See pgs. 18-19 for options



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Plenary Session

8:00–9:30 AM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Centering Tenant Protections – Voices and Expertise for Housing Justice

Emerald DE

1 CE Credit

Strong tenant protections are essential for ensuring safe, stable housing and preventing displacement—yet too often, renters face limited rights and uneven enforcement. This panel brings together tenant leaders and housing experts to discuss why tenant protections matter, what gaps remain, and how policy and practice can be strengthened. Attendees will hear directly from those with lived experience alongside advocates and practitioners working on the frontlines, offering both personal insight and policy expertise to guide the path forward.

The discussion will be moderated by Nada Hussein from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Breakout Session Round #2

9:45–11:00 AM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Partnering for Progress: Co-Creating Housing Solutions with Government

Room: Emerald DE

1.25 CE Credit

Moderator: Lori Floyd, The Right Place

Panel: Laurretta Moore, City of Huntsville, LaReisha Higginbottom, City of Birmingham, and Stacy Parris, Ft. Payne Housing Authority

Lasting housing solutions require collaboration between providers and government partners. This session explores strategies for co-creating policies and programs with local, state, and federal agencies. Through real-world examples, participants will learn how to build trust, align goals, and leverage resources to drive equitable housing outcomes.

Breakout Session Round #2

9:45– 11:00 AM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

FY2026 HMIS Data Standards Updates: Data Collection and Privacy Best Practices

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald B

Presenter: Candice Wiseman Hacker, WellSky

This session will provide information about upcoming updates to the HUD Data Standards and their impact on the Continuum of Care (CoC). It will cover key changes related to data collection and reporting for FY2026. There will be updates to both Universal Data Elements and Program Specific Data Elements, which may prompt CoCs to review their HMIS data privacy and security policies. The session will also address HMIS Privacy Notices, as well as permissible data uses and disclosures.

Funding & Gap Financing for Affordable Housing Development: How to Fund Affordable Housing

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald C

Presenters: Marcella Roberts, M. Roberts & Associates & Cindy Prater, Tapestry Development Group

This session will explore the funding tools and resources that make quality, safe, and affordable housing possible—and how these strategies ultimately support community wellness and mental health. Participants will learn about federal, state, and local programs, the role of gap financing, and how to strategically combine funding sources for long-term success. Through case studies, live feedback, and group discussions, attendees will gain practical insights into building affordable housing piece by piece, resource by resource.

Health and Housing Integration: Overcoming Barriers to Stable Housing To Include Mental Health, Substance Abuse

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald A

Presenter: Alton Cobb, PALSS

This session will discuss barriers to stable housing as they relate to health issues, including HIV, and health outcomes. The discussion will also include mental health and substance abuse issues surrounding housing stability.



Breakout Session Round #3

11:15- 12:30 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

CRA Nuts and Bolts - Community Reinvestment Act 101

Room: Emerald A

Presenter: Pamela Harris, CGC, Pamela Harris Consulting

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) encourages banks to support community development initiatives in low- and moderate-income communities. CRA has been an important tool for building partnerships and increasing funding to eligible projects.

During this session, participants will gain an understanding of the history of the Community Reinvestment Act, how practitioners may use CRA to build organizational capacity and develop mutually supportive relationships for their organizations. We will also discuss current issues and expected changes to CRA on the horizon.

From Vision to Village: Reimagining Housing Through Innovation

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald B

Presenter: Kanekia Thomas, PALSS

This session explores cutting-edge affordable housing innovations that are transforming how communities address homelessness and housing insecurity. Through real-world case studies and interactive group activities, participants will examine community-centered design strategies, such as trauma-informed environments and shared spaces that foster belonging. Attendees will engage in a collaborative design sprint to prototype their own housing solutions, drawing on examples of cross-sector collaboration between housing, healthcare, and social services. The session will also highlight sustainable housing solutions, including modular construction and green technologies, and discuss how these models can be scaled through equity and systems change. Participants will leave with actionable tools and a deeper understanding of how to implement innovative practices in their own communities.

PALSS

Breakout Session Round #3

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Maintaining Healthy Housing: How Strengthening Code Enforcement Procedures and Habitability Standards Benefits Renters

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald C

Presenter: Nada Hussein, National Low Income Housing Coalition

For renter households across the country, the ability to reside in safe and stable housing cannot be achieved without first ensuring that a unit is free from safety hazards that impact a renter's health and wellness. Living in housing where there are health and safety risks present, including mold, broken windows or doors, inoperable appliances, and lack of heating and air, can negatively impact tenants' mental and physical health - especially for children and the lowest-income renters nationwide. During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the health and safety risks present in rental housing, the work that state and local lawmakers have taken to address these issues, and how attendees can work to create an action plan to address these issues within their own communities.



Breakout Session Round #4

2:00-3:15 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Building Better Together: Housing Strategies That Work

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald A

Presenter: Nicole Brennan, PALSS

This interactive session engages participants in exploring housing best practices, affordable housing strategies, and the often-overlooked impact of trauma associated with homelessness. Through case studies, breakout discussions, scenario simulations, and empathy-building exercises, attendees will gain practical tools, creative approaches, and a deeper understanding of how safe, stable housing supports healing and community well-being.



Care for the Caring: Trauma-informed Strategies for Self and Those They Serve

Room: Emerald B

1.25 CE Credit

Presenter: Nancy Fitzpatrick, WRITER LLC

Compassion fatigue, apathy, burn-out, and illness can manifest as symptoms of secondary traumatic stress in case managers and other helping professionals who interface with those impacted by trauma. Without selfcare, healthy boundaries, and trauma-informed strategy, case managers can cause harm that can contribute to the cycle of homelessness. Through relevant training on trauma-informed care, lively engagement, visual aid, and interactive quiz games led by a developmental trauma survivor with lived experience and over 20 years of professional experience in working with and for disadvantaged populations, participants gain awareness, insight, and transformative tools that can create positive impact and foster environments conducive to self-actualization for themselves and their clients and families.

Breakout Session Round #4

2:00–3:15 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Mi Casa Es Su Casa: How Grassroots Organizations Can Support Affordable Housing

Room: Emerald C

1.25 CE Credit

Presenter: Carlos Torres, HICA

One of the most crucial indicators for positive socio-economic and health outcomes is housing. In this session, participants will hear about the journey that the Hispanic and Immigrant Center of Alabama (HICA) has navigated to support fair housing options for its constituents. When community advocates and social justice practitioners support participants, it is crucial to develop community economic development initiatives that focus on housing to improve their quality of life.



Atlanta Fed Updates and Listens: Affordable and Available Rental Housing

Room: Emerald DE

Presenter: Sarah Stein & Grace Johnsen, Federal Reserve of Atlanta

In this session members of the Atlanta Fed's Community Economic Development team will present and explore the utility of recent research into the availability of affordable units across the Southeast. We will observe moments of “mismatch” where lower income households occupy higher-cost homes and higher income households occupy lower-cost, each experiencing some version of housing cost burden or housing cost relief. Attendees will be invited to reflect on how this or other research could inform and shape their work. This presentation follows a [recent Partners' Update](#) publication of these data, and our recently updated [Southeastern Rental Affordability Tracker](#) tool.



Breakout Session Round #5

3:30-4:45 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

How the City of Birmingham is implementing an innovative housing opportunity for those experiencing homelessness.

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald A

Presenter: LaReisha Higginbottom, City of Birmingham

This interactive session combines storytelling, real-time data visualization, and audience-driven discussion to explore innovative approaches to housing and homelessness. Participants will engage with multimedia content highlighting Birmingham's Home For All initiative, join live polls and word cloud activities to surface perceptions about homelessness, and take part in breakout discussions and facilitated Q&A sessions. A case study simulation will allow small groups to navigate real-world scenarios involving housing access, mental health care, and service coordination, culminating in a collaborative activity to identify scalable solutions for their own communities.

Keys to Accessibility: Disability Protections in Fair Housing

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald B

Presenters: Ashley Richardson, Mississippi Center for Justice

Attendees will learn about Reasonable Accommodations and Reasonable Modifications under the Fair Housing Act. What can landlords request as documentation? Is it on the renter or housing provider to pay for those changes? What is the FHA? Attendees will leave the session knowing when disabled tenants have the right to request a reasonable accommodation or modification, which can promote housing stability. The presenter will engage with attendees about real case scenarios regarding when tenants should request changes under the FHA.

Breakout Session Round #5

3:30-4:45 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Leadership Listening Session

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald C

Presenters: Rusty Bennett, PhD, MSW & Kerry Littlewood, PhD, MSW, Collaborative Solutions

It's been quite a year for leaders who have had to twist, turn and contort to align with policies and practices at a more rapid rate than ever before. This session will provide a safe, collaborative space for leaders in the field to discuss current concerns, challenges and opportunities related to their work in housing. We will discuss---- What do leaders in the field need to feel supported during this current climate? What tricks and tips have helped leaders remain resilient? How do we equip ourselves for what the future brings? How do we take care of ourselves during these challenging times?



More Than Shelter: How The Right Place Supports Clients Through Services, Education, and Partnerships

1.25 CE Credit

Room: Emerald DE

Presenter: Lori Floyd, The Right Place

This session explores how The Right Place goes beyond shelter to support clients through individualized case management, education, and community partnerships. Participants will learn about the challenges and successes of serving people experiencing homelessness in rural areas and gain practical examples of how partnerships and tailored support can help clients achieve housing, health, and stability.

LIHCA Awards

Each year, the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama seeks to uplift and honor individuals or teams who have demonstrated excellence in service to end homelessness and/or seek to close the affordable housing gap.

LIHCA Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing

This award is designed to spotlight outstanding affordable housing developments, programs, champions, and initiatives that have impacted the lives of our community's most vulnerable populations.

LIHCA Award for Excellence:

Mary Ellen Judah, *Neighborhood Concepts, Inc.*

In recognition of her visionary leadership and enduring impact on housing access in Alabama.



White Wolf Award

Named in memory of Junior Dunham, a tireless advocate and former Executive Director of the Lighthouse Counseling Center, this award honors individuals who exemplify deep commitment and excellence in the fight to end homelessness.



White Wolf Award:

Mayor Randall Woodfin & the City of Birmingham, AL

In recognition of their transformative leadership, especially through the Home For All Microshelter Pilot Program, which is setting a national example for compassionate, strategic housing solutions.



DAY 3 AGENDA

Housing Works: Bringing Communities
Together To Advance Housing Solutions

8:00- 8:30a - Coffee Service
Grand Foyer

**8:00- 10:00a- Session 6- Policy in Action: ‘Housing
Now’ Panel & Policy Discussion**
Emerald ABC

10:30-12:00p- Closing Plenary Brunch
Emerald DE

Session #6 - Policy in Action

Panel & Policy Discussion

8:00-10:00 AM

1.0 CE Credit

Friday, October 10, 2025

Brewing Bold Voices: An Interactive Policy Discussion

Emerald ABC

Advocacy helps you translate expertise into influence, ensuring that your efforts resonate beyond internal circles and connect with broader systems of change. Brewing Bold Voices is a dynamic, interactive session that blends skill-building with real-time policy engagement. Together, participants will explore strategies for crafting clear, persuasive advocacy messages designed to resonate with policymakers, funders, media, and community stakeholders.

Brewing Bold Voices is structured to be hands-on and collaborative, giving attendees the opportunity to workshop their ideas and leave with a polished advocacy message they can put into action immediately. By cultivating advocacy skills, professionals learn how to elevate the voices of those most affected, build coalitions of support, and position their work within the larger policy, cultural, and economic landscape. Advocacy empowers you to not only defend the integrity of your field, but to proactively shape the conditions under which your work succeeds.



Lamar Richards, *The Coalition*

Housing Now- Navigating a Changing Landscape - Panel Discussion

This plenary brings together voices from across the housing field—affordable housing development, homeless Continuums of Care, public housing authorities, and community development—to explore what “housing looks like now” in the midst of shifting priorities, funding uncertainty, and increasing community need. Panelists will share perspectives on today’s challenges, innovative responses, and what it will take to sustain and expand housing opportunities in this moment of change.

Lauretta Moore, City of Huntsville, LIHCA Board Member - Moderator

Lauretta P. Moore is a civil servant dedicated to sustainable housing and community development, with a career spanning youth development, public relations, and urban planning. Since 2019, she has served as Planner II for the City of Huntsville’s Department of Community Development, where she manages HUD programs, coordinates the Emergency Solutions Grant, and serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care. A HUD-Certified Housing Counselor and board member of the Low-Income Housing Coalition of Alabama, she combines professional expertise with deep faith, family values, and her lifelong commitment to service as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Marcella Roberts, M. Roberts & Associates - Panelist

Marcella Roberts is an attorney with a passion for affordable housing, community revitalization, and government relations. She has over 30 years of experience in corporate sales, banking, legal, and affordable housing development. Marcella also forms strategic partnerships to develop affordable housing for working-class families in under-invested communities, using low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), HOME, and other funding sources throughout the Southeast.

Kennard Randolph, President & CEO of the Selma Housing Authority - Panelist

Kennard Randolph is a seasoned public service leader with experience in federal and local government, including his role as Congressional Black Belt Outreach Manager for Alabama’s 7th District. A proud Selma native, he has secured vital resources from federal agencies to improve housing, infrastructure, and quality of life, while also serving on multiple community boards and earning recognition as one of Selma’s top 20 under 40 leaders.



Kelli Hernandez, Executive Director of Homelessness & Housing Alliance - Panelist

Kelli Hernandez is the Executive Director of the Homelessness & Housing Alliance, an Oxford-certified leader with 15 years of nonprofit experience in domestic violence services and homelessness, specializing in trauma-informed and community-driven solutions. She holds a master’s in public administration, previously served as Development Director at one of the nation’s largest domestic violence shelters, and is a proud military spouse, mother of three, and active community volunteer.

Closing Plenary Brunch

10:30-12:00 PM

1.0 CE Credit
Friday, October 10, 2025

From Coalition to Change: Sparking Innovation, Driving Impact Emerald DE

Policy and social change don't happen in silos. This session brings together policy and program experts to highlight the importance of working in coalition, building collective power, and amplifying a shared voice to drive meaningful change. Panelists will explore strategies for aligning advocacy efforts, strengthening partnerships, and leveraging collective influence to move the needle on housing and homelessness efforts. Participants will walk away with insights and inspiration on how collaboration can accelerate progress toward just and lasting solutions.

Cindy Prater, Tapestry Development Group, LIHCA Board Member - Moderator

With over 20 years of experience in affordable housing, Cindy is passionate about providing low-income families with quality housing and has developed projects across the Southeast using programs like LIHTC and HOME. In her role at Tapestry Development Group, she manages all aspects of development and funding, maintains strong relationships with housing partners, and actively supports women in the industry through leadership roles in the Alabama Women's Affordable Housing Network and the Low-Income Housing Coalition of Alabama.



Carlos Torres, Policy Director, ¡HICA! - Panelist

Carlos Javier Torres is the Policy Director at ¡HICA!, where he advances systems change and advocates for policies that empower immigrant communities. A native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, he holds advanced degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and Vanderbilt University and has served in key roles with the U.S. Census Bureau, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, and the Jefferson County Department of Health.

Ashley Richardson, Mississippi Center for Justice - Panelist

Ashley Richardson is a native of Laurel, MS. She is a 2014 graduate of Rust College where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She also attended the University of Mississippi where she received her Master of Criminal Justice in 2016 and her Juris Doctor in 2021. Ashley served as a judicial law clerk in the Fourth Circuit Court District in the Mississippi Delta for Judge Carol White-Richard. After clerking, Ashley joined the Mississippi Center for Justice in May 2022 and currently serves as the Director of Housing Law Campaign.



Maya Brennan, The Coalition - Panelist

Maya Brennan is the Chief Housing Officer for The Coalition, where she collaborates with organizational members, working groups, and public officials to advance housing policies that promote affordability, wellbeing, and economic mobility. With over two decades of experience in direct service, policy research, and government, she brings expertise in housing strategy, eviction prevention, and the broader societal impact of housing policies, and she actively serves on several community and professional leadership committees.



Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The community development (CD) function within the Federal Reserve System promotes economic growth and financial stability for lower-income communities and individuals through a range of activities, including convening stakeholders, conducting and sharing research, and identifying emerging issues.

*Get to know
Community
Development
at the
Atlanta Fed*



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INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Woodforest is committed to promoting economic and financial inclusion through community development lending and investment, revitalization and neighborhood stabilization, financial capability programs, and employee leadership involvement on community boards and committees. Since 2015, Woodforest has:

- Invested millions in qualified community reinvestment opportunities and community development lending.
- Volunteered thousands of hours in financial education to help people along their journey.



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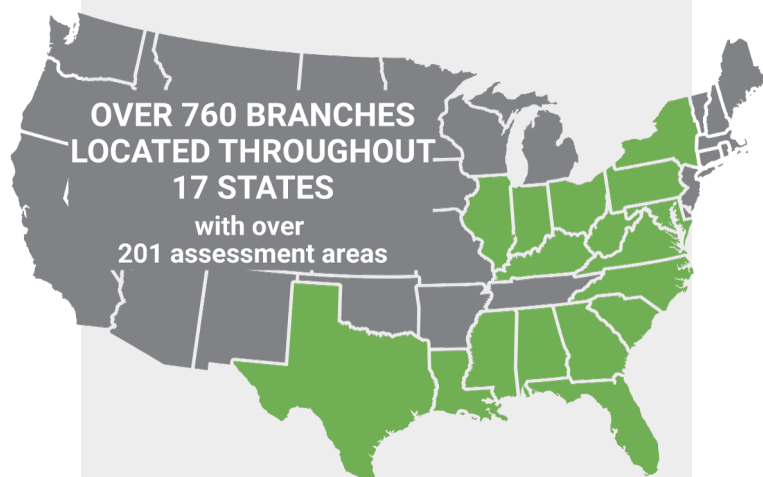
Over \$5 Billion in Loans



Over 4,300 Employees



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Hilton Sandestin Beach Maps

Hilton Sandestin Area Map & Tram Routes

We are proud to offer complimentary tram service to nearby Baytowne Wharf, where guests can enjoy shopping, water activities, restaurants and more. Simply present your resort card at one of the many stops around property, and you'll be on your way to your next adventure.

Tram Details

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa is the southernmost point on the map below. The tram picks up passengers at the Serenity by the sea Spa entrance.

The Sandestin Tram offers three routes: Village (yellow), Bayside (blue) and Beach (red). Trams run two continuous loops, with 30-minute service to each stop between 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M.*



Get The App

Download the free **Explore Sandestin app** for real-time information about tram locations, detailed information about tram routes and other helpful destination resources.

LIHCA Membership

As a Southern Conference on Homelessness & Housing participant, your LIHCA membership is included and automatically renewed. By joining, you become part of a united voice working to end homelessness and housing instability across Alabama, with access to policy updates, resources, publications, and our statewide network. If you are not from Alabama, you'll be recognized as a Friend of LIHCA with similar benefits, though voting rights are reserved for Alabama members.

Questions about your membership? Email mary@lihca.org



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