



# ALABAMA TENANT LEADERS COHORT FAQ

## The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA) is happy to launch the application process for Alabama's first-ever Tenant Leaders Cohort!

In partnership with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, LIHCA offers a space designed to empower and strengthen the advocacy and leadership skills of low to moderate income tenants with lived experiences with homelessness, housing insecurity, and/or job insecurity to obtain tools, training, and resources that will assist them in conveying their perspectives and achieving their policy and advocacy goals. The tenant leader cohort will build the capacity of residents to mobilize and organize their efforts and defend their rights and neighborhoods.

### General Information

#### ***What is a tenant cohort?***

The tenant leaders cohort is a network of tenants across Alabama who will work closely with the LIHCA to amplify their lived experience, highlight key concerns, and drive advocacy. Through this initiative, tenants will organize to protect and strengthen the housing rights of low-income individuals and families. The cohort will work to advance tenant protections, focusing on issues such as arbitrary evictions, rent increases, and housing discrimination, to empower renters and promote housing stability statewide.

#### ***What are the goals of the tenant protection cohort?***

The goals include:

- Build a tenant-led organization grounded in lived experience
- Identify existing tenant protections and uncover critical gaps
- Prioritize key areas where tenant protections need to be strengthened
- Expand advocacy efforts and engage directly with lawmakers
- Develop at least one legislative proposal to advance tenant rights





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## ***How does the tenant cohort system work?***

Tenant leaders will take part in monthly working group meetings led by LIHCA staff. These sessions will provide space for participants to share their personal experiences with housing challenges and discrimination, while actively exploring solutions to issues like arbitrary evictions, sudden rent hikes, and housing bias. In addition, tenant leaders will receive training in advocacy fundamentals, leadership development, budgeting and legislative processes, and effective organizing strategies.

## ***What activities and engagements will members participate in?***

- Attend monthly working group meetings
- Take part in advocacy and leadership training
- Join workshops focused on pressing community issues
- Contribute ideas and policy recommendations that reflect residents' lived experiences
- Help develop a legislative proposal to strengthen tenant protections

## ***What will I gain from participating in the cohort?***

- A custom curriculum designed by LIHCA staff and expert partners to strengthen and support your advocacy efforts
- Deeper understanding of budget priorities and the legislative process
- Skills and tools to defend tenant rights and protect vital housing resources
- Opportunities to collaborate with local organizations on solutions to housing inequality in your community

## ***How do I apply to join the Tenant Cohort?***

To be considered for a tenant leader position, simply complete the application form at the link provided. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2025. After the deadline, LIHCA staff will select and reach out to applicants to officially welcome them into the cohort.

## ***How many people will be selected to participate in the Cohort?***

LIHCA will recruit and select 10 tenant leaders to join the inaugural cohort.

## ***Who can apply?***

Tenants from all across Alabama are encouraged to apply for this advocacy initiative. Multiple tenant leaders from the same community/area are welcome to apply and can be selected to participate in the cohort.





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## ***What is the timeline for the tenant cohort?***

The cohort will run from July through November 2025.

Duration: 6 months

Month 1 (July)

Month 2 (Aug)

Month 3 (Sept)

Month 4 (Oct)

Month 5 (Nov)

Month 6 (Dec)

## ***Will participants be compensated for their time?***

Yes. LIHCA values the time, effort, and dedication of cohort members. Each participant will receive \$250 per month for the six-month duration of the cohort, plus a \$300 end of service bonus upon completion.

## ***Will I receive one-on-one support during the cohort?***

Yes. As a cohort member, you'll have access to LIHCA staff for individualized technical assistance throughout the program.

## ***What kind of support will be provided?***

LIHCA staff will work closely with you to offer personalized guidance that helps strengthen your advocacy, leadership skills, and organizing efforts. Support may include coaching, resource sharing, strategy development, and help navigating housing-related challenges in your community.

## ***How often can I connect with staff for support?***

You'll be able to connect with staff on an ongoing basis throughout the cohort. The frequency and type of support can be tailored to your needs and goals.

## ***What is the purpose of the technical assistance?***

The goal is to build your capacity as a tenant leader—so you can confidently lead efforts in your community to address housing violations, discrimination, and push for stronger tenant protections.

