



Elevating What Works Committee Updates

Strategists Spotlight

Oct. 2024

The Elevating What Works portfolio has supported **36 grants**, totaling **\$7.63 million** since 2017, plus an additional **\$2.94 million in COVID-19 response**.

This fiscal year, the Elevating What Works committee approved the FY25 grant plan, and we have made two national climate and housing justice grants: [Climate and Community Institute](#) (\$200,000/two years) and [Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#) (\$150,000/two years). Both projects support field-driven solutions and deepen cross-issue relationships to leverage federal climate change funding resources, green social housing, and a tenant climate agenda.

FHO also awarded four grants, each \$80,000/18 months, to members of local homelessness response systems to participate in a Community of Practice (CoP). This CoP will build organizational capacity to engage people with lived experience in decision-making positions as they redesign an aspect of their homelessness response system together. The first full group meeting was in September, and the CoP facilitators will join our January 2025 EWW Committee Meeting to talk about what they are learning. All interested FHO members are invited!

Grantee Partner Success! [Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center](#) (LFHAC) hired a new executive director this year after the long-time executive director moved. LFHAC leads several local and state collaboratives. They completed a [data mapping and analysis](#) of segregation in use of Project-Based Section 8 and Housing Choice Voucher subsidies in New Orleans. LFHAC also advocated for and won a New Orleans-wide [Healthy Home Program \(HHP\)](#), which has recently launched and is already remediating substandard housing conditions that create health and safety hazards. The HHP prioritizes inspecting properties of households that call LFHAC’s hotline.



194 non-housing organization partners are mobilized around housing justice efforts.



20 local cross-sector partnerships demonstrate improved alignment and systems change.



The majority of EWW grantee partners have piloted BIPOC-led, community-driven solutions to reduce disparities.



Current Grantee Partners

- [All Chicago Making Homelessness History](#) (\$80,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2026) - All Chicago is the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead for Chicago, Illinois participating in the Homelessness Response Systems Community of Practice. The cohort is made up of CoC and nonprofit staff and people experiencing homelessness.
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) and [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (\$350,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2025) - CBPP and NAEH’s partnership aims to unify the affordable housing and homelessness sectors to ensure that the goal of housing justice is at the center of each aspect of the work.
- [Climate and Community Institute](#) (\$200,000 over two years, ending 7/2026) - CCI is providing research on the intersections of climate and housing justice to national, local and state-based tenant-lead grassroots organizations. CCI’s research will help partners create a coordinated tenants climate agenda.



- [Community Justice Project](#) and [Miami Workers Center](#) (**\$250,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2025**) - CJP and MWC lead the Florida Eviction Prevention Collaborative, a coalition of partners working to improve conditions for renters in Miami-Dade County and across Florida by ensuring people issued eviction notices know about and are afforded their right to counsel.
- [Homelessness Action Network Detroit](#) (**\$80,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2026**) - HAND is the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead for Detroit, Michigan participating in the Homelessness Response Systems Community of Practice. The cohort is made up of CoC and nonprofit staff and people experiencing homelessness.
- [KC Tenants](#) (**\$330,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2025**) - KCT is a citywide tenant union, led by multigenerational, multiracial, poor and working-class tenants in Kansas City, Missouri. KCT runs a tenants' rights hotline and organizes tenants for collective bargaining to stop building-wide evictions.
- [The Neighborhood Developers](#) and partners (**\$250,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2025**) - TND leads the Chelsea Anti-Displacement Roundtable which aims to stabilize housing by expanding access to rental assistance and affordable housing preservation and production and by increasing tenants' participation in local decision-making.
- [Piedmont Housing Alliance](#) and partners (**\$250,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2025**) - PHA is working to expand the new Financial Opportunity Center and Housing Hub to address generational racial inequity by offering financial stability, housing navigation, rental assistance, eviction prevention, and tenant-landlord mediation services.
- [Reimagine Omaha](#) (**\$172,365 over two years, ending 3/2026**) - Reimagine is the fiscal sponsor for the team of consultants facilitating and overseeing the Homelessness Response Systems Community of Practice.
- [Northwest Pilot Project](#) (**\$80,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2026**) - NWPP is the fiscal sponsor for the Portland, Oregon Continuum of Care (CoC) partners participating in the Homelessness Response Systems Community of Practice. The cohort is made up of CoC and nonprofit staff and people experiencing homelessness.
- [Uplift Alliance, Inc.](#) (**\$80,000 over 18 months, ending 3/2026**) - Uplift Alliance is the fiscal sponsor for the Baltimore, Maryland Continuum of Care (CoC) partners participating in the Homelessness Response Systems Community of Practice. The cohort is made up of CoC and nonprofit staff and people experiencing homelessness.
- [Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#) (**\$150,000 over two years, ending 7/2026**) - USND is partnering with Climate Mayors and C40 to launch a multi-city project to expand the engagement of community members to determine policy solutions and access public funding to implement them.
- [Welcome Home Coalition](#) (**\$250,000 over one year, ending 8/2025**) - WHC advocates for housing resources and engages people with lived experience of housing insecurity to participate in housing stability oversight committees across the tri-county area.

Grant Renewals in Process

- [Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center](#) (under consideration: **\$250,000 over 18 months, ending 4/2026**) - LaFHAC works to halt evictions and foreclosures, help place unhoused people in hotels, expand eviction/foreclosure counseling capacity, create tools for tenants to negotiate with landlords, and represent undocumented tenants.

Resources and Updates from Grantee Partners

- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** released a report entitled [Taxing Very High-Value Home Sales Is an Equitable and Effective Strategy to Raise Revenue and Fund Affordable Housing](#).
- **Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center** released a report entitled ["The Mobility Myth: Housing Choice Voucher Discrimination in Orleans Parish"](#).
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition's** State and Local Innovation project released a set of [toolkits](#) highlighting key tenant protections.
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition** announced it will conduct a [National Renters' Survey](#) over the next two years to gather new, actionable data to inform advocacy on federal policies that affect renters.

In the Media

- KC Tenants — *Fox 4* — [KCMO, KC Tenants launch nation's strongest tenant discrimination ban](#)
- Miami Workers Center — *WLRN South Florida* — [No money in Broward budget for tenant right to counsel program, despite activists pleas](#)
- Welcome Home Coalition — *NBC News* — [Homeless camping ban passed in Portland](#)





Narrative Change Committee Updates

Strategists Spotlight

Oct. 2024

The Narrative Change portfolio has **three active grants totaling \$725,000** and a **\$300,000 pending renewal** to Housing Narrative Lab. FHO has granted **\$3.9 million** to housing narrative change efforts since 2018.

Strategy Success! Historic levels of coordination across the field in response to *Johnson v. Grants Pass* shifted public and media dialogue toward more compassionate and informed perspectives on homelessness, in which all FHO Narrative Change grantee partners were a part of. While we'll continue to see how narrative efforts are impacting narrative shifts for the long term, research is already showing a significant impact:

- [Housing Narrative Lab](#) measured a 15% increase between 2021 and 2024 in public understanding of economic factors as the primary cause of homelessness.
- Through recent polling, [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) saw that respondents increasingly identify the lack of affordable housing as a driver of homelessness, rather than addiction or mental illness.
- [National Homelessness Law Center](#) identified a shift in how the media framed *Johnson v. Grants Pass*-related stories, focusing on root causes vs. "clearing encampments."

Now in the third phase of their narrative change work supported by FHO, [Race Forward](#) and [PolicyLink](#) are leaning into their constituencies and supporting organizers, advocates, artists, cultural institutions, and government practitioners to integrate narrative as a key lever of achieving housing justice. For example, PolicyLink's [Spatial Futures Initiative](#) aims to catalyze reparative justice in land and housing.

An expert in adapting to how audiences consume media, [Invisible People](#) continues to reach millions across multiple platforms each year including TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and more. For instance, Invisible People's documentary on how Finland solved homelessness has been viewed over 2.3 million times.

In October, FHO presented during a showcase session at the Communications Network's Annual Conference to define narrative change in the context of housing justice and highlight how FHO grantee partners are building narrative infrastructure and putting theory into practice.



7 strategic media outlets are consistently covering the issue in ways that align with new housing justice frameworks.

Goal: 20

35%

10 new campaigns are using housing narrative messaging and strategy to shape policy wins and housing solutions that improve conditions for FHO's focus population.

Goal: 10

100%

The majority of NC grantee partners are developing the leadership of people with lived experience of housing instability to advance policy solutions.

Goal: Majority of Grantees

100%

Current Grantee Partners

- [Invisible People](#) (**\$375,000 over three years, ending 4/2025**) - Through storytelling, education, news, and activism, Invisible People works to change the narrative on homelessness and its solutions, reaching hundreds of millions of viewers each year.
- [PolicyLink](#) (**\$175,000 over 18 months, ending 11/2025**) - PolicyLink works to advance cultural and narrative shifts on housing as a basic need and human right, social housing, and reparative spatial justice while supporting and strengthening the movement for housing justice.
- [Race Forward](#) (**\$175,000 over 18 months, ending 11/2025**) - Using research-backed narrative strategies, Race Forward leverages relationships with BIPOC-led organizations and public agencies as well as art, media and cultural strategies to mainstream an honest and impactful story about housing and race.

Grant Renewals in Process

- [Housing Narrative Lab](#) (under consideration: **\$300,000 over two years, ending 12/2026**) - The Lab builds narrative power through training of grassroots communicators and journalists, development of content and tools for grassroots groups, and strategy alignment of national advocacy groups and local organizations to achieve narrative change.

Resources and Updates from Grantee Partners

- [Housing Narrative Lab](#) and [National Homelessness Law Center](#) updated message guidance based on 2024 national narrative research about homelessness: [Advancing Narratives for Housing and Care in a Reactionary Landscape](#).
- As a follow-up to its documentary on how Finland solved homelessness, [Invisible People](#) released a [new video](#) highlighting how U.S. communities like Hennepin County are solving homelessness. Invisible People also recently launched [a podcast](#) featuring a range of guests including advocates, policymakers, and homeless individuals themselves.
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) published [Emerging Strategies to Combat State-level Punitive Bills](#).
- [Race Forward](#) released a series of briefs: [Root Causes of Housing and Land Injustice](#).
- [PolicyLink](#) launched a dedicated site for its [Spatial Futures Initiative](#).

In the Media

- Invisible People — [Power Station Podcast with Ann Pasmanick: Invisible People](#)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness — *Marketplace* — [California governor pushes for homeless crackdown in wake of Supreme Court decision](#)
- National Homelessness Law Center — *Reuters* — [US Supreme Court ruling will worsen homelessness crisis, groups warn](#)
- PolicyLink — *New York Times* — [Four Decades to Build 70,000 Affordable Homes? Count That as a Success.](#)



Policy, Advocacy, and Organizing Committee Updates

Strategists Spotlight

Oct. 2024

The Policy, Advocacy, and Organizing portfolio has supported **28 grants**, totaling **\$10.25 million** since 2017.

Over the past six months, the Policy, Advocacy and Organizing committee approved the FY25 grant plan. The three grants to statewide organizing networks were renewed, two for \$200,000 (two years) and one for \$100,000 (one year). Social Good Fund received a grant for the Bridge to Power project (\$277,000/six months) to support planning for Resident Organizing Networks and their partners who were formerly supported by Community Change. The National Low Income Housing Coalition received a grant (\$140,000/three years) to maintain the Housing Trust Fund website and tools that Community Change previously managed.



501(c)(3) Election-Related Activities

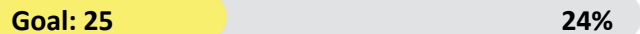
Staff sent a survey to all FHO grantee partners about activities and issue areas they are working on related to local, state, and federal elections. We offered FHO members an opportunity to send the survey to their grantee partners, and the Hilton Foundation sent it to a subset of their grantees. Grantee partners are working on issue advocacy, community engagement, and policy research and analysis. The top three issue areas grantee partners are working on are increasing funding for housing, tenant protections, and criminalization of homelessness. Fair Housing is the other issue that had a handful of responses. Many respondents indicated that they have a desire to connect with others working on housing justice policy issues, and FHO will support this by hosting one or two virtual events to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing after the election.

Several grantee partners are already working together in preparation for the Presidential Transition. Alliance for Housing Justice, the National Coalition for Housing Justice, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and other national partners are collaborating on responses and advocacy toolkits about policy opportunities announced by the Biden-Harris Administration this summer that they feel should continue, ranging from a potential national rent cap and resources to update land use and zoning codes to remove barriers to affordable housing development.

68 new local, state, and federal policies enacted or introduced to support renters and prevent homelessness.



8 local, state, and federal policies implemented to support renters and prevent homelessness that led to systems-level change.



\$564.1 million in new, multi-year revenue secured for investments in affordable housing and tenant supports.



The majority of PAO grantees demonstrated that their policy, advocacy and organizing efforts build power for FHO's focus population.



Current Grantee Partners

- [Alliance for Housing Justice](#) (\$425,000 over 18 months ending 3/2025) - AHJ builds an infrastructure to support a national housing justice movement that centers the voices of those most deeply impacted by the affordable housing crisis.
- [Housing Justice for All](#) (\$200,000 over two years, ending 6/2026) - HJ4A is a coalition of community organizations creating shared advocacy priorities and a policy agenda to win local and statewide tenant protections.
- [Keep Illinois Home](#) (\$200,000 over two years, ending 6/2026) - KIH is a statewide coalition of grassroots, community-based organizations, unions, and allies building tenant power to lift the statewide ban on rental control.
- [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) (\$140,000 over 2.5 years, ending 12/2027) - NLIHC is rebuilding and agreed to maintain the Housing Trust Fund website and tools that Community Change previously managed.
- [Nevada Housing Justice Alliance](#) (\$100,000 over one year, ending 8/2025) - NHJA is a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations empowering Nevada tenants to develop solutions, organize policy campaigns, and advocate for community investments that solve the root causes of housing insecurity.
- [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) (\$750,000 over 18 months, ending 2/2025) - OSAH is a national campaign to raise the public will and awareness, and to advance federal housing solutions. OSAH leads a roundtable of 133 organizations, including 114 cross-issue organizations.
- [Social Good Fund](#) (\$277,000 over six months, ending 3/2025, plus and additional \$148,000 in pass-through is committed from an FHO member that transferred a grant originally with Community Change to FHO to administer) - Social Good Fund is the fiscal sponsor for Bridge to Power, a collaboration of staff and organizations previously supported by Community Change. These funds support a period of planning to determine next steps for the work.

Resources and Updates from Grantee Partners

- Alliance for Housing Justice issued a [statement on the White House's Historic Pledge on Rent Caps](#).
- Housing Justice for All shared about [Senator John Fetterman's \(D-PA\) Tenants' Right to Organize Act](#), which numerous FHO grantee partners and more have endorsed.

In the Media

- Alliance for Housing Justice — *Raw Story* — [Harris to target predatory Wall Street landlords with 4-year housing plan](#)
- Housing Justice for All — *Spectrum News 1* — [Good cause eviction continues to pass in upstate communities](#)
- Nevada Housing Justice Alliance — *KNPR* — [It's getting more expensive to live in Nevada. Can the folks on the November Ballot help?](#)