

Accelerating Homeownership Through Advocacy

Louisiana Housing Corporation
Legislative Advocacy: State Advocacy

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The Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank

The Louisiana Housing Corporation is proud of the new partnerships and newly minted opportunities created in the last twelve months. The [Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank](#) is another example and proud product of partnerships that are building and growing our communities. The Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank took a routine desk assignment and successfully transitioned it to a statewide movement convening local, state and national stakeholders. The Think Tank, originally started as a response to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia Fudge's challenge to increase homeownership among the black, brown and underserved communities. The Think Tank has expanded to include many internal and external partners. The movement has involved soliciting various partners' interest, buy-in and input to identify the current needs and barriers to increasing affordable homeownership for the citizens of Louisiana, especially in minority communities. Private and public partners have displayed an increased level of synergy and commitment to work collaboratively to identify change in both the legislative and executive branch of government to effectively grow statewide homeownership.

From a Faithful Few to a Full Table

The first Think Tank Planning Committee meeting was held in May 2022. The committee was composed of representatives of the HUD New Orleans Field Office, HUD Denver Single Family Homeownership Center Single Family, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Treasury Office of the Comptroller of Currency (OCC), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the State Office of Community Development, Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC), the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Family Resource of New Orleans and Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative. The planning committee convened with the intention to bring a larger group to the table to ensure all voices were present and all issues could be considered. On June 23, 2022, the USHUD New Orleans Field Office and Planning Committee convened a roundtable to gauge interest in the revitalization of the Think Tank. As part of this roundtable, LHC accepted Secretary Fudge's call to action and agreed to make LHC the lead agency for the Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank. Over one hundred attendees participated and agreed to join the Think Tank and accept that call. The Think Tank Planning Committee approached LHC Executive Director Joshua Hollins regarding the important need of transforming a portion of Louisiana's rental population into homeowners to eradicate poverty, while building personal and generational wealth, which is a shared mission of LHC and the parties of the Think Tank. The Think Tank planning team, now composed of local and statewide, public and private partners, set out to grow the group and expand its efforts to include policy and programs reviews.

From a Spark to a Flame

On August 4, 2022, the Think Tank convened and bestowed the torch to LHC. The LHC presented and discussed the power of collaboration, using a theme of innovative work streams and partnerships as next steps to move the Think Tank forward. From this meeting the individual work streams were born to review barriers to homeownership and provide policy points for advocacy. These workflow groups include: homeowners; flood insurance; navigating local, state, and federal level housing campaigns; housing preservation in urban, rural and tribal communities; scalable housing models breaking barriers; Identifying affordable housing tools and removing restrictive zoning and cost challenges; exploring housing counseling; and affordable housing funding resources: traditional and non-traditional.

The Think Tank has served as a vehicle to galvanize local, state and national partners. These partners include Government Supported Enterprises, the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Development, affordable housing developers, government and non-government partners and other stakeholders. The work is collaborative in developing strategic plans and a statewide awareness to increase the production of affordable housing.

Individual members of the Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank all possess unique resources to help homebuyers and increase homeownership across Louisiana. The Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank has been effective in galvanizing resources, but most importantly breaking down silos between organizations, understanding gaps and fueling necessary policy recommendations and programmatic changes that empower its members collectively. In the last twelve months LHC has quarterly convened the Homeownership Think Tank to accomplish these goals:

- On November 16, 2022, kicked off its first meeting under LHC, a hybrid meeting, of nearly 130 people. There, issues specific to housing in Louisiana were presented including but not limited to: the Build Back Better Framework, the impact of insurance on current and future homeownership, turning Renters into buyers, the SEE CHANGE Collective, increasing funding for certified housing counseling agencies, racial equity opportunity and affordable lending and grants.
- The January 31, 2023, meeting focused on six affordable housing work streams. Updates included disaster recovery programs, legislative updates on insurance proposals, a presentation by the HUD Homeownership Center and a highlight of the City of Monroe's successful project development in homeownership.
- On April 3, 2023, the Think Tank convening was held in Shreveport, La. This was the first Think Tank meeting held outside of Baton Rouge. This was an effort to show the commitment to be inclusive of partners in every region of the state. Over one hundred participants engaged in concerted conversations related to specific regional homeownership challenges in Northwest Louisiana and across the state.

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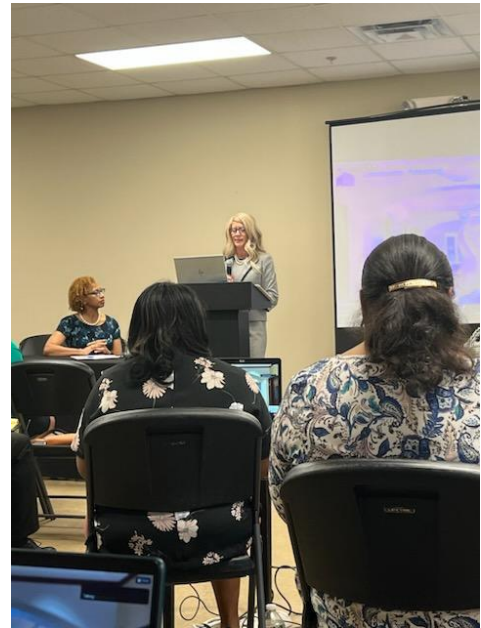
In less than one year the Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank has grown from ten agency partners seeking substantial policy change to over one hundred partners meeting quarterly working to grow homeownership through program suggestions and shape policy to remove barriers.

The LHC continues to take pride in its role as the lead agency to convene these partners by working in unison to obtain impactful advocacy and policy changes. Through the work of the Think Tank, the LHC has not only engaged appointed and elected officials, but the LHC has forged partnerships with lenders and real estate professionals who are not only invested in the LHC's mission to create new homeowners but they are collaborating with the LHC to bolster education, access to homeownership and empower our mutual constituencies.

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3 Photo From Louisiana Homeownership TT -
Shreveport



2 Photo From Louisiana Homeownership TT -
Shreveport



1 Louisiana Homeownership TT Planning Meeting

Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank Focus Commitment Pledge

First name	Last name	Title
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Name of organization(s) that you are affiliated with:

Type of organization:

- Financial Institution
- Federal Regulatory Agency
- CDFI
- Community Based or Non Profit
- Developer
- Construction
- Data Gathering or Information
- Rehabilitation or new construction contractor
- Housing Counseling
- Real Estate Agent
- Mortgage Lender/Broker
- Federal, State or Local Government (Provide name)

Provide name of Federal, State or Local Government

Email address(es):	Contact Telephone Number(s):
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Will you need organizational approval to participate in the Louisiana Homeownership Think Tank?

Organization's website:

Which Affordable Housing Workstream(s) are you most interested in?

- Homeowners & Flood Insurance
- State, Federal, National Housing Government Opportunities
- Housing Preservation in Urban, Rural and Tribal Communities
- Scalable Housing Models
- Breaking Barriers to Affordable Housing
- Affordable Housing Traditional and Non-Traditional Funding Resources

Other comments regarding the Homeownership Think Tank?