

NCSHA Code of Member Ethics

The bylaws of the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) establish the following purpose of the association: “To promote the common interests of state housing finance agencies (HFAs) in public policies and programs for meeting the housing and related needs of low, moderate, and middle-income persons and in the financing, developing, and/or preservation of housing, and in enhancing the effectiveness of such agencies and their programs.”

The bylaws specify three types of eligible Members of the association: “Direct Members” (generally, each state’s HFA, plus the HFA for American Samoa, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and New York City each); “Associate Members” (generally, an agency that is not eligible to be a Direct Member but operates on a statewide basis and administers the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit in its state); and “Affiliate Members” (generally, firms or individuals involved or interested in affordable housing).

NCSHA’s bylaws provide that the Board of Directors “may establish by resolution such additional standards, rules, regulations, or requirements for admission to any class of Membership or for maintenance of Membership as it shall determine.” The Board has approved the following Code of Member Ethics for all Members of NCSHA. The Board expects all Members of NCSHA to demonstrate the following with respect to their membership in the association:

Fidelity to NCSHA’s mission, which is to advance through advocacy and education the nation’s state Housing Finance Agencies’ efforts to provide affordable housing to those who need it.

- NCSHA expects Members will affirm as they can NCSHA’s efforts on behalf of state HFAs and not intentionally impede NCSHA or state HFAs’ affordable housing activities.
- NCSHA expects Members will not engage in conduct that causes or may cause material harm to the reputation, mission, or financial conditions of NCSHA.

Appreciation for the uniqueness of each state, which includes the distinct roles and responsibilities of each NCSHA Member based on the laws, precedents, and needs of its state (or other relevant jurisdiction).

- NCSHA expects Members will respect, and not seek to undermine, the roles and responsibilities of individual states generally and state HFAs in particular with respect to affordable housing matters in their states.

Integrity in interactions with other Members, which includes truthfulness and transparency in communications with and about NCSHA Members.

- NCSHA expects Members will not knowingly mislead or mischaracterize other Members and will aspire to the highest practicable standards of organizational openness, transparency, and disclosure.

Commitment to mutual respect, which includes support for NCSHA becoming a more inclusive and welcoming association, with zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment of any kind.

- NCSHA expects Members will not engage in discrimination or harassment of any kind and that Members who experience or become aware of discrimination or harassment in relation to an NCSHA event or activity will notify NCSHA.
- NCSHA expects members will not discriminate in any of their activities or operations based on race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.
- NCSHA expects members to maintain a workplace free from all forms of unlawful sexual harassment.

Avoidance of misuse or mischaracterization of membership in NCSHA, which includes reference to NCSHA and its Members.

- NCSHA expects Members will truthfully represent their involvement with and membership status in NCSHA.
- NCSHA expects Members will not use the NCSHA name or logo or their membership to advertise, market, or promote their individual services or qualifications in a fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading manner.