

SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT

Advancing Housing Justice in a Challenging Landscape

2025 Virtual In-Service
June 30 – July 1, 2025

NFHA NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING ALLIANCE

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Monday, June 30, 2025

- 12:00 – 12:05 pm **Welcome** Lisa Rice, President & CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance
- 12:05 – 12:15 pm **Opening Remarks** Vince Curry, Executive Director, Fair Housing Advocates Association and NFHA Board Chair
- 12:15- 12:45 pm **Fireside Chat: A Crucial Conversation for the Movement - Guiding the Future of Housing & Civil Rights Justice**
- For members dedicated to the fight for fair housing and civil rights, this fireside chat is more than just a discussion—it's a pivotal moment to align, strategize, and reinforce our collective impact. Featuring Dr. Akilah Watkins, President and CEO of Independent Sector, and Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance® (NFHA), this conversation will offer indispensable insights into sustaining the movement and advancing justice in today's challenging climate. Dr. Watkins and Independent Sector are helping lead the charge to protect the non-profit sector against unprecedented assaults. As policies shift and new barriers emerge, staying informed and connected is essential. This exclusive dialogue will equip members of NFHA with the knowledge and perspective needed to navigate evolving obstacles, protect hard-fought gains, and seize opportunities for meaningful progress.*
- Speakers** Lisa Rice, President & CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance
Dr. Akilah Watkins, President & CEO, Independent Sector
- 12:45 – 1:00 pm **Break**
- 1:00 – 2:15 pm **Standing for Justice: The Legacy and Enduring Impact of Havens Realty v. Coleman**
- The Supreme Court's decision in Havens Realty v. Coleman was a watershed moment for the fair housing movement. This session will examine the historical and legal significance of the case, discuss what Havens means for organizational standing today, examine its lasting impact and explore ways to build on its foundation to advance fair housing protections in the present and future.*
- Moderator** Brenda Castaneda, Deputy Director of Advocacy, HOME of Virginia
- Panelists** Reed Colfax, Partner, Relman Colfax, PLLC
Susan Scovill, Scovill Consulting - Fair Housing Concepts in Action
Stacy Seicshnaydre, Vice Dean, William K. Christovich Professor, and Robert A. Ainsworth Professor of the Courts and Federal System, Tulane University Law School
- 2:15 – 2:30 pm **Break**

2:30– 3:30 pm

Strategic Approaches to Funding Fair Housing: Engaging Funders and Donors for Sustainable Support

This session will provide insight for local fair housing agencies on ways to diversify their funding opportunities during these unprecedented times. The discussion will feature development, corporate relationship, and fair housing experts. They will share ways fair housing organizations can create partnerships that reflect shared mission and impact; transparency and accountability; scale growth; and strategies to create long-term sustainability.

Moderator Vince Curry, Executive Director, Fair Housing Advocates Association

Speakers Reginald Exum, Community Development Officer, First Citizens Bank
CJ Orr, Chief Executive Officer, Orr Group
Sally Santangelo, Executive Director, CNY Fair Housing

3:30 – 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 – 4:55 pm

Your Voice Matters: Member Mobilization and Advocacy Strategies to Sustain Fair Housing Opportunities

A relationship with members of Congress is extremely important in successfully advancing fair housing in local communities. As leaders in the fair housing movement, Congress needs to hear from you. Your expertise is invaluable to members of Congress as they undertake policy decisions that will impact HUD's critical programs and the communities you serve. Join this session to receive an update on what is happening in the 119th Congress and to hear from fellow leaders of the fair housing movement. The panelists will provide an overview of the state of play on reconciliation and the FY26 budget process and strategies for establishing productive relationships with members of Congress. They will also share how they have developed their advocacy efforts over time, including success stories and the importance of proactive engagement with Congress to ensure critical funding for fair housing initiatives.

Moderator Vince Larkins, President and CEO, Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, Inc.

Panelists Paul Thornell, Mehlman Consulting
Nancy Haynes, Executive Director, Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
Tom Okuda Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Virginia
Jim McCarthy, President and CEO, Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.

4:55-5:00 pm

Closing remarks Erin Kemple, Vice President, Fair Housing Services, National Fair Housing Alliance

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

- 12:00 – 12:15 pm **Welcome and check-in** Darlene English, Associate Vice President, Education & Outreach, National Fair Housing Alliance
- 12:05 – 12:15 pm **Opening remarks** Jay Young, Executive Director, Southwest Fair Housing Council and Member Services Committee chair, NFHA Board
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm **Understanding and Reacting to the Trump Administration's Actions: Executive Orders, Grant Terminations, and Beyond**
The Trump Administration is acting in ways that greatly change the landscape in which we enforce the Fair Housing Act. It has issued numerous executive orders, terminated grants (including in the FHIP program), imposed new conditions on funding, interpreted the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights law differently, and begun changing regulations. This session will walk through some of the more significant actions the Trump Administration has taken and provide guidance as to how NFHA and its members can operate in light of them.
Speakers Sasha Samberg-Champion, Special Counsel for Civil Rights, NFHA
Janell Byrd-Chichester, General Counsel, NFHA
- 1:15 – 2:15 pm **Turning Obstacles into Opportunities: Fair Housing Enforcement in the Face of Federal Rollbacks**
Public and private cooperation has long been essential to fair housing enforcement. Private fair housing advocates, the private bar, and government law enforcement and administrative agencies have consistently advanced fair housing and civil rights year after year. However, under the new administration, the federal government is abdicating its role and responsibilities—if not actively working to undermine both the spirit and letter of the law. Join us for a discussion on how private fair housing advocates, attorneys, and state agencies can continue to enforce fair housing laws despite the absence of federal support. Attendees will leave this session with actionable ideas and solutions to cultivate with local stakeholders.
Moderator Sarah Carthen Watson, Movement Lawyer for the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's Legal Impact Network
Panelists Andrew Espinosa, Deputy Chief of Investigations, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center (Los Angeles, CA)
Joe Wardenski, Principal Attorney, Wardenski P.C. (New York, NY)
Kyle Rapiñan, Assistant Attorney General, New York State Attorney General, Civil Rights Bureau
- 2:15 – 2:45 pm **Break**

2:45 – 3:45 pm

Amplifying Your Message: Communication Tools and AI Tips for Housing Justice

Learn how to craft clear, consistent, and authentic communications that resonate with your audience and advance housing justice. This session will also explore how AI tools like ChatGPT can serve as helpful assistants to save time and strengthen your messages – without replacing the human touch at the heart of fair housing.

Attendees Will Learn:

- *Practical strategies for clear and consistent messaging with limited staff and resources.*
- *How to use AI tools like ChatGPT responsibly as assistants for drafting press releases, social posts, and emails.*
- *A starter pack of AI prompts that can be personalized for your organization.*
- *Tips for ensuring equity and authenticity remain central to all communications.*

Facilitator Janelle Brevard, Vice President of Communications, National Fair Housing Alliance

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Leveraging AI to Strengthen Investigations and Foster Collaborative Coalitions

This targeted session explores practical applications of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance the effectiveness of investigative and enforcement activities in fair housing. Participants will learn how generative and other AI tools can streamline data collection, automate evidence documentation, and quickly detect patterns indicative of housing discrimination. Additionally, the session will highlight ways AI technology facilitates the building of cross-sector coalitions by connecting advocates, legal experts, and community stakeholders, enhancing coordinated enforcement actions and collaborative advocacy.

Speaker Michael Akinwumi, PhD, Chief AI Officer, National Fair Housing Alliance

4:45 – 5:00 pm

Closing remarks: Sherrill Frost-Brown, SVP, Member Services, Education & Outreach, National Fair Housing Alliance



Strengthening communities

Citi supports the creation of physical and social infrastructure to help build thriving, resilient, equitable and inclusive communities.

Thank you National Fair Housing Alliance for all you do to strengthen our communities.





Everyone should have access to their dream house.

By working with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), we're able to help expand accessible housing opportunities and close the homeownership and racial wealth gaps.

Nationwide® supports NFHA and their mission to provide homes for all people.

Thank you for making a difference in your community



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Local pride. Forever First.®

A community isn't just a place. It's the people who call it home – and all they do to make it a better home for all. First Citizens Bank applauds the positive impact National Fair Housing Alliance continues to make for all those in need of the resources its agencies provide. **First Citizens Bank. Forever First.®**

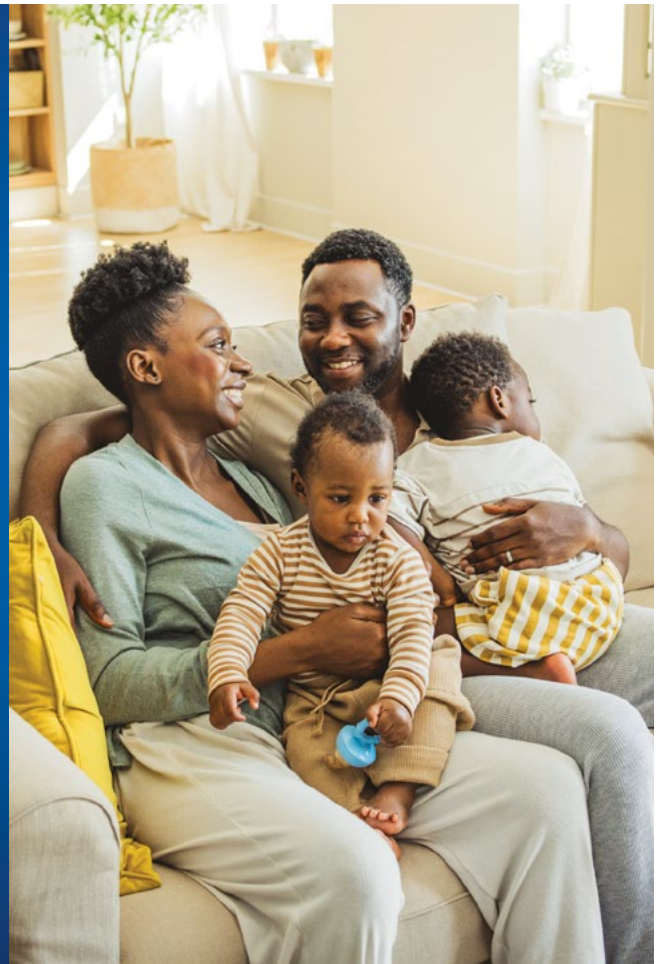
We're honored to sponsor In-Service Training at National Fair Housing Alliance.

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