



GNOHA Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2017

Housing Agencies Potentially Impacted by Federal Policy Changes

I. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- a. Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)
 - i. New Orleans submitted its AFH last October which has been approved for implementation.
 - ii. Representative Lee's [Local Zoning and Property Rights Protection Act](#) (ending AFH)
- b. ['A Better Way Plan'](#) (reshaping HUD and USDA Rural Development programs)

II. Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC)

- a. Low Income Housing Tax Credits
 - i. Deals have been stalled until mid-year due to delays with the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)
 - ii. Tax credits are also valued less now
- b. Changes in leadership have pitted rural communities versus participating urban jurisdictions

III. Local Housing Authorities

- a. St. John the Baptist, New Orleans, St. Tammany, Westwego, Slidell, Jefferson Parish and Kenner Housing Authorities
- b. There is continuing concern about reduction of funding for these agencies
 - i. HUD is being conservative with subsidies, which increases the challenge for smaller authorities to secure funding

IV. New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)

- a. Funded by city and state funds (including CDBG)
 - i. Any cuts to federal funding will impact New Orleans, making it harder for NORA to continue its work

V. Other Concerns

- a. Repealing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
 - i. Smaller organizations are unable to obtain affordable healthcare policies for employees
 - ii. Instead reimburse employees for enrollment in the ACA
- b. Tax Reforms for Charitable Giving
 - i. Effectively eliminating the charitable tax deduction claim for 95% of Americans
 - ii. This will greatly impact non-profits who are increasingly dependent on individual donors

VI. Follow-up Advocacy Efforts

- a. GNOHA will create a handout for its 501c3 members explaining how non-profit organizations can assist with GNOHA's advocacy efforts without jeopardizing their tax status
- b. GNOHA members need to begin educating and organizing their clients into an effective coalition of voters