

Free Workshops

4:30p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Monday, August 17

“Responsible” Approaches to Neighborhood Stabilization

Location: Chicago Room, Fifth Level — Palmer House Hilton

This session will explore how some aspects of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s approach to Responsible Redevelopment can be applied to emerging efforts to stabilize neighborhoods devastated by the current economic crisis. Topics to be discussed include:

- How do we best shape stabilization activities in such a way to promote the sustained, responsible revitalization of neighborhoods over the medium and long-term?
- “Using Shared Equity Strategies for Community Benefit” — Overview of PolicyLink’s latest tool, a report that details how shared equity models (especially community land trusts) are being used to promote permanent housing affordability in neighborhoods devastated by foreclosure.
- “An Innovative Philanthropic Approach to the Foreclosure Crisis” — Presentation of Casey’s ambitious strategy to acquire properties and redevelop foreclosed properties in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of south Atlanta, a community that has been extremely hard hit by the foreclosure crisis.

Presenters: Roger Williams, Charles Rutheiser and Salin Geeverghese (Annie E. Casey Foundation), Sarah Treuhaft (PolicyLink)

AssetPlatform.org: A New Tool for Asset Builders

Location: Grand Ballroom 2, Ballroom Level — Swissotel Chicago

AssetPlatform.org is designed to provide asset builders with a comprehensive set of high quality trainings, tools, products and services. In this workshop we will review the current offerings on the site, and discuss how AssetPlatform.org can be developed to meet your needs.

Presenters: David Black, Kirsten Moy (Aspen Institute)

Counselor Feedback Session on the Making Home Affordable Program

Location: Grand Ballroom 3, Ballroom Level — Swissotel Chicago

President Obama announced the Making Home Affordable program five months ago. Counselors will have an opportunity to hear a short briefing on recent updates to the program, and then provide feedback on how it is being implemented in the field. Representatives will be on hand from the Treasury Department, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and several key servicers.

Presenters: TBD

Expand Your Market! Bring Programs to Homeowners in Resident-Owned Manufactured Home Communities

Location: Northwest 5, Lower Level — Hilton Chicago

ROC USA, a national nonprofit working to preserve and improve manufactured home communities by helping homeowners purchase their communities, is seeking NeighborWorks® organizations, and others, that are interested in expanding their existing programs into MHCs, particularly resident-owned communities. If your organization is currently serving low and moderate income homeowners with...

- Homeownership education, counseling and credit repair;
- Single-family home mortgage financing;
- Weatherization and home improvement financing;
- Weatherization and home repair;
- New home construction and sales; or
- Existing home rehabilitation and sales;

...manufactured homeowners need your services! We will present an overview of the MH community market. Two NeighborWorks® organizations, PathStone (NY) and NeighborWorks® Montana (MT), who are also certified ROC USA technical assistance providers, will profile their experiences working with newly converted resident-owned communities, and we will discuss what it would take for workshop participants to expand into these communities, offering needed services and affecting the lives of hundreds of homeowners.

Presenters: Paul Bradley (ROC USA), Sheila Rice (NeighborWorks® Montana)

FOR NEIGHBORWORKS® ONLY: Data Collection Policies, NWO Best Practices and Q&A

Location: Water Tower Parlor, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

How can I better reflect the work that my organization is doing? How can my organization develop a reporting protocol for all of our funders? What are the advantages of transitioning from Nstep to CounselorMax? Meet with NeighborWorks® staff to discuss Data Collection policies, procedures, client-management systems and more.

Presenters: Laura Johnson, Elizabeth Barker (OAD)

HUD's FHA Products: Purchase and Rescue

Location: Grand Ballroom 1, Ballroom Level — Swissotel Chicago

As part of their basic core competencies, housing counselors must understand FHA mortgage options available to homebuyers. Join us for a broad-based overview of HUD's product offerings for both new homebuyers as well as homeowners in distress. In-depth discussion will cover FHA mortgage options for first-time homebuyers — including recent changes to these programs — as well as new rescue products created in response to the foreclosure crisis. This workshop is designed to help homeownership counselors gain a better understanding of how FHA rescue products work so they can help their customers make more informed decisions. Bring your questions!

Presenter(s): TBD

Introduction to Equity Express: Integrating Financial Literacy, Energy Education and Cost Savings

Location: Northwest 3, Lower Level — Hilton Chicago

The workshop will present a six-session curriculum developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology and piloted in Oakland, CA, with the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation. Each session integrates basic financial literacy education with strategies for decreasing expenses and environmental impacts in transportation, energy, telecom and food. Together, these expenses represent 40% of a typical family budget. Participants log their expenses, then make and monitor action commitments. Come to this session to learn about this new curriculum and how you can make it available in your own community.

Presenters: Steve Perkins, Ingrid Jacobson (Center for Neighborhood Technologies)

Renter Equity — Extending Benefits of Ownership to Affordable Rental Housing

Location: Price Room, Fifth Level — Palmer House Hilton

Did you ever consider that an alternate property management system might reward the contributions of long term renters? Residents participating in a new system developed by Cornerstone Corporation for Shared Equity are partners in management while earning a compensating financial asset as they pay rent, attend monthly meetings and fulfill responsibilities for upkeep of common areas. Property owners are rewarded with sustained housing values, high occupancy and excellent collections. Cornerstone's Renter Equity system is a foundation for restoring health to disadvantaged neighborhoods and closing the wealth gap between renters and homeowners.

Presenter: Margery Spinney (Cornerstone)

Sneak Peek: Residents Making Change — A New Leadership Development Curriculum

Location: Northwest 4, Lower Level — Hilton Chicago

An easy-to-use resident leadership training curriculum designed for community-based organizations! This workshop will provide participants with an introduction to a new 12-module curriculum created by members of the NeighborWorks® network, with support from the NeighborWorks® Community Building & Organizing Initiative. This curriculum package will provide everything you need to deliver your own resident leadership training program. Come check it out, preview a few modules and see how you can build resident leaders in your community!

Presenter: T. Ayoka Turner

Strategies for Combatting Mortgage Rescue Scams within Your Community

Location: Northwest 3, Lower Level — Hilton Chicago

Facing foreclosure is a terrifying time for any homeowner. With the foreclosure rate at an all-time high and the nation in economic crisis, as many as 8 million American homeowners are expected to face foreclosure through 2012, according to industry studies. Scam artists see this crisis as a prime opportunity to make money off of homeowners in danger of losing their homes. The so-called mortgage "rescue" companies use simple messages in print, broadcast, and online ads to hook in homeowners facing foreclosure or other financial difficulty, and then fail to deliver on their promises. NeighborWorks® America and many of our partners are fighting these scams, but more work is needed in local communities. Join this session to find out what you can do in your community to help protect homeowners in distress.

Presenter: Barbara Floyd-Jones, NeighborWorks® America

The Beginner's Guide to Social Media

Location: Spire Parlor, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

This workshop is designed to help participants better understand social media and its professional — and personal — uses. You'll learn what Web 2.0 really is, and you'll gain an understanding of its benefits. You'll be able to identify different social media tools, and you'll learn which social media tools are useful in expanding your professional and personal social networks. If you've never tweeted, if you've never had a Facebook page or if you've never uploaded a video to YouTube, this workshop will give you the basics (and right in time for the Wednesday symposium)!

Presenter: Milt Sharp (NeighborWorks® America)

Tuesday, August 18

BestFIT Foreclosure Counseling Tool Software Demo

Location: Grand Ballroom 2, Ballroom Level — Swissotel Chicago

BestFIT is a data capture, quality control and assessment tool that automates the process of screening nonperforming mortgage loans to determine how best to move forward. When loan modification or refinancing is appropriate, it gives borrowers, lenders and counselors the ability to get on the same page and speak the same language so that voluntary final decisions and outcomes can be agreed upon collectively. Come learn about this exciting tool to better assist homebuyers, those refinancing and those in distress.

Presenter: Jean Richter (JustPrice)

Blogging 101

Location: Spire Parlor, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

Have you been thinking about setting up a blog for your nonprofit? Now's your chance to get off to a great start. In this session, we'll talk about the reasons to blog, how to choose your topic, how to build your blog, writing tips and much more.

Presenter: Shirley Sexton (See3 Communications)

Energy Retrofits for Multifamily Housing: Cook County Energy Savers Leads the Way

Location: Grant Park Parlor, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

Reducing energy costs in existing multifamily housing puts more money in the pockets of owners and residents, and helps the environment. Plus, the work of audits, replacements and upgrades creates green jobs opportunities. The Cook County Energy Savers program, run by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, has audited over 6,000 units of multifamily housing, and developed and implemented energy conserving retrofits for these buildings. Come to this workshop to learn from the experts at CNT how to use energy retrofits to strengthen your community and build your organization.

Presenter: Annette Stahelin (Center for Neighborhood Technology)

FOR NEIGHBORWORKS® ONLY: Introduction to NeighborWorks® Data Changes for FY10

Location: Monroe Ballroom, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

NeighborWorks® America has spent much of FY09 analyzing its use of data collected from the network each quarter. The goal is to reduce the data burden while redesigning and refining the data points to better meet our needs. These changes will inform grant-making and district grant allocation decisions. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the changes in advance of their implementation in FY10.

Presenter: Barbara Richard

Introduction to Success Measures Participatory Outcome-Based Evaluation

Location: Salon 12, Third Level — Palmer House Hilton

Success Measures helps community development organizations and their partners document program outcomes and measure impact in ways that describe the real changes these efforts are making in the lives of people and communities. This user-friendly, subscription-based web service, and associated training and technical assistance services, draw on outcome evaluation measures created and tested over several years by partnerships of community development practitioners and researchers across the country. Success Measures is offered by NeighborWorks® America to both NeighborWorks® network and non-network organizations.

Presenter: TRD

Models for REO Acquisition: Lessons from the National Community Stabilization Trust

Location: Salon 4&9, Third Level — Palmer House Hilton

This workshop will provide an update on the National Community Stabilization Trust's experience working with localities to efficiently transfer REO properties from lenders and servicers to local community stabilization projects. In this highly interactive workshop, local programs engaged with the NCST from various localities across the country will talk about how they have structured their local REO purchasing entity and their experiences with the Trust's programs and resources. The NCST is a joint venture of Enterprise Community Partners, the Housing Partnership Network, LISC, NeighborWorks® America, National Urban League and National Council of La Raza, and has been operational since 2008.

Presenter: Dawn Stockmo (National Community Stabilization Trust)

NeighborWorks® America 2009 Community Scholar Intern Presentations

Location: Adams Ballroom, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

NeighborWorks® America 2009 Community Scholar Intern Program provided paid 12-week internships commencing on June 1, 2009. Each intern was assigned a Mentor to provide direction and supervision of the work assigned and to provide guidance and development on the intern's professional skills. NeighborWorks® America's Intern Program provided each of the participants: A broader perspective on how NeighborWorks® America services the community and the nation as a whole; the opportunity to acquire specific skills that are needed to pursue their Professional goals and aspirations; and the opportunity for hands-on work experience in their fields of study or interest. The interns will give informative presentations on their experiences.

Presenters: NeighborWorks® Community Scholars

Preserving Homeownership: Tips and Tools for Foreclosure Intervention Counselors

Location: Grand Ballroom 3, Ballroom Level — Swissotel Chicago

In this challenging environment, it is pertinent that foreclosure intervention counselors be equipped with the most up-to-date information necessary to work with servicers and help keep clients in their homes. This workshop will feature in-depth discussions that will cover tips & tools for working with servicers, available resources for counselors & their clients, an overview of how to assemble a hardship assistance package and much more. Join us with your questions and ideas!

Presenter: Hala Farid (Citi)

SCED and NeighborWorks® Training Partnership: Enhance Your Educational/Credentialing Opportunities

Location: Salon 2, Third Level — Palmer House Hilton

This workshop focuses on the educational partnership between the Southern New Hampshire University School of Community Economic Development (SCED) and NeighborWorks® America. Topics will include the Portable Credit Program as well as the Portfolio Credit Program, and ways in which you can use these flexible programs to further your education and enhance your career. Additionally, the workshop will highlight SCED Masters- and PhD-level programs.

Presenters: Anthony Poore, Kathleen Kennedy (SNHU)

Using Social Media in Your Fundraising Efforts

Location: Water Tower Parlor, Sixth Level — Palmer House Hilton

With all the new technology out there, organizations have more ways than ever to reach donors online. This workshop will help participants sort through the different channels out there, share examples from leading nonprofits and assist participants in determining which ways will be most effective for them — depending on their existing online communications, staff capacity, time and budgets.

Presenter: Farra Trompeter (Big Duck Communications)