



Alabama Caucus Agenda
Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023
1-4 pm Central (2-5 pm Eastern)

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83849102154?pwd=M09idFU1WDNjRS9wanNkQW5FMnFIZz09>

1) Welcome (Tim Thrasher)

CAUCUS TIME

2) Fahe Membership Business

30 minutes

- a. Approval of June Minutes **pp. 3-8**
- b. Annual Meeting Reflections
- c. Working Group Strategies – Vonda **pp. 9-10**
- d. Executive Report - Vonda
- e. Around the Horn

3) AL Caucus – Supporting Members and Growth Opportunities

- a. Affordable Housing Association
 - i. Movement on the state housing tax credit – (Tim)
- b. Fahe/AL state Agencies
 - i. AHFA
 - ii. ADECA
 - iii. USDA

4) Advocacy

- a. State – Review of Caucus Statement – Maggie Riden

We seek to empower communities by eliminating poverty. We bridge gaps through education and collaboration because if not us, then who?

- b. AL Advocacy Coalition Activities - Amaya Sizer
 - i. Identifying opportunities for administrative/legislative advocacy and setting new goals
 - o Ex. Amending how AHFA awards points for projects in DDA's
 - ii. Reflecting on our MI cap conversation with LHCA
 - o And how we can approach educating partners on development in the future
 - iii. State and local ARPA Opportunities: <https://www.route-fifty.com/finance/2023/08/treasury-expands-uses-arpa-funding/389838/>
 - iv. Plan for Education
- c. Federal Update – Josh Stewart

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

5) Member Interest/Focus Updates – Traviss Witt

15 minutes

- a. Workforce Development
- b. Dept. of Energy **p. 11**

- c. Broadband
- d. US DOE – Davie Nyugen (*tentative*)

6) Fahe Updates

25 Minutes

- a. Board Member Report - Mary Ellen Judah, Aron Boldog
- b. Membership Committee - Mary Ellen
 - Affiliate Partners (i.e.: housing/comm. dev. partners with shared interest in affordable housing)
- c. Membership Updates
 - Reporting – QE 9-30-23 status- Vonda
 - Membership Training - Jackie
 - Disaster Preparedness/Business Continuity Planning – Diedre Kendall, AmeriCorps VISTA
 - Health and Housing Intersection – Nicholas Bormes
- d. Communication Team Update – Lina Page
- e. REED, Research Evaluation Evidence & Data Cmte - Katy Stigers, Camila Moreno
 - Office hours: 1st Tues. 9:30-11:30am & 3rd Thurs. 1-3 pm
 - Standing Committee (REED): 2nd Mon. of each month, 1:00-2:15 pm
 - Contacts: kstigers@fahe.org cmoreno@fahe.org
- e. Lending – Community Lending and JustChoice Lending **p. 12**
- f. Partners for Rural Transformation – Sara Ball **pp. 13-14**

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 15** – 1 pm ET (12 pm Central) – Lunch & Learn Member REED Cmte **with Dr. Jessica Mahone** researcher + data analyst, and director at UNC-Chapel Hill's Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82094251333?pwd=TKYzRDJnZ01JMmRvMUhKZ09mU0JjUT09>
- **Dec. 6-7** – Fahe Board Meeting
- **Feb.** date TBD – AL Caucus Meeting
- **Feb. 22** – 10 am ET -**Fahe Advocacy Webinar**
- **Feb. 26-Mar 1** - NeighborWorks Training Institute (NTI) returns to San Francisco, CA
- **April** date TBD – Fahe Spring Retreat/Leadership Symposium, Berea, KY
- **May 6-10**: NeighborWorks America Virtual Training Institute (VTI)
- **Aug. 26-30**: NTI Pittsburgh, PA
- **Sept.** date TBD – Fahe Annual Meeting

Sign up for Fahe's Member Newsletter here: www.fahemembers.com/signup

Sign up for Fahe's Blog here: www.fahe.org/signup

AL Member Page: <https://www.fahemembers.com/state-caucuses/alabama-caucus-information/>



Alabama Caucus Agenda

JUNE 30, 2023

9:00am – 12:00pm CST (10:00 am – 1:00 pm EST)

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84948656933?pwd=S0o2QUw0aGs1NDBJdmtINSXgrNVVGQT09>

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Attendance
Lisa Pierce	Alabama Rural Ministries	Amanda Scalph	Fahe
Johnny Green	Alabama Rural Ministries	Amaya Sizer	Fahe
Carrie Lea	CAANEAL	Jackie Weiss	Fahe
Aron Boldog	CAPNA	John Niederman	Fahe
Candy Ayers	CAPNA	Maggie Riden	Fahe
Tim Thrasher	CAPNA	Traviss Witt	Fahe
	HERO	Vonda Poynter	Fahe
Mary Ellen Judah	Neighborhood Concepts	Diedre Kendall	Fahe AmeriCorps
Carol Clarke	NHS-Birmingham	Nicholaus Bormes	Fahe AmeriCorps

1) Welcome - Tim Thrasher

CAUCUS TIME

2) Fahe Membership Business

- a. Approval of April Minutes - Mary Ellen Judah moved to approve, Aron Boldog seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- b. Caucus Chair Election - Motion for Tim Thrasher to be caucus chair for FY24, Mary Ellen Judah nominated, Aron Boldog seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- c. Strategic Plan Update - Sara Morgan
(Moved later in the agenda per Sara's availability) Theory of Change is why we do our work and how we work together. Strategic plan – building the foundation for long term success of that vision. Four corners, money, capacity, narrative, and people, these decide what we will follow and what we won't. Build FY24 goals around the 4 corners. Goals, strategic plan, and TOC were presented to the board and approved. Common theme of the board is they want talking points around strategic plan, so we are all using the same language. The goals and plan are built around the network, not Fahe specific. Will be sharing Strategic Plan and implementation plan with members in late July. Jim will be preparing some bullet points for board members to take back to their caucuses to go over and talk about.
- d. Around the Horn

Alabama Rural Ministry - Dr. Johnny Green, ARM, retired from Auburn, new home repair case manager and building relationships. Phenomenal over 5 weeks.

Week 4 into 7-week summer mission program. – serve 8 families with home repair to get to final completion. Emergency tarping repair as stabilization this week. Volunteers doing some life skills, carpenter skills, looking at social enterprise next week. Big picture – all AL teams. Interest in seeing home repair – teed up on how to engage in their communities. Capacity groups – not as consistent in their VISTA positions. Tim noted it was good to have Lisa back and to have Mr. Green being added.

NHS-Birmingham – new ED: Carol Clark, hopes to be an active Member. Working on how they can shore up their core service areas. Birmingham native with a passion for community service and a pathway of local government work. Was director of Capital projects, then ED, then banking phase at Regions. Stood up the financial education institute working with communities and workforce. Wants to step up impact in B'ham, upbuilding people and places.

CAANEAL – Additional programming with housing – under construction of a 56 MF housing in Scottsboro, Jackson Co. BIL \$ for WX – have been awarded \$ for 908 houses in NE AL. July a water program to clean out septic systems (emergency). Help folks with emergency utility assistance. Have 2 HUD certified housing counselors. Family Services – 3 social workers on staff, working closely with clients to achieve self-sufficiency – looking at the Fatherhood Initiatives – Children's Trust Fund of AL – dads and moms – gain education and employment services! Tim serves NE and Jefferson County in Birmingham – appreciates her hard work.

Neighborhood Concepts NCI – 5 or 6 potential housing developments in the pipeline in the Huntsville Area – various stages. Loan Fund continues to address small business lending needs – fun loans in the past few months – over 85% of loans have been to persons of color or low-income businesses. NWA application to be an affiliate submitted. Approved a new strategic plan. Mary Ellen – LICHA, Building AL Reinvestments – if you have questions.

CAPNA - 56-unit deal in Decatur – using construction debt from Fahe as they have become very competitive – fixed 6.75 rate. Rural Dev. portfolio with 515 loans and looking at a bond deal for full rehab. Looking for more land to do SF homeownership housing that Candy heads up... land in Decatur.. close to finishing up the 20 homes we started.

We are working with HERO in resolving some bad debt – Regions Bank accepted an offer from CAPNA and leveraging a tax credit property. See a very bright future with HERO and bring them back to good standing. (Last June to now!) New construction in Fort Payne in progress in Dekalb Co. – should finish in December, 24. Little work in Montgomery – 2 SF homes for some minor rehab. Possible community and wellness training center behind CAPNA's office – NMTC and an earmark poss. to build a 1,000 seat auditorium with classrooms. Hoping to build in Decatur and be a benefit to the community as well as host CAPNA's training.

Homeownership side – financial capability classes – some discussion with Fannie Mae – Energy Burdened Website, some testing with this new project. Rent assistance - \$500k. Home Depot sponsored a Veteran home with Desperation Church. Denson street – 4 homes – really improved the street. Great NWA week – 62 volunteers including CAPNA volunteer staff. Seville – 19 houses and a park on one of the lots – 2 nearing completion.

Met with Sen. Tuberville – AL regional Representative – shared what we do and is being done in the state. Leave Space Command alone – AL not going to put \$ in transportation. Get people involved and plugged in than intranet – Google, FB, - Nathan Curry, CAPNA IT is working on this. Looking at Solar possibilities.

3) AL Caucus – Supporting Members and Growth Opportunities

a. Affordable Housing Association

- Movement on the state housing tax credit – Tim - AL Affordable Housing Meeting in Destin, lots of property managers, give scholarships out to residents – very robust scholarship program for low-income residents; they watch them move from low income residents to self-sufficiency. DSI, Mr. Mount's honorarium for scholarships was very moving – it will change your thinking on how things work.
- Bill written – Maggie to share. It may be tweaked some – state to combine with LIHTC – Paul Compton and David Stewart – it was in committee not to the floor, but planning for a 2-year process. When it gets rolled out next year, it will have been vetted and well designed.
- Workforce Housing – 80 – 125% AMI. Included – gives some strength to affordable housing.
- Housing Authority to reset portfolio – that is not penciling out – can't fill those sizable gaps, to the 4% being easier to get, great, but not working – the state tax credit would be critical to Birmingham. If this coalition could provide some advocacy strength to this, it would be great.
- \$25M/year for 10 years. Big impact on the state. Workforce housing is SO needed.

b. Fahe/AL state Agencies

- i. AHFA – public hearing 6-30-23 on 2024 QAP, HOME Action Plan Draft comments Hearing is today, then usually an extra period to make comments. Comments due July 21st, official comment form to use, link to be shared with everyone. Some changes in the amenities and the points for those amenities. Giving points now for indoor senior facility with TV and counter space for senior activities separate of community building. Also giving points for indoor play area for kids. A new point item last year is minority and women owned participation in ownership entity. Counts a lot of nonprofits out for that. Rental assistance has been taken out this year.
- ii. ADECA
Weatherization money is starting to roll out a bit, been a year since the bill was passed. 4 years right now, hopefully will extend but may not. Working on getting a meeting with Boswell, hopefully that will be in the next month. Working on strengthening relationship with ADECA. No one has brought Affordable Housing Trust fund to ADECA, would be great to bring to them and build that relationship.
- iii. USDA - Leah Taylor and Nivory Gordon – lots of folks utilize USDA funding. Candy – Housing Authority in Selma gave her a voucher – she rehoused her in Decatur working with the Housing Authority.
The city of Selma with tornadoes last fall, don't have any nonprofit presence. Had housing fair. Sent them information and qualified packagers information, made sure they were aware at Habitat. USDA is communicating, that is good. We did add that information to the Alabama Caucus page of the website:
<https://www.fahemembers.com/state-caucuses/alabama-caucus-information/>
- c. Spring Retreat Download –Very good, very productive meetings, would recommend. Looking at possibly doing it every other year. Very receptive, attentive, taking notes and listening to what we brought to the table. Heard from Undersecretary Torres, HUD. Even if your representative isn't involved and something gets passed, still thank them. Educate them what we are doing and why we are doing it.
 - i. NCI - Mary Ellen and Kristin attended: – great opportunity – fun to see folks doing that for the first time; thanks to advocacy for setting up the meetings and membership for making the trains run on time.
 - ii. CAPNA – Tim and Aaron attended -
Tim very productive meetings. Aron – first time – enjoyed the experience – do it if you can – possibly doing this more often. Spotted Bernie Sanders in the congressional cafeteria.
Good discussion on the AMI floor – was able to share some examples to provide education and you should be proud of those that attended.
Biden's office – Will McIntee - political in nature
HUD – Marion McFadden
USDA – Under Secretary Xotchie Torres-Small
Freedom Caucus seems powerful in the house – looked it up and 2 House members of the Freedom Caucus in AL – not a full alignment.
May not be comfortable but there is a need to speak up and be heard and Maggie and Josh can help.

4) Advocacy

- a. Federal Update - Josh Stewart – Fiscal Responsibility Act - Fiscal Responsibility Act – 10-1-23/9-30-24 & 10-1-24/9-30-25 – determines budget. House is farther along than the Senate. Unhappiness from House is manifested in severe cuts in Ag and HUD budget. Focus on Ag today. Started working through national coalitions and will do a Call to Action.
Block Grant funds are easier to decrease in the budget. Two scenarios: 1) regular order and 2) FRA – new mechanism – as a fail-safe, (Congress put in Sequestration, Budget control Act) if by January 1, 2024 the congress hasn't passed and the President signed, it will be a

1% haircut across the board. That might be better than what we are seeing in the appropriation math. Anticipate that Senate will raise... but still cuts.

Hoping for a Continuing Resolution – kick the can – by Christmas, we will know if we have budget or if the 1% Jan. 1st haircut is the plan. Probably a continuing resolution at the end of fiscal year.

- b. State – Maggie Riden - AL Advocacy Committee Activities – slide presentation
- i. AHTF – nothing introduced this session; timing going forward; potential launch/legislative reception to educate/inform; next steps
 - Funding bill was not passed. The consensus of this group was missing opportunity for education if rushed the work this year so rather good bill didn't pass. Cap at 60% of AMI. LICHA has taken hard position on no additional changes to the establishing legislation. Set up a meeting with Rusty, Mary Ellen, and Tim and see if can come to a consensus.
 - Partnerships – Should Fahe attempt to join LICHA policy committee? Continue convening with AL Arise and LICHA in our own meeting? See how we can work together.
 - Tax credit – was not introduced this year but made progress –two people work with Amaya to do a FAQ on what makes the tax credit important and different from the AHTF. Are there people were interested in moving this also interested in funding the AHTF? Will be working with Aron on that piece before sit down with Rusty.
 - Campaign outlining prep – Phase: June – September. Confirm fee amount, confirm what our ask is. Identify how many units of housing can be created with AHTF annually. Assume \$25M investment annually. Three top line messages that make a clear connection between housing and economic development, housing and health/substance abuse, and housing and either local govt money or infrastructure. Need to have conversation with ADECA and AFHA. Most active time for members would be October-December, meetings and events. Amaya will be sending out a Doodle poll.
 - ii. ARPA – work with Habitat for Humanity?
 - iii. Plan for Education - Need to be starting to plan for next year's session. MEJ can get Rusty to sit down with us – Maggie want to come down? The “why” was not being communicated to Rusty. Taking out some of the specific language related to populations to be served (may not garner support – stigma – but it would make the housing opportunity more nimble. THAT IS THE NEXT STEP – MEET WITH RUSTY. Aron – 2 points – middle ground of 80% AMI might be where we land? Concern of holding it at ADECA – huge concerns about the timing for LIHTC combinations. Mary Ellen: ERA management by AHFA was a problem – due to the timing and how fast that had to go out is not a fair comparison. Might consider the NHTF instead of ERA. Tim – Advisory Committee – might talk with David Young, AHFA. Mary Ellen: Will contact Rusty and set a meeting on how we would work together – MEJ, Tim, Maggie with Rusty at Creative Solutions/LIHCA
Maggie: Cross-support – other opportunities – USDA 502, AHFA/ADECA, AHTF

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

5) Member Interest/Focus Updates

- a. Workforce Development - Travis Witt
In progress, working on strategy that works for all members.
- b. DOE - Getting a large chunk of this money but not the best at getting the money out.
 - Bipartisan infrastructure law – where the money is landing. Weatherization money comes from DOE and LIWAP and those are combined. Bill money increases those monies six-fold.
 - Training isn't starting until January, so state weatherization system isn't really strong but encouraged them to become more united. Using some money to provide training in the next month.
 - Environmental Protection Agency – solar energy money – announced solar for all program through greenhouse fund. Free solar panels for lower income folks, can qualify for straight

grants for solar. 10 solar funds coming down, there are nonprofit ones, Travis is putting them together, watch the newsletters on Mondays.

c. Broadband - 1.4 B going to broadband. Education and outreach are components as well.

6) Fahe Updates

a. Report on June Board Meeting – Mary Ellen Judah; Aron Boldog

Fahe Leadership structure; Strategic Plan and TOC; FY24 Budget Goals

b. Membership Committee - Mary Ellen

- Membership Criteria - The membership committee has been working for the past 12 months to streamline membership process, put together application materials that make benefits clear, what responsibilities are, the documentation needed. Also includes FAQ about renewal. Close to rolling out. Suggested new definition of member – old definition focused on housing, recognize that members are more than just housing so updating that language.
- Member Application Checklist - Looking for feedback – will have a checklist for new members and separate checklist for renewals.
- Affiliate Partners (i.e.: housing/comm. dev. partners with shared interest in affordable housing), Associate Member (all still pending) - Organization who is not quite ready to apply as a full member or maybe they don't have the experience/financials to apply, but relationship with Fahe would be beneficial. Was given blessing from board to go forward with affiliate members. Affiliates do not get a vote, don't get to go to spring retreat, etc. Their membership isn't any less than traditional members as far as price is concerned. Possibility of sliding scale with affiliates. Affiliate members would still have to be approved by caucus like a general member.
- Also recommended increase in membership price in FY2025 to \$750 from \$500. Has not been raised in over a decade.

c. Membership Updates

- Reporting – QE 3-31-23 status- Vonda
 - o Information back from Kyle this week – one group that did not report last time, not stressed about it, they will get back on track. Appreciate CAPNA helping with HERO. Kudos to Aron.
 - o Reporting is coming up again, Kyle sent out information yesterday.
 - o Utilizing PRT working group model with strategic plan and how we implement plan.
- Membership Renewals – Jackie
 - o Will be posting it all on the website as well as sending a letter. Nothing has changed from last year. Adding one thing, one extra column on the production data – now that multi-family are reaching 15 year and being renewed, there is change in ownership so if have acquired property and brought it into your portfolio, want to count that. Due July 31st.
- Training – Jackie
 - o Have free courses, have 200 spots in free courses, can get more if needed. Some members do their entire continuing education with the free courses.
 - o NTI in Chicago in August, last check, there are 200 spots left for free lodging, but the more popular courses have filled up. Let Jackie know if want to attend.
- Disaster Preparedness/Business Continuity Plans – Diedre Kendall, AmeriCorps VISTA
 - o Working on business continuity planning with members. Starting at the end of August will be working with AL on business continuity plans. Putting together webinar on personal preparedness, why it's important for clients, keep an eye out for information about that. Reach out with any questions. dkendall@fahe.org

d. REED, Research Evaluation Evidence & Data Cmte

https://www.fahemembers.com/wp-content/uploads/Data-Reference-List_updated-2-14-23.pdf

Office hours: 1st Tues. 9:30-11:30am & 3rd Thurs. 1-3 pm
Standing Committee (REED): 2nd Mon. of each month, 1:00-2:15 pm
Contacts: kstigers@fahe.org cmoreno@fahe.org

- e. Lending – Community Lending and JustChoice Lending
Welcome Home 2nd round opens **July 6**
- f. Partners for Rural Transformation – Emily Burleson
 - i. Hired new executive assistant, Theresa Mantiplay, any inquiries to Jose or PRT in general,
 - ii. Working on rural equity framework in a 5-point program – Invest in community readiness, flexibility of funds, patient support, resources easier to access, supporting regional approaches and developing relationships.
 - iii. Advocacy: PRT has responded to several requests for comments, responses to proposals. The research working group is finalizing PRT metrics dashboard including data that can be used internally.
 - iv. New working group on lending, no funding yet but will keep you updated.
 - v. Link to NPQ Articles: <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/series/eradicating-rural-poverty-the-power-of-cooperation/> For Comms inquiries, please contact Essence Smith (essence@pfrt.org) For Advocacy/Research inquiries, please contact Emily Burleson (emily@pfrt.org) For general information/meeting scheduling, please contact Theresa Mantiplay (tmantiplay@pfrt.org)
 - vi. Conversation at board meeting about Fahe's relationship to PRT, what it means, how we communicate that. Fahe and PRT work much like members and Fahe. Will have some information and talking points that will come from Jim and Jose and will be approved by the board, look for those coming out soon.

Adjourned at 11:33 am CT.

Upcoming Events

- **Aug. 21-25 – NeighborWorks America NTI – Chicago: *deadline to register: July 18***
- **September 19-21 – HOLD for 2023 [Fahe Annual Meeting](#) in Charleston, WV!**
- **November 3 - AL Caucus Meeting** (possibly virtual)

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AL Member Page: <https://www.fahemembers.com/state-caucuses/alabama-caucus-information/>

Four Corner Working Groups

Money:

Christal Crouso – FMHA
Cherry Wilson – SERCAP
Tim Thrasher – CAPNA
Carrie Lea – CAANEAL
Cassie Hudson – PHI

Narrative:

Leah Knicely – Garrett Co. CAC
Victoria Ray – Crossville Housing Authority
Rebecca Dillow – Clinch Powell
Diane Loeffler – Fahe BOD

People:

Emily Wilson – Woodlands
Lynn Parnell – BRHA

Capacity:

Sabrina Seamon, Clinch Powell RC&D
Emily Wilson-Hauger, Woodlands Dev.
Jake Powell, CHP
Graham Goodwin, RCHA
Jackie Mayo, HSetn
Aron Boldog, CAPNA
Maria Catron, ORHA
Tom Manning-Beavin, Frontier Housing
Seth Long, HOMES Inc.

Members have time to sign up as initial meetings will be the first week of December to acclimate the groups with work-work beginning in January!!!

Fahe's 2024-2028 Strategy to Build Thriving Appalachian Communities is grounded by Four Corners



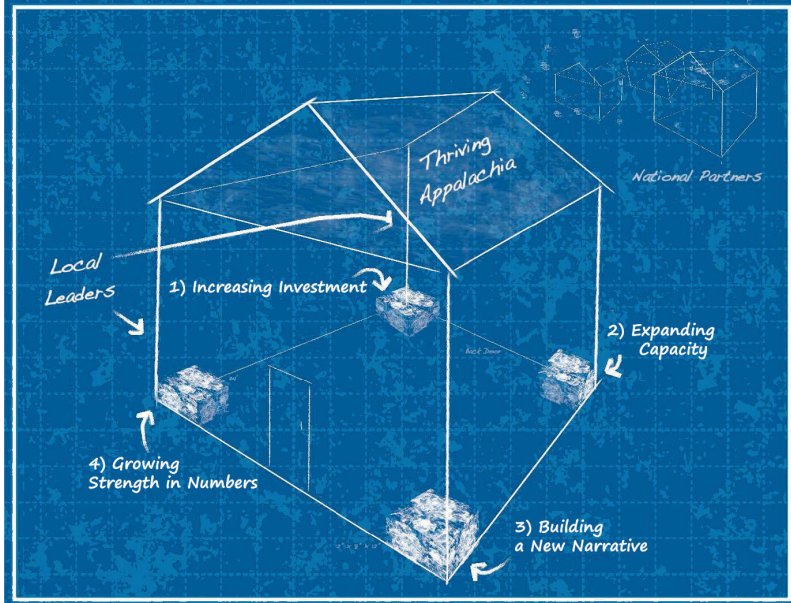
Money

Fahe raises capital and improves delivery platforms that increase investment to our region, so we have the resources to respond to relevant needs and rectify historic disinvestment in Appalachia.



Capacity

Fahe takes a future and community-focused view of capacity. We expand capacity by coupling targeted investment with development services, coaching, shared risk, leadership training, performance challenges, and other collaborative opportunities. We believe bringing lasting change and impact to people and communities is best done by adaptive leaders on the ground, whose perspectives as local practitioners and regional stakeholders make them the best architects for systems change. We engage Appalachia's place-based leaders in designing a path towards a brighter future and scaling solutions to achieve greater impact that benefits all Appalachian people and places.



Narrative

Fahe works to increase visibility and elevate the voices of rural people and Appalachian communities, so that the dominant narrative about the region is crafted by those who live and work here, and contributes to a growing understanding that practitioners and local leaders have the expertise and vision needed to move Appalachia towards prosperity—we simply need more place-sensitive resources, programs, and policies to support that trajectory.



People

Fahe shares knowledge, offers encouragement, and works collaboratively to combat the scarcity mindset and get more work done, so that we are sought out to participate in the creation of solutions for all of our region's people and communities, and influence this work in other rural and impoverished places in our country.

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) is a \$27 billion investment that provides grants and loans to support clean energy investments. The GGRF is implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many applicants are focusing on housing, with a vision to connect these funds with weatherization, rehabilitation, and new construction projects with a focus on energy-efficiency, decarbonization and net-zero.

National Clean Investment Fund

Housing Sustainability Collaborative
Housing Partnership Network
Coalition for Green Capital
Appalachian Community Capital
Climate United
Oweesta Corporation

Clean Communities Investment Accelerator

Opportunity Finance Network
Appalachian Community Capital
Coalition for Green Capital
Oweesta Corporation
Climate United
Justice Climate Fund

Solar For All

Grid Alternatives
Neighborworks America
Habitat for Humanity
KY EEC

Fahe has signed partnership letters, provided pipeline estimates, and expressed interest in capitalization funding with the partners listed above. If successful, these partnerships could result in \$50+ million in capitalization funding, grants, and TA to deploy for projects that meet the EPA's requirements for decarbonization.

National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund competition will provide grants to 2–3 national nonprofit clean financing institutions capable of partnering with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects across the country.

Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) \$6 billion competition will provide grants to 2–7 hub nonprofits that will, in turn, deliver funding and technical assistance to build the clean financing capacity of local CDFIs working in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Solar for All \$7 billion competition will award up to 60 grants to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for distributed solar investment.

Award Announcements Expected March 2024

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- CLTV cannot exceed 105%
- Homebuyer education is required
- May be used for Purchase or Refinance
- Cannot be used to meet the Borrower's Minimum Required Investment (MRI) for FHA Loans
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PRT Memo

To: Fahe Caucuses
From: Sara Ball, Senior Program Manager, Impact and Reporting
RE: PRT Quarter 1 Report
Date: October 27, 2023
Cc: PRT Staff

Why should you care about the Partners for Rural Transformation?

One of the greatest benefits of Fahe is that together, whether directly or indirectly, we grow together. As they say, a rising tide lifts all ships. More money into the region benefits the region by alleviating the need in one area or proving that capital can flow into Appalachia, create organizational capacity, and increase our voice, which is good for all of us. Regardless of your specific community's designation – rural, urban, persistent poverty, etc. – your community helps to uphold the economy around it and benefits when relief and capital comes into it.

Partners for Rural Transformation works with much of the same premise. PRT represents rural, urban, persistent poverty counties, etc. regardless of the word rural being in our name. The regions we represent are more readily described as rural, regardless of the presence of cities scattered throughout. The regions collectively benefit from capital flowing well into one of them. This, again, alleviates need in one area and proves that capital can flow and make an impact.

Who is PRT?

We know you have heard about Partners for Rural Transformation for several years now, but who is PRT to a Fahe Member? As a Fahe Member, you are well suited to understand how PRT functions. Much like the Fahe Membership, PRT is owned by its Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is made up of six regional Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs): come dream come build, Communities Unlimited, Fahe, HOPE Enterprise Corporation and Credit Union, Oweesta Corporation, and RCAC. Together, we serve 78% of our nation's persistent poverty counties, most of them in rural areas populated by BIPOC individuals.

PRT's strategy focuses on four major strategic objectives:

- Capital: Infuse persistently poor areas (PPAs) with sufficient private and public capital to support economic development efforts and build wealth.



- Thought Leadership: Elevate our collective voice with a new narrative that highlights the solutions we have proven will bring about sustainable change in our regions and the value that we find in the people and places found in our regions.
- Civic Engagement: Build leadership capacity and political involvement to amplify local voices.
- Systems: Strengthen capacity at a local level and work at a regional level to challenge assumptions and build appropriate systems that provide comprehensive strategies as well as complement the work that is being conducted in local communities.

The desired long-term outcomes from these strategies are:

- Hope and Opportunity Mindset
- Engaged Communities
- Equitable Thriving Economies
- Communities and Wealth

How does PRT Represent Fahe Members?

PRT works to mobilize capital in the regions which our Partners work, including Appalachia, the Rural West, Indian Country, the Delta, the Deep South, and the Colonias along the U.S./Mexico border. We acknowledge all Fahe Members' work in these areas, and we hope to highlight this work, while simultaneously spearheading larger narrative and communications, research, advocacy, lending and fund development work that makes it easier for you all to do the great work you do. For example, research aims to produce stats and work that can be used to inform work done by our Partners. Another example is PRT advocating for legislation that is beneficial to Fahe and Fahe members (or against something harmful towards Fahe and Fahe members) to get rid of structural barriers that make the inspiring work you do harder to accomplish. We work to enhance the ability for you all to do the work you're already doing, and PRT does this as a collective of 6 Partners, of which Fahe is a part.

How can you engage?

The best and easiest way to engage with PRT starting out is to volunteer and join one of our four main working groups: Advocacy, Communications, Lending, and Research. The working groups meet once a month for an hour and do have relevant work outside of that time, i.e. submitting comments on proposed legislation.

Contact Emly Burleson (emily@pfrt.org) to inquire about the Advocacy or Research working groups.

Contact Essence Smith (essence@pfrt.org) to inquire about the Communications working group.

Contact Sara Ball (sarab@pfrt.org) for general inquires or to inquire about the Lending working group.