



**VA Caucus Agenda**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 10am - 2pm**  
**Virginia Housing Office**  
**105 E. Main Street, Wytheville, VA 24382**

- 1) Welcome, Special Guest Introductions** - Jamie Gross, Vonda Poynter  
Jeanie Barbrow, USDA RD; Cliff Millirons, Sam Hanks – VH; Molly Jacobson, Brian Koziol – VHA  
Potential: Casey @ New River CAA, Marybeth Adkins, Family Crisis Support; Mel Jones, VA Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
  
- 2) Fahe Membership Business** **20 minutes**
  - a. Review Previous Minutes and Action Items **pp. 3-8**
  - b. Around the Horn: Jamie has a question:  
How has the increased interest rates impacted your housing business?
  
- 3) Partner Updates**
  - a. Virginia Housing – Sam Hanks, Cliff Millirons **10 minutes**
  - b. USDA – Jeanne Barbrow **10 minutes**
  - c. Virginia Housing Alliance – State Legislative Updates – Brian Koziol **15 minutes**
  - d. Ballad Collaborative Update – Andy Kegley & Nicholas Bormes **10 minutes**
  - e. NWA – Reporting Update – Jake Powell **10 minutes**

**CAUCUS TIME**

- 4) Strength in Numbers - Member Interest/Focus Updates** **5-10 minutes**
  - a. Workforce Development  
People Inc. – Elizabeth Carico, Dir. Of Workforce Development
  - b. Broadband
  
- 5) Advocacy pp. 9-13** **20-30 minutes**
  - a. State Updates – Maggie Riden
    - State Advocacy Committee
    - Further engagement
  - b. Federal Updates - Josh Stewart
    - Big Picture Policy Committee Work
    - Federal Appropriations
    - Spring Retreat Expectations
  
- 6) Report/Update - Affordable Housing Gaps in VA** – (Mel Jones) **15-20 minutes**
- 7) Fahe Updates – Memo Attached pp. 14-17** **20 Minutes**
  - a. Board Report, October Board meeting - Bd. Members Andy Kegley, Jake Powell

- b. Membership Updates - Vonda
  - Reporting – QE 9-30-22/12-31-23 status- Vonda
  - Training - Jackie – see dates below for NTI's
  - Business Continuity Plans Update – Diedre Kendall
  - Trauma Informed Care Training – Nicholous Bormes:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trauma-and-resilience-basic-training-tickets-520028799137>
  - Spring Retreat – [www.fahemembers.com/fahe-conferences](http://www.fahemembers.com/fahe-conferences)
- c. REED, Research Evaluation Evidence & Data Cmte - Katy Stigers, Camila Moreno
- d. Lending – Community Lending and JustChoice Lending **pp.18**
- f. Partners for Rural Transformation - Jose Quinonez, Essence Smith

**8) Caucus Discussion – Around the Square** **15 Minutes**  
 Anything on anyone's mind that you might want to ask about or throw out for discussion. Any new programmatic information to share or discuss?

### Upcoming Events

- **Wed. March 29 – 11am-12:30 pm ET – Fahe Advocacy Training #2:** How to Run an Effective Legislative Meeting (Virtual meeting info to come)
- **April 11 & 13 - Fahe Advocacy Training #3:** By Invitation only – Practice Sessions for Hill Visits
- **April 25-26 (Tues/Wed) – HOLD for [Spring Retreat in DC!](#)**
- **May 1-5 – NeighborWorks America NTI – San Francisco**
- **June 14 (Wed.) – VA Caucus Meeting – SERCAP Offices, Roanoke**
- **Aug. 21-25 - NeighborWorks America NTI – Chicago**
- **September 19-21 (Tues-Thur)– HOLD for **Fahe Annual Meeting in Charleston!****
- **Nov. 8 (Wed.) – VA Caucus Meeting – location yet to be determined**

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Sign up for Fahe's Blog here: [www.fahe.org/signup](http://www.fahe.org/signup)

VA Caucus page of the Member website: <https://www.fahemembers.com/state-caucuses/va-member-information/>



**VA Caucus Minutes**  
**Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, 10am - 2pm**  
**Virginia Housing Office**  
**105 E. Main Street, Wytheville, VA 24382**

**Attendees:**

Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Lisa Barton	AppCAA	Mel Jones	Guest-Virginia Tech-Virtual
Lisa Porter	Bristol Redev & HA	Diedre Kendall	Fahe AmeriCorps
	<b>CHP</b>	Nicholaus Bormes	Fahe AmeriCorps
Andy Kegley	HOPE, Inc	Vonda Poynter	Fahe
Jordan Stidham	HOPE, Inc	Jackie Weiss	Fahe-Virtual
Satya Fischer	HOPE, Inc. AmeriCorps	John Niederman	Fahe-Virtual
Jamie Gross	People, Inc.	Margaret Riden	Fahe-Virtual
Cherry Wilson	SERCAP-Virtual	Nicole Intagliata	Fahe-Virtual
Fred Jeter	SERCAP	Sara Ball	Fahe-Virtual
Brian Koziol	Guest-VA Housing Alliance	Essence Smith	PRT/Fahe-Virtual
Cliff Millirons	Guest-Virginia Housing	Jose Quinonez	PRT/Fahe-Virtual
Mel Jones	Guest-Virginia Tech-Virtual		

**5 of 6 Member groups present = 83% attendance, those in red had no representative**

- 1) **Welcome, Special Guest Introductions** - Jamie Gross, Vonda Poynter  
 Jeanie Barbrow, USDA RD; Cliff Millirons, Sam Hanks – VH; Molly Jacobson, Brian Koziol – VHA; Mel Jones, VA Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
- 2) **Fahe Membership Business**
  - a. Review Previous Minutes and Action Items -Andy moved that the notes be accepted, Lisa Barton seconded, all approved
  - b. Around the Horn: Jamie - Burning question – how do feel about the election and what impact might this have on affordable housing?  
Andy – Better today! Sam Rasoul (Roanoke) making a pitch to someone in the General Assembly; talked with Mel. He was going to talk to Jeff Pillion and Jeff Campbell.  
Lisa Porter – Agree, that was probably a better path. It is not a budget year, talk about it this year and through the year next year – get the word out.  
 Federal side – ahead of our lift.  
 House waiting on AZ and some very close, and Senate races in CA, AZ, GA  
 Don't know impacts yet.  
 Lisa shared at the VA CAP Conference last week – about workforce that ties into affordable housing/workforce housing.
  - c. Strategic Visioning/Fahe's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan – **Workshop on Nov. 29** (see Fahe Updates Memo and Upcoming Events below)  
 Important to be involved with Fahe on this. Sara Ball – Still in environmental scanning portion, staff working on SWAT analyses. Workshop is for members, taking analyses from staff and putting them together, where do we need to grow, what do we need to address. Next week, will send a packet of info to read and orient. Explaining Fahe's interpretation of data on the 29<sup>th</sup> and looking for questions from members, like what need to find, definitions. Talking about Fahe as a collective including members, entire network. Workshop will be

recorded and made available as well. Any questions: [sball@fahe.org](mailto:sball@fahe.org)

### 3) Partner Updates

- a. Virginia Housing – Sam Hanks, Cliff Millirons  
Cliff – Welcome to the office, glad the tech issues ironed out.  
All of SW planning commissions had 100% participation. Multi-family projects, really doing well. Doing well overall. Housing trust fund received \$2 M. Getting money to the people that have the boots on the ground and use the money at their discretion.  
Home ownership single family – things are going up like crazy and priced a lot of people out of the market. Whole different ballgame now. Pricing adjustments on conditional loans being removed. Other things helping ratios for the future to help as well. Interest rates are taking a toll. Doing everything they can to blend funds the money they have with what it's costing them to borrow money now. 4.75% Commercial family rate with no grant. 6.25-7.25% for single family.
- b. USDA – Jeanne Barbrow: Emailed Report: Virginia was number 2 in the Nation this year Funding 502 Loans! We were also in the top 3 for the 504 Program! WAY TO GO VIRGINIA!!!!
- c. Virginia Housing Alliance – State Legislative Updates – Molly Jacobson  
Focused on legislative agenda for the next session. State rental voucher program – on a call with DHCD on their framework as part of the last general assembly regarding what a state voucher program would look like. Next legislature standing up the voucher program as well as funding the AHTF. Still finalizing our Agenda for 2023 – something public facing by the end of the month.
- d. Ballad Collaborative Update – Andy Kegley & Nicholas Bormes  
Nicholaus: Going well – on course – MOA payouts for Members – the first quarterly reporting has been done. Emailed reports are working well, coming to Fahe. Bristol Promise will be offering Trauma Informed Care training, likely in the new year will share scheduling info when available. 2-hour session – repeats in a bi-weekly basis. Possibly a larger 4 hour training to become TIC certified, optional. More information soon. Any questions on the Ballad process.  
Andy introduced Satya Fisher, VISTA since August funded by Ballad. Also working on Real Estate and property management. Goal to get the community involved in creating affordable housing initiatives; researching successful projects with community involvement. No NIMBY and how successful projects lean into the health homes and funding beyond Ballad. Conversation of the nonprofit hospital into a for profit organization with a Community Foundation – Wythe/Bland. Another foundation in Galax. Ballad is the only housing interest –  
New foundation in Abingdon - \$300M – the Well Spring Foundation – getting in front of them.  
Nicholaus – Ballad Narratives might be good to include info about your use of the UniteUs Platform – how useful you find it. Ballad loves your narratives – type up a paragraph – part of the reporting – apart from the data.
- e. NWA – Reporting Update – Jake Powell – Not available to attend today  
CHP/Janaka's Retirement Celebration: Andy shared it was an emotional night – old folks in the room for Janaka's Retirement Celebration – start up at 1976 – 46 years. Janaka shared – the need for housing is greater today than it was in 1976 but it encouraged him to see the energy in the room and the need is as great,

more tools with technology and more resources.

### Any new programmatic information that we want?

Keep this part of the conversation.

Hopefully the rural set-aside funding – make it permanent.

Changing it from a one-year application into a 2-year funding program.

We have more resources now, is there anything we are missing? ARP money – VA is 39 million in ARP funding, and it's taken since April to get the public hearing, the application won't be ready until spring. Curious point: it's home money, can be used for development. HUD rolled out new Continuum of Care set aside. Permanent housing, created a new pot of money, only for rural continuums of care, in VA there are only 15 rural continuums of care. \$4 million in VA set aside in last September. Money was available to do development. A couple members applied to state, state reviews, then sends up to Washington to HUD. Asked for \$400,000 to start supportive housing units. Hope to have 30 units total. \$2.1 million going to another project, raw development on new site for emergency housing.

Aging out foster care programs, been looking at old schools. Roadblock they keep hitting is when they age out, Foster in futures. Stipend given as long as full-time student to start foundation but when looking at a young adult on their own as a full-time student, can't afford market rents so have to also have a full-time job which affects their school. Foster in Futures is trying to get a foundation under them to break that cycle, but the housing piece is still missing. Lisa said vouchers might be available for them. You qualify for the program by having an agreement with Social Services and if you need a voucher, you request a voucher. Foster Youth Independence program. Vonda to send information on program she is aware of as well.

## CAUCUS TIME

### 4) Advocacy

- a. Federal Updates – Maggie: (Josh unavailable due to car troubles on the road)
    - This summer, income eligibility proposal, appropriations draft requires HUD to do an impact study. The report requires HUD to do study within 90 days of passage of budget. Because under continuing resolution and expect it to go through January, hoping budget will pass in early 2023. Federal briefing in February on budget proposal, then study will drop, then spring retreat in DC to go over.
    - Taking a look at inflation reduction act, did listening session in October. Digging into the full piece of legislation to see what has the best benefit for members, let them know if anything interested in. Grants, rebate programs, etc. spread over various lengths of times. Don't expect much budget action before 2023.
  - b. State Updates – Maggie  
Engagement Strategy
    - Working with Housing agencies to move from tenant based to project-based vouchers.
    - A bit short staffed, adding a couple of new positions. Hope to be able to spread the love a bit more and move priorities faster as they add new staff.
- State Advocacy Committee

- Good number of people joining Advocacy calls, flushed out a budget. Gap analysis for SW VA to focus on what they ask for as far as housing developments. Continuing to have conversations.

**Dec. 7 at 11:00 am is next VA Advocacy call**

c. Affordable Housing Gaps in VA – Mel Jones

- Pretty detailed Gap Analysis for VA, she can do that. One important piece to be able to propose, what jurisdictions do want included versus excluded? If want to be responsive to context of housing, will look at markets. The easiest delineation of market is MSA, not much of area is included in MSA but use MSAs as anchors and then talk about the Gap in the rest of the region in relation to MSA dynamics. Congressional Districts don't match up with markets. 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> district as over-arching boundary? SW VA area focus but there is a need across the state. 1, 2, 3 PVCs plus extra areas that they have already pulled data on. Mel to send proposal with timeline and then members can have 15-minute session to approve and will think about how to fund. Happy to include training needed without extra charge.

SERCAP on the fringe of Appalachia – looking at what we are talking about – Set-aside for SW VA – economic impact on housing. 200K units lacking throughout the state. We projected in 2 communities, we lack 3500 housing units with Lisa / Andy MSA, commuting patterns (Wytheville is part of the Bluefield commuting)

Home Consortium – could there be a consortium in Bristol – Planning Districts – 1, 2, 3 is the Southwest Footprint. Raises the question that Mt. Rogers is doing a needs assessment –

Bristol MSA is both VA/TN – use Census data.

2019 CHAS data- microdata for 2021. See how we can use the 2021 data.

PDC, 1,2,3 – is that sufficient definition for a market area.

Fred – defining market – would you want Craig, Alleghany, Bath and highlands Counties – Highlands – different draws - rather similar to SW Virginia. No – need to have the area tight, connected. Bath and Highlands in previous study.

Roanoke did a regional housing study and the state is getting information on how VH has deployed \$ in the PDCs.

Some other research will lead us in to this conversation. Put it into the context of a region with its own characteristics.

Is there a way to figure out what studies are going on? Vonda will do some checking

**5) Strength in Numbers - Member Interest/Focus Updates**

a. Workforce Development

- Contractor scarcity, availability to get the work done, impacts business models. Been talking about Workforce Development. First and foremost, John Niederman doing research with VISTAs. Hiring Advancement Director in Membership to help with resources and other opportunities. Also, have pulled together existing trainings, how do we educate ourselves, how can we get started, and what memberships will help in the future? Reach out to Mark Jackson, see if can get information out to members. Shortage in contractors and shortage of people to train as well.

b. Broadband

Can't get there with the program. Encouraged in seeing some progress in CDBG-DR with flooding from 2021. Broadband is required as part of new construction/rehab. Not sure how funding would work but as that becomes more permanent across agencies, be able to see the broadband go across the state. VHCD – call on Monday –

Jordon: Have we talked to supervisors – Grayson Mitch Smith; Mike Hash – talk and see what they are doing. Received some funding to bring broadband to all of Grayson County. Running it last mile.

## 6) Fahe Updates – Memo Attached

- a. Board Report, October Board meeting - Andy Kegley  
September bd. Meeting – evaluated our ED, Jim King, reviewed the audit – good and clean, hats off to staff financial department – Brittney, Jim and crew. Some generative discussion on projects from a view at 30,000 feet.
- b. Membership Updates - Vonda
  - Reporting – Reporting is important. VA had 100% reporting, kudos! Total of reporting on September 30<sup>th</sup> of 87%. Gives opportunities such as training.
  - Training – Jackie  
If anyone signed up for online self-paced courses toward the end of Sept, coming up on deadline to have those completed. Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, make sure you are getting them done and send Jackie certificate of completion for NeighborWorks to show them how we make the best of opportunities given. Have another opportunity for training, there is a virtual training institute coming up in February through NeighborWorks, Jackie will be getting info out to members. In the past, pricing has been \$800 all-inclusive package, there are some smaller packages as well. Have not gotten a new allotment of training dollars.  
Cherry noted: Good deal; NWA is known for its training. Fred Jeter – did a rural economic development course – certified and passed his test.  
Lisa Barton: NWA – Kansas City – packager training for staff and Lisa shared they were certified in a month.  
Jordon asked if NWA has a CHAM certifications – Jackie affirmed and noted that usually one of the NTIs will concentrate on it
  - Annual Meeting – busy wrapping up detail, materials, recordings and posting online. Distributed a Survey about Spring Retreat, if didn't get survey at the meeting, let us know.
  - Spring Retreat! – **Washington DC - the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>** planning in progress – survey link in the packet – please complete regarding your interest. Dates below; planning for a hill briefing in February and some follow-up with Members in April.
- c. REED, Research Evaluation Evidence & Data Cmte - Camila Moreno  
Relaunching, first meeting tomorrow, opportunity to strength use of data and use expertise and knowledge. Will see more requests to see data. Will enhance execution of strategy. Expectation of committee is to meet on monthly basis on fixed day/time. Will have some in-between meetings for projects. In addition, will offer office hours to help committee members outside of meetings, give an opportunity to share other resources and answer questions. TBD. Sent out email to invite members early October but if didn't receive invite, reach out to Camila [cmoreno@fahe.org](mailto:cmoreno@fahe.org) or Katy [kstigers@fahe.org](mailto:kstigers@fahe.org) .

- d. Lending – Community Lending and JustChoice Lending - Vonda:  
Dollars that are available, if you have a project in the pipeline, let lending know because there is money available. A little more work than checking a box but if we can fit it in Community guidelines, happy to help do that. Have a couple more years to spend it. More paperwork involved but if there is an opportunity to do that, welcome it. Community Lending team is growing.
- e. Virtual CFO Services - Vonda – See Updated FASB in the packet. Glad to have Rae available – she is a good resource for Member financial questions – she had been helpful to several to several Members and have services available.'
- f. Partners for Rural Transformation - Jose Quinonez, Essence Smith
  - Received .5 million for research on investments, research, and effect of poverty in rural America. Expanding StoryMap, interactive narrative opportunity for community members in rural America to explain life and livelihoods in rural America. Adding 8 more stories in coming months. Cultural updates (food, art, music), then moving to issues-based approach (food equity, job equity).  
<https://storiesofruralamerica.com/>
  - Trying to learn more about cash back fees for those who don't shop big department stores, but those that shop at Dollar Tree, etc. Will be having a call. Let them know if you want to participate in that call. Essence: [essence@pfrt.org](mailto:essence@pfrt.org)
  - Annual event with HERON foundation, PRT was lucky to receive a tremendous award from the HERON Foundation, largest grant they've ever given. Working with federal government and philanthropists and continuing PRT mission.

## 7) Caucus Discussion – Around the Square

Reflections on the Annual Meeting, (Janaka's retirement event covered earlier)  
Heard Essence mention HERON foundation, Fahe will be the fiduciary agent.  
Quite hopeful, there are some people who have the ability to help get the work done in a bigger and more impactful manner. Jim, Jose, etc. got to visit HERON foundation – HERON reached out about the grant. HOPE might be able to help with western markets. Excited about possibilities.

### Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 9-11 – ReFrame Conference**: MeadowView Conf. Center, Kingsport, TN There is a special offer for Fahe Members who register. Use promo code Fahe to save \$25. If you need a bigger scholarship to be able to participate, email [becca@coalitionforhomerepair.org](mailto:becca@coalitionforhomerepair.org).
- **Tues. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30** – Workshop: **Strategic Visioning for Fahe's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan**
- **Dec. 7-9** – Rural LISC Annual Seminar - **Rural Talks: Workforce + Small Business**
- **April 2023 – week of the 24<sup>th</sup> – HOLD for Spring Retreat in DC!**
- **September 2023 – week of the 18<sup>th</sup> – HOLD for Fahe Annual Meeting in Charleston, WV!**

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## Fahe Caucus Advocacy Update

February 2023

### **Quick Asks:**

1. We need the projects you're most proud of for our congressional district one pagers. Please send a paragraph and photo (if possible) to Andrew Bates; [abates@fahe.org](mailto:abates@fahe.org)
2. We need to make sure we have your Spring Retreat Point Person and the congressional districts where you serve. Please pass these along to Jackie.
3. Do you have feedback about how Federal Recovery Funds flowed into your communities? What worked and didn't in rural areas? Treasury would love to know. Contact Maggie for more info. [Mriden@fahe.org](mailto:Mriden@fahe.org)
4. Want to join a state advocacy coalition?
  - a. For WV and KY Contact: Andrew Bates, [abates@fahe.org](mailto:abates@fahe.org)
  - b. For AL, TN and VA Contact: Maggie Riden, [mriden@fahe.org](mailto:mriden@fahe.org)

### **State Advocacy:**

**Tennessee (Partners: The Neighborworks Alliance of TN & TN Association of Housing Redevelopment Authorities - TAHRA)**

**SAVE THE DATE: 2023 Hill Day March 1, 1pm after THDA Conference**

**Standing Meeting Date: Rolling and As Needed**

- Advocate for \$100 million in American Rescue Plan State Funding (ARPA) to support Fahe members in low/moderate income housing production statewide.

The Tennessee Caucus continues to make progress. We successfully presented our \$100 million in ARPA funding ask to the Governors team in early November. Jackie joined THDA Director Ralph Perry to present our proposal. While a decision was not made at that meeting (or a December meeting), our proposal was well received by the FSAG group. There were a handful of questions about how this proposal intersected with other funding streams and Fahe's history in the state and region. And at least one member of the FSAG group voiced his support for using ARPA funding for affordable housing. Although it was disappointing to not get a decision before the start of the new year, our ongoing outreach and the questions posed at the FSAG meeting helped Fahe staff and members better understand the amount of education that must be done with legislators on affordable housing needs; and generated some good insights into possible allies or avenues to move larger housing investment conversations forward. In addition, we submitted a second revised proposal in late January. We hope

to have more details to share about the reception of that proposal when we meet in person.

### **Kentucky (Partners: Urban League, Housing and Homelessness Coalition of KY) - AHEART Proposal:**

**Standing Meeting Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, 3pm EST**

**SAVE THE DATE: February 21<sup>st</sup> Hill Day with HHCK**

- \$300 million spread over two years to establish and fund a Disaster Response Housing Trust Fund (home repair, new home build, capital repairs, tech assistance to include housing counseling)
- \$40 million one-time investment (ARPA or Budget Surplus) in the AHTF
- \$75 million (ARPA or Surplus) for vacant and abandoned property mitigation
- Increase the fees that fund the traditional AHTF from \$6-\$12

Our efforts in Kentucky continue to be largely defined by the July flash floods. During the second quarter, Advocacy team worked closely to support members of our KY Coalition in engaging in candidate/legislative outreach and media engagement. This work resulted in three very clear legislative champions (Smith, Adkins and Blanton. We also saw increased engagement from the Governor's Office, with a major project announcement in late December outlining his plan to invest in new community builds. Equally important, Fahe leadership remains a major source of insight and recommendations for the Governor; a strong indicator of the power we hold in local politics at this time. The second quarter also saw a flurry of media coverage on the limited action taken by KY leadership with regard to the Flooding. In the lead up to the Holidays, our issue received some useful media coverage, some of which mention our AHEART proposal, and we know of at least 3 -5 more pieces coming in January.

- [Herald-Leader Dec 30](#)
- [Public News Service Dec 30](#)
- [Courier Journal Dec 23](#)

### **West Virginia (Partners: The Hub and The WV Land Stewardship Corp/Vacant and Abandoned Properties Coalition)**

**Standing Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 3pm EST**

- Tax Credit to support community development projects
- Dedicated funding for a Federal Fund Matching Pool
- Increased use of project-based vouchers
- Increased support for more robust financial literacy training for high school students

This second quarter brought some ups and downs for the WV coalition. We heard back in late November from a prominent education advocacy group in WV that our goal to increase the rigor of financial literacy at the state level was likely a non-starter (given

state politics and existing education priorities). Rather than spin our wheels with the state, we're working with a WV member to identify possible funding to support the pilot partnership she's developed with a handful of WV High Schools with the hope that this program can serve as a future proof of concept.

Our work on a state-based tax credit and dedicated funding match pool will begin in earnest with the start of this legislative session. We anticipate working closely with other state-based advocacy groups to identify possible allies to elevate these priorities. With regard to project-based vouchers; we're working to get a joint exploratory session between Fahe members and state Housing Authorities to explore opportunities to expand the use of project-based vouchers. Finally, SALS has elevated a major local challenge related to rental increases and the purchase of mobile home parks by for profit developers. Fahe Advocacy is doing some initial exploration into the scope of these issues in WV and the region more generally. While still in an early exploratory phase; the trends we're seeing in WV and other non-Appalachian communities-particularly with regard to the purchase of mobile home parks may have relevance to the region. More to come.

### **Virginia (Partners: VA Housing Alliance)**

#### **Standing Meeting Date: First Thursday of the Month, 11am EST**

- Secure increased housing funding and a special carve out for SW VA.
- Work with Housing Agencies and the state to provide developers with the ability to transition tenant-based vouchers to project-based vouchers
- Eliminate the prohibition of using Homeless Assistance Grant Money to pay rent on units owned by the same agency. This could be specifically targeted to rural parts of VA.

Our VA Coalition continues to make progress- particularly in their work to elevate specific funding for SW VA. In late November the coalition contracted with VA Tech to complete a housing needs assessment specifically focused on SW VA. The information that this analysis provides will allow Fahe Advocacy team to draft a robust funding and policy proposal we will begin to circulate in Q3 and 4 of this year. Members continue to elevate the need to transition tenant-based vouchers to project based vouchers; and to address the prohibitions on Homeless Assistance Grant dollars as they meet with relevant agencies.

### **Alabama (Partners: AL Arise, Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama)**

#### **Standing Meeting Date: Third Wednesday of the Month, 11am EST**

- Dedicated, recurring \$20 million for their AHTF, and an additional \$20 million in one-time ARPA funding for their Trust Fund. To kick this off- we've commissioned an update to a 2014 housing study that looked at the economic benefits associated with a funded Trust Fund.
- State Low Income Tax Credit
- Increase in membership size

Alabama is our small but mighty caucus. In November of 2022, this coalition confirmed a contract with an AL based researcher to update a dated economic analysis that outlined the benefits to funding the states affordable housing trust fund. We are awaiting the final report now, As we wait, the coalition has done a deep dive on the original legislation to identify possible updates; is working to develop talking points that clarify how funding the Trust Fund is complimentary to a State Low Income Tax Credit (another advocacy priority that Fahe is supporting but not leading), and identifying possible champions for our ask within the Governor's office. The final report, and this work will inform the development and launch of a robust advocacy campaign for AHTF funding in advance of the 2023 legislative session.

### **Federal Advocacy:**

Finally, we are continuing to make headway in our Federal Advocacy Work. As we have reported in the past, our strategic focus here has been the passage of a legislative fix to the rural income limit fairness proposal Fahe has created. We have seen some progress towards that end this quarter. Congress directed, through its year-end spending bills, that HUD report on the impacts of Fahe's proposal by the end of June 2023. This will be the first time HUD is put on record on the issue, and is the first time Congress has acted in any way on our income limit issue. While only a first step, it is an important one.

Elsewhere on the topic of our income limit work, we have been working to educate our congressional delegation, raise the issue with federal administrative leadership during coalition meetings (e.g. National Rural Housing Coalition meetings), and work to include the proposal in ongoing advocacy work with the Partners for Rural Transformation. We have also made it the center piece of a public comment to the Interagency Community Development Committee, an arm of the federal government which brings together administrative staff from different federal departments to discuss cross-governmental issues with community development funding.

Finally, on the topic of our income limits work, we are glad to announce that we are in the early stages of planning Fahe's first ever congressional briefing. Planned for early Spring, it will bring together Fahe Members, representatives from the PRT and the research community, to host an event in the Capitol building aimed at educating as wide a swath of congressional staff as possible. The planning for this is in the early stages, but we hope that this event will set the stage for the later Spring Retreat advocacy of our Members.

The other large-scale projects which the department has focused on have been appropriations work and the summer flooding in the Region. We have worked to keep the flooding foremost in the minds of our congressional representation, not only to increase spending on year-end appropriations for programs like CDBG:DR (\$3+ billion) but also to ease administrative burdens on programs to help in the short term (mainly USDA housing programs), and to speed the process of administering federal funding (less successfully).

Appropriations have played out as expected, with a full year funding bill passed at the end of the calendar year, avoiding a continuing resolution. Unfortunately, the final funding levels are not as robust as they were in some proposals throughout the year. Most programs were flat funded. Some exceptions to this are found in increases to USDA Rental programs, the CDFI Fund, and CDBG earmarks from Members of Congress. But by and large, core programs like HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Program and USDA's Section 504 Home Repair remain flat funded at their FY2022 levels.

Elsewhere, Fahe made public comments on the future of the Federal Home Loan Bank system, as well as the CDFI Certification Application this quarter. We also gathered Member input on the potential for network usage of the new funding made available in the Inflation Reduction Act, to being identifying and facilitating the delivery of these funds.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but a set of highlights to date. With the end of the 2022 campaign cycle, we will be identifying future champions and opportunities to elevate the needs of the region given the division of party leadership in the House and Senate. Other priorities were also pursued this quarter and will continue to be pursued next quarter as well (e.g. creation of a Neighborhood Homes Investment Tax Credit), but no significant progress was made this quarter to report on.

On a personal note, your staff is very glad to report that Capitol Hill is slowly getting back to normal following the restrictions of the pandemic. It is now possible to take meetings with congressional offices in person, and coalitions and organizations are beginning to host events in the city again. We take this time to remind you that Fahe has an Advocacy staff member in the DC area, and he is looking forward to accompanying you or facilitating your visits, if you should want to include Fahe in your advocacy.

### **Big Picture Policy Committee:**

The BPPC committee continued to meet throughout this quarter. Although we had slightly reduced attendance due to some members having standing conflicts for the fall period- we were able to maintain quorum and produce some good work focused on strengthening Federal Disaster Recovery to maximize its utility in rural and hard to serve areas. The board will review and vote on this policy on during the February meeting.

## Fahe UPDATES

### USDA 502 Update from Jamie Puckett:

- The current rate as of 2/1/2023 has decreased to 4% from 4.25%.
- Phase 2 applications are to be submitted to Fahe if they are not already doing so if members are Qualified Employers/Certified Packagers with Fahe. Submit Phase 2 to [Phase2@fahe.org](mailto:Phase2@fahe.org)
- Reminder to keep Fahe copied on all correspondence with RD. This ensures that all parties are kept apprised of the applications statuses throughout the Direct application process.
- Please remember that Fahe is here as a resource for your organization to utilize if you have questions, need guidance, technical support, advocacy, additional training or assistance with marketing.

### Fahe Strategic Planning Timeline from Sara Ball:



### Quarterly Reporting Information – Quarter Ending 12/31/22

# 2022-2023

## Continuity Planning Report and Overview

Diedre Kendall

Fahe Disaster Response Coordinator  
AmeriCorps Vista

The first step in creating a Business Continuity Plan is for your agency to complete the pre-development survey. This pre-development survey tells us how prepared you feel your organizations is and what threats concern you the most.

The pre-development survey can be found here:



Diedre Kendall

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## Tennessee/Virginia BCP Update

### Tennessee Caucus

4 of our Tennessee Members have completed the survey

2 of our Tennessee Members have begun working on their Business Continuity Plan

1 of our Tennessee Members already had a Business Continuity Plan in place and has begun updating it.

### Virginia Caucus

3 of our Virginia Members have completed the survey

**If you have not already completed the survey, please do so today so we can begin working on your agencies Business Continuity Plan!**

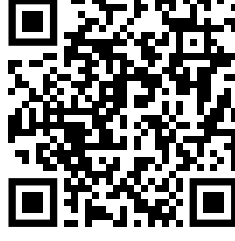
## Resources and Reporting

As part of the reinforcement, reporting, and resource development expectations of this project, a Disaster Response Resource Page has been created and maintain by dedicated Fahe staff.

This Website is a database for communication between members in the event of a disaster event, and has proven invaluable following the events of the Eastern Kentucky flooding.

Included on the website are:

- Continuity Plan development divided into three easy-to-follow steps.
- Templates, resources, and up-to-date news.
- Business Continuity and Disaster Planning related courses
- Reporting form used to contact Fahe in the event of a disaster.



## **Trauma Informed Care Information & Schedule** from Nicholas Bormes

Good news! After coordinating with UWSWVA (United Way of Southwest Virginia), SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), and Bristol's Promise, we've selected the following dates for standing trainings via Zoom for Fahe staff and member organizations:

**Tuesday, February 21:** 1p - 3p

**Wednesday, March 8:** 1p - 3p

**Tuesday, March 21:** 10a - 12p

**Monday, April 3:** 10a - 12p

**Thursday, April 20:** 1p - 3p

**Monday, May 1:** 1p - 3p

**Thursday, May 25:** 10a - 12p

Following, is a flyer for the upcoming training. All participants (individually) will need to follow the link within the flyer or directly visit the Eventbrite page [HERE](#). The e-ticket "purchase" will be on the right side and the price is free. Once you register, you will receive an email – click "view the event" in your email, where you will choose from the dates above to attend the training. This will also give you the option of saving the zoom appointment to your calendar. After that, you're all set!



ONLINE TRAINING

# Trauma & Resilience Basic Training

Learn how healthy brain development can be derailed by toxic stress and what you can do in your workplace and community to build resilience across the course of a lifetime.

**MULTIPLE DATES AVAILABLE**  
**FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY\***

\*Each training in this series is the same training. Additional types and depths of training are available upon request.

**REGISTER NOW**



Hosted by:



United Way of  
Southwest Virginia

**NOW AVAILABLE!**



JustChoice Lending

-A Division of Fahe

NMLS 52473



# FAHE COMMUNITY LOAN PROGRAM

OFFER VALID NOW- MAY 1, 2023

- 20% 2nd Mortgage for Down Payment and/or Closing Costs
- Fixed 4.50% Interest Rate 2nd Mortgage\*
- The term of the 2nd Mortgage will match the term of the 1st Mortgage
- \$500,000 Available (first come, first serve- must be under contract)
- Offer valid for Fahe Network Members and Third Party Originators only
- Borrower must purchase in a CDFI Target Market or be under 80% AMI
- Can be paired with any Secondary Market 1st Mortgage
- Homebuyer Education Required
- Loan must close on or before May 15, 2023

**Ask Questions or Reserve Funds at:**  
**lockdesk@fahe.org**

**CDFI Investment Area Lookup Tool: <https://cimsprodprep.cdfifund.gov/CIMS4/apps/pn-cdfi/index.aspx?center=98.212,38.724&level=4>**

\*All information contained herein is for informational purposes only. Rates, terms, programs and underwriting policies are subject to change without notice. This is not an offer to extend credit or a commitment to lend. All loans are subject to underwriting approval. Additional conditions and limitations may apply. Secondary Market, purchase transactions only. USDA 502 Direct loans are not allowed. The funds cannot be used for the borrower's 3.5% required contribution for FHA loans. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for the second mortgage will not increase after consummation. Your interest rate of 4.50% listed for the second mortgage is for a secured home loan. The term (the amount of monthly payments due) of the second mortgage will match the term of the first mortgage.

Payment Example, assumes a 740 Credit Score. Purchase Price: \$200,000  
Monthly principal and interest payments for the \$160,000 first mortgage loan at 7% interest rate (7.077% APR) with a term of 30 years would result in 360 monthly payments of \$1,064.48. Monthly principal and interest payments for the \$40,000 second mortgage loan at 4.50% interest rate (4.639% APR) with a term of 30 years would result in 360 monthly payments of \$202.67. Total monthly principal and interest payment for the first and second mortgage with a term of 30 years would result in 360 monthly payments of \$1,267.15. Taxes and insurance not included.

