



2024 Housing Justice Network Conference Request for Workshop Proposals

Conference Overview:

The Housing Justice Network (HJN) Conference brings together low-income housing allies from across the country, including public interest attorneys, affordable housing advocates, policy analysts, and organizers. The conference features plenary sessions and more than 20 workshops covering important issues that impact housing affordability and low-income tenants, such as current developments in the federal housing programs, strategies for representing the interests of low-income residents, and ideas on litigating, advocating, and organizing. The conference is an opportunity to meet with colleagues and build our collective capacity to advance housing justice for low-income families across the country.

Site: Minneapolis, MN

The 2024 Housing Justice Network Conference will be held **September 4-6, at Minneapolis Hilton**, 1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Proposal Guidelines:

The conference planning committee will consider the following in reviewing proposals:

- Relevance to housing advocates and attorneys
- Clear take-home value and practical strategies
- Attention to emerging issues
- Innovative approaches
- Racial justice advocacy
- Inclusion of panelists from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. (We encourage using this as an opportunity to include at least one person who has not previously presented at an HJN meeting in the past to help expand the network.)
- Collaboration with non-attorneys and/or inclusion of non-attorney panelists, i.e. tenant groups, tenant organizers, researchers, etc.

Workshops can be 75 minutes or 90 minutes in length and must include interactive elements that facilitate audience participation.

The planning committee is particularly interested in workshop proposals covering:

Admissions and Evictions

- Implementation of right to counsel in housing cases
- Access to eviction data and leveraging research for advocacy
- Strategies for improving state and local landlord-tenant laws in 2025 and beyond in states across the political spectrum
- Financial practices as a barrier/deterrent to housing access (rental application fees, minimum income requirements, security deposits, etc.)
- Recertifications 101
- Enforcing tenants rights in federally-backed properties
- New threats to tenants' rights associated with property management technology
- Pros and cons of portable tenant screening reports
- Challenging rent bonds in unlawful detainer cases

Fair Housing, Environmental Justice & Climate Justice

- Health and housing
- Connecting environmental justice to housing justice
- Federal fair housing policy developments and state/local responses
- Affirmatively furthering fair housing obligation and advocacy
- Source of income discrimination advocacy
- LGBTQ+ housing rights
- Challenging disability discrimination in housing
- Criminal legal system & housing (i.e. reentry, one-strike policies, nuisance ordinances, crime free housing programs, fair chance housing legislation, etc.)
- Utility costs and tenant impacts of energy upgrades
- Housing discrimination against survivors of gender-based violence
- Eviction records screening (data, litigation, and policy)
- Language access and national origin discrimination in housing
- Challenging exclusionary zoning practices

Housing Preservation & Increasing Housing Supply

- Early release and planned foreclosures in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC)
- LIHTC Qualified Allocation Plan advocacy
- VAWA 2022 and other housing protections for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Preservation and tenants' rights in manufactured housing communities, strategies for addressing the unique vulnerability of residents in MH communities
- Organizing and policy strategies to protect project based Section 8 housing from bad owners
- Strategies to improve and preserve public housing
- The corporate buy-up of affordable housing and impact on renters
- Introduction to disaster housing recovery programs (e.g. FEMA, HUD, state & local programs)
- Local and state models of healthy housing advocacy
- Succession issues for for low-income homeowners

Affirmative Litigation

- Developing, investigating and litigating fair housing cases & administrative complaints
- Affirmative litigation strategies to protect federally subsidized housing and tenant rights
- False Claims Act litigation on behalf of voucher tenants
- Challenging junk fees in residential leases
- High-impact advocacy on housing conditions
- Introduction to administrative law for housing advocates
- Using litigation to preserve housing post-disaster
- Disparate impact theory and perpetuation of segregation

Building the movement for housing security

- Movement lawyering and movement centered policy work
- Community lawyering
- Collaborations between legal advocates, tenants, and tenant organizers
- Increasing housing advocacy in rural communities
- Collaborating with researchers (e.g., academics, community-based data projects, etc.)
- Building an effective communications strategy around housing advocacy (e.g. using social media, strategic narrative, messaging, etc.)

Expectations:

The conference is an in-person event so presenters will need to be able to attend in person; there will not be an option for virtual presentations. The conference planning committee may modify and/or consolidate similar proposals. Confirmed presenters must adhere to deadlines and will be expected to submit workshop agendas, materials, presenter biographies, and A/V needs in advance. We will be using the Whova Conference app to host materials for workshop sessions. NHLP will not provide paper copies of the session materials.

Conference Registration and Travel Expenses:

Presenters who only participate in their workshop(s) and do not attend other aspects of the conference will not be charged a conference registration fee. Presenters who attend any other workshops or meals are required to pay the conference registration fee. Presenters are responsible for paying their own travel and hotel costs. A limited number of scholarships will be available for presenters. We will prioritize affordable housing residents, housing organizers, and other non-lawyer advocates for scholarships. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please check that box on the proposal form and explain in the space provided why attending the conference is important to you, why your organization cannot afford to cover the costs (if applicable), and what costs you would like to be covered.

Deadline:

Please complete the [RFP form](#) no later than **April 10, 2024**. The planning committee will make its final selections and notify session coordinators by **May 8, 2024**. Late submissions will not be reviewed. For questions and accommodation requests, please email 2024HJN@nhlp.org and include **Workshop RFP inquiry** in the subject line.

Office Hours:

If you are interested in proposing a workshop but have questions for the planning committee, please join us for Office Hours on **March 26, 2024 at 3pm ET/ 12pm PT** where we will answer your questions and share tips about what makes a successful workshop proposal. Office Hours registration coming soon.



2024 Housing Justice Network Conference: Workshop Proposal Form

(This document is provided for reference only. Please submit your form [online here.](#))

Workshop Coordinator Information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Program/Office: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Workshop Title:

Workshop Description:

Proposed Workshop Length:

(choose one)

☐ 75 minutes

☐ 90 minutes

Please select the interactive elements included in your workshop:
(check all that apply)

- ☐ **Polling**
- ☐ **Audience Q & A**
- ☐ **Small groups/breakouts**
- ☐ **Other** (please describe):

Who is your intended audience? (e.g., 101/introduction, nuts-and-bolts, advanced, etc.)

Do you or your workshop format require any specific A/V or special accommodations (i.e. accessibility, visual, audio, etc.)? Please explain:

Proposed Panelists: If this proposal is selected, all panelists must be confirmed by **June 7, 2024**. Please contact your proposed panelists ***before submitting this proposal***. Organizers who are unable to contact proposed panelists before the submission deadline are still encouraged to submit workshop proposals.

Moderator Information:

Name:_____ Title:_____

Program/Office:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Presenter 1 Information:

Name:_____ Title:_____

Program/Office:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

☐ **I am requesting a scholarship to attend the conference.**

Presenter 2 Information:

Name:_____ Title:_____

Program/Office:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

☐ **I am requesting a scholarship to attend the conference.**

Presenter 3 Information:

Name:_____ Title:_____

Program/Office:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

☐ **I am requesting a scholarship to attend the conference.**

Presenter 4 Information:

Name:_____ Title:_____

Program/Office:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

☐ **I am requesting a scholarship to attend the conference.**