

# 2017

## *Highlights*

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**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

Housing and  
Community  
Development



**Network** of New Jersey

# We Supported New Jersey's Community Development Sector and Promoted the Impact of our Network.



## PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

### PROVIDED SANDY OUTREACH INFORMATION/ SUPPORTED AN EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE SANDY RECOVERY

- Held **10 Housing Resource Fairs** for Sandy-Impacted Residents with **over 400 attendees**.
- Provided hundreds of municipalities, organizations, and individuals with **housing resource information** through LTRG, COAD, and VOAD meetings.
- **Sandy Foreclosure Protection legislation enacted** ensuring fairness, enhancing transparency, and creating foreclosure protections.
- **Educated our colleague organizations** in other states impacted by disasters on lessons learned.

### PREVENTING & ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

- Facilitated **Homelessness Working Group**, to update and help our members address issues and challenges facing their communities
- **Shepherded Code Blue law** requiring county emergency management coordinators to provide shelter for the homeless during severe winter weather events.
- Monitored and advised municipal and organizational **implementation of the Code Blue policy** and conducted outreach during its first winter.
- **Passed legislation:** exempting homeless people from fees for obtaining ID's; creating housing assistance for veterans; and emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence.

### MADE OUR VOICES HEARD

- Participated in **policy shaping reports**, including Crossroads NJ's Housing and Land Use paper, to help inform decision making in the new Administration and legislature.
- Three Network Board members served on **Gov. Murphy's Transition Team for Housing**, one of whom co-chaired the committee. Network members also served on banking, health and other committees, and many of our recommendations were incorporated into the final reports of these committees.
- Our **Advocacy Teams**, comprised of leaders and committed residents across New Jersey, **continued to meet**, brainstorm, and design plans to benefit their communities. The Network provides advice, oversight, on-going support and technical assistance as these plans are drafted and enacted.
- Mobilized over **150 housing advocates** for our **annual Legislative Day**, to urge lawmakers and future leaders to *Build a Thriving New Jersey*. There we spoke with **34 legislators** and staff.
- Sponsored **NJ Hill Day** in Washington, DC, that brought **400 people** from NJ to voice their support for important federally funded housing programs and services.
- Informed our members using **daily media round ups**, website with **26,000 views** and 6,000 on our blog, and 47 posts were published on our **Network Voices**.
- **Partnered with RPA** to collect member feedback and shape the Fourth Regional Plan at over a dozen meetings and events.
- RPA published a **white paper in support** of Build a Thriving NJ.

▶ Expanded BATNJ efforts during Gubernatorial election to win support from next set of state leaders to **INVEST \$600 MILLION ANNUALLY TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOMES** and strengthen our economy.

▶ Hosted eight *Build a Thriving New Jersey* events, including our **FIRST-EVER GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE FORUM**, which featured commitments from multiple candidates running for the state's highest office.

▶ Secured the endorsement of over **300 PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS** for Build a Thriving New Jersey.

## COMMUNITY STABILIZATION & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

### SUPPORTED HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & HEALTHY HOMES

- Convened our *Healthy Homes and Communities* statewide steering campaign to address on-going problems with an emphasis on capacity building opportunities, and policy priorities, including problem solving sessions with the non-profit organizations involved with the *Lead-Safe Home Remediation Pilot Grant Program*.
- Helped educate community health workers, non-profit organizations, school nurses, and other stakeholders to **lower actionable Blood Lead Levels** for children with lead poisoning.
- **Passed legislation** to require NJ's elevated blood lead levels in children to be consistent with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC recommendations. **Advanced policy priorities**, to require lead safe certificate for an apartment, soil testing to determine lead levels, and a Statewide plan to reduce lead exposure from contaminate soils and drinking water.
- Supported efforts to **preserve the Affordable Care Act**, to protect access to health care for low income consumers.

### SUPPORTED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

- Unveiled *Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit: A Catalyst for Lasting Change*, showing the positive impacts of the NRTC throughout NJ and presented it to legislators and stakeholders.
- **Celebrated the work** of organizations receiving NRTC funding, and called for more funding to be dedicated towards the program at a special NRTC program.
- **Updated our Neighborhood Stabilization Toolkit** for developers and policy makers to reflect the changing housing market, policy priorities, best practices, research and requirements.
- Developed in-house capacity by earning certification in, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED).



Check out our website to stay up to date [www.hcdnnj.org](http://www.hcdnnj.org)

# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MEMBER SERVICES



## EDUCATED OUR MEMBERS AND NJ'S DECISION MAKERS

- Launched *WelcomeHomeNJ.org* providing our members, the public, developers and builders, lenders, and government agencies with community development information, resources, and templates dedicated to finding resources for home ownership, rental, re-finance, or rehabilitation.
- **Held webinars** for pressing issues facing our members, including those serving immigrant communities, to identify and share best practices for addressing the needs of undocumented residents and families
- Served on **Community Reinvestment Advisory boards** of private sector lenders, as well as the Housing Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of NY and the Economic Community Advisory Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.
- Highlighted our Network successes at **New Jersey Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development**, NACEDA's biennial conference, **People and Places** and the **League of Municipalities**.
- **Grew our Network**. In 2017, 25 new members joined the Network - 8 Core, 4 Associate, and 13 Individuals.
- **Restructured member benefits** and **updated resources** to better serve the needs of our non-profit and private sector partners.
- Provided over **15 opportunities for training** including our webinar series on topics including immigration, emergency preparedness, financial and lending products, community schools, managing multiple generations, and a series on preparing for the housing counseling certification exam



## CONTINUED HUD HOUSING COUNSELING INTERMEDIARY AND RELATED SUPPORT

- Continued to be the state's largest HUD-certified housing counseling intermediary. Over **1600 households** received HUD-funded counseling and education through our **8 funded member organizations** who participate in this program.
- Received one of only 65 national **NeighborWorks America's: Project Reinvest Financial Capability: Counseling & Coaching grant awards**. NJ households will benefit from focused counseling to learn how to meet their financial and personal goals.
- Hosted **Statewide Meetings** for HUD certified housing counselors where we exchange best practices, provide industry updates, share agency guidelines and new rules as well as introduce banking products.

- **Facilitated communication** between Housing Counselors and HUD Representatives to discuss issues around reporting procedures, funding, HUD counseling certification, billing and time tracking, and client management reporting documents.
- Sustained our commitment to **disaster and emergency preparedness** by holding a training "Emergency Preparedness for Housing Counselors and Emergency Preparedness for Non-Profit Organizations" covering the ways in which non-profit agencies and housing counselors ought to prepare.



## ENHANCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR FIELD

- Launched our inaugural class of **Rising Leaders Program**, pairing emerging community development professionals with experienced mentors in a yearlong program to promote personal and professional development.
- Our popular **Community Scholars** program returned for a second successful year. A dozen students were matched with 11 member organizations throughout NJ for 10 weeks over the summer. The program builds member capacity while providing students seeking a career in the sector with a chance to gain real-world, hands-on experience.
- Maintained **AmeriCorps VISTA** program, enlisting 7 VISTAs through the course of the year, stationed at 4 different member agencies.
- **Mentored a Fellow** from the Nelson Mandela Leadership Institute, who came from Burkina Faso to learn about community development, fundraising, and nonprofit management.



## BROUGHT THE SECTOR UNDER ONE ROOF

- Hosted over **400 people** at our third sold-out Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, **Under One Roof**.
- Expanded Under One Roof **to a two day conference**, with a special focus on the bridge between the health and community development sectors and how best we can work together.
- In cooperation with Mercer County Community College, offered **12 CEU eligible workshops** during annual conference on topics such as lead remediation, housing counseling, and creative placemaking.
- Utilized the **mobile app Topi** to provide attendees convenient access to materials and greater networking opportunities.