

Free Workshops

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 4

Best Practices in Working with Volunteers

Location: N121C, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

This is your opportunity to share your experiences working with volunteers; to learn how other community development organizations successfully engage volunteers in their work; and to learn about a variety of resources to support you in this process. We'll hear from organizations that use volunteers for long-term assignments and for large annual events. We'll discuss ways to tap into the new civic engagement spawned by the Obama campaign and presidency. There will be plenty of time for dialogue to ensure that participants come away from this workshop with new ideas, tools and motivation for recruiting, engaging and retaining volunteers in your organization.

Presenters: Silvia Rodriguez, Lisa Thompson

BestFIT Foreclosure Counseling Tool Software Demo

Location: N129B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenter(s): TBD

Case Study: Neighborhood Revitalization Following the Foreclosure Crisis

Location: N124A, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Attend this session to find out how one organization revitalized their neighborhoods hit hard by foreclosure. Best practices to be covered: how to involve residents; how to structure community projects related to vacant and abandoned properties; and how to incorporate creative rehab projects with varied loan programs into the overall revitalization plan.

Presenter: Janice Forte

FOR NEIGHBORWORKS® ONLY: Data Collection Policies and Procedures

Location: N126A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Open to all NeighborWorks® network organizations, this workshop will give you the low-down on policy impacts to data reporting, reporting procedure changes and future plans for data collection. The session will be highly interactive, and your questions and ideas are encouraged!

Presenters: Laura Johnson, Michael Pronovost

Foreclosure Counselors: Are You Stressed?

Location: N124B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Foreclosure intervention counseling — always difficult — has become a more stressful job as the growing foreclosure crisis causes caseloads to spike. The demand — and the heart-wrenching stories — can appear never-ending. This workshop, created especially for foreclosure intervention counselors, will look at the warning signs and the effects of stress on our job performance. The workshop will provide a space to share job frustrations and is structured so that participants will walk away with some practical ways to manage the pressures of the important job they do.

Presenter: Milton Sharp

HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program: An Interactive Overview

Location: N121A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

This workshop will provide an in-depth overview of HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. We'll cover program rules and requirements, eligible uses and reporting, including the most up-to-date information from HUD's FAQ process. Join us — with your questions and ideas — to find out about how to obtain this valuable funding, and start planning your neighborhood stabilization strategies.

Presenter: Sarah Greenberg

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Nuts and Bolts Conversation with a Green Affordable Housing Builder

Location: Ahwautukee B, 2nd Level, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Learn how a market homebuilder is delivering affordable green homes in Texas. Kevin Harmon of Green Eagles Development will share the techniques and trade off exercises he undertakes to reach for green and how this creates savings on other systems. Join a very practical discussion on building affordable green homes. This will be a down-to-earth conversation that speaks to how to get it done in green affordable housing.

Presenter: Kevin Harmon

Online Social Networking Tools to Support Local Community Engagement Efforts

Location: N122A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Communities thrive through connecting people. Online social networking tools like Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and blogs are new ways of strengthening relationships and building social capital. Participation in community — indeed, volunteerism in general — has matured beyond simply going to meetings or helping out the local charity. Learn to use online social networking tools to enhance and strengthen the face-to-face interaction in communities. Learn skills you can use in your community today to promote local activities and events, as well as to reach residents who may be “connected observers” in your neighborhoods. We’ll check out some case studies of neighborhoods that are using these tools to support their neighborhood groups, recruit new members and create a better sense of community for all residents, both online and off. We will explore the world of “user driven content” to tap into what your residents view as vital and important in their communities. We’ll make it easy for you to get started and answer any questions that you may have.

Presenters: Eileen Flanagan, Katrina Hanson

Preserving Homeownership: Tips & Tools for Foreclosure Intervention Counselors

Location: N125A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenter: Hala Farid

Tap into the \$5 Billion Stimulus Energy Retrofit Funding Through DOE

Location: Laveen A, 2nd Level, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Can you leverage your housing rehabilitation programs by accessing your local Energy Stimulus funds? Learn about ways to coordinate with weatherization programs and building performance professionals to improve the energy efficiency of your housing. This session will offer specific program information as well as suggest ways that you can coordinate for both single and multi-family projects.

Presenter(s): TBD

Tuesday, May 5

Charting Your Green Certification Roadmap

Location: Ahwaukee B, 2nd Level, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Green building programs and standards are a great resource for greening your projects. Whether applying the programs to an individual project or to the organizational construction and management process, you will find the programs provide the support and structure needed to achieve green standards on a consistent basis. Certification through green buildings programs provides risk management, independent verification and quality assurance. Choosing the right program(s) for your roadmap will be critical based on your green goals and desired outcomes. Join us as experts in Enterprise Green Communities, Environments for Living Certified Green and US Green Building Council LEED for Homes outline the roadmap to certification. Speakers will discuss the synergies between their programs and the value of using multiple certifications on projects. Participants attending the workshop will be able to integrate green building certification into their green roadmap as a tool towards sustainability.

Presenters: Trisha Miller, Kelsey Mullen, Brad Townsend

Coaching: A Vision for Financial Empowerment

Location: N229B, 200 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Building family assets in an era of global financial meltdown is daunting for all of us! People of low income — living from paycheck to paycheck — are facing greater challenges. Join us in a discussion of how two innovative agencies are working through collaboratives to help families set new asset and savings goals — and reach them — through professional coaching.

Presenters: Ron Jackson, Rachael Castro, Janet Raffel, Laura Ryan

Foreclosure Data: Where to Find It, How to Use It

Location: N122A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

Participants in this introductory workshop will learn where to find data about foreclosures, and how to use the data to assess neighborhood foreclosure risk. All levels of expertise are welcome to this interactive session. The instructor will emphasize online resources that are available for free and that do not require a background in GIS systems or data analysis.

Presenter: William Talcott

Everything You Want to Know about the National Community Stabilization Trust

Location: N222A/B, 200 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

This workshop will provide an introduction to the National Community Stabilization Trust, a joint venture formed by Enterprise Community Partners, the Housing Partnership Network, LISC, and NeighborWorks® America to assist communities dealing with the devastating impacts of the foreclosure crisis. The NCST provides for the efficient transfer of REO properties from lenders and servicers to local community stabilization projects. NCST also facilitates dialogue and best practice-sharing among communities across the country. In this highly interactive workshop, Craig Nickerson, President of the National Community Stabilization Trust, will talk about the current status and latest activities of the Trust, and how your community can benefit by taking advantage of Trust programs and resources.

Presenter: Craig Nickerson

How to Sustain and Increase Mortgage Business in a Difficult Market

Location: N128A/B, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

In a market with reduced access to credit and where underwriting guidelines for real estate financing have tightened since 2005, it is increasingly difficult for all, especially low- and moderate-income households and minority groups, to qualify for an affordable and competitive mortgage loan product.

Best practices and case studies from peer NeighborWorks® organizations that have mastered how to grow and sustain their business through their partnership with NHSA will be presented.

During this workshop you will learn:

- Why NHSA has the best mortgage products in the country
- How to achieve sustainability from earned income Technology that is at the forefront of the non profit mortgage industry
- Operating a non profit as a business enterprise
- Business models that work in a changing lending environment

Presenters: Bertha Garcia, Michael Loftin

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HUD's FHA Products: Purchase and Rescue

Location: N229A, 200 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenter: Susan Marcell

Introduction to Success Measures Participatory Outcome-Based Evaluation

Location: N127C, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenter: Nancy Kopf

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

Location: S158, 100 Level, South Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenters: Anthony Poore, Kathleen Kennedy

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

Location: S156, 100 Level, South Bldg., Convention Ctr.

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

Presenter: T. Ayoka Turner

Understanding the New Management and Leadership Certificate Programs

Location: S151, 100 Level, South Bldg., Convention Ctr.

The Management and Leadership track at the NeighborWorks® Training Institute has added two new certificate programs — one in Organizational Leadership and another in Community Development Management — in addition to the original program in Management and Leadership. If you are currently enrolled in The Management and Leadership Professional Certificate Program or interested in it, this session will help guide you to the certificate that best fits your interests and needs.

Presenters: Mark Robinson, Kindra Smith

Using Social Networking to Advance the Community Development Field

Location: N224A, 200 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

As one avenue to help emerging leaders and increase the diversity of the leadership in the community development field, NeighborWorks® America has launched an exciting new online professional networking site to provide one central location for access to best practice-sharing, learning and professional development opportunities. The site primarily features user-generated content — such as question and answer posts to community development-related topics, videos, blogs, photos, event postings, the option to form and join specific interest groups and listings of job opportunities across the country.

The development of this site is meant to address the lack of tools and resources available to new and emerging leaders — especially, but not only, people of color and women — who are looking to advance their careers, share opportunities and be more effective leaders in the field. The site will be a place where the aspiring leaders of the community development field gather to connect with opportunities, helpful tips, tools, hiring decision-makers as well as mentors and each other.

Experienced leaders as well as emerging leaders are encouraged to attend this session, to become members of the site and to share your knowledge and ideas!

Presenter: Christina Deady

Special Workshops — Thursday, May 7

Neighborhood Stabilization Program: Innovative Program Models for Your Community

Location: N124A, 100 Level, North Bldg., Convention Ctr.

This workshop will gather case studies of innovative programs from around the country that have employed funding from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. These models can be replicated in communities severely affected by foreclosure and abandonment. Come see what worked and what didn't, and how you can determine the best course for your community.

Presenter: Sarah Greenberg

Understanding the Making Home Affordable Program

Location: Valley of the Sun C, 2nd Level, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

The Making Home Affordable program is one of the latest programs announced by the Obama administration to help stem the tide of foreclosures. The program, like the foreclosure crisis itself, is a complex one. Join us for an informative and interactive session with governmental representatives who can explain the details of Making Home Affordable, and answer your most critical questions!

Presenter(s): TBD