Illinois Housing Council
Legislative Committee - 2020 Priorities

Federal Priorities:
- The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) should be strengthened and expanded:
  o Advocate for the passage of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, which includes increasing LIHTC allocation authority and establishing a floor on the 4% Housing Credit
  o Advocate for a workforce housing credit aimed at supporting the development of rental homes affordable to Americans with moderate incomes that could be used in conjunction with the LIHTC
- Federal investment in affordable housing should be preserved and expanded through continued support for funding programs including but not limited to: HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Section 8 rental assistance, the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), the National Housing Trust Fund, and other HUD programs.
- Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and GSE reform should support the creation and preservation of affordable housing.
- Any future federal infrastructure bill should include investment in affordable housing as a key funding component.
- The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program should be extended indefinitely.

State Priorities:
- The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) should follow the principles developed by IHC to guide decision making on the usage of $200 million in Rebuild Illinois capital budget funds for affordable housing.
- Illinois should implement the Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit - a new state tax credit for affordable housing that could be paired with the proven model of the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. This new tax credit will leverage private resources to create affordable homes while allowing the state to pull down federal resources that are currently going unused.
- Illinois should provide property tax relief for affordable rental properties. Across all markets, owners grapple with growing costs for property taxes. IHC should support proposals that encourage investment and create and preserve affordable rental homes in both strong and weak markets.
- Illinois should raise the $10 surcharge on the County recordation fee to increase resources for the highly successful Rental Housing Support Program, which supports the Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund (CLIHTF) as well as other rental subsidy programs around the state.
- Existing state resources for affordable housing should be protected and preserved, including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Rental Housing Support Program and Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit (IAHTC).
- IHC should work with partners to explore potential new state/federal strategies to fund operating support for affordable housing, in order to allow more projects to serve extremely low income populations.