

newsletter

National Urban League's Housing Network

New Urban League HUD-Approved Agency



The Urban League of Greater Madison proudly announces its newly acquired HUD Certification, as they join the National Urban League's HUD-Certified Housing Counseling Network.

This achievement paves the way for the affiliate to broaden the scope of their housing education and counseling initiatives. In addition to their current pre- and post-purchase education programs, they are thrilled to announce the commencement of their HUD homeownership certification classes that began in 2024!

Affiliates in the News

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle Tackles Homeownership Inequities with the Washington State Covenant Homeownership Program, which offers up to \$150,000 in down payment assistance. The program aims to address historical inequities in homeownership, which have created significant barriers for many communities of color. Linda Taylor, Director of Housing for the Urban League, discusses the program in this podcast.

Beyond Development: Ron Washington credits Rochester for acknowledging its housing problem. The housing director at the **Urban League of Rochester** believes it's the first step toward a solution. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Coming Soon: NUL x Door Dash Virtual Financial Empowerment Center App



Through partnership with DoorDash, the National Urban League developed the [Virtual Financial Empowerment Center \(VFEC\) app](#).

The VFEC App will offer self-paced financial education exclusive to Urban League Clients. Participants will be able to take courses on the go and discover how they can take control of their financial future.

Popular courses focus on topics such as Savings, Budgeting, Credit, Entrepreneurship, and Retirement. VFEC will help participants identify their financial goals and develop a plan of action to achieve them. VFEC has a module for everyone, from adults living on fixed incomes to college students handling their first budget and professionals buying their first home.

[Be on the lookout for more information coming April 2025!](#)

Affiliate Spotlight: Wells Fargo WORTH Initiative

The Urban League of Greater Atlanta



The Urban League of Greater Atlanta (ULGA) is part of the Atlanta WORTH Collaborative, galvanized by a multi-million-dollar Wells Fargo grant, Wealth Opportunities Restored through Homeownership (WORTH) initiative. The mission of the Atlanta WORTH Collaborative is to increase the number of homeowners by an additional 5,000 and preserve homeownership for 1,000 families across metro Atlanta by the end of 2026.

ULGA has been charged with developing a revolutionary web-based interactive tool as part of the strategic approach to achieving the collaborative's goals. This tool is named The Homeownership Urban Blueprint – The HUB. The HUB is designed to offer enhanced access to all the key resources in the homeownership ecosystem. This includes homeownership education, counseling, credit building, and a marketplace of real estate professionals, lenders, inventory and programs that will give under-served prospective and existing homeowners access to the cross-section of resources they need to be sustainable homeowners and to build financial literacy and wealth.

To learn more please visit: <https://thehomeownershipurbanblueprint.com>

Urban League of Philadelphia



The Urban League of Philadelphia, another recipient of the WORTH grant sponsored by Wells Fargo, recently launched the Revitalizing Neighborhoods & Increasing Homeownership (RNIH) program, which offers up to \$60k in Down Payment Assistance and closing costs assistance; \$25k of the funds are a true gift forgiven at closing and can also be utilized to pay down/off student loans. The first batch of these loans have already closed and many of those families received more than \$40k in assistance.

Read more about the initiative here: <https://nul.org/news/urban-league-philadelphia-launches-new-homeownership-initiative>

National Urban League Happenings

Urban Development Accelerator

by Michael E. Collins, Jr., Vice President, Housing and Financial Capability, National Urban League

The Urban Development Accelerator (UDA) is a bold new initiative that reflects the National Urban League's unwavering commitment to empowering affiliates to embrace community and real estate development as a cornerstone for advancing their missions, ensuring long-term sustainability, and transforming the communities they serve. At its heart, UDA is about unlocking new pathways for affiliates to leverage real estate not only as an opportunity for increasing institutional capacity but as a vehicle for creating lasting, equitable community impact.

Launched in 2024, the UDA brought together a pioneering cohort of five Urban League affiliates — the Greater Sacramento Urban League, Springfield Urban League, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, Urban League of Nebraska, and Urban League of the Upstate. These affiliates, each bringing unique strengths and local knowledge, have embraced the opportunity to expand their development expertise through shared learning, mentorship from seasoned developers, and direct, hands-on engagement with real estate initiatives. Together, they represent a vanguard of Urban League leaders driving forward a new era of community investment.

The momentum generated during UDA convenings speaks volumes about the dedication, capacity, and courage of the affiliates involved. They are not only learning from one another but are also positioning themselves as catalysts for real, lasting change in their respective markets. The UDA has sparked new ways of thinking — prompting affiliates to reimagine what is possible when real estate is leveraged as a core strategy for creating economic stability, advancing generational wealth, and ensuring community sustainability.

With every step, we grow closer to ensuring that Black and underserved communities not only survive but thrive, creating vibrant, sustainable futures for generations to come. We look forward to the exciting journey ahead and to the continued success of the Urban Development Accelerator in shaping the future of the Urban League movement.



2024 Recap: Urban League Connections

NeighborWorks Training Institute: San Francisco, CA



NeighborWorks Training Institute (NTI) in San Francisco offered professional development and provided an opportunity to help sharpen skills and deepen understanding of the many layers of housing and financial capabilities. NUL affiliates shared that attending the NTI was a rewarding experience. They found the hands-on approach to learning procedures for day-to-day management to be invaluable.

NHRC Annual Conference: Washington, D.C.



The National Housing Resource Center (NHRC) Annual Conference took place April 30th & May 1st, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Urban Leaguers attended and engaged in a multitude of impactful conversations aimed at shaping the future of housing counseling and empowering the communities we collectively serve through affordable housing and homeownership.

WMY Leadership Conference: New York, NY



The Housing & Community Development track at WMY showcased interactive workshops guided by leading advocates in the space. Affiliates from across the country came together to address strategies in Housing Access and Stability, Financial Supports and Wealth Creation, and Housing Stock and Development Opportunities. Affiliates shared best practices, challenges, and local community engagement efforts, fostering a collaborative peer learning environment.



Upcoming Training Opportunities

February 27th, 2025: *Nuts & Bolts of One on One Counseling*

- NCRC presents: Nuts & Bolts of One-on-One Counseling! Gain insider knowledge on program requirements, compliance strategies, and best practices to strengthen your agency's impact. Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills and stay ahead in the ever-evolving world of housing counseling!

March 13th, 2025: *Clearly Energy*

- Join the National Housing Resource Center for their upcoming Leaders in Housing Counseling Webinar to learn more about Clearly Energy.

March 10 - 13th, 2025: *Hybrid HUD Housing Counseling Certification Prep Course*

- Prepare to excel in the HUD Housing Counseling Certification Exam with their comprehensive course! Over four days, you'll dive deep into the six essential areas of competency: Financial Management, Housing Affordability, Fair Housing, Homeownership/Pre-Purchase, Avoiding Foreclosure, and Industry Practices and Tenancy. Join them to get ready to pass your certification exam with confidence! **Scholarships are available.** Apply now!

May 12th - 23rd, 2025:
NeighborWorks Virtual Training Institute (VTI)



[Register Here!](#)



Registration is now open for the NeighborWorks Spring Virtual Training Institute in 2025. Over the course of two weeks (webinars in Week 1, multi-day faculty-led courses in Week 2), you'll have access to intensive courses, personal and professional growth offerings and abundant peer learning and networking opportunities, all in the comfort of your home or office.