Overview

The Local Housing Solutions Institute is a five-day intensive program of seminars, strategic consultation, and team-building designed to help a select group of four to six cities and counties better address the affordability and other local housing challenges created by high or rising housing costs. The Institute will take place September 16-20 at the West Creek Ranch in Montana. There is no cost to participants for lodging, food, and programming.

Participating localities will be selected through a competitive process. To help them refine and strengthen their local housing strategies, each city or county will be required to come with a delegation of three to six senior officials holding leadership positions in the key agencies and organizations that need to work together to successfully achieve the locality’s housing goals. The participants will share their knowledge and experience; learn from and get feedback on their housing strategies from officials in other participating localities, Local Housing Solutions faculty, and outside experts; and build lasting relationships that lay the groundwork for future collaboration and continued learning.

What cities or counties should apply?

This inaugural Institute will focus on bringing together cities and counties with populations of at least 200,000 that are facing high or rapidly rising housing prices. Participants must have an interest in developing or refining a comprehensive local housing strategy and a commitment among key city or county agencies to work collaboratively toward the development and implementation of this strategy. Participants should also be open to new ideas and ways of working together.

Curriculum

The curriculum will consist of a mix of substantive workshops on local housing policy and outdoor activities to facilitate interpersonal connections that can improve productivity both at the Institute and once the delegations return home. Workshop sessions will focus on sharing and obtaining feedback on each locality’s current or emerging housing strategy, opportunities for collaboration and coordination across local agencies, and building effective coalitions to support change.

Faculty/Outside Experts

The Local Housing Solutions Institute will be led jointly by staff of Abt Associates and the NYU Furman Center – the co-conveners of the National Community of Practice on Local Housing Policy and co-creators of LocalHousingSolutions.org. Outside experts will also be invited to contribute to specific sessions at the Institute, based on the learning goals of the participating cities and counties.

Application and Selection Process

The call for applications can be found at LocalHousingSolutions.org. The applications process will open on April 5, 2019, through a link accessed via LocalHousingSolutions.org. Applications are due May 3, 2019. Selection of the finalists should be completed by the end of May. Please send any questions to LHSI@abtassoc.com.

Travel Expenses

Participants will need to cover their own travel costs to fly to and from Montana. Limited resources for travel scholarships are available. A shuttle between the Bozeman or Livingston airports and the ranch is provided by West Creek Ranch at no cost to applicants.

An online Q&A session will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 4 p.m. ET. Click here to sign up.

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