

# Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange

Housing costs are climbing in communities across the country, disproportionately affecting people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, refugees, immigrants, migrants, asylum seekers, returning citizens, veterans, and senior citizens. Land banks and their partners are rising to meet the urgent need for affordable housing among these vulnerable populations.

Supporting housing opportunities for these individuals requires building unique solutions and partnerships that best serve local communities. According to the latest National Land Bank Network (NLBN) [State of Land Banking](#) survey, over 70 percent of land bank respondents are working on or planning affordable housing projects. Approximately 50 percent are explicitly working on projects serving one or more of the vulnerable populations listed above. To support and grow this work, the Center for Community Progress is launching the **Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange**—an opportunity for land bank leaders and partners to connect, learn, and develop strategies for addressing housing insecurity in their communities.

Applications are due **Friday, March 20 by 5 PM ET**. [Apply here »](#)

## About the Learning Exchange

The learning exchange brings together land bank leaders and their partners for an in-person site visit to talk with experts in fields such as affordable housing development/finance, philanthropy, and/or social services. The program is designed to strengthen relationships between participating land banks and partnering organizations, inspire and workshop equitable and effective solutions, and provide ongoing support from national experts. Content and agenda will be customized based on the needs of selected participants.

## FAQs

### 1. Who is eligible to apply for the Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange?

Any land bank or land banking program that is (1) located in an area where property vacancy, abandonment, and disinvestment are a significant challenge to the community; and (2) a member of the National Land Bank Network is eligible to apply. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate engagement with residents and other community partners.

*Not an NLBN member yet? [Join for free here.](#)*

### 2. Who should be in my delegation?

Delegations may include up to four participants, ideally comprising at least one land bank staff member alongside relevant community partners who can collaborate meaningfully on housing programs for vulnerable populations.

We are looking to convene a wide range of community partners for this learning exchange to build cross-sector relationships and foster strong conversations. Examples of relevant community partners might include representatives from your local housing authority, community land trust, supportive housing organization, and/or tenant advocacy groups.

#### **4. When are applications due?**

Applications are due **Friday, March 20 by 5 PM ET.**

#### **5. When will applicants be notified?**

Selected participants will be notified by early April.

#### **6. What is the schedule and time commitment?**

Participants will be required to:

- Complete a Participant Agreement form
- Attend a virtual kick-off call on the week of June 1, 2026.
- Participate in a 2.5-day on-site learning exchange in **July 2026** (location and exact dates TBD).
- Complete surveys and/or phone calls, throughout and following program completion and provide feedback or testimonials where applicable.

#### **7. When and where will the learning exchange take place?**

The learning exchange will take place over 2.5 days in **July 2026**, hosted in the community of one of the participating land banks. Exact dates will be determined based on participant availability.

#### **8. What are the host community's responsibilities?**

The host community will work with Community Progress staff to coordinate a tour of relevant local sites and projects. Community Progress staff may also request recommendations for local vendors, meeting sites, caterers, etc.

#### **9. What can I expect at the learning exchange?**

The learning exchange will offer:

- Presentations from experts in the land banking and housing insecurity fields, tailored to be relevant to the selected participants
- Peer discussions on topics pertinent to land banks engaging in housing vulnerable populations, including programming, partnership development, and funding
- A mobile workshop visiting the local land bank or land banking program's relevant project sites
- Ample opportunities to learn, share, and connect with staff and partners from other organizations that are addressing similar challenges

## 10. What does this opportunity cost?

The Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange is free of charge to all participants. Community Progress will cover travel, lodging, and on-site meals.

For questions about the Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange, please contact Julia Zimmerman, Program Officer for Education, Leadership, and Engagement at [jzimmerman@communityprogress.org](mailto:jzimmerman@communityprogress.org)

## Land Banks Addressing Housing Insecurity Learning Exchange

Please complete the application via the OpenWater portal by **Wednesday, March 20 by 5 PM ET**. For any questions, contact Julia Zimmerman, Program Officer, Education, Leadership, and Engagement, at [jzimmerman@communityprogress.org](mailto:jzimmerman@communityprogress.org).

### Application

#### *Applicant Information*

- **Applying Organization (must be a land bank or land banking program):**
  - **Land Bank Address**
  - **Primary Contact Name**
  - **Job Title**
  - **Phone**
  - **Email**

#### *Proposed Delegation and Availability*

**Please list up to four participants for your learning exchange delegation.** Delegations may include up to four participants, ideally comprising at least one land bank staff member alongside relevant community partners who can collaborate meaningfully on housing programs for vulnerable populations. Examples of relevant community partners might include representatives from your local housing authority, community land trust, supportive housing organization, and/or tenant advocacy groups. Please list the individual's name, organization, organization type, email address, and 1-2 sentences detailing the existing relationship between them and the land bank.

1. Name, organization, organization type, email address, relationship with land bank
2. Name, organization, organization type, email address, relationship with land bank
3. Name, organization, organization type, email address, relationship with land bank
4. Name, organization, organization type, email address, relationship with land bank

**Please indicate your delegation's availability during the following dates to either host or travel to participate in the learning exchange. Indicating unavailable dates will not disqualify your application. (Select all that apply):**

- July 7–9, 2026
- July 14–16, 2026
- July 21–23, 2026

**Should your community be selected to participate, would you be willing to be the host location for the learning exchange? (Select one only):**

- Yes
- No

***Questions***

- 1. What programs, strategies, or partnerships does your land bank engage in to support housing opportunities for vulnerable populations (including but not limited to people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, refugees, returning citizens, veterans, and senior citizens)? (max 500 words)**
- 2. What successes has your land bank—in partnership with your broader community—achieved in working to house vulnerable populations? (max 300 words)**
- 3. What are the greatest challenges for your land bank (and community) to housing vulnerable populations? Of these challenges, which is your highest priority? (max 300 words)**
- 4. What specific knowledge, connections, or resources would make this learning exchange most valuable for your land bank and community? (max 500 words)**