

COLLECTIVE COHORT 2025-2026

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION GUIDE

NLIHC is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Collective cohort.

The Collective is a group of tenant advocates and community leaders with lived experience of housing insecurity who work towards housing justice and racial equity in their neighborhoods and greater communities. This group meets regularly to discuss shared concerns and address the needs of low-income people and families throughout the country.

The Collective program will run from August 2025 to June 2026 and each member will receive two stipends of \$575 during their time in the program.

During the program, each Collective member will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful federal advocacy. These opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- Planning NLIHC's Tenant Session, with support from NLIHC staff, at the NLIHC Annual
- Writing blog posts on NLIHC's On the Home Front Blog
- Contributing to NLIHC's Tenant Talk publication
- Being a panelist or participant for NLIHC's monthly Tenant Talk Live webinars
- Creating social media content
- Leading tenant advocacy efforts in your community among other tenants, renters, or residents.

Application period: May 15, 2025 to June 6, 2025. Applicants who are selected for interviews will be contacted by mid-June and all applicants will be notified of final decisions in July.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- Attend and participate actively in monthly 1 ½ hour Collective Zoom meetings.
- Attend and participate in the launch of the cohort at the Resora Community in Albany, GA from October 9-13.

- Check e-mails and/or texts consistently, and strive to meet deadlines for all program-related requests from NLIHC staff.
- Members will stay informed on what's going on with the Collective, federal housing policy, and housing issues within their state and community.
- Members will uphold NLIHC's mission and values in their work relating to the Collective, and act as a responsible spokesperson when representing the Collective.
- Treat all fellows, staff, and Collective members with respect. Once selected, Collective members will develop a set of shared community agreements around respect and accountability.

In turn, NLIHC will be responsible to cohort participants in the following ways:

- NLIHC will make travel arrangements to and from Albany, GA from October 9-13, 2024 (the first in-person convening) and Washington, DC in spring 2025 to attend NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum (the second in-person convening). NLIHC will provide hotel accommodations for each of the in-person convenings.
- NLIHC will provide Collective members with two stipends throughout their time of involvement. Both payments will be for \$575. One payment will be provided in 2025 and the other in 2026. If you have any issues with additional income due to income restrictions, please contact Sidney Betancourt at sbetancourt@nlihc.org and Renee Willis at rwillis@nlihc.org.
- NLIHC staff will respond in a straightforward manner to questions that you feel are necessary to carry out your responsibilities to the organization.
- If the organization does not fulfill its commitments to you, you may contact Sidney Betancourt at sbetancourt@nlihc.org and Renee Willis at rwillis@nlihc.org to discuss the situation and its implications.

APPLICATION GUIDE

This document is **NOT** the application. The application must be completed online. This document instead provides an overview of the questions included in the application. Please feel free to use the document to help prepare your answers for the online application. If you have any questions, please contact Sid Betancourt at sbetancourt@nlihc.org.

NLIHC is an equal opportunity employer. Consistent with applicable law, all qualified applicants will receive consideration for the fellowship without regard to citizenship, gender identity or expression, immigration status, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, protected veteran or military status, race, ethnicity, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable local laws, regulations and ordinances.

Questions Included in the Application:

1. Name:

2. E-mail Address:

3. Mailing Address:

4. Phone Number:

5. Preferred method of communication and best time to contact:

NLIHC wants to build an equitable environment that is inclusive of diverse identities and beliefs. By completing the information in questions #6-10, you will help ensure the Collective remains an inclusive group.

6. Which best describes your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- a. American Indian or Alaska Native
- b. Asian
- c. Black or African-American
- d. Hispanic or Latino/a
- e. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- f. Middle Eastern or North African
- g. White
- h. Prefer not to say
- i. Other (please describe): _____

7. Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to answer

8. Follow-up: If you answered yes to the previous question, can you list the accommodations you would need to fully participate in the Collective program? (short answer)

9. What is your gender identity? (short answer)

10. Which of the following best describes you?

- a. Heterosexual or straight
- b. Gay or Lesbian
- c. Bisexual or pansexual
- d. Asexual
- e. Queer
- f. Other (please)describe: _____
- g. Prefer not to share

11. What age range do you fall within?

- a. 18-30 years
- b. 31-40 years
- c. 41-50 years
- d. 51-61 years
- e. 62 years and over

12. If you're comfortable sharing, are you a person with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

13. Which best describes the housing type(s) you have lived in or experienced?

- a. Public Housing
- b. Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8
- c. Project Based Rental Assistance
- d. Tribal Housing Programs
- e. Non-subsidized
- f. Other (please describe)

14. NLIHC's Collective will kick off with a weekend retreat in Albany, GA, from October 9 to 13. NLIHC covers travel costs and other expenses in Albany. Would you be willing and able to attend in person?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Essay Questions (minimum of 100 words): Please be as specific as possible.

15. Why are you interested in becoming a member of the 24-25 Collective cohort?

16. Are you currently or have you worked with an advocacy group? If so, please highlight some of the work you have done? These may include but are not limited to: housing advocacy groups or organization, tenant unions, resident associations, advocacy groups of any kind.

17. Have you had any experiences with NLIHC or the Collective before? These may include: Being an NLIHC member, attending a webinar, using online resources, reading NLIHC members, attending NLIHC's forum or other forms of engagement. While it is not a requirement, we are prioritizing NLIHC members or others who have been previously involved in our work.

18. During these difficult times, it is hard to keep ourselves strong and steadfast through this work. One way that NLIHC staff preserve through the tough times is remembering our "why?". Can you share your "why?" or your specific purpose for doing this work?

19. OPTIONAL: Do you have any media, published work, or writing samples you would like to share with us (e.g., articles, op-eds, speaking events)? If so, please upload the files here.

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