

Housing Opportunity Committee Report
Legislative Meeting Report, Washington, DC
May 15-19, 2017

The Housing Opportunity Committee (HOC) met the morning of Wednesday, May 17th.

The Committee received several reports including:

- A report from the Florida Association of Realtors, who received a grant from the HOC to put together video testimonies of Florida residents who benefited from the state's down payment assistance program that is funded through a fee assessed to each real estate closing. The video is intended to be presented to legislators to highlight the impact the program has on low to moderate income Floridians and their ability to get out of poverty, keep their family's together and gain financial security.
- A report from the Virginia Association of Realtors, who received a grant from the HOC to partner with local associations in the state that are in rural areas to do a housing needs assessment. They worked with USDA Rural Development and many other stakeholders to learn more about workforce issues, homelessness and affordability throughout rural Virginia to gain a better understanding of the unique needs rural communities face. Their next step is to provide a report to legislative leaders to being working towards targeted solutions to enhance home ownership and affordable housing in rural Virginia.
- A report from Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness highlighting the agency's work on youth homelessness. There were many good lessons learned from the Dept of Veteran's Affairs Functional Zero Initiative to ensure every veteran in the US had access to shelter, if they wanted it. The Agency is building off those lessons, as well as working with individual Cabinet members to develop strategies to address and reduce youth homelessness within each of their respective agencies.

Submitted May 24, 2017 by Joshua A. Boschee, ND Housing Opportunity Committee Member.