2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Wednesday, September 16

National Training Day 1: 9am to 4pm
Nuts & Bolts Budgeting, Accounting & Finance for Housing Authorities
- Focus Area: Public Housing & Capital Fund Finance
- Presented by national housing experts at BDO (formerly Casterline)
- Advanced registration required. Attendees may attend just one day or both – full conference is included in the registration fee.

11:00 am Conference Kick Off & Plenary
We kick off our full conference with our plenary speaker Richard McLemore II, the Executive Director of an African American culturally inclusive organization that is focused on providing holistic approach to housing for renters and home buyers. Through his personal story and his experience working in the affordable housing industry, our plenary will both inspire and provide insight to the importance of housing in Minnesota.

12:30pm Break for Lunch

1:00pm Concurrent Sessions
Evictions & Others Legal Issues with Legal Aid
At the time of the conference, we expect that the ramifications of the statewide eviction moratorium will be felt by housing authorities, landlords and tenants alike. This session will feature attorneys from legal aid and provide an update on the issues they are seeing.
Speaker: SMRLS

Addressing Disparities in Minnesota Homeownership
Minnesota has one of the greatest disparities in homeownership when it comes to race and ethnicity. This has a significant and long term impact on the ability of families to build wealth and self-sufficiency. Our session will showcase the many programs and approaches can help communities address this inequality.

2:45pm Concurrent Sessions
Leading Amid COVID19 – Rice County HRA
This session features Rice County HRA and how two initiatives helped the HRA respond to COVID19 First, like many housing authorities, Rice County faced the difficult choice on how to maintain operations and comply with the stay at home order. One of the biggest issues was staff access to client files when most are maintained in paper form in the office. Joy Watson with the Rice County HRA will share her experience going paperless and lessons learned. This is an ideal time to consider this update as the costs incurred can be considered a COVID expense. In addition, Joy will share how her agency addressed challenges faced in rural counties including community strategies that increase access to affordable housing.

Tenant Screening: What Works & What Doesn’t – New Research & Recommendations
In order to fill vacant rental homes, most landlords gather data on each applicant’s criminal, rental, and credit history and income and compare these data points against company standards. These tenant screening practices are coming under increasing scrutiny by policy makers in Minnesota and around the country. The presenters and their partners recently engaged Twin Cities renter communities, landlords, and others to develop a comprehensive understanding of tenant screening systems, and to assess how well those systems perform for landlords and for tenants. This session will present and invite discussion of those findings and recommendations. Presented by Housing Justice Center and Family Housing Fund.

Thursday, September 17

National Training Day 2: 9am to 4pm
Nuts & Bolts Budgeting, Accounting & Finance for Housing Authorities
- Focus Area: Housing Choice Voucher Accounting
- Presented by national housing experts at BDO (formerly Casterline)
- Advanced registration required. Attendees may attend just one day or both – full conference is included in the registration fee.
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8:30am Concurrent Sessions

How to Be Bigger and Better Than the Moment
During perilous times, you need to stretch beyond your normal comfort zones. This workshop will explore why this is important, what is needed, and how you can make the necessary changes. The facilitators will share lessons learned as they have stretched to be bigger and better than the moment. Questions and participant dialogue is encouraged.

Essentials of Risk Management & Returning To Work
This interactive workshop will assist you and your staff in learning the keys to safety and risk management. Topics covered in this training include, but are not limited to, the Risk Management Process, Self-Inspections, Accident Investigation, and Resident-Related Risks. Presenter Housing Authority Insurance (HAI)

10:15am Concurrent Sessions

What's Happening in Today's Housing Market
Come to this session to learn about trends in affordable rental housing in Minnesota and recent products and resources available to help you understand affordable housing in Minnesota. Learn about some of the new initiatives in eviction prevention, landlord engagement, city ordinances, and more. Presented by Housing Link

Business Continuity Planning Amid COVID
Is your organization prepared should a disaster strike? This interactive workshop focuses on the importance of Business Continuity Plans, evaluating risks to the organization, staff involvement, and constructing the plan. Presented by HAI

12:00pm Break for Lunch

1:00pm Concurrent Sessions

How Our Environment Shapes Us—Diversity & Inclusion
2020 has been a tumultuous year and it has highlighted the importance of our workplace and our homes. From our agency's workplace to the housing we coordinate for individuals and our everyday interactions with families, we should examine the conditions and circumstances we contribute to through our behavior, attitudes, bias, workplace culture, and our work with the broader community. Together we will explore how we can help make positive environments in our workplace and housing communities. Speaker, Carl Crawford, City of Duluth Human Rights Officer

Financial Do's and Don'ts during COVID-19
COVID-19 resulted in additional funding allocated to Housing Authorities, temporary changes to federal program requirements, and multiple official communications with additional guidance (PIH notices, FAQs, REAC communication, etc.). The focus areas will include a summary of temporary program requirement changes and what we currently know regarding COVID-19 funding and the steps Housing Authorities should take to ensure compliance. Presented by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP

Friday, September 18

9:00am Roundtable & Idea Exchange with Your Peers
Much is happening across the state and HRAs are playing important roles in their communities during this pandemic. Our roundtable we enable participants to share perspectives and ask questions of your peers in a small group format. We may be meeting online, but this session will help you network with you colleagues. Don't miss this interactive opportunity!

10:30am Ask the Attorney with Mary Dobbins
So much is happening in our industry and Mary Dobbins joins us to share her legal expertise. There will be much to discuss including the eviction moratorium, lease enforcement, and property management issues.