HAPPEN

HOUSING ACTION PROFESSIONALS PEER EXCHANGE NETWORK

2027 MEMBER GUIDE

EASTERN PLAINS



NEW MEMBER CHECKLIST

- [ ] (If applicable) Pay invoice
- [ ] Accept calendar invites
- [ ] Accept The Exchange invite (LinkedIn)
- [ ] Attend or watch new member orientation
- [ ] Attend 2027 Capitol Priorities (December)
- [ ] Attend Monthly Meetings (recommended: 4-6/year min.)
- [ ] Attend a HAPPEN Hours near you (quarterly)
- [ ] Attend Field Days (Summer)
- [ ] (If applicable) Apply for 2027 HC Conference Scholarship
- [ ] Attend Basecamp Meeting at 2027 HC Annual Conference
- [ ] Celebrate at the HAPPEN Summit dinner!

OVERVIEW

This guide is for members of the 2027 HAPPEN Eastern Plains Cohort. It provides an overview of the resources and events that are available to Cohort Members. It is intended to supplement the information provided in our All-Cohort Orientation training, and will be updated throughout the year for ongoing use.

OTHER TOOLS:

ALL- COHORT ORIENTATION

HOUSINGCOLORADO.ORG/HAPPEN

THE EXCHANGE

CALENDAR INVITES

Housing Colorado

INTRODUCTION

HOUSING COLORADO

To drive the solutions that make home possible for everyone, Housing Colorado unites a diverse community of housing professionals, advocates, and leaders statewide. Together with our members, we are changing the policy landscape and knowledge base to make housing more affordable for all Coloradans.

- A NONPROFIT MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION
- **ADVOCACY**: HOUSING COLORADO REPRESENTS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY IN STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
- **EDUCATION**: OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NOW ENTERING ITS 39TH YEAR, IS ONE OF MANY EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS THAT HOUSING COLORADO ORGANIZES ANNUALLY FOR ITS MEMBERS

HISTORY

Housing Colorado was formed over 21 years ago with the merging of Colorado Affordable Housing Partnership, Colorado Rural Housing NOW!, and Colorado Low-Income Housing Campaign. Since 2005, Housing Colorado has been the unified voice for Colorado's affordable housing community. Together with our members, we have shifted the public narrative around housing, shaped the policy landscape, and ensured that generations of Coloradans will have an affordable place to call home.

VISION

Every Coloradan has access to a safe, healthy, quality, affordable home in a thriving community.

OTHER TOOLS:

HOUSINGCOLORADO.ORG/ABOUT-US

Housing Colorado

INTRODUCTION

HAPPEN

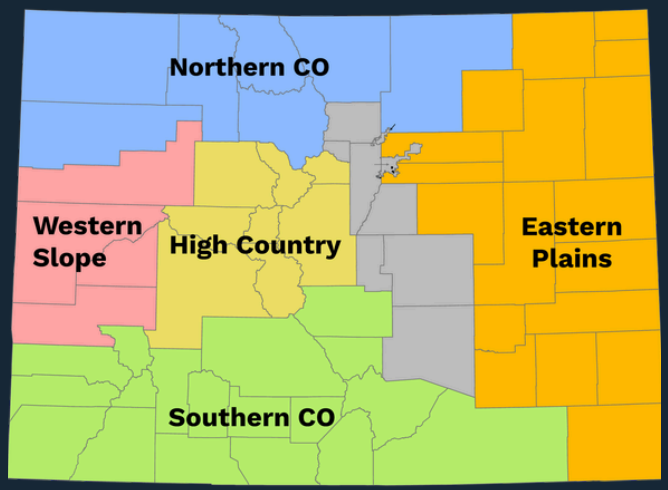
HAPPEN (Housing Action Professionals Peer Exchange Network) is a year-round program of Housing Colorado.

- TURN YOUR WORK INTO A STATEWIDE MOVEMENT
- TAP INTO HC MEMBERS' COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE 24/7
- AMPLIFY YOUR REGION'S PERSPECTIVE IN HC'S ADVOCACY WORK
- STRENGTHEN YOUR REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE CONNECTIONS
- STAY CONNECTED TO HC EVENTS AND NETWORKING YEAR-ROUND

HISTORY

HAPPEN was formed in response to feedback collected during our 2025 strategic planning work, during which we heard that our members without easy access to our existing events on the Front Range were eager for more opportunities to engage with Housing Colorado. Further, we heard a need to become better advocates for the unique and at times, under-served, interests of rural and mountain rural communities. HAPPEN was created to serve Housing Colorado members and other community members working to solve the affordability challenges in their communities with a shared network of expertise, resources, and relationships. We believe that local solutions are best driven by local champions. HAPPEN seeks to support that work with practical resources on the ground level, as well as increased access to legislative representation.

FOCUS REGIONS



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2027 AT-A-GLANCE

EASTERN PLAINS

24/7

THE EXCHANGE

A private, virtual message board to post questions, calls-to-action, find partnership, and get exclusive updates from Housing Colorado.

WINTER

CAPITOL PRIORITIES

A pre-legislative listening session for Cohort Members to present their concerns, ideas, and priorities directly to HC advocacy leadership.

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM
DECEMBER 11, 2026

MONTHLY

ALL-COHORT MEETING

A monthly virtual drop-in for cohort members from all regions to come together for an informal virtual meeting to share updates, exchange ideas and connect with others.

SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

SUMMER

FIELD DAYS

A two-day event in your region featuring educational sessions, networking opportunities, and site tours

AUGUST 9-10, 2027

QUARTERLY

HAPPEN HOURS

Quarterly, in-person meetups coming to a town near you.

DATES/VENUES TBA
FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, NOVEMBER

FALL

BASECAMP MEETING

Gather in-person for an all-program meeting with Cohort Members from around the state at the Housing Colorado Annual Conference.

OCTOBER 13, 2027

THE SUMMIT CELEBRATION

Celebrate the year's accomplishments with an exclusive dinner and networking event with Cohort Members from around the state at the Housing Colorado Annual Conference.

OCTOBER 14, 2027

Housing Colorado

24/7
THE EXCHANGE

OVERVIEW

Tap into a powerful network of peers—anytime, anywhere. Each HAPPEN Cohort has a private, virtual message board to post questions, calls-to-action, find partnership, and get exclusive updates from Housing Colorado.

ACCESS

1. Log in to your LinkedIn profile.
2. From your LinkedIn "Home" tab, select "Groups" from the list on the lefthand side of the page.
3. Accept the invitation to join The Exchange group for your cohort.
4. You will find the page under "Groups" when you log in from now on.
5. Be sure to check in often for updates and to respond to others' posts!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- POST QUESTIONS AND GET RESPONSES FROM PEERS IN REAL TIME
- FIND PEER SUPPORT ON LOCAL CALLS-TO-ACTION
- SHARE RESOURCES, EVENTS, ARTICLES, DATA, AND MORE
- RESPOND TO OTHERS' POSTS
- SEE WEEKLY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM HOUSING COLORADO

Housing Colorado

MONTHLY

ALL COHORT DROP-IN MEETING

OVERVIEW

A virtual monthly space for cohort members from all regions to come together for an informal virtual meeting to share updates, exchange ideas and connect with others

ACCESS

1. Accept the recurring meeting invitations sent during onboarding for HAPPEN All Cohort Drop-In Meeting.
2. Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory-- no need to let us know if you can't make it some months.
3. Log in to the meeting.
4. **Occurs on the second Tuesday of each month (except for August).**
5. Link to Teams Meeting

WHAT TO EXPECT

- 60 MINUTES
- ONCE PER MONTH
- OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ALL COHORTS
- **UPDATE/ASK/ OFFER FORMA**T: EACH PARTICIPANT WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A BRIEF UPDATE, AN ASK (SOMETHING THE GROUP MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH), AND AN OFFER (SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ANOTHER GROUP MEMBER WITH)
- OPEN DISCUSSION: REMAINING TIME WILL BE DEDICATED TO OPEN DISCUSSION AMONGST THE GROUP

Housing Colorado

QUARTERLY
HAPPEN HOURS

OVERVIEW

Quarterly, in-person meetups coming to a town near you! HAPPEN Hours are peer-hosted opportunities to make new connections and find familiar faces while supporting local businesses.

ACCESS

1. **HAPPENing Near You**: Look out for quarterly invitations. HAPPEN Hours will be hosted in a different location by a different guest host each quarter.
2. **RSVP:** See one you'd like to attend? Be sure to RSVP using the Housing Colorado website— it is free to attend, but space is limited!
3. **Refreshments:** There is no cost to attend; however, we instead ask that you support the local business by purchasing a small refreshment.
4. **Attend:** Your Peer Host will arrive early to save a table. Look for a small tabletop sign indicating where to gather.
5. **Connect:** Spend 90 minutes chatting with an intimate group of new and familiar colleagues from your area.

Interested in hosting a HAPPEN Hours in your town? Contact HAPPEN staff for more information!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- 90 MINUTES
- NEW LOCATIONS EVERY TIME
- PEER-HOSTED
- SMALL GROUPS
- FREE TO ATTEND; PURCHASE YOUR OWN COFFEE
- AUTHENTIC, PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION
- NEW & RENEWED CONNECTIONS
- TAKE YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE WHERE HOUSING IS HAPPEN-ING!

CALENDAR

UPDATED AS AVAILABLE

FEBRUARY

APRIL

JUNE

NOVEMBER

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HAPPEN: EASTERN PLAINS

Housing Colorado

WINTER
CAPITOL PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

A pre-legislative listening session for Cohort Members to present their concerns, ideas, and priorities directly to HC advocacy leadership.

ACCESS

1. Accept the invitation to "HAPPEN: Northern Colorado Capitol Priorities".
2. An agenda with discussion prompts will be shared in advance.
3. Please prepare any additional items you wish to discuss.
4. Log-in to the virtual meeting.
5. 90-minutes will be dedicated to each region.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- OPEN DISCUSSION
- DEEP LISTENING FROM HC ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP
- TRANSPARENT INFO FROM HC LEADERSHIP ABOUT OUR ADVOCACY PROCESS
- DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR 2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- SUMMARY SHARED WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 11, 2026

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

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HOUSING ACTION PROFESSIONALS PEER EXCHANGE NETWORK

HAPPEN: EASTERN PLAINS

Housing Colorado

SUMMER

FIELD DAYS

OVERVIEW

Gather with colleagues and learn on-site in your region, featuring: TWO DAYS of site tours, panel discussions, expanded networking opportunities, breakout workshops with agencies/partners, and a half-day Local Perspectives presentation.

ACCESS

1. Register online via the Housing Colorado website.
2. The event will be open to all-- feel free to invite colleagues and partners.
3. FREE for Cohort Members!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- DAY ONE: SITE TOUR, NETWORKING EVENT
- DAY TWO: BREAKOUTS, LUNCH, LOCAL PERSPECTIVES SESSION
- IN-PERSON, PARTICIPATORY LEARNING
- CONNECT WITH CRUCIAL PARTNERS
- RESOURCES, CASE STUDIES, AND MORE!

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 9-10, 2027

HAPPEN

HOUSING ACTION PROFESSIONALS PEER EXCHANGE NETWORK

Housing Colorado

FALL

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS AT HC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KEYSTONE, CO

BASECAMP MEETING

Gather in-person for an all-program meeting with Cohort Members from around the state at the Housing Colorado Annual Conference. Take a trip around CO without leaving your seat as you hear firsthand perspectives from members of each cohort.

OCTOBER 13, 2027

SUMMIT CELEBRATION

Celebrate the year's accomplishments with an exclusive dinner and networking event with Cohort Members from around the state at the Housing Colorado Annual Conference.

OCTOBER 14, 2027

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE BY APPLICATION FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & LODGING.

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WELCOME TO THE COHORT!

QUESTIONS?

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