

Housing Stability Task Force One-Pager

November 2021

Background

The Housing Network of RI received funding through the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) under their ERASE (End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions) project to promote visible, accessible, and preventative emergency rental assistance and to work towards longer term measures to advance housing stability. The Housing Network of RI partnered with United Way of RI to convene a diverse task force of individuals who represent landlords, government officials, tenants, and other important stakeholders to propose policy and programmatic changes to reduce evictions and promote stable tenancies.

The current public health crisis has led to an unprecedented spike in both lawful and unlawful evictions, which has consequences for tenants, landlords, and society at large. Evictions are known to lead to significant costs to building owners, property managers, and government operations as well as a range of negative outcomes for tenants, including impacts on employment, incomes, mental and physical health, children's education, and long-term housing stability. For these reasons and many more, it is in our best interest to find proactive ways to avoid an eviction before it happens.

Objective

The goal of this task force is to examine the eviction and displacement landscape in Rhode Island and propose policy and programmatic changes to reduce evictions and promote stable tenancies that benefit landlords and tenants alike.

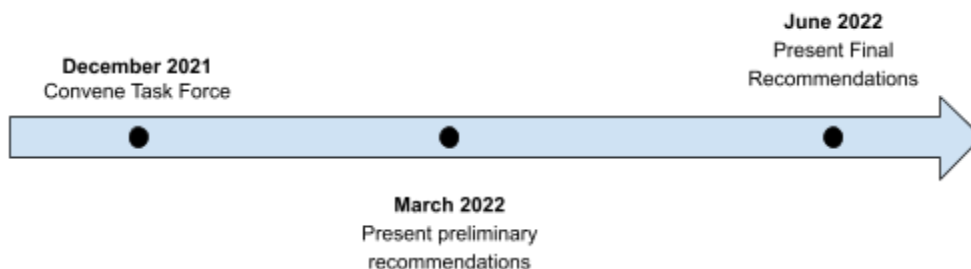
Methods

- Convene a diverse task force that represents tenants, landlords, government officials, and other important stakeholders.
- Utilize national and local data, including eviction filing and Rent Relief RI data, to inform policy development.
- Task Force members develop recommendations that can be implemented through court order/guidance or legislature.

Outcomes

A final report with recommendations on how to achieve long-term housing stability, eviction diversion measures, and associated use of ERA through established court process and/or statute, resulting in fewer evictions and displacement of tenants and stable income and tenants for landlords.

Timeline



Deliverable	Timeline
<p>Meeting #1: Participants are introduced to the Housing Stability Task Force, understand the core goals and objectives of the task force, review and discuss causes of housing instability and consequences of not having eviction prevention measures in place.</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
<p>Meeting #2: Review leading examples from across the country. Note: It's possible that we get a speaker to come present to the group from a neighboring state (perhaps Mass or CT) to discuss their success with instituting eviction prevention measures to achieve housing stability in their state.</p>	<p>January 2022</p>
<p>Meeting #3: Participants identify systems strategies which relate to housing instability, set and prioritize strategies to combat instability and eviction.</p>	<p>February 2022</p>
<p>Meeting #4: Participants will affirm strategies, affirm outcomes, and begin to think about targets and progress measures for housing stability and eviction prevention outcomes.</p>	<p>March 2022</p>
<p>Meeting #5: Participants agree to performance measures and indicators and begin drafting a work plan for the final set of recommendations.</p>	<p>April 2022</p>
<p>Meeting #6: Participants review and make edits to the final set of recommendations.</p>	<p>May 2022</p>
<p>Meeting #7: Final set of recommendations to achieve housing stability and prevent evictions is presented to members and strategies are discussed about how to present them to the general assembly (if applicable, final recommendations might be targeted towards programmatic changes, which don't require legislation).</p> <p>Final report is published online and made public for partners and supporters to share widely.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>