

Housing Opportunity Committee Report
Legislative Meeting Report, Washington DC
May 9-13, 2016

The Housing Opportunity Committee met the morning of Wednesday March 11th.

The Committee adopted a policy statement on addressing homelessness in our communities by supporting Housing First initiatives, which have found great success through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The policy statement was adopted unanimously and referred to the Executive Committee for their final approval.

The Committee was educated by NAR staff and leadership about new grant opportunities for place making initiatives in our communities. Examples of local association members volunteering to support neighborhood dog parks, community gardens, public art and farmer markets were provided as successes. \$1,500 grants can be applied for by local associations through an ongoing, rolling deadline, with preference to matching fund projects and projects that have Realtor members volunteering on the project. More details can be found at <http://www.realtor.org/programs/housing-opportunity-program> or by contacting me.

Finally, the Committee was informed by NAR staff and leadership that a proposal to change the Housing Opportunity Committee from a representative committee to an advisory board was being presented to the Executive Committee. There was discussion of the pros and cons of this change. We were notified last week that the Executive Committee rejected the proposal, so the committee will operate as is.

Submitted May 23, 2016 by Joshua A. Boschee, ND Housing Opportunity Committee Member.