



AGENDA

Opening Plenary

HPN SPRING MEMBER MEETING – SEATTLE, WA

Thursday, June 6th ▪ 8:30am – 10:00am

Description: Following welcoming remarks and updates, we will hear from [Gregg Colburn](#), an associate professor in the Runstad Department of Real Estate in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington, where he publishes research on topics related to housing and homelessness. Professor Colburn is co-author of the book, [Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain U.S. Patterns](#). Colburn's work disproves the conventional beliefs about the drivers of homelessness – including mental illness, drug use and poverty – and finds that none explain why homelessness is more prevalent in some cities or regions than others. Rather, the book engages thoughtfully with the realities of housing market conditions, and the challenges of the cost and availability of rental housing as a main driver of homelessness in cities across the country. Following a brief presentation, Professor Colburn will be joined by HPN members in an open discussion about the role for affordable housing providers in addressing homelessness locally, regionally, and nationally.

Welcome and Member Meeting Overview

- Christopher Persons | Chief Executive Officer of Community Roots Housing
- Robin Hughes | President & CEO of Housing Partnership Network
- Deidre Schmidt | President & CEO of CommonBond Communities

Opening Plenary Discussion: Homelessness is a Housing Problem

- Robin Hughes | HPN
- Gregg Colburn | Associate Professor, University of Washington
- Susan Boyd | CEO at Bellwether Housing
- Rebecca Louie | President & CEO at Wakeland Housing & Development Corporation
- Kevin Nowak | President & CEO at CHN Housing Partners

Additional Resources:

- [Homelessness is a Housing Problem](#) (Colburn and Aldern)
- [How the affordable housing crisis drives homelessness](#) (Marketplace – May 2023)
- [Homelessness is a Housing Problem](#) (Interview – Joint Center for Housing Studies – November 2023)
- [Homelessness is a Housing Problem: Book Talk & Panel Discussion](#) (Boston University – April 2023)
- [Episode 61: Homelessness is a Housing Problem with Gregg Colburn](#) (Podcast – UCLA Housing Voice - Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies – November 2023)