Program

monday, august 24

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
3:00 - 5:00		REGISTRATION	Mezzanine Level		
8:00 - 10:30	WELCOME	Silver Screen Reception	Rooftop		Join us for a memorable evening under the stars at Rooftop Cinema Club in downtown Fort Worth. Relax with fellow attendees, enjoy the skyline views, and experience a movie night unlike any other from the rooftop of the Worthington Renaissance Hotel.

tuesday, august 25

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
8:00 - 4:30		REGISTRATION	Mezzazine Level		
9:30 - 11:00	OPENING GENERAL SESSION	**Opening Ceremony**	Grand Ballroom	**Steve Martin Pres. Elect, THA**	❊ Invocation ❊ Presentation of Colors ❊ Pledge of Allegiance ❊ National Anthem Chase Glover Executive Director Winnsboro Housing Authority
	$50 drawing	**Welcome**		**Kim McGilvray President, THA**	
		Guest Speaker		**Mark Mayfield**	Mark Mayfield is an award-winning speaker, comedian, and Hall of Fame member of the National Speakers Association known for delivering serious business lessons with unforgettable humor. A former business owner, lobbyist, and educator, Mark combines decades of real-world experience with a dynamic comedic style that has made him a favorite keynote speaker for corporations, conventions, and associations across the country. The author of several books, he believes the best way to make a message stick is to make people laugh—a audiences agree.

tuesday, august 25

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
11:30 - 1:00	LUNCHEON Admission with Badge or Purple Ticket	**The Legacy Luncheon** 18th Annual Team Trivia Competition + 75th Anniversary Awards	Grand Ballroom		❉ Menu Grilled Chicken Breast Plated Lunch Fresh Greens Salad Mashed Potatoes Grilled Seasonal Vegetables Chocolate Cake ❉ Let your server know if you'd prefer vegetarian ❉ Winning team members will receive a prize.
1:15 - 2:30	COMMISIONER	**"Commissioner Roles, Responsibilities, Fiduciary Duties & Protections"**	West Fork I	**Alec Stone** Partner Fox Rothschild LLP **Sarah Winters** Senior Associate Fox Rothschild LLP	Commissioners provide essential leadership and oversight for housing authorities. This session reviews their fiduciary duties, legal protections and best practices for building an effective and productive Board.
1:15 - 2:30	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	**"Building Successful FSS Program From Enrollment to Outcomes"**	Post Oak	**Selarstean Mitchell** Independent HCV Consultant	Discover how strong partnerships strengthen FSS success. Learn strategies for collaborating across programs and agencies, supporting families through PBV and RAD housing transitions, ensuring continuity of services, and improving participant outcomes.
1:15 - 2:30	FINANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & REPOSITIONING	**"RAD/Section 18 Blends for Small PHAs**"	West Fork II	**Naomi Byrne** Senior Associate EJP Consulting Group, LLC.	Designed for PHAs with 250 or fewer public housing units, this session explores the process of converting to Project-Based Vouchers, including key considerations, benefits, challenges and what to expect before and after conversion.
1:15 - 2:30	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Using AI to Streamline Operations, Ensure Compliance, and Improve Customer Service"**	Trinity Central	**Gerald Cichon** Chief Executive Officer HOME	Discover how AI can improve productivity, compliance and customer service while helping housing providers prepare for the future of work.

tuesday, august 25

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
1:15 - 2:30	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Utility Allowances - The Method Behind the Numbers"**	Elm Fork I	**Bob Bein** CEM CEA RKB2 Consultants	Learn how utility consumption and rates are calculated and applied in accordance with HUD guidelines, including key factors that impact utility allowances and compliance.
1:30 - 2:45	HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER	**"HCV Admissions & Basic Occupancy"**	Grand Ballroom	**Cristi LaJeunesse** Executive Director Kenedy Housing Authority, et al **Tammy Emerson** Executive Director. Victoria Housing Authority	This class covers Housing Choice Voucher program administration, including admissions, eligibility, waiting lists, leasing, occupancy, portability, continued assistance, terminations.
1:15 - 2:30	MAINTENANCE	**"Fall Protection, Ladder Safety & NSPIRE Deficiencies"**	Elm Fork II	**Don Willis** Maintenance Director NETX Propertiesl	This session covers fall protection, ladder safety and common NSPIRE deficiencies. Through real-world examples and interactive exercises, participants will learn to identify safety hazards and inspection issues.
2:45 - 4:00	COMMISSIONER	**"Hiring An Executive Director"**	West Fork I	**Stacia Waters** Executive Director NET Property Management	Need an Executive Director? This session will look at the qualities and skills to look for when hiring an Executive Director. It will detail the expectations the Board should have and what to look for when things start to go wrong.
2:45 - 4:00	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	**"Beyond Compliance: Building A High Performing FSS Program That Delivers Results"**	Post Oak	**Gene Reed** Executive Director Abilene Housing Authority **Lacey Wunderlich** FSS Supervisor Abilene Housing Authority	Learn how the Abilene Housing Authority built a successful FSS program through strong partnerships and participant success. Discover how social media and community engagement increase visibility, celebrate achievements, and strengthen the program.

tuesday, august 25

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
2:45 - 4:00	FINANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & REPOSITIONING	**"Procurement - The Achilles Heel"**	West Fork II	**Alec Stone** Partner Fox Rothschild LLP **Sarah Winters** Senior Associate Fox Rothschild LLP	This session reviews the rules and regulations governing housing authority procurement, including procurement policies, compliance requirements and common audit concerns.
2:45 - 4:00	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Cyber Security in 2026: Best Practices & Tips"**	Elm Fork I	**Katie Bibbee** Account Executive Brooks Jeffrey	As agencies rely more on digital tools, understanding cybersecurity is essential. This session covers technology best practices, improving workflow and protecting your agency's most valuable asset—its data.
2:45 - 4:00	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Mission-Driven Performance: Expectations. Accountability. Results.**	Trinity Central	**Tony Stewart** CEO Stewart Empowerment Solutions, LLC **Rebecca Ellis** CEO Stewart Empowerment Solutions, LLC	Learn how clear expectations, accountability, and results-driven leadership strengthen performance, address challenges and support a mission-focused workplace.
3:00 - 4:15	HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER	**"HCV Admissions & Basic Occupancy"**	Grand Ballroom	**Cristi LaJeunesse** Executive Director Kenedy Housing Authority, et al **Tammy Emerson** Executive Director. Victoria Housing Authority	This class covers Housing Choice Voucher program administration, including admissions, eligibility, waiting lists, leasing, occupancy, portability, continued assistance, terminations.
2:45 - 5:00	MAINTENANCE	**"JNational Maintenance Masters Challenge"**	Elm Fork II	Host: **JNational** Moderator: **JoAnn Rodriguez**	Put your skills to the test in this fun, fast-paced competition featuring real-world maintenance challenges with a playful twist. Enjoy some friendly rivalry and compete for bragging rights!

tuesday, august 25

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
4:30 - 7:00	TRADE SHOW Admission with Badge or Red Ticket	**The Diamond Exchange Happy Hour**	Rio Grande Ballroom		❉ Menu: Tomato & Brisket Quiche Pulled Pork Mini Bao Crab Cakes Vegan Tart ❉ Cash Bar ❉ Door Prizes posted and/or announced
8:30 - 10:30	BINGO Must be registered for conference to play for prizes	**Lucky 75 Bingo Bash**	Grand Ballroom		❉ Cash prizes ❉ Fast Bingo games featuring snack prizes ❉ Blackout Bingo Grand Finale with a $100 cash prize

wednesday, august 26

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
7:30 - 8:30	TRADE SHOW	**Sunrise at the Showcase Breakfast**	Rio Grande Ballroom		Start your day with a continental breakfast and networking while exploring the products, services, and solutions offered by our conference exhibitors and industry partners.
8:00 - 4:00		**REGISTRATION**	Mezzazine Level		
8:30 - 9:45	COMMISSIONER	**"Public Trust, Branding & Reputation Management"**	West Fork I	**Katie Bibbee** Account Executive Brooks Jeffrey	Learn how effective communication, community engagement, and board advocacy can strengthen public trust, enhance your agency's reputation and support meaningful change.
8:30 - 9:45	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	**"FSS In Action: Technical Applications for Everyday Practice"**	Post Oak	**Ms. Marisa Hernandez** Assistant Director of FSS DHA Housing Solutions for North Texas	Gain practical strategies for administering a successful FSS program. Learn best practices for documentation, escrow, compliance, and case management from an experienced FSS professional. Leave with tools you can immediately apply.
8:30 - 9:45	FINANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & REPOSITIONING	**"What's Next After Conversion - Section 18"**	West Fork II	**Kim McGilvray** Executive Director Decatur Housing Properties	Learn about the benefits, challenges and lessons learned from housing authority conversions through real-world experiences shared by Executive Directors. A question-and-answer session will follow.
8:30 - 9:45	GENERAL INTEREST	**"New Executive Directors - Don't Freak Out - You've Got This!"**	Elm Fork I	**Cal Davis** Executive Director NETX Properties	New Executive Directors step into big responsibilities fast, and this session gives a concise overview of your core duties, so you know what matters most right away. Receive guidance, support, and practical tools to help you succeed..
8:30 - 9:45	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Managing Multiple PHAs"**	Trinity Central	**Tony Landecker** Director of Development Natural State Housing Group **Jeannie Wilson** Technical Assistance Director Natural State Housing Group	A focused session on how executive leaders can successfully oversee multiple housing authorities, with practical strategies for governance alignment, staffing models, and maximizing administrative efficiency across portfolios.

wednesday, august 26

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8:30 - 9:45	HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER	**"HCV Admissions & Basic Occupancy"**	Grand Ballroom	**Cristi LaJeunesse** Executive Director Kenedy Housing Authority, et al **Tammy Emerson** Executive Director. Victoria Housing Authority	This class covers Housing Choice Voucher program administration, including admissions, eligibility, waiting lists, leasing, occupancy, portability, continued assistance, terminations.
8:30 - 9:45	MAINTENANCE	**"Refrigeration - Design & Troubleshooting for Top Freezer Refrigeration"**	Elm Fork II	**Jimmy Dobbs** Quality Info Equip Tech GE Appliances	We will cover key component function and refrigeration process cycles. Hands on troubleshooting.
10:00 - 11:00	TRADE SHOW Admission only with Gold Star on Badge	**Decision Makers' Diamond Dash**	Rio Grande Ballroom		Take a break, enjoy a snack and beverage and connect with our vendor partners during this dedicated trade show hour for decision makers only. Explore products and services, and be eligible for one of two $100 cash prizes.
10:00 - 11:00	BREAK		Grand Ballroom Foyer		For non-decision makers - Take a break and recharge with complimentary snacks and beverages while connecting with fellow attendees between sessions.
11:00 - 12:15	COMMISSIONER/ GENERAL INTEREST	**"AI for Beginners: Getting Comfortable & Getting Results"**	West Fork I	**Dakota Koontz** Founder DVK Coaching	New to AI? This practical session shows how to use AI for everyday housing tasks like drafting emails, summarizing reports and planning projects. No technical experience required.
11:00 - 12:15	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	**"Beyond Housing: Helping Immigrant Families Navigate the Path to College Success"**	Post Oak	**Dr. Janet Morrison-Lane** Executive Director Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation	Help first-generation college students and their families navigate the path to higher education. Learn practical strategies to build trust, overcome barriers, connect families with resources, and foster a college-going culture.

wednesday, august 26

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
11:00 - 12:15	FINANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & REPOSITIONING	**"Budgeting For Success"**	West Fork II	**Melissa Hance** Deputy Director Grand Saline Housing Authority, et al	A well-planned budget is the foundation of a successful housing authority. This session will provide practical insights into budgeting, financial planning, and managing resources effectively. .
11:00 - 12:15	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Alternatives to Tax Credits - Financing Models Attractive for All Sized PHAs"**	Trinity Central	**Mattye Jones** Director Coats Rose, P.C. **Paige Mebane** Director Coats Rose, P.C.	Attendees will learn how PHAs can house families on waitlists and serve the missing middle with limited agency risk. The panel highlights growth strategies and development financing models, including essential function bonds.
11:00 - 12:15	GENERAL INTEREST	**"Managing Customers"**	Elm Fork I	**Stacia Waters** Executive Director NET Property Management	This session will focus on the ups and downs of customer interactions and how to manage your customer base for the best outcome. Why customers are important to the PHA and the basic skills each staff needs to deal with difficult customers.
11:00 - 12:15	HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER	**"HCV Admissions & Basic Occupancy"**	Grand Ballroom	**Cristi LaJeunesse** Executive Director Kenedy Housing Authority, et al **Tammy Emerson** Executive Director. Victoria Housing Authority	This class covers Housing Choice Voucher program administration, including admissions, eligibility, waiting lists, leasing, occupancy, portability, continued assistance, terminations.
11:00 - 12:15	MAINTENANCE	**"Dishwasher/Stovetop Q&A"**	Elm Fork II	**Daniel Matulich** Technical Support Specialist GE Appliances	An interactive discussion focused on common dishwasher and stovetop maintenance, repair, and replacement issues. Participants can ask questions, share experiences, and gain practical tips for troubleshooting and extending appliance life.

wednesday, august 26

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
12:30 - 2:30	TRADE SHOW Lunch with Exhibitors Admission with Badge or Green Ticket	**Trailblazers Lunch with Exhibitors**	Rio Grande Ballroom		❉ Menu: On-The-Go Box Lunch: Chicken Salad Sandwich Premium Beef Sandwich Grilled Vegetables Wrap Cookies Whole Fruit ❉ Door prizes posted and/or announced ❉ Drawing for free booth 2027
1:15 - 2:15	MIXER	**New Horizons Mixer**	Grand Ballroom		Whether you're new to affordable housing or a seasoned professional, join us for an engaging networking mixer designed to build connections, share experiences, and strengthen our housing community.
1:30 - 2:30	THA BOARD MEETING		Worthington Room		This meeting is reserved for members of the THA Board of Directors to conduct association business, discuss strategic priorities and address matters affecting the organization.
2:45 - 4:00	COMMISSIONER	**"Stay the Course: How PHA Boards Can Continue to Address their Tenants and Community Needs Through Affordable Housing Development"**	West Fork I	**Mattye Jones** Director Coats Rose, P.C. **Paige Mebane** Director Coats Rose, P.C.	This workshop explores how affordable housing development strategies for PHAs are evolving. Panelists will share practical steps to advance agency missions, steward assets responsibly, and leverage new approaches to meet local housing needs.
2:45 - 4:005	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	"**Affordable: Not Average- Leading with Pride and Reshaping Perceptions of Affordable Housing"**	Post Oak	**Dr. Priscylla Bento** Director of Resident Services DHA Housing solutions for North Texas **Sara Hinton** SVP Platform Operations Inhabit **Cecilia Cossio** CEO Nex Gen Legacy **JoAnn Rodriguez** Consultant	Explore strategies to improve the resident experience by aligning property management, asset management, resident services, and technology to build stronger communities and more effective affordable housing programs.

wednesday, august 26

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
2:45 - 4:00	FINANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & REPOSITIONING	"**Repositioning: Is It Right for Your Portfolio?"**	West Fork II	**Tony Landecker** Director of Development Natural State Housing Group **Jeannie Wilson** Technical Assistance Director Natural State Housing Group	A clear, decision-focused session helping PHAs evaluate repositioning options like RAD and Section 18, with insight into when it makes sense, key risks and how to align repositioning with long-term financial and operational goals.
2:45 - 4:00	GENERAL INTEREST	**"AI for HUD Rules, ACOPs and Procedures"**	Trinity Central	**Dakota Koontz** Founder DVK Coaching	Learn how to use AI to simplify HUD guidance, summarize regulations, draft policy updates and create training and communication materials while maintaining compliance and oversight.
2:45 - 4:00	HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER	**"HCV Admissions & Basic Occupancy - HOTMA Updates"**	Grand Ballroom	**Cristi LaJeunesse** Executive Director Kenedy Housing Authority, et al **Tammy Emerson** Executive Director Victoria Housing Authority	HOTMA changes to Housing Choice Voucher eligibility requirements take effect January 1, 2027. This session covers updated eligibility rules and deductions that will directly impact the annuals and interims your agency is processing today.
2:45 - 4:00	MAINTENANCE	**"The Crossroads of Maintenance and Reasonable Accommodations"**	Elm Fork II	**Stacia Waters** Executive Director NET Property Management	This session will focus on the importance of Maintenance staff and Reasonable Accommodations. It will look at how maintenance staff play a huge roll in reasonable accommodation needs and request.
2:45 - 4:00	PUBLIC HOUSING	**"Lease Evictions"**	Elm Fork I	**Patricia Rodriguez** Senior Attorney Daniels & Daniels Law Firm	Gain a better understanding of lease enforcement and evictions. This session will cover legal requirements, best practices, common issues, and recent developments affecting housing professionals.

wednesday, august 26

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
6:00 - 9:00	PARTY Admission with badge or blue ticket	Diamond Jubilee Celebration - 75 Years Under the Stars	Grand Ballroom		❉ Tex Mex Flavors Dinner Buffet ❉ Comedian ❉ Mentalist ❉ Cash Bar

thursday, august 27

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
8:00 - 10:00	MAINTENANCE	**"Asbestos Awareness Certification"**	West Fork	**Dana Brown** GEBCO Associates, LP	Earn your Asbestos Awareness Certification! This 2-hour course meets EPA and OSHA requirements for maintenance and trade workers who may encounter asbestos. An additional $100 fee applies for this certification.
8:45 - 10:00	GENERAL SESSION	**"What's New at HUD"**	Brazos I & II (Grand Ballroom)	**Benjamin Hobbs** Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing HUD Washington **Todd Thomas** Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs HUD Washington **Ashlea Quinonez** Regional Administrator, Southwest Region (Region VI) HUD Fort Worth	Stay informed on the latest HUD policies, programs and initiatives. This session will provide updates on key developments and their impact on housing authorities..

thursday, august 27

time	track	session/event	location	speaker	description
8:45 - 10:00	FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY/ RESIDENT SERVICES	**"Trauma Informed Engagement: Supporting Families Through Compassionate Practice"**	Post Oak	**Dr. Felisha Burleson** Research Director Family Life Coaching Association	Learn how trauma-informed care can strengthen FSS and Resident Services. Discover practical strategies to recognize trauma, build trust, improve communication, and create supportive interactions that promote long-term resident success.
10:00 - 10:15	BREAK				Enjoy complimentary coffee and beverages while networking with fellow attendees.
10:15 - 11:30	GENERAL SESSION	**"HUD Q&A Forum"**	Brazos I & II (Grand Ballroom)	**HUD Washington and Field Office Staff**	Bring your questions and engage directly with HUD representatives during this interactive session designed to address current issues, concerns and program requirements.
10:15 - 11:30	MAINTENANCE	**"Lead & Mold Awareness"**	West Fork	**Dana Brown** GEBCO Associates, LP	Mold: History & Texas Issues; Mold in New Construction; Regulatory Requirements; CMDR Impacts on Insurance & Property Transfers. Lead: Housing History; Lead Regulations; Abatement, Inspection & Risk Assessment; RRP Rule; OSHA Lead Requirements.
11:45 - 12:30		**Conference Wrap-Up**	Brazos I & II (Grand Ballroom)		Join us as we close out the conference and announce prize drawing winners. Don't miss your final chance to celebrate and connect before heading home.