

**Elisha Harig-Blaine**  
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**George Mason University**

Masters in Public Policy (Concentration in Housing and Economic Policy)

Thesis title ["Affordable Housing Finance in the Wake of the Subprime Crisis"](#)

Published in GMU Journal, *New Voices in Public Policy*

**St. Mary's College of Maryland**, B.S., Political Science

**Career Highlights:**

- Appointed co-chair of the City of Annapolis' Housing Affordability Task Force (2020)
- Appointed by White House and VA to co-chair working group leading development of federal efforts related to Executive Order 13861 (2019)
- Recipient of multiple awards for leadership in stopping U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from re-allocating \$460 million from HUD-VASH (2018)
- Appointed by VA Secretary to serve as member of Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (2015-2019)
- Conceptualized, developed and led Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness with federal agencies and national partners (2014-2019)

**Work Experience:**

**Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Housing & Community Development**, Richmond, VA  
Manager, December 2020 – Present

Manage the development and execution of Virginia's \$550+ million Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP). Work collaboratively with other Eviction Prevention and DHCD staff to design and implement programs targeted to individuals and families who are at risk of being evicted or have been evicted.

- Oversee RMRP staff, grantees, and contractors.
- Develop data systems to ensure compliance with funding sources.
- Develop program policies and procedures to ensure residents are not evicted and property owners receive necessary financial support.

**State of Maryland, Department of Housing & Community Development**, Lanham, MD  
Project Manager, December 2019 – December 2020

Administer federal Emergency Solutions Grant programs and the state Homelessness Solutions Program grants and other services provided to local governments and nonprofit organizations while ensuring compliance with federal, State and Departmental standards, as well as regulatory and statutory requirements.

- Provide technical assistance, review grant applications, approve disbursement requests against project terms and funding guidelines, prepare grant and loan documents.
- Develop policies and manage statewide grant programs and initiatives, as well as materials and written reports.
- Monitor awardees and engage in partnership building and capacity building activities with grantees.

**Agape National Solutions, LLC**, Annapolis, MD  
 Founder & Principal, June 2019 – Present

Locally-tailored responses, driven by data, on housing, homelessness, community systems transformation and more. Clients include:

- Provide research and technical assistance on real estate development and asset management to Purple Heart Homes, a national veteran housing non-profit
- National partner search and advisement with National Veterans Intermediary
- Lead efforts with U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs staff and PATH in Los Angeles, CA to develop landlord incentive using federal tax credit

**National League of Cities**, Washington, DC  
 Manager (Veterans & Special Needs), April 2012 - June 2019

Provide primary organizational representation on Veterans issues, housing and homelessness to Congress and partners such as, but not limited to, the White House, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- Conceptualized, developed and led Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness with federal agencies and national partners; integrated participant data into organizational database; wrote standard operating procedure manual for maintenance
- Facilitate and lead meetings with White House and federal agency representatives (e.g., HUD, VA, USICH), members of Congress and local elected officials, including testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- Represent and speak on behalf of organization at conferences, forums, and to the media including The Washington Post, Politico, CNN, and others
- Provide technical assistance, research, and policy analysis to mayors, city councilors and other community stakeholders on homelessness, housing, and community development for veterans, seniors, and other special needs populations
- Develop and manage distribution of organizational content related to areas of expertise, including research reports, articles, case studies, blogs, webinars, website information, and social media content
- Expanded programmatic support from one philanthropy to three with an annual budget increase to \$885,000 from \$185,000.

- Manage staff and interns with progressive promotions from Senior Associate to Principal Associate to Manager

**National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, DC**  
Director of Outreach, November 2010 – April 2012

- Managed three Outreach Associates and interns
- Led state coalition partner project of 61 statewide organizations in 40 states
- Increased number of state coalition partners by more than 10%
- Maintained membership of over 1,000 organizations and individuals in all 50 states
- Developed and implemented strategies to expand membership and field support
- Worked with senior management and policy team to develop *Calls to Action* and necessary talking points to mobilize supporters
- Edited articles for weekly newsletter
- Streamlined organizational and departmental use of database management systems (Excel, Access, Sage FR50) and developed SOPs/training manual

**National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, DC**  
Outreach Associate (Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Midwest), May 2007 – November 2010

- Led coordination of national sign-on letter for NHTF campaign, resulting in support from more than 2,300 organizations in all 435 congressional districts
- Educated and engaged members/supporters for action on National Housing Trust Fund, LIHTC, ARRA, SEVRA, NSP, HUD appropriations, renter protections, and more
- Wrote articles about activities of state coalition partners for weekly newsletter
- Developed strategy to expand membership in key congressional districts
- Managed multiple member/supporter databases
- Supervised interns

**Community Teamwork Inc., Lowell, MA**  
SHIFT Coalition Coordinator (Stabilized Housing for Individuals and Families in Transition) March 2005- February 2007

- Coordinated efforts of over 50 non-profit service providers, government agencies, and community organizations to prevent homelessness
- Designed, implemented and evaluated initial community effort, preventing the homelessness of 45 individuals and families

- Increased public and legislative support for statewide prevention programs
- Raised and administered over \$30,000 from private and public funding sources
- Recruited and organized new members for the coalition

**Neighborhood Action Inc., Boston, MA**  
Program Manager, April 2003 – December 2004

- Organized homeless, formerly homeless, and service providers for political action
- Directed, managed and staffed multiple direct care programs to the homeless
- Cultivated current support and developed new areas of support for organization

**Ecclesia Ministries, Boston, MA**  
Program Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator, March 2001 – April 2003

- Administered pastoral care to homeless in hospitals, prisons and on the streets
- Coordinated parishes and volunteers for various programmatic needs
- Managed multiple financial and donor databases

**State Public Interest Research Groups**  
Organizer/Canvass Director, Colorado, Oregon, Massachusetts, August 1999 – January 2001

- Organized citizens and students for action on environmental and consumer issues
- Led office of 25 staff in successful effort to pass anti-sprawl legislation
- Led effort which raised over \$100,000 in support of various public interest campaigns

#### **Additional Experience/Awards:**

##### **City of Annapolis Affordable Housing Task Force – Co-chair**

*July 2020 – Present*

Appointed by Mayor Gavin Buckley and Alderman DeJuan Gay to serve on the city's task force assessing the current and projected landscape of housing affordability; evaluating current programs and initiatives to produce new affordable housing and preserve existing ones; and making recommendations of policy to the Mayor and the City Council.

##### **Rebuilding Together of Anne Arundel County - President of the Board of Directors**

*June 2013 - Present*

Developed and implemented strategic communications and legislative plan in support of efforts to rehabilitate homes of low-income homeowners across Anne Arundel County.

##### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans**

*March 2015 – March 2019*

One of twelve members provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on issues related to homeless veterans, including policy effectiveness, organizational structures, and VA services.

**Recipient of 2018 Media Relations Award – PR Daily**

*August 2018*

Recognized by PR Daily for generating an exclusive story with *The Washington Post* regarding a VA proposal to re-allocate more than \$460 million of HUD-VASH funds.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2017/12/06/va-tried-to-reallocate-460-million-earmarked-for-homeless-veterans-now-it-says-that-wont-happen/?utm\\_term=.2fcdce94866d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2017/12/06/va-tried-to-reallocate-460-million-earmarked-for-homeless-veterans-now-it-says-that-wont-happen/?utm_term=.2fcdce94866d)

**Recipient of 2018 National Partner Award – National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

*June 2018*

Recognized by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for leading a successful national advocacy and media effort against a VA proposal to re-allocate more than \$460 million of HUD-VASH funds.

**Recipient of 2017 H. George Frederickson Award – American Society for Public Administration**

*December 2017*

Recognized by ASPA as the author of the 2017 *PA TIMES* article judged most informative, provocative, creative, and well written.

“Supporting Our Veterans Isn’t Just the Right Thing...It’s the Smart Thing”

<https://www.aspanet.org/ASPADocs/PA%20Times/Magazine/Summer2017-Final.pdf>

**Recipient of 2017 Purple Heart Homes Leadership Award**

*November 2017*

Recognized by Purple Heart Homes for national leadership in helping seven cities meet the home repair and modification needs of 22 Veterans.

**Nominee for MA State Homelessness Commission**

*February 2007*

Nominated by Senator Steve Pangiotakos to hold one of ten seats on a statewide homeless commission working to end homelessness across the Commonwealth.

**Chair of Lowell’s Hunger and Homelessness Commission**

*April 2006 – February 2007*

Led the city-commissioned working group of government agencies, non-profit organizations, churches, and businesses aimed at ending homelessness in the City of Lowell.

**United States Marine Corps**

Infantry – Honorably Discharged, May 1996 – August 1999

***References available upon request***