



# SPIRIT OF BANKING



JUNE 2023



## Solving America's Housing Crisis: How Banks Are Taking Action and Making an Impact

Thursday, June 22 | 3-4 p.m. ET

Housing affordability is a major concern plaguing our communities. With fluctuating mortgage rates and low inventory, housing affordability has reached its lowest level since the Great Recession in 2007. In recognition of [American Housing Month](#), join the ABA Foundation for a discussion about effective and replicable solutions and strategies banks are employing to help more Americans access the dream of homeownership and wealth generation. [Register to attend.](#)



## Enter the 2023 ABA Foundation Community Commitment Awards

Banks across the country go to remarkable lengths to support their communities and customers. ABA Foundation wants to recognize banker-driven programs and initiatives that are making a difference and addressing community needs. Banks of all asset sizes and charter types are strongly encouraged to nominate a program in up to [seven award categories](#), or nominate a bank employee (excluding CEOs) for the George Bailey

Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a person who goes above and beyond in their service.

Need help crafting the entry form narratives? Review the [Guide to Preparing an Award-Winning Entry](#) for assistance. Each category will be judged by a panel of experts, and winners will be honored during ABA's Annual Convention in October. The clock is ticking! [Apply by July 7.](#)



## ABA Foundation Partners With FBI, DOJ to Combat Elder Financial Exploitation

For World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, ABA Foundation teamed up with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to release a [new, free resource](#) for frontline staff and other bankers to help recognize and respond to elder financial exploitation. The guide includes an

overview of elder financial exploitation, red flags to beware of, and tips on how to respond. ABA Foundation also [hosted a webinar](#) with the Department of Justice about ways to recognize and combat elder financial exploitation. Did you miss it? Not to worry; [view the recording](#).



### New Resource Offers Simple Ways to Support Your Loved Ones

ABA Foundation released a new guide for bankers to share with their communities. [Financial Caregiving and You](#) provides information to help older adults get started on their financial caregiving journeys. The free guide defines a financial caregiver, describes why identifying one is important, explains how to start conversations with loved ones about financial caregiving, and specifies potential topics to review with financial caregivers. [Download the guide](#). Looking for more ways to support seniors in your community? Register for [Safe Banking for Seniors](#) and get free access to additional educational resources.



### 3 Bank Strategies to Solve the Housing Affordability Crisis

In the May/June Issue of the ABA Banking Journal, ABA Foundation's Executive Director Lindsay Torrico [authored an article](#) spotlighting three strategies for banks to address the housing crisis: homebuyer counseling and education, underwriting below-market mortgages and improving capital access. [Read and share the article](#).



### Banks in the Spotlight: Corporate Responsibility at Work

This month, we spotlight the [2022 Community Commitment Award](#) winner for Protecting Older Americans: Simmons Bank in Little Rock, Arkansas. Led by EVP & Assistant General Counsel Steve Wade, a task force of lawmakers and banking professionals collaborated, researched and drafted SAFER AR Act (HB1391). Wade's leadership was instrumental in drafting this law to provide protection to the elderly and people with disabilities. The SAFER AR Act gives financial institutions the authority to recognize, delay and report financial exploitation of senior citizens and people with disabilities in Arkansas. [Watch the video](#).

