



The **LIVED EXPERIENCE TRAINING ACADEMY (LETA)** is a virtual (*fully online) and inclusive professional development program initiated by the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) (NCH), a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to: *prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected*. NCH, founded in 1981, is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization focused on ending homelessness in the United States.

The LETA program includes 12 to 16 hours of professional development, which leads to certification if successfully completed. It is created by *People with Lived Experience and Expertise* (PLEE) who have been unhoused in the United States. The mission of LETA is to: **Equip people with lived experience of homelessness to embrace leadership roles and transform public policy to be more inclusive.”**

The development and implementation of the LETA program is led and directed by internationally renowned Professor and Distinguished Chair of Social Justice Education at Stetson University and the President of the National Coalition for the Homeless Board Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, and Attorney and the Founder of the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity David Peery, along with oversight by the Executive Director of NCH Donald Whitehead. The LETA team also includes 8 diverse steering committee members (PLEE), as shared in the [LETA Overview Video](#).

The LETA program includes a thoughtfully designed curriculum with six core themes and several interconnected themes that emerged through a series of focus group interviews conducted with people around the nation who are currently or formerly experiencing homelessness; the LETA focus groups were led by Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, the current U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Jeff Olivet, and the NCH Grants Manager Michelle Bush.

Topics covered in the LETA program include, but are not limited to, the following: technology literacy, wellness and self-care, history of homelessness, public policy contextualization, communication, coalition building, conflict resolution, financial wellbeing, organizing and advocacy, and inclusive leadership. LETA builds on the knowledge and skills of diverse people with lived experience and focuses on systemic change to ensure housing as a human right.

For more information on the National Coalition for the Homeless LETA Program, contact the Program Manager Roderick Woodruff at 443-538-6129 or LETA@nationalhomeless.org