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Roundtable Recap: Inaugural Roundtable on the
Mission and Purpose of the FHLBank System

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The *FHLBank System at 100: Focusing on the Future* regional roundtables kicked off with a discussion of the mission and purpose of the FHLBank System. This wide-ranging conversation covered topics from the activities of the Banks and their support for liquidity and affordable housing and community development, to membership eligibility and the System's structure and corporate governance. Participants discussed the need for FHFA to issue a statement updating and clarifying the mission of the FHLBanks, to provide a basis for any further deliberations on these topics. They also acknowledged the challenge in doing so, including balancing the tensions and competing interests inherent in this government-sponsored, privately-owned cooperative.

Participants agreed the System has a role providing liquidity to its members and discussed the extent to which that private benefit should be tied to an obligation to support affordable housing and community development – whether through members' lending activities or through the Banks' programs. The FHLBanks' resources and regional structure position them to help close gaps left by other institutions, including in rural communities, to meet critical affordable housing needs, and for mission-oriented members such as CDFIs. Participants challenged FHFA to maintain a sense of urgency, and to weigh the interests of the owners of the System and the interests of its beneficiaries when making further decisions impacting the FHLBanks' support for housing finance, home ownership, and affordable housing and community development.

FHFA prepared this roundtable recap to summarize key discussion points. Please visit the website to view the full roundtable transcript and video recording.