

# MEMO MEMBERS

*The Weekly Newsletter of the National Low Income Housing Coalition*

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## Memo on Break for Thanksgiving

*Memo to Members* will go on a one-week hiatus for the Thanksgiving holiday and return to publication November 30. In addition, NLIHC offices will be closed November 21-23.

We wish our readers a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

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## NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

### Faith Advocacy Group Holds National Event in Support of National Housing Trust Fund

Fighting Poverty with Faith, a nationwide, interfaith movement to cut poverty in half by 2020, held a national press event for its fifth annual mobilization, "Building Opportunity through Affordable Housing for All," on November 15. The mobilization calls on Congress to provide \$1 billion to fund the National Housing Trust Fund (see Memo, 10/26).

The event, held at The SeVerna, a 60-unit mixed income affordable housing development in northwest Washington, D.C., included speakers representing faith and advocacy groups as well as one currently homeless individual and one resident of The SeVerna. Rabbi Steve Gutow, President and CEO of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs, which coordinates the faith coalition, opened the event, saying that it would be action from political leaders, not just from charity groups, that would finally end poverty in the United States.

In her remarks, Sheila Crowley, President and CEO of NLIHC, noted that faith groups have long been strong supporters of the National Housing Trust Fund. She said that the nation has the resources to end homelessness; it is a matter of lawmakers committing the funding necessary for that effort to succeed.

Other speakers included Mrs. Yvonne Williams, chair of the board of Bible Way Church, which developed The SeVerna; Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada; Dr. Sayeed Sayyid, Islamic Council of North America; and Candy Hill, Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Social Policy at Catholic Charities USA.

The event closed with an interfaith prayer for affordable housing and an end to poverty, which included a call to "Help us to attend to the difference between charity and change; that we may both help to

provide shelter and affordable housing, and change the structures that swell the numbers of those living in poverty."

Access the Fighting Poverty with Faith website, which includes resources for congregations, at <http://bit.ly/QIYCGB>.

Join people of faith in taking action on funding for the National Housing Trust Fund at <http://bit.ly/QIYHtQ>.

Read the full text of the interfaith prayer at <http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/FightingPovertywithFaithPrayer.pdf>.

View press coverage of the event from *The Nation* at <http://bit.ly/Qm2gA6>, from the *Jewish Daily Forward* at <http://bit.ly/Qm2fwj>, and from PBS's *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly* at <http://to.pbs.org/Qm2lUo>.

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## FEDERAL BUDGET

### Congress Reconvenes, Recesses with Little Discussion of Sequestration

The House and Senate reconvened on November 13 for the start of the post-election "lame duck" session closing the 112th Congress. The Senate then recessed on November 15, and the House on November 16, for the Thanksgiving holiday. During the days Congress was in session, members began discussing the impending sequestration of discretionary funds scheduled for January 2, 2013, but did not take action or put forth proposals. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) requires the sequestration of discretionary funds in FY13, which means making across-the-board cuts, to achieve a \$1.2 trillion reduction in the deficit over a 10-year period (see Memo, 11/9).

President Barack Obama met with stakeholder groups the week of November 12, and then with House and Senate leadership on November 16, to discuss tax extenders, the debt ceiling and sequestration. After the meeting at the White House, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) reported that they had engaged in a productive conversation and expected to reach an agreement on sequestration and deficit reduction. The President reiterated that revenue is key to such an agreement, and House and Senate Republicans indicated that some revenue would need to be included. Both the Democratic and Republican members indicated that spending cuts would be included, with the Republican members focusing on cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

As a first step in these negotiations, the administration has urged the House to agree that households earning under \$250,000 annually should not see an increase in taxes paid, and to pass a Senate bill to keep those tax cuts in place. House Republicans want to extend all tax cuts including those for higher income households and have thus far not supported keeping only the middle class tax cuts in place.

President Obama and more progressive members of Congress are not yet aligned on the basic framework for a deficit reduction deal. Some Senators are urging that Congress only accept a plan with a 1 to 1 ratio of spending cuts to revenue increases, while the President has said previously that 2.5 to 1 ratio would be acceptable. Senate Democrats are not yet in agreement on such terms for a deficit deal. When Congress reconvenes the week of November 26, members are likely to share proposals to replace sequestration. The administration is also expected to release a framework for replacing sequestration with other deficit reduction measures.

On November 9, NLIHC and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) participated in a webinar, “What Do the Budget Control Act, Sequestration and the Fiscal Cliff Mean for Housing and Community Development,” hosted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). The webinar explained the BCA, sequestration, and what advocates can do to protect affordable housing as Congress develops a replacement deficit reduction plan. The webinar presentation is now archived and can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/U0g1BC>.

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## HUD

### HUD Releases Report on FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund

On November 16, HUD released its report to Congress on the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Mutual Mortgage Insurance (MMI) fund, and responded to an independent actuary’s analysis that the MMI fund capital reserve ratio is now negative.

HUD issued a statement saying that while the capital reserve ratio of the MMI fell below zero, “this does not mean FHA has insufficient cash to pay insurance claims, a current operating deficit, or will need to immediately draw funds from the Treasury.” FHA Acting Commissioner Carol Galante said that HUD “will continue to take aggressive steps to protect FHA’s financial health.”

The health of FHA is of concern in part because of its increasing role in subsidizing the HUD budget in recent fiscal years. Receipts from FHA have supported continued funding of HUD’s core discretionary housing programs for several budget cycles. HUD has continued to refine its formula for estimating FHA receipts for the upcoming fiscal year in order to make accurate budget assumptions.

The administration’s FY13 budget request to Congress assumes receipts from FHA, along with Ginnie Mae, will provide funding for HUD’s other programs. Though the new fiscal year started on October 1, 2012, Congress has not yet passed an appropriations bill for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies-funded departments. A continuing resolution (CR) is funding federal government activity through March 27, 2013.

The report is available at <http://1.usa.gov/ZZP9oP>.

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## DISASTER HOUSING

### Donovan Slated to Lead Sandy Recovery; Advocates Urge Advancement of Disaster Recovery Act

President Barack Obama announced on November 15 that HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan is to be the administration’s point person for Super Storm Sandy recovery efforts. HUD Senior Advisor for Disaster Recovery, Fred Tombar, is expected to have a leading role in the administration’s recovery activities as well.

On November 19, the Stafford Act Reform Group (formerly the Katrina Housing Group) sent a letter to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee leadership urging a lame duck session markup of S. 1630, the Disaster Recovery Act. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) hopes to advance S. 1630 during the lame duck session of Congress, or include provisions from the legislation in a broader recovery package.

The signatories said, “The impact of Hurricane Sandy on the housing stock of affected states underscores the importance of this legislation. While the full impact of the storm is still being assessed, it is evident that tens of thousands of households will require medium and long term federal housing assistance. It is critical that lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita be incorporated into the Hurricane Sandy response and recovery effort.”

While there are sufficient funds in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to address immediate Sandy-related needs (see Memo, 11/2), discussions are underway in Congress to advance a supplemental appropriations bill for long term needs. A supplemental could include funds for programs in a variety of agencies, including HUD and the Army Corps of Engineers.

A copy of the Stafford Act Reform Group letter is available at [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Stafford\\_Act\\_Reform\\_Letter\\_11-19-12.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Stafford_Act_Reform_Letter_11-19-12.pdf).

A copy of S. 1630 is available at [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Bill\\_S1630.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Bill_S1630.pdf).

## HUD Issues Guidance Allowing Non-Elderly Super Storm Sandy Evacuees to Occupy Elderly Housing

HUD has issued guidance allowing private providers of housing designated as elderly-only to make units available to people under the age of 55 if they are evacuees from a Super Storm Sandy-declared disaster area. The waiver applies to any property in the nation.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 was amended in 1988 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and familial status (that is, families with children). The act also contained a provision exempting senior housing because Congress intended to preserve housing specifically designated to meet the needs of elderly people.

The 1995 Housing for Older Persons Act (HOPA) modified the definition of housing for older persons. Under HOPA, at least 80% of the occupied units must be occupied by at least one person 55 years of age or older, or 100% of the occupied units must be occupied by persons aged 62 or older.

The guidance is in the form of 14 questions and answers. Some key points include:

- Admitting evacuees under age 55 is voluntary.
- Owners may choose not to admit younger evacuees with children, but those units will count toward the 20% of units that do not have to be occupied by at least one person 55 years of age or older.
- HUD does not require someone to prove that he or she is an evacuee.
- Owners may impose a time limit on admitting and housing younger evacuees, but HUD encourages them to allow people to remain as long as there is need.
- Younger evacuees may be asked to move to make room for someone 55 or older.

The guidance is at <http://1.usa.gov/QLGtZr>.

## NLIHC State Partners and Other Advocates Continue Super Storm Sandy Efforts

New York State Tenants & Neighbors has issued a set of recommendations for protecting tenants, tenants' rights, and affordable housing in the wake of Super Storm Sandy. There are five categories of recommendation:

- Protecting tenants with damaged apartments.
- Protecting and housing displaced tenants.

- Preserving affordability of rent regulated housing used to temporarily house displaced tenants.

- Repairing damaged buildings.

- Averting homelessness.

The recommendations are available at <http://bit.ly/QIIew2>.

The Supportive Housing Network of New York continues its special Hurricane Sandy webpage, <http://bit.ly/PKfyF5>, and is compiling vacancy information from its members through a survey, available at <http://svy.mk/Qm15AM>.

The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey is conducting an online survey, available at <http://svy.mk/Qm1cw9>, to identify the nature and severity of damage, units that might be available to house evacuees, and regulatory or policy barriers to assistance.

The Community Service Society of New York has a Hurricane Sandy webpage with a valuable chart of programs that can assist hurricane victims, at <http://bit.ly/QIITaw>.

Legal Services of New York City has a Hurricane Sandy webpage at <http://bit.ly/QIIUuZ>, which includes an in-depth disaster relief legal assistance manual.

## Additional Super Storm Sandy Resources

### HUD FAQ Specific to Super Storm Sandy

HUD's Hurricane Sandy webpage, <http://1.usa.gov/PKfGEv>, has a helpful 26-page frequently asked questions (FAQ) document tailored to Hurricane Sandy, at <http://1.usa.gov/QLHWiv>.

In addition to five pages answering questions received from the public, there are answers pertaining to CDBG, HOME, ESG, McKinney-Vento programs, public housing, and vouchers.

Regarding CDBG, for example, HUD reminds jurisdictions that the most appropriate use of CDBG disaster related funds is for longer-term needs such as redevelopment; immediate disaster relief should come primarily through FEMA and the Small Business Administration.

Regarding HOME, a participating jurisdiction may seek a waiver of the requirement that 15% of each HOME allocation be used for homes developed by Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), something NLIHC believes CHDOs should be wary of.

Regarding public housing and vouchers, a number of issues are addressed, including:

- Public housing agencies (PHAs) with more than 250 units may temporarily deprogram vacant units in order to make them available for over-income disaster victims. These units will not, however, receive operating cost subsidy for the time they are occupied by over-income households.

- PHAs not in a declared disaster area that incurred damage as a result of Super Storm Sandy may apply for FY13 Capital Fund Emergency and Disaster Reserve set-aside funds.
- PHAs may give a preference to existing public housing and voucher residents displaced by the disaster.
- PHAs may also give a preference to disaster area victims who are not currently public housing or voucher residents, as long as they are income-eligible.
- Under existing voucher portability rules, a receiving PHA may admit additional family members to a portable voucher family.
- If a housing choice voucher unit is damaged by the disaster, but the deficiencies are not life-threatening, a PHA has existing administrative discretion to allow more than 30 days for the unit owner to make repairs to bring the unit up to housing quality standards.

## CDBG Disaster Recovery Overview

HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) has a Disaster Recovery Assistance webpage that includes a Power Point titled, CDBG Disaster Recovery Overview. The webpage is at <http://1.usa.gov/TxlUDM>, and the slides are at <http://1.usa.gov/QLId4O>.

## Fair Housing Information

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) has two short fair housing information bulletins, one for disaster survivors and one for housing providers.

FHEO's Fair Housing Disaster Resources web page is at <http://1.usa.gov/TxIU6O>.

Fair housing information for disaster survivors is at <http://1.usa.gov/QLiFU>.

Fair housing information for housing providers is at <http://1.usa.gov/QLImVX>.

## HUD Offers Advice to Returning Super Storm Sandy Victims

The Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control has a new webpage offering tips to people returning to their homes after the flood waters of Super Storm Sandy recede. The tips apply to both inside and outside the home, and are available at <http://1.usa.gov/QLIpRE>.

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## THE COURTS

### NLIHC Joins *Amicus* Brief Supporting Tenants Evicted in Violation of PTFA

NLIHC joins other national organizations in signing an *amicus curiae*, or "friend of the court," brief in support of a lawsuit filed by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and Bay Area Legal Aid against

Deutsche Bank for violating the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA). Rosario Nativi and her son Jose Perez were evicted from the apartment they had rented since June 2007 after Deutsche Bank became the owner of the property through foreclosure. Although Rosario and Jose still had 10 months remaining on their lease, in their absence the family's personal property was thrown out into the backyard and ruined. When the family returned, the police removed them from their home as if they were trespassers.

The PTFA provides bona fide tenants the right to occupy their homes until the end of the remaining term of the lease. The Nativis' legal aid attorney contacted the bank to seek reinstatement of the property for the duration of the lease, but the bank refused. The Nativis brought suit, but lost in trial court because that court ignored the PTFA. Most states' common law allows leases to be terminated by a foreclosure; the federal PTFA was passed to overturn such practice.

The National Housing Law Project drafted the brief, which was joined by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, the National Fair Housing Alliance, AARP and the California Reinvestment Coalition, in addition to NLIHC.

PTFA sunsets in 2014: NLIHC advocates making PTFA permanent law and improving it by providing tenants a private right of action to file suit in civil court and seek relief for violations of PTFA. This would give tenants the ability to secure court orders enforcing their bona fide lease agreements, and to pursue money damages for financial losses such as the loss of their belongings following an illegal eviction.

The *amicus curiae* brief is available at [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Nativi\\_Amicus\\_Brief.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Nativi_Amicus_Brief.pdf).

Learn more about NLIHC's policy position on foreclosure intervention at <http://bit.ly/PNFyNu>.

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## FROM THE FIELD

### State Coalitions Tackle Ambitious Agenda at NLIHC Semi-Annual Meeting

Representatives from 17 NLIHC state coalition partners gathered in Washington, D.C. for their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 11 through Tuesday, November 13. The agenda included topics that the partners identified in advance as key or pressing affordable housing issues.

Throughout the meeting, state partners underscored the importance of capitalizing the National Housing Trust Fund to address growing homelessness and housing issues in their states. "This meeting was a great forum to talk with my fellow advocates about what we will do in our local communities to increase support for reforming the mortgage interest deduction to fund the National Housing Trust Fund," said Bob Palmer, Housing Action Illinois' policy director.



NLIHC board member Ann O'Hara, associate director at the Technical Assistance Collaborative, led a discussion on the intersection of affordable housing and the 1999 Olmstead decision, which requires people with disabilities to be integrated into residential settings when there is no need for institutionalization. Carley Ruff, policy analyst for the North Carolina Housing Coalition, described her state's recent Olmstead settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice and plan to provide community-based supportive housing to 3,000 individuals unnecessarily housed in adult care homes. Attendees were urged to review their own states' Olmstead compliance plans and take proactive steps to provide integrated housing for people with disabilities. In addition to North Carolina, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Virginia have settlement agreements or litigation in process.

Norm Suchar of the National Alliance to End Homelessness met with the state partners to highlight key changes to the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) program. The attendees discussed the implications of the interim rule for the state and local levels, and discussed feedback to help inform their comments to HUD. In addition, they reviewed HUD's Housing and Transportation Affordability Initiative, which will provide information about housing and transportation cost by community. They cautioned that steps should be taken to ensure that this tool does not perpetuate gentrification.

State partners and members of the NLIHC Board of Directors met with representatives of the White House, the U.S. Department of Treasury, and HUD, as well as with members of Congress. They urged these officials to support funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, protecting low income families in deficit reduction efforts, HEARTH implementation, and disaster recovery.

"I very much enjoyed the state coalition partner meeting," said Chrishelle Palay, policy analyst at the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. "Hearing about the great work and challenges that other state partners face is invaluable knowledge that I can bring back to my colleagues and work."

NLIHC state coalition partners are housing and homelessness advocacy organizations serving statewide or regional areas, and are the member organizations with which NLIHC works most closely. Learn more about the State Coalition Partner Project at <http://bit.ly/ZZM1t9>.

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## EVENTS

### NCRC to Hold Housing Counseling Webinar

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) will hold a webinar, "The New Office of Housing Counseling: Q & A with HUD Senior Policy Advisor Sarah Gerecke," on November 28. The webinar will be held at 12 pm ET.

The webinar will feature the head of the new HUD Office of Housing Counseling, and there will be opportunity for participants to pose questions. The Office of Housing Counseling is responsible for overseeing, regulating and awarding federal funds for tenant and homeownership counseling activities.

Register for the webinar at <http://bit.ly/ZZNOOW>.

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## RESOURCES

### Report Finds Federally Assisted Households Lack Access to High-Performing Schools

According to a new report prepared by Ingrid Gould Ellen and Keren Mertens Horn for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, federally assisted households had lower access to high-performing schools compared to all renters. The authors identified schools accessible to assisted households by identifying the elementary school closest to each household. They used a number of different measures to determine school performance. Schools were ranked on combined math and reading test scores. Rankings also included racial and ethnic demographics and percent of students receiving free and reduced price lunch to provide a broader picture of each school.

The authors found that school access varied by type of subsidy. For all renter households, which include unassisted households, the median state ranking of the nearest school was in the 37th percentile, while the median state ranking of the nearest school for public housing residents was in the 19th percentile. For voucher holders, the median ranking was in the 26th percentile, and the median ranking of the nearest school for Project-Based Section 8 residents was in the 28th percentile. The median state ranking of the nearest school for LIHTC tenants was in the 31st percentile. While there is variation in access between the different subsidy types, the data show that access to high-performing schools is lower among households receiving federal assistance than among renter households as a whole.

While voucher holders lived near higher-performing schools than public housing residents, they lived nearer to lower-performing schools than LIHTC tenants or tenants in Project-Based Section 8 developments. This finding is important because voucher holders are able to choose where they live. The authors point to several possible reasons for why voucher holders lack access to high performing schools, such as unavailability of affordable housing in neighborhoods with high performing schools, or lack of access to the information needed to find affordable housing in those neighborhoods. Additionally, administrative restrictions in the voucher program could make it more difficult for voucher holders to move into a different district with higher-performing schools.

Another explanation why voucher holders lack access to high-performing schools is that voucher holders tend to be non-white, and non-white students in general have access to and attend lower-

performing schools. The median state ranking for schools nearest to white voucher holders was in the 40th percentile, while the median ranking for schools nearest to black voucher holders was in the 20th percentile. The median ranking for schools nearest to Hispanic voucher holders was in the 25th percentile. For poor households in each group, the numbers were similar to those for voucher holders, suggesting that race has a role in why voucher holders have lower access to high-performing schools than the population as a whole.

Overall, the authors found that public housing tenants and voucher holders live in areas with lower-performing schools than other low income households and renters. It also shows that non-white voucher holders attend lower-performing schools than white voucher holders. The authors note that housing vouchers have the potential to enable households to move to neighborhoods with better schools and better opportunities in general, but currently do not do so. They suggest that state and local advocacy promoting fair housing goals can help to improve housing assistance and move low income households to neighborhoods with better schools.

The report, *Do Federally Assisted Households Have Access to High Performing Schools*, is available for download at <http://bit.ly/U0jK2m>.

## 2011 Supplemental Poverty Rate Higher than Official Measure

On November 14, the Census Bureau released new Supplementary Poverty Measure (SPM) estimates for 2011. According to the report, 49.7 million Americans lived in poverty, three million more people than the official poverty measure estimates for 2011.

SPM estimates were released for the first time in 2010 in response to shortcomings of the official poverty measure methodology. The official poverty measure only considers cash income, excluding government benefits and geographic differences in housing costs. The SPM, in contrast, includes the value of social benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The SPM also deducts certain expenses from income, including taxes, child care costs, and contributions towards health insurance premiums.

According to the new report, the SPM was 16.1% nationally for 2011, about 1 percentage point higher than the official poverty rate of 15%. The SPM estimates for children under the age of 18 (18.1%), and African-Americans (25.7%) are lower than the official poverty rates (22.3% and 27.8%, respectively). This reflects SPM's inclusion of critical public benefit programs, including housing subsidies, which effectively keep some Americans above the poverty threshold.

For the first time, the SPM also includes state level poverty estimates, using three-year averages from the Current Population Survey. The SPM estimates are higher than the official poverty rate in 14 states and the District of Columbia. In 26 states, the supplemental poverty

rate is lower than the official rate. These differences are in part tied to the variation in housing costs across the country.

To access the Census Bureau's report, *The Research: Supplemental Poverty Measure 2011*, visit <http://1.usa.gov/QlKr4h>.

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## NLIHC NEWS

### NLIHC Board of Directors Adopts 2013-2014 Policy Agenda

At its fall meeting held the weekend after the November 6 election, the National Low Income Housing Coalition Board of Directors considered and adopted the coalition's policy agenda for 2013-2014, the time period of the 113th Congress.

The agenda continues to focus on obtaining funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, including through mortgage interest deduction reform. Other items on the agenda include aligning federal housing resources with need, increased HUD funding, preservation of public and assisted housing and planning for just communities.

To read the approved policy agenda, go to [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/NLIHC\\_Policy\\_Agenda\\_13-14.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/NLIHC_Policy_Agenda_13-14.pdf).

### NLIHC Is Hiring for Research and Outreach Positions; Seeks Spring 2013 Interns

NLIHC seeks two well-qualified and talented candidates to fill open positions on our Outreach and Research teams.

As one of a three-person team, the **outreach associate** will mobilize our members on federal policy advocacy in a manner that advances our mission; assist in the design and implementation of campaign field strategies; and conduct outreach activities in specific states.

The outreach associate position requires knowledge of federal housing policy, strong written and oral communication skills and excellent technology skills, including high proficiency in database management. Priority consideration will be given to candidates with proven organizing experience that mobilized a community or constituent base and led to a significant legislative victory at the national or state level. A Bachelor's degree is required.

The **research analyst** will collect, analyze and present quantitative and qualitative data in a manner that advances the Coalition's research agenda. The successful candidate will be able to translate and disseminate research to varied audiences in an accessible and understandable format.

The research analyst position requires demonstrated professional experience with GIS, databases, SPSS or similar statistical packages,

and large datasets; an advanced degree in Sociology, Geography, Public Policy, Urban Planning or similar field; and strong oral and written communication skills. Experience or coursework in survey research is preferred.

A commitment to social justice is a core qualification for both positions, which are based in Washington, D.C. NLIHC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

NLIHC is also accepting resumes for **Spring 2013 intern positions**. Interns are highly valued and fully integrated into our staff work. We seek students passionate about social justice issues, with excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

The available positions are:

- **Communications Intern.** Assists in planning NLIHC's annual media awards, prepares and distributes press materials and works on website and social media projects. Maintains the media database and tracks press hits.
- **Policy Intern.** Tracks new legislation, attends and summarizes Congressional hearings for weekly newsletter, participates in visits to Congressional offices and develops materials for use in lobbying the House and Senate to accomplish NLIHC's mission. Updates the Congressional database.
- **Outreach Intern.** Assists with grassroots organizing efforts for the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign and other legislative campaigns. Assists with membership recruitment and retention efforts and internal database upkeep.
- **Research Intern.** Assists in ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects, writes weekly articles on current research for *Memo*, attends briefings and helps staff respond to research inquiries.

A cover letter, resume and writing sample are required for consideration. They should be included as attachments if you choose to submit them electronically. In the cover letter, applicants should specify the position(s) for which they are applying and that they are interested in a Spring 2013 internship. Interested candidates for all positions should forward a cover letter, salary requirements (research analyst and outreach associate only), resume and a writing sample to Bill Shields, Vice President of Operations, 727 15th Street N.W., 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, or to [bill@nlihc.org](mailto:bill@nlihc.org). Applicants should indicate the title of the position sought in the subject line of the application email. No phone calls, please.

## FACT OF THE WEEK

### Federally Assisted Households Lack Access to High-Performing Schools

|                                   | Proficiency Percentile<br>Rank Math/ELA* | % Free/Reduced<br>Price Lunch |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Housing Choice Voucher Households | 26                                       | 74.1                          |
| Public Housing                    | 19                                       | 82.1                          |
| Project-Based Section 8           | 28                                       | 68.6                          |
| LIHTC                             | 31                                       | 67.1                          |
| All Households                    | 53                                       | 45.9                          |
| All Renters                       | 37                                       | 66.8                          |

\*Proficiency measured using percentile rank for each school in every state, based on student proficiency rates in math and English language arts. Percentile rank reported is the median percentile rank for schools closest to households receiving each subsidy type.

Source: Ellen, Ingrid Gould, Keren Mertens Horn (2012). Table 1. *Do Federally Assisted Households Have Access to High Performing Public Schools?* Poverty & Race Research Action Council (2012). Author: Washington, D.C. Retrieved from: <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/PRRACHousingLocation&Schools.pdf>.

## NLIHC STAFF

**Isabella Blanchard**, Outreach Intern, x229  
**Megan Bolton**, Research Director, x245  
**Elina Bravve**, Research Analyst, x244  
**Sarah Brundage**, Communications Project Manager, x246  
**Amy Clark**, Communications Director, x227  
**Linda Couch**, Senior Vice President of Policy and Research, x228  
**Sheila Crowley**, President, x224  
**Mary Donoghue**, Research Intern, x249  
**Ed Gramlich**, Director of Regulatory Affairs, x314  
**Mary Kolar**, Outreach Associate x233  
**Linda Leaks**, Outreach Associate, x316  
**Sham Manglik**, Policy Analyst, x243  
**Taylor Materio**, Communications Consultant  
**Khara Norris**, Director of Administration, x242  
**Melissa Quirk**, Senior Policy Analyst, x230  
**Bill Shields**, Vice President of Operations, x232  
**Christina Sin**, Executive Assistant, x224  
**Shira Steinberg**, Outreach Intern, x223  
**Max Steininger**, Policy Intern, x252  
**La'Teashia Sykes**, State Coalition Project Director, x247  
**Kate Traynor**, Development Coordinator, x234

## ABOUT NLIHC

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to achieving equitable federal policy that assures affordable, accessible, and healthy homes for the people with the lowest incomes in the United States.

Established in 1974 by Cushing N. Dolbeare, NLIHC educates, organizes, and advocates to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods for everyone.

## TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

NLIHC membership is the best way to stay informed about affordable housing issues, keep in touch with advocates around the country, and support NLIHC's work.

NLIHC membership information is available at [www.nlihc.org/join](http://www.nlihc.org/join). You can also e-mail us at [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org) or call 202-662-1530 to request membership materials to distribute at meetings and conferences.



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