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Disaster Housing Recovery

NLIHC and DHRC Mark One-Year Anniversary of 2017 Hurricanes, Commit to Continued Advocacy

August 25 marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey making landfall in Texas, the first of three major hurricanes to hit in rapid succession in 2017, impacting Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The housing recovery and rebuilding is far from over – in many ways, it is just beginning. Thousands of low income disaster survivors remain in temporary hotels, tens of thousands are still displaced, and millions have badly damaged homes. Today, as the aftermath of Hurricane Lane’s torrential rains is being assessed in the Hawaiian islands, fires burn across the west, and the worst of hurricane season gets underway, we at NLIHC recommit ourselves to the years of disaster housing recovery work ahead – in those communities already impacted by recent hurricanes and wildfires, and wherever the next major disaster strikes.

Despite the tremendous obstacles to the housing recovery of the lowest income people, NLIHC and our partners have accomplished so much together over the last year. Within days of Hurricane Harvey’s landfall, NLIHC reached out to members, partners and allies in impacted communities and across the country, and together we formed the ever-growing Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) of over [700 state, local and national partners](#). Many of you have been part of this effort from the beginning and others have joined along the way. We are united in our understanding that without strong and sustained advocacy the housing needs of low income survivors and their communities are often ignored, and in our commitment to ensure that the housing recovery is equitable, just and complete.

Since those early days, the DHRC has worked continuously to ensure an equitable housing recovery for people with the lowest incomes. By building a robust coalition of advocates and organizations with direct experience and working through strong state partners, the DHRC has engaged policymakers at every stage of the federal housing response, educating members of Congress and the administration, as well as the general public, on the housing recovery needs of low income survivors.

Please take a moment to look at this [overview of the DHRC’s work over the last year](#) - while not comprehensive, it is filled with examples of the work we have done together.

None of this work would have been possible without the powerful commitment to recovery of so many of you – from our longtime partners like Texas Housers, Texas Homeless Network and Florida Housing Coalition, to newer partners in Puerto Rico like Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia, Ayuda Legal Huracán María, and Coalición de Coaliciones, to hundreds of national allies. The JPB Foundation’s generous support made building, facilitating and activating this powerful coalition possible.

Local Perspectives on the One-Year Anniversary of Hurricane Harvey

In honor of the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, multiple news outlets, including the [Texas Tribune](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), and [Texas Monthly](#), featured stories on the impact of the hurricane, the displacement of Texas families, and the ongoing recovery efforts in Houston.

An [op-ed](#) in the Houston *Business Journal* by research economist Luis Torres at Texas A&M’s Real Estate Center highlights the potential impact of environmental regulations on housing affordability.

According to Mimi Swartz of [Texas Monthly](#), “Houston could become a model for how to take on two of the thorniest issues plaguing cities around the world: climate change and increasingly unaffordable housing (the two are, it turns out, nearly inseparable).”

AccuWeather released an [analysis](#) of the sources and uses of federal aid as well as of individual and philanthropic donations deployed in response to Hurricane Harvey.

NPR featured a [story](#) on a Florida Keys Community Land Trust project to build a 200-unit workforce housing complex according to FEMA standards.

A “People's Tribunal on Harvey Recovery,” hosted by Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition member and NLIHC state partner Texas Housers, was held on Friday, August 24. The Tribunal featured the testimony of residents, community leaders, and experts in connecting the dots between the labor, immigration, housing, and environmental threats facing the city of Houston and all its residents.

On Thursday, August 30, from 4:00-5:00 pm ET, Pro Bono Net will host a roundtable [discussion](#) on Disaster Recovery and Recoupments as part of its Disaster Legal Aid 2018 Roundtable Series. The discussion will review what happens when an agency providing funding believes it has given an individual funding in error. To register, click [here](#).

Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – August 27

The following is a review of housing recovery developments related to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the 2017 California wildfires since last week’s *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in last week’s *Memo*, see [8/20](#)). NLIHC also posts this information at our [On the Home Front](#) blog.

Federal Response

FEMA

FEMA coordinated with legal aid groups [Ayuda Legal Huracán María](#), [Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia](#), and [Servicios Legales de Puerto Rico](#)—all DHRC partners – to develop an additional method to verify home ownership on appeal. The new [Sworn Declaration](#), including any corresponding and supplementary documents, can be used in place of traditional documentation to verify ownership of a pre-disaster primary residence and determine eligibility for financial assistance. More information can be found [here](#).

FEMA published a [set of infographics](#) showing statistics on the first year of the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort in Texas.

State Action

HUD Secretary Ben Carson signed a grant [agreement](#) on August 17 authorizing the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to begin spending \$5.024 billion in Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to help Texas communities recover from Hurricane Harvey. These funds were approved in June after HUD’s acceptance of the GLO’s CDBG-DR State Action [Plan](#).

Fair Housing

NLIHC, Partners and Eight Senators Submit Disparate Impact Comment Letters

In response to an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (see *Memo*, [5/14](#) and [6/25](#)), NLIHC, eight Democratic senators, and other fair housing advocates submitted separate comment letters regarding HUD’s

expressed doubts that the 2013 Disparate Impact rule is consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities* (see Memo, [6/29/15](#)).

NLIHC, the senators, and other advocates expressed support for the Disparate Impact regulation and urged HUD to not amend the current rule because, despite HUD's claim, there is nothing in the *Inclusive Communities* decision that warrants a reconsideration. Rather than weaken an essential fair housing tool, HUD should begin to vigorously enforce the Disparate Impact rule.

NLIHC reminded HUD that for decades it has interpreted the Fair Housing Act to prohibit housing practices that have a discriminatory effect, even if there was no obvious intent to discriminate. Eleven U.S. Courts of Appeals agreed. Because there were minor variations in how the courts and HUD applied the discriminatory impact concept, however, HUD issued the rule to establish uniform standards.

The product of the rule was the "burden-shifting" framework, which the *Inclusive Communities* Supreme Court decision implicitly adopted. NLIHC cited four court cases decided after *Inclusive Communities* that found that the Disparate Impact regulation is consistent with the *Inclusive Communities* ruling.

In addition, the senators' letter addressed HUD's question regarding whether there should be "safe harbors" for certain sectors. They wrote:

"There must be no exemption for insurance firms because there is a history of redlining and discriminatory practices in homeowners' insurance products. Thanks to enforcement using the Fair Housing Act's disparate impact standard, the insurance industry has modified many of its practices to write more policies in communities of color and to address disparities in pricing. These changes have resulted in more customers of and greater profits for insurance firms and higher quality products and services for homebuyers. Progress has been made in this area, but it is not self-executing."

The senators' letter was signed by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Kamala Harris (D-CA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Cory Booker (D-NJ).

NLIHC also signed on to a comment letter circulated by the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA).

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel also wrote an op-ed about HUD's continued attacks on the Fair Housing Act that was published in the August 23 issue of *The Hill*. The article, titled "[Trump administration continues to undermine Fair Housing Act](#)," outlined ways in which Secretary Carson has engaged in efforts to dismantle decades of purposeful federal, state and local housing policies put in place to foster communities free from discrimination. "While Secretary Carson purports an interest in using a new AFFH rule to reverse local exclusionary zoning barriers, it's hard to take him at his word," wrote Diane. "His is the administration that let Westchester County (NY) off easy after its nine-year battle with the federal government pushing the county to remove such barriers. Rather than require the county to make substantive improvements to its local exclusionary zoning policies, Carson instead allowed the county to simply make [cosmetic changes](#)."

NLIHC's comment letter is at: <https://bit.ly/2PvX9hd>

The NFHA sign on letter is at: <https://bit.ly/2MrmfQI>

The senators' letter is at: <https://bit.ly/2o33p3A>

More information about disparate impact is on page 7-1 of NLIHC's [2018 Advocates' Guide](#).

Read Diane Yentel's op-ed at: <https://bit.ly/2PviZS2>

Congress

Senator Wyden Introduces Misguided and Wasteful Middle Income Housing Tax Credit Bill

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced a bill ([S. 3365](#)) to create a Middle Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC) for properties where at least 60% of homes are occupied by households with incomes at or below 100% of area median incomes (AMI). While NLIHC welcomes proposed solutions to the nation's affordable rental housing crisis, Senator Wyden's plan would be a misguided and wasteful use of federal resources. Federal resources are better spent addressing the critical housing needs of extremely low income renters, who are most severely impacted by the lack of affordable housing, instead of middle income renters who represent less than 1% of all severely housing cost-burdened households. For every 100 median-income households nationwide, there are 101 affordable and available rental homes; for every 100 extremely low income households, there are just 35 affordable and available rental homes.

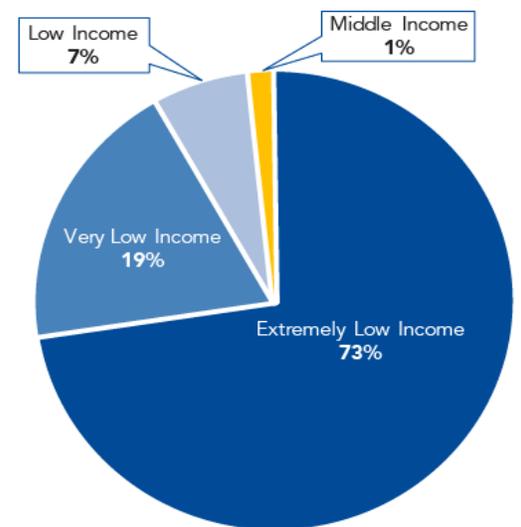
Senator Wyden's MIHTC legislation would create a 15-year tax credit for 50% of qualifying costs, or a minimum 5% per year, and would allocate \$1 per capita in 2019 - \$1.05 per capita for rural areas - with a \$1.14 million minimum for small states. Senator Wyden introduced similar legislation in 2016 (See *Memo*, [9/26/16](#)).

“There is no sound rationale for investing billions of dollars of scarce federal resources targeted toward the development of market-rate housing, when changes to local zoning laws would have largely the same impact,” stated NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel in an NLIHC press release on the MIHTC legislation. “At a time when there are more than twice as many children living in homeless shelters as there are severely cost-burdened middle income renter households, we must target federal funding to where it is most needed: making homes affordable for the lowest income people. Local communities can and must do their part in eliminating the exclusionary zoning policies that put pressure on middle income renters in a handful of metro areas.”

Read NLIHC's full press release on Senator Wyden's bill at: <https://bit.ly/2P1oYNw>

See an NLIHC fact sheet on MIHTC at: <https://bit.ly/2PzDL30>

Renter Severe Cost Burdens, 2016



Note: Extremely low income = household income less than poverty guideline or 30% of area median income (AMI), whichever is higher; very low income = ELI to 50% of AMI; low income = 51% to 80% of AMI; middle income = 81% to 100% of AMI. Above median income households excluded.
Source: NLIHC tabulation of 2016 ACS PUMS.

Senate Committee Examines Overcrowding in Tribal Areas

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a field hearing on August 25 discussing “Overcrowded Housing and the Impacts on American Indian and Alaska Natives.” The hearing, held in Savoonga, AK, included witnesses from local health, education, government, and housing entities. Overcrowding is prevalent in tribal areas, with nearly 16% of American Indian and Alaska Native households living in overcrowded conditions, compared to 2.2% nationally. An overview of the hearing will be provided in next week's edition of *Memo to Members & Partners*. Learn more about the hearing at: <https://bit.ly/2Muau66>

Our Homes, Our Votes

***Our Homes, Our Votes* Webinar Recordings and Slides Now Available!**

The six part [Our Homes, Our Votes](#) webinar series on non-partisan voter engagement concluded on August 21, and recordings and PowerPoint slides for each webinar are now available on the *Our Homes, Our Votes* website at: <https://bit.ly/2vNL3a2>

More than 100 advocates participated in each webinar and learned how they and their organizations can get involved in nonpartisan election efforts this fall and beyond. Webinars featured experts from such organizations as the Alliance for Justice, the National Coalition for the Homeless, Housing California, NLIHC, and others. Presenters discussed legal considerations nonprofit organizations should consider, strategies for registering low income renters and homeless voters, how to locate low income voters as part of a larger voter mobilization strategy, and how to interact with both candidates and voters in a nonpartisan manner.

The *Our Homes, Our Votes* [webinar series](#) and [website](#) provide an array of key information, strategies, plans, model templates, and tools for nonpartisan voter registration, education, and mobilization, as well as candidate engagement. The project's ultimate goal is to ensure candidates for public office address issues of homelessness and affordable housing and commit to real solutions. Renters, especially low income renters, are underrepresented among voters. To ensure low income housing interests are a priority for elected representatives, it is critical that organizations engage these renters and other low income people in the voting process.

NLIHC thanks our *Our Homes, Our Votes* local, state, and national partners and recognizes their impressive leadership on engaging low income residents in voting. We encourage our partners to share tools and strategies with us at ourhomes@nlihc.org and to continue to learn from one another. NLIHC is committed to supporting advocates in this critically important nonpartisan civic engagement work in 2018 and beyond.

Please continue to visit the [Our Homes, Our Votes](#) website and share all of the available tools and strategies with your network. We look forward to continued advocacy as we work together to build more affordable housing with our ballots.

Opportunity Starts at Home

Available now! Watch *Opportunity Starts at Home* Introductory Webinar: “Broadening the Housing Movement”

The [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) multi-sector affordable housing campaign hosted its first [webinar](#) titled “Broadening the Housing Movement: Learn more about the Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign” on August 16. The webinar provides information on the campaign’s progress to-date in building a broad coalition of leaders in education, healthcare, civil rights, antipoverty, faith-based, and other sectors to advocate for affordable homes; the campaign’s Steering Committee; short- and long-term plans; policy advocacy goals; ways to engage with the campaign; and more. Watch a recording of the session [here](#).

The webinar features Dan Hawkins, senior vice president of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), who discusses why NACHC joined the campaign Steering Committee and the growing evidence that good housing is good health. Greg Payne, director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition and chair of the NLIHC board of directors, shares how the national campaign is supporting Maine’s multi-sector campaign called [Maine Together](#). The webinar also features NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel, Campaign Director Mike Koprowski, and Campaign Coordinator Chantelle Wilkinson.

The webinar is available now on the *Opportunity Starts at Home* website at: <https://bit.ly/2P1I9H4>

View and download the presentation slides at: <https://bit.ly/2P545RF>

Also, follow the campaign on all social media platforms: [Twitter](#); [Instagram](#); [Facebook](#); and [LinkedIn](#).

HUD

HUD Posts List of Rental Assistance Demonstration Applications Under Review

HUD has posted a new list of Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) applications under review or pending. HUD will no longer publish the RAD Waitlist because 455,000 public housing units may now be converted (up from the original 60,000) to Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) or to Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs). The new “Applications Under Review” list is at: <https://bit.ly/2N5mSLQ>. More information about RAD is on page 4-15 of NLIHC’s [2018 Advocates’ Guide](#)

Research

Researchers Find High Denial Rates of Housing Vouchers by Landlords

A study conducted by the Urban Institute, [A Pilot Study of Landlord Acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers](#), finds high denial rates of Housing Choice Vouchers by landlords, particularly in markets where discrimination based on prospective tenants’ source of income is not prohibited. The study’s authors recommend legal protections prohibiting discrimination against voucher holders, recruitment of and incentives for landlords to participate in the voucher program, extended search times for voucher holders to find housing (from 60 days to 120 days), and program improvements like payment standards more comparable to markets and improved services to landlords by public housing agencies.

The study included tests of voucher acceptance in five areas: Fort Worth, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Newark, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; and Washington, DC. Over 16 months, the study’s authors screened 341,000 online advertisements to find 8,735 advertisements for rental housing affordable to voucher holders. In telephone inquiries to the landlords about voucher acceptance in housing that would be affordable to voucher holders, the outright denial rate of vouchers was 78% in Fort Worth, 76% in Los Angeles, 67% in Philadelphia, 31% in Newark, and 15% in DC. Newark, the District of Columbia, and part of the Philadelphia area have protections against source-of-income discrimination. DC and Philadelphia also had higher payment standards than the others cities, with DC’s standards set at the neighborhood, rather than regional, level. Neighborhood-level payment standards allow for higher voucher payments to landlords in higher-cost neighborhoods and lower payments in lower-cost neighborhoods.

Denial rates in low-poverty neighborhoods were higher than those in high-poverty neighborhoods, except in DC (85% vs. 67% in Fort Worth; 81.5% vs. 66% in Los Angeles; 82.5% vs. 55.3% in Philadelphia; 31% vs. 26% in Newark; and 16% vs. 16% in DC).

In an additional step in the study, paired testers called landlords who accept vouchers to ask about available rental housing and to schedule an appointment to view it. Two testers would call the same landlord. These testers were similar in all aspects, including race, except that one identified as a voucher-holder and one did not. Because of the small number of paired-tests, only the results from Newark, NJ were reported. The tests found that landlord no-shows to appointments were common: 11% of tests ended with the landlord not meeting with

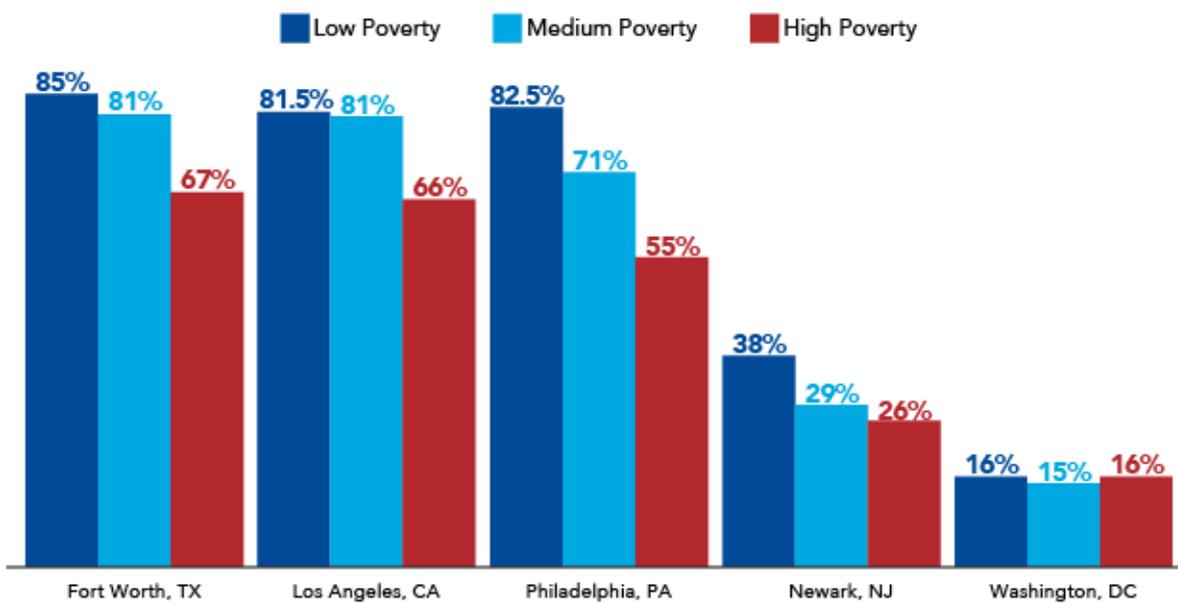
either tester. The testers with vouchers, however, were eight percentage points less likely than those without a voucher to meet with the landlord.

The full report, *A Pilot Study of Landlord Acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers*, will be released in September 2018. The report’s Executive Summary is available at: <https://bit.ly/2whRh2f>

Fact of the Week

Landlords Deny Housing Choice Vouchers at High Rates, Especially in Cities without Protections

Voucher Denial Rates by Neighborhood Poverty



Source: Urban Institute. (2018). *A Pilot Study of Landlord Acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers: Executive Summary*.

Source: Urban Institute. (2018). *A Pilot Study of Landlord Acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers: Executive Summary*.

From the Field

Los Angeles City Council Takes Key Step Forward on Providing ‘Right to Counsel’ for Tenants Facing Eviction

The Los Angeles City Council took a major step forward on August 17 in creating a “right to counsel” for tenants facing eviction. A motion instructing the city’s housing department to develop recommendations for a new eviction defense ordinance was adopted by a 13-0 vote. This proposal has been backed by a coalition of tenant rights organizations, community groups, and legal service agencies. The Council’s Housing Committee previously approved the proposal [unanimously on August 8](#).

The motion was sponsored by Councilmember Paul Koretz and Council President Herb Wesson. Both officials represent local districts that are experiencing widespread gentrification and tenant displacement. Countywide, more than 50,000 eviction proceedings are filed in Los Angeles each year. In the vast majority of cases, tenants must represent themselves while apartment owners retain their own attorneys.

Action by the Los Angeles City Council follows progress in other cities to create a right to counsel. In August 2017, New York City became the [first city in the nation](#) to provide eviction defense for tenants who could not afford their own legal representation. In June, San Francisco [voters approved Proposition F](#) creating a right to counsel in eviction cases. Other cities are considering similar policies. The motion in Los Angeles has been closely watched by housing advocates, with letters of support submitted by NLIHC and Matthew Desmond, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*.

“This is an important victory for tenants who are losing their homes,” said Inner City Law Center Director of Public Policy Jerry Jones. “There’s more work to be done to create an effective program, but Los Angeles has taken a big step toward a right to counsel.”

Read the LA City Council’s “Right to Counsel” motion at: <https://bit.ly/2L1SY4d>

Read NLIHC’s letter of support for the motion at: <https://bit.ly/2o6NUrt>

Read Matthew Desmond’s letter of support for the motion at: <https://bit.ly/2NiIepn>

Baltimore City Leaders Agree to Devote Resources to Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Elected leaders in Baltimore announced a major agreement on August 13, making an historic commitment of funding for affordable, decent, and accessible homes. Mayor Catherine Pugh (D) and City Council leaders will pass new tax and budget legislation that will provide \$20 million annually to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, established by voters in the 2016 November election.

The funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will come from a combination of new taxes on real estate sales over \$1 million, general obligation bonds, and budget allocations. This agreement is a response to growing frustration among advocates that the Trust Fund has until now been languishing without dedicated revenue. Advocates conducted extensive research with the help of a consultant to explore adequate funding sources, and one of its proposals was introduced into legislation. There was political resistance to that option, however, so advocates began another ballot initiative to pressure the City Council and Mayor to pass something to get to the \$20 million promised. Advocates from the Baltimore Housing Roundtable and the Housing for All Coalition are partners in the agreement that ultimately satisfied advocates’ concerns. The pending legislation will be amended, and the ballot initiative was halted.

The agreement dictates that the city will gradually increase funding support over the next five years, reaching the \$20 million threshold by fiscal year 2023. A primary source of these funds will be a new .6% excise tax on all real estate transactions above \$1 million in overall value as well as a .15% excise tax on recording documents and other instruments relating to these same transactions. It is projected that the new taxes alone will generate \$13 million each year. The agreement stipulates that for years when excise taxes generate more than \$16 million, half of the surplus can be diverted to the general fund, while the other half is put away to help get to \$13 million in years where the tax may not provide as much revenue. Mayor Pugh also committed to commit \$2 million, \$3.5 million, \$5 million, and \$7 million in each of the upcoming budgets funded through bond or general revenues.

The 2016 ballot initiative dictates that all housing and services provided through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund benefit very low income (VLI) households living at or below 50% of area median income (AMI). Additionally, at least 50% of any homes assisted in a three-year period must serve extremely low income households, those living at or below 30% of AMI. Specific eligible uses for the funding were kept broad in the 2016 ballot initiative so that the Commission, created in that initiative, would guide the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development on how the money should be spent based on the needs. The housing programs being discussed by advocates include preservation and development of affordable rental units, community land trusts, legal support programs for low income renters, mental health and job training programs for this population, homeownership options, rehabilitation of vacant properties into affordable homes, and more. A press statement from Mayor Pugh's office provides estimates of what is possible over ten years of funding at the \$20 million allocation: creating or preserving 4,100 permanently affordable rental homes, rehabilitating 1,600 vacant properties, and providing eviction-prevention or housing counseling to 12,000 households.

The Baltimore City Council still must pass legislation to establish the new excise taxes. The measures are expected to pass largely because the announced agreement included leadership from Council President Bernard "Jack" Young and Housing Committee Chairman John Bullock. The City Council is expected to withstand opposition from the real estate and development interest groups because of the certainty that any similar funding measures would pass overwhelmingly if they were placed before voters on the ballot. Indeed, the ballot measure that created the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2016 passed with 83% of the vote. There will be a public hearing on September 27 where community members will have an opportunity to voice concerns or support.

"We are pleased to see our elected leaders responding to the clear voice of the people, and keeping their campaign promises, to reach the target funding amount of \$20 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund," said Odette Ramos, executive director of Community Development Network of Maryland and a leader in the Housing for All Coalition. "Our advocacy will continue beyond achieving this new funding as we work to implement the Trust Fund in an equitable manner so that it benefits Baltimore residents who need it most."

For more information about campaign efforts to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Baltimore, contact Odette Ramos at: odette@communitydevelopmentmd.org

Resource

NAEH Publishes Data on State of Homelessness in America

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) added new data on its website regarding the [state of homelessness in America](#). Nationwide, 553,742 people experienced homelessness on a given night in January 2017, representing a 0.7% increase from 2016 but a 14.4% decline from 2007. Of the homeless population in 2017, approximately 35% (192,875 people) were unsheltered, meaning they lived in a place not meant for human habitation, such as the street, a park, or an abandoned building. The others (360,867 people) lived in some form of shelter or transitional housing. NAEH's [website](#) provides data on homelessness trends since 2007 for the U.S., each state, and the District of Columbia.

The website also provides the number of poor households in the U.S. with incomes below poverty who are severely housing cost-burdened (their housing costs consume more than 50% of their income), or who are doubled-up with family or friends: two indicators of risk for homelessness. More than 6.9 million poor households were severely cost-burdened in 2016, representing a 3.1% decline from 2015 but a 20.8% increase from 2007. More than 4.6 million people in poor households were doubled-up in 2016, representing a 5.7% decline from 2015 but a 30.0% increase from 2007.

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of August 19

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of August 19.

- “Housing, homelessness and the California Dream,” *Southern California Public Radio*, August 24 at: <https://bit.ly/2P3vYtb>
 - “Trump administration continues to undermine Fair Housing Act,” *The Hill*, August 23 at: <https://bit.ly/2PviZS2>
 - “A New Smoking Ban In Public Housing Roils Some Residents,” *The Huffington Post*, August 20 at: <https://bit.ly/2PB41tB>
 - “Federal judge dismisses lawsuit accusing HUD Secretary Ben Carson of dismantling Obama-era fair housing law,” *The Washington Post*, August 18 at: <https://wapo.st/2o8587V>
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NLIHC News

NLIHC Welcomes New Fall Policy Intern

Lauren Ricci joins NLIHC as a policy intern for the fall semester. Lauren is a second-year Master of Public Administration candidate at the American University School of Public Affairs. Prior to joining NLIHC, Lauren worked with Opportunity@Work, a social enterprise with a mission to expand access to career-opportunities so that all Americans can work, learn, and earn to their full potential. During her time there, she supported the development of an innovative, learner-centered financing model for sector-specific workforce development programs, with an initial focus on the IT sector. Previously, Lauren supported local community stakeholders implement federal grants as a training and technical assistance specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center. She began her career providing direct services to survivors of human trafficking as an advocate and a hotline supervisor with the National Human Trafficking Hotline. She holds a B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University. Lauren is looking forward to helping NLIHC advocate for policies that increase and preserve safe, affordable, and decent housing for the lowest income people in America, which she views as critical for addressing poverty and achieving social justice. Please join us in welcoming Lauren to the NLIHC team!

Where to Find Us – August 27

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel and other NLIHC staff will be speaking at the following events in the coming months:

- [Florida Housing Coalition Annual Conference](#), Orlando, FL, August 27-28
- [Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California’s Building Momentum Conference](#), San Francisco, CA, on September 21
- [NACCED Annual Conference](#), Minneapolis, MN, on September 24
- [Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg \(FHSP\) Housing Meeting](#), St. Petersburg, FL, on September 27

- [Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing Annual Conference 2018](#) – Los Angeles, CA, on September 28
 - [Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia: Reinventing Our Communities: Investing in Opportunity](#), Baltimore, MD, on October 1
 - [2018 Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development](#), Atlantic City, NJ, on October 3
 - [Georgia ACT Affordable Housing Conference](#), Atlanta, GA, on October 10
 - [Utah's 14th Annual Homelessness Summit](#), Salt Lake City, UT, on October 25
 - [Maine Affordable Housing Coalition Conference](#), Portland, ME, on November 14
 - [HousingWorks Austin Annual Summit](#), Austin, TX, on March 1
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 Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245
 Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244
 Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226
 Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316
 Ellen Errico, Creative Services Manager, x246
 Justin Godard, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
 Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314
 Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232
 Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317
 Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222
 Lisa Marlow, Communications Specialist, x239
 Sarah Mickelson, Senior Director of Public Policy, x228
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 Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234
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 Elayne Weiss, Senior Policy Analyst, x243
 Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Coordinator, x230
 Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247
 Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225