



NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

# NLIHC Advocacy: Ways You Can Take Action

Spring 2017

# Speakers:



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# Make Your Voices Heard:



- NLIHC Lobby Day — **April 4**
- Congressional Recess — **April 10–21, May 29–June 2, and July 3–7**
- Local Town Hall Meetings — <https://townhallproject.com/>
- Site Visits with Members of Congress
- In-District Meetings
- Local and social media — op-eds, letters to the editor

# Urgent Congressional Priorities:



1. Protect federal spending on affordable housing.
2. End homelessness and housing poverty through tax reform.
3. Protect and expand the national Housing Trust Fund.
4. Ensure equitable access to affordable housing.
5. Support anti-poverty solutions.

# 1. Protect federal investments in affordable housing



Trump wants raise defense spending by \$54 billion and cut everything else to pay for it. His budget would cut HUD by \$6 billion or 13%, compared to FY 2016:

- More than 200,000 seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children would be at immediate risk of eviction and homelessness.
- Eliminates CDBG, HOME, Choice Neighborhoods, NeighborWorks, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, among others.

**It is not enough to reject the President's budget. Please ask Congress to (1) lift the spending caps equally for defense and non-defense programs and (2) fully fund affordable housing investments.**

*Resources: A [Place To Call Home](#) Report, [100+ Success Stories](#), [Advocacy Toolkit](#)*

## 2. End homelessness & housing poverty with tax reform



**Common Sense Housing Investment Act (H.R. 948)** - Republicans are actively looking at ways to reform the mortgage interest deduction. We want to reinvest these savings into affordable homes—instead of lowering tax rates.

**Ask Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 948 to reform MID and keep housing dollars in housing.**

*Resources: [United for Homes](#) website, [Factsheet on H.R. 948](#), [Joint op-ed from NLIHC and CATO](#)*

**Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 1661 and S. 548)** - Both bills increase incentives to build affordable housing for ELI and homeless people and encourage mixed-income developments. The Senate bill expands the Low Income Housing Tax Credit by 50%.

**Ask Senators and Representatives to cosponsor bills to expand and improve the Housing Credit.**

*Resources: [Factsheet on S.548](#)*

# 3. Protect and expand the national Housing Trust Fund



The national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) faces significant threats in the budget process. In the past, Congress has proposed to wipe out the HTF to plug holes in the HUD budget. This year, the budget climate will be harder.

But, there are opportunities to expand the HTF when Congress reforms Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac or if Congress passes an infrastructure spending bill.

**Ask your Members of Congress to protect the HTF through the budget process and to expand the HTF through housing finance reform and an infrastructure spending bill.**

*Resources: [HTF Factsheet](#), [Affordable Housing Infrastructure Factsheet](#)*



# 4. Ensure equitable access to affordable housing



**Local Zoning Decisions Protection Act (S. 103/H.R. 482)** – This bill would undermine the Fair Housing Act by making it more difficult for communities to remedy racial segregation locally and ensure that families have the opportunity to live where they choose. This bill may be offered as an amendment to a spending bill.

**Ask Congress to oppose S. 103/H.R. 482 and other efforts to weaken the Fair Housing Act and housing choice.**

*Resources: [NLIHC's statement of opposition to H.R. 482](#)*

**Work Requirements and Time Limits for Housing Assistance** – House Republicans want work requirements and time limits for “work-capable” people receiving housing assistance. A majority (94%) of these households are seniors, people with disabilities, are already working low-wage jobs, or are caring for young child or family member. These requirements are burdensome, costly, and are not a solution to poverty.

**Ask Congress to oppose work requirements and time limits for housing assistance.**

*Resources: [Extreme poverty doubled under welfare reform](#)*



# Support anti-poverty measures



NLIHC supports efforts to protect vital safety net programs, including:

- Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Unemployment insurance (UI).

**Ask Congress to protect and expand critical resources that provide the lowest income people access to housing, food, healthcare, and other basic needs.**

Questions?

# For More Information:



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A copy of this presentation and advocacy materials will be provided after the webinar.

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