

**Volume 24, Issue 22**  
**June 10, 2019**

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## Our Homes, Our Voices

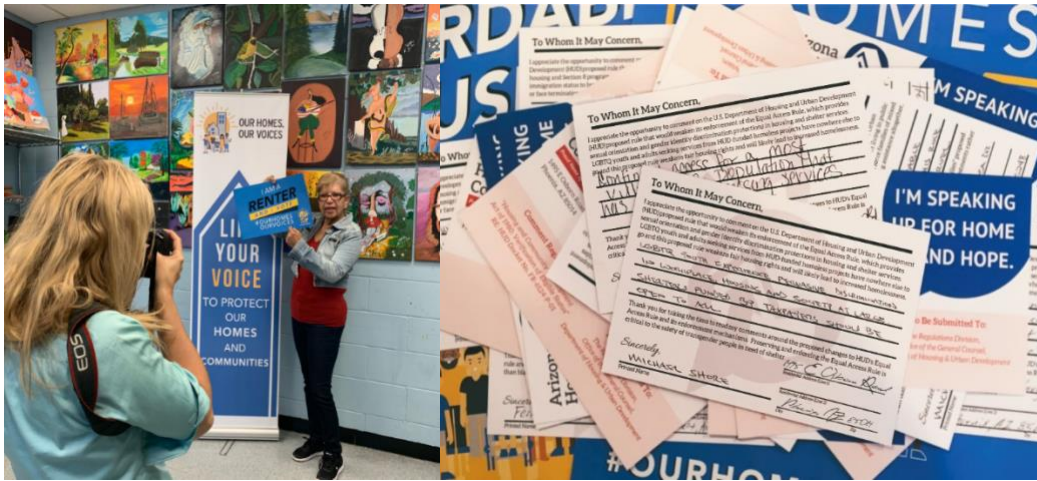
### ***Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action Concludes, Featuring More than 120 Events Across the Country!**

The third annual *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action proved to be another outstanding success with thousands of advocates like you lifting their voices for affordable homes. Residents, organizations, and elected officials gathered at more than 120 events across 34 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC. Events included rallies, public forums, letter-writing to legislators, film screenings, press conferences, a national tweetstorm and call-in day, and more. Here are some of the highlights from the week and information about how to stay involved in the movement to end housing poverty and homelessness in America.



Above: Connections for the Homeless hosted a table at the Evanston IL Farmer’s Market where people filled out 200 postcards to their members of Congress (top left). Prosperity Indiana and the Coalition for the Homelessness Intervention and Prevention held a press conference and community conversation “Confronting a Hoosier Housing Crisis” (top right). Veterans in Toledo joined the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) in a conversation about the importance of affordable homes (bottom left). The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless gathered with local residents to write letters to members of Congress and state legislators asking for an increase in funding for solutions to end homelessness and housing instability (bottom right).





Above: The New York Housing Conference members visited RiseBoro senior centers where seniors wrote letters to their members of Congress and shared their stories that were then posted to Twitter during the National Week of Action Twitterstorm (left). Arizona Housing Coalition held a press call followed by a public-comment writing effort to speak out against HUD’s proposed mixed-status immigrant-family rule and proposed changes to its Equal Access Rule (right).

Below: The Housing Network of Rhode Island, Signs of Providence, Homes RI, and Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless held a screening of the film *Providence Lost* followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker, local advocates, and former low-income Providence residents (left). The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) and HousingNOLA hosted a press kick-off event for Week of Action (right).



Below: The Utah Housing Coalition facilitated tours of mixed-income and creative affordable housing developments (right). North Carolina housing and homelessness advocates gathered in Rowan County for a screening of *Invisible Class* with a discussion about federal affordable housing advocacy led by NLIHC afterwards (left).



Below: Local community leaders and advocates from Miami Dade County rallied for decent, safe, and sanitary housing.



Throughout the week, advocates called on members of Congress to make bold investments in affordable homes through letter-writing, phone calls, press conferences, and social media.



< #ourhomesourvoices

ms.dreyaradanas · Follow  
CIC Miami



Resident Action Project  
@RAPWashington

We need #affordablehousing for seniors!  
#OurHomesOurVoices @HUDgov  
@secbencarson



COHHIO Homeless  
@COHHIO

These veterans understand the importance of #affordablehousing! Thanks for joining us at @NatlChurchRes Garden Lake in Toledo #OurHomesOurVoices #HousingIsInfrastructure



< TOP POSTS #ourhomesourvoices

rainonsundayam · Follow  
Vancouver Community Library



Legislators responded with proposals such as Representative Alma Adams’s (D-NC) call for a constitutional amendment recognizing housing as a fundamental right, Representative Barbara Lee’s (D-CA) “Housing Bill of Rights,” and Senator Corey Booker’s (D-NJ) bold, new affordable housing plan (see separate article in this *Memo to Members and Partners*). Legislators such as Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) attended *Our Homes, Our Voices* events and heard about the direct benefits of affordable homes in conversations with constituents. Members of Congress also joined advocates in the National Week of Action Twitterstorm to share their views and commitments to address the affordable housing crisis in America.

	<b>Senator Patty Murray</b> @PattyMurray · Jun 4
Every American deserves a safe, secure, and affordable home. I'm proud to stand with @NLIHC to urge action on affordable housing and increase economic opportunities for families in Washington and across the country. #OurHomesOurVoices #HousingInfrastructure	
	<b>Kamala Harris</b> @SenKamalaHarris · 15h
<b>Here's the bottom line:</b> housing is a human right, yet far too many Americans are facing skyrocketing rent costs. No one should have to choose between paying rent and putting food on <b>the</b> table. Passing my Rent Relief Act is one step to addressing this crisis. #OurHomesOurVoices	
	<b>Senator Tina Smith</b> @SenTinaSmith · Jun 4
Everyone should have the freedom to decide how they live. On the Banking Cmte I'm working to tackle obstacles that rural Americans, incl. those on Tribal lands, face when seeking affordable housing & make sure housing finance systems lift up these communities. #OurHomesOurVoices	
	<b>Congressman Al Green</b> @RepAlGreen · Jun 4
Affordable housing should be available to all hardworking Americans. They should not face the dilemma of losing their homes because of rising costs. We must continue to work for safe and affordable housing options that are accessible to those who need it most. #OurHomesOurVoices	
	<b>Senator Mazie Hirono</b> @maziehirono · Jun 5
Everyone deserves to have a place to call home. But with Ben Carson in charge? Our marginalized communities will continue to struggle to keep a roof over their heads. We are in an affordable housing crisis and this administration is providing no solutions. #OurHomesOurVoices	
	<b>Richard Blumenthal</b> @SenBlumenthal · Jun 4
Millions of Americans struggle to keep a roof over their head. I'm joining #OurHomesOurVoice to call for greater investment in stable, affordable homes so people do not have to choose between paying rent & buying food. #HousingInfrastructure	
	<b>Ron Wyden</b> @RonWyden · Jun 4
Housing is a right, not a privilege. But right now, some families face an impossible choice between paying rent and buying food. The affordable housing crisis in my home state and others demands action to ensure every American has a roof over their head. #OurHomesOurVoices	

Check out more Week of Action photos at: <https://tinylink.net/dAqG9>

Though the week is officially over, additional events will continue to take place over the next few days. The following are some additional upcoming events; remember to use #OurHomesOurVoices as you continue to share Week of Action photos and videos.

- **Panama City Beach, FL** – The Florida Housing Coalition will be hosting a discussion with experts from across the country on innovative solutions and best practices for disaster housing recovery.
- **Minneapolis, MN** – The Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA) will showcase how people experiencing homelessness collaborated with the University of Minnesota School of Design to create tiny homes in the metro area.
- **Camden, NJ** – The Community Planning and Advocacy Council will screen the film *The Invisible Class* followed by a brief community discussion.
- **Glen Burnie, MD** – The Anne Arundel Affordable Housing Coalition will be hosting a presentation and discussion on housing market trends in the county.
- **Hurlock, MD** – Homes for America will be hosting a phone bank for residents to reach their elected officials about the federal budget and the importance of investing in affordable homes for low-income Marylanders.
- **Oak Grove, MO** – Oak Grove Manor and Phoenix Family will be hosting a letter-writing and call-in session to allow residents to contact members of Congress about the importance of safe, affordable housing.
- **Trenton, NJ** – The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey will be hosting its annual Legislative Day where advocates will meet with their state legislators.
- **Midwest City, OK** – The Oklahoma Coalition for Affordable Housing has invited the Oklahoma congressional delegation to tour the Autumn Creek Villas to see how funds for affordable housing are used to benefit Oklahoma communities.
- **Alexandria, VA** – The National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT) is hosting a lunch panel to discuss “Fighting Cuts and Shutdowns, Empowering Tenants to Save Our Homes.” Diane Yentel, NLIHC president and CEO, will be speaking about housing challenges for HUD tenants and proposals to empower them.
- **Tacoma, WA** – The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee will discuss how to advocate for an increase in federal funding for affordable housing and will sign and send postcards to federal legislators during the committee’s monthly meeting.

NLIHC thanks all who participated for your dedication and energy to make this year’s *Our Home, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action a huge success! [Contact your NLIHC housing advocacy organizer](#) to learn more about how you can get involved in NLIHC’s work beyond Week of Action to end housing poverty and homelessness in the U.S.

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## Congress

### NLIHC’s Diane Yentel Testifies at Housing Task Force Forum

NLIHC president and CEO Diane Yentel [testified](#) on June 5 before the New Democrat Coalition Housing Task Force on the solutions to our nation’s affordable rental housing crisis. The Housing Task Force co-chairs, Representatives Denny Heck (D-WA), Katie Hill (D-CA), and Ben McAdams (D-UT), focused their questions



on ways the federal government can encourage better local land-use and zoning regulations, facilitate affordable financing, decrease the cost of building materials, and create a pipeline of skilled laborers.

[The New Democrat Coalition](#) is a congressional membership organization consisting of more than 100 centrist Democrats who support an agenda that the coalition describes as "pro-growth, pro-innovation, and fiscally responsible." [The New Democrat Coalition Housing Task Force](#) is focused on addressing the nation's need for affordable housing, which it describes as "paramount to the economic security of American families." The task force calls the high cost of housing in the U.S. "the single biggest squeeze on household budgets, and a significant drag on the economy. It is forcing Americans to live on the street, reducing GDP by trillions of dollars and substantially reducing Americans' retirement savings." The Task Force seeks to "pursue solutions that address housing insecurity."

In her testimony, Diane called for increasing federal resources for the national Housing Trust Fund to address the severe shortage of rental homes affordable to the lowest-income households. She also called for expanding rental assistance, funding public housing repairs, enforcing and expanding fair housing rights, and creating a new federal program to help prevent families experiencing a financial shock from spiraling into evictions and homelessness.

Read Diane's testimony at: <https://tinylink.net/eIPaX>

Watch the New Democrat Coalition Housing Task Force hearing at: <https://bit.ly/2KNj43N>

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## House Committee to Vote on Bills to Block HUD's Harmful "Mixed-Status" and Equal-Access Proposals

The House Financial Services Committee will hold a vote on June 11 at 2:00 p.m. ET on two bills to block harmful HUD proposals that would limit access to housing assistance for immigrant families and transgender individuals experiencing homelessness. The vote will take place in Room 2128 of the Rayburn House Office Building and will also be [livestreamed](#).

The "[Keeping Families Together Act of 2019](#)" (H.R. 2763) introduced by Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) would block HUD from implementing a proposed rule to prohibit "mixed status" immigrant families from living in public and other subsidized housing, forcing families to either lose their homes or separate. The "[Ensuring Equal Access to Shelter Act of 2019](#)" (HR 3018) introduced by Representative Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) would prevent HUD from amending the Equal Access rule to allow homeless shelters to deny transgender people equal access to services, which could lead to increased deaths among transgender individuals experiencing homelessness. NLIHC strongly supports both of these bills.

Learn more about the hearing at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxlv7uks>

Learn more about the "Keeping Families Together Act" at: <https://tinyurl.com/y25pky5f>

Learn more about the "Ensuring Equal Access to Shelter Act" at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rt8f2k>

Take action to oppose HUD's rule on "mixed status" immigrant-families at: [www.Keep-Families-Together.org](http://www.Keep-Families-Together.org)

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## Representative Lee Introduces "Housing Bill of Rights" Resolution

On the final day of the *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action, Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced a House resolution calling for a “[Housing Bill of Rights](#)” to declare that all renters deserve safe, affordable and decent homes.

The resolution affirms housing as a basic human right and calls for bold congressional action. Specifically, the resolution calls for significant investments in affordable housing to combat homelessness and housing poverty by lifting the low spending caps required by the 2011 Budget Control Act that would limit funding for critical HUD programs and by ensuring that any infrastructure package includes \$5 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund and \$70 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund. The resolution also calls on the House to affirm that renters should not be barred from federally assisted housing solely on the basis of criminal records and to support renters’ rights to organize tenant associations.

In a tweet, Representative Lee pointed to homelessness rates in her district, which have risen by 43% in recent years, as evidence that increased federal funding is needed.

Read the full resolution at: <https://bit.ly/2EXOoJb>

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## “Affordable Housing Tax Credit Improvement Act” Reintroduced in Congress

A bipartisan group of lawmakers reintroduced on June 4 the “Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act” to expand and reform the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit). The bill was released during the third annual *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action.

The bill, introduced by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Todd Young (R-IN), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Kenny Marchant (R-TX), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Jackie Walorski (R-IN), would take important steps toward alleviating the nation’s housing affordability crisis by incentivizing developers to better serve the lowest-income families—those with the greatest and clearest needs.

The bill would expand the Housing Credit by 50% and increase existing incentives to encourage developers to build rental homes affordable to extremely low-income households and to families in underserved rural and tribal communities. By doing so, the bill would help make it more financially feasible for developers to serve households with the greatest needs, an important first step in addressing our nation’s affordable housing crisis.

Read NLIHC’s press statement on the bill at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3mn6atc>

See NLIHC’s factsheet on the bill at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxpfuyao>

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## **Our Homes, Our Votes**

### Presidential Hopeful Senator Cory Booker Announces Bold Affordable Housing Proposal

After decades of chronic underinvestment by Congress, it is remarkable the degree to which presidential hopefuls continue using their platforms to elevate awareness about the housing crisis for the lowest-income

people and to advance solutions. Presidential candidates and members of Congress are suddenly and increasingly willing not just to work around the edges of the housing crisis, but instead to introduce and advance bold solutions to tackle it head on. The latest ambitious [proposal](#) was released this week by presidential candidate Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ).

Senator Booker proposes investing over \$40 billion annually in the national Housing Trust Fund, which would create nearly 3 million new deeply affordable apartments over 10 years. His proposal also features a refundable renters tax credit to give much needed relief to families who spend more than 30% of their before-tax income on rent. The credit would refund the difference between the 30% threshold and the neighborhood fair market rent. The median credit would be \$4,800 per family annually.

Senator Booker also proposes using transportation funds to incentivize or require local governments to address regulatory and zoning barriers that drive up housing costs and restrict the ability of the private sector to build more affordable rental homes for the middle class. He would also create a national right-to-counsel fund for those facing eviction and would expand Fair Housing discrimination protections for sexual orientation and gender.

See what other presidential candidates are saying about affordable housing at: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/the-candidates>

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## NLIHC launches *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020*; First Event Scheduled for Cedar Rapids, Iowa

NLIHC has launched [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020](#), a non-partisan project to urge presidential candidates to address the affordable housing crisis and its solutions and to engage more low-income renters in voting. Initially focusing on the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, NLIHC will work with partners across the country to encourage all presidential candidates to put forward robust solutions to the nation's affordable housing crisis. With the crisis having reached historic heights, most harming the lowest-income renters, it is time for all presidential candidates to prioritize this critical issue.

NLIHC is partnering on the *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* project with the Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF) and Housing Action NH to conduct meetings and town halls with presidential candidates to discuss housing affordability and solutions in their states.

Through a new [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020 website](#), NLIHC is [tracking all candidates' proposals and comments](#) on the housing affordability crisis and sharing an [Our Homes, Our Votes 2020 toolkit](#) for NLIHC's members, partners and allies across the country to similarly engage and capture candidate positions on ending homelessness and housing poverty in America and to engage more low-income renters and their advocates in the electoral process.

The first *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* event will be in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 15, 2019. The town hall event—hosted by *Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa*—will feature presidential candidate Julián Castro.

Other *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* events will be announced soon, as will new partnerships to engage low-income renters and their allies in nonpartisan efforts to increase voter registration and participation. In the meantime, see what presidential candidates are [saying about affordable housing](#), read our [press release](#) on the project and use **#OurHomesOurVotes2020** to amplify and keep the conversation going!

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## HUD

### New Resources Available on HUD's "Mixed Status" Immigrant-Family Rule

NLIHC and the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) have new [resources](#), including a state-level data table and a recording of the June 5 webinar, available as part of the *Keep Families Together* campaign opposing HUD's proposed "mixed status" immigrant-family rule. NLIHC and NHLP are leading the effort to oppose HUD's proposed rule and have a variety of resources available at the campaign website, [www.Keep-Families-Together.org](http://www.Keep-Families-Together.org), to help advocates submit comments, educate their networks, and engage with their members of Congress.

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## Budget and Appropriations

### House Committee Approves FY20 Transportation-HUD and Rural Development Funding Bills

The House Appropriations Committee moved forward its FY20 spending bills for affordable housing, community development, and rural development programs on June 4. Both the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) and the Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA funding bills passed by a 29-21 vote.

The House THUD bill provides HUD programs with more than \$13.4 billion above the president's FY20 request and at least \$5.9 billion above FY19 enacted levels. It also clearly rebukes the harmful rent increases, rigid work requirements, and de facto time limits proposed by the president in his past budget requests and in subsequent legislation. Moreover, legislation includes language to halt cruel proposals from the president to evict mixed-status immigrant families from assisted housing and to roll back LGBTQ+ protections.

Subcommittee Chair David Price (D-NC) outlined the bill's priorities of improving infrastructure and addressing the affordable housing crisis by fully funding housing vouchers and project-based rental assistance and increasing funding for public housing repairs and maintenance, HOME, and lead and carbon monoxide remediation. Subcommittee Ranking Member Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) praised the bill, voicing support for continued funding for a mobility-voucher demonstration and housing programs serving older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans. He also noted that the major hurdle for passing the bill was the lack of a budget deal providing top-line numbers.

Members of the committee did not offer any amendments related to the housing provisions of either bill.

Read the text of the proposed THUD bill at: <https://bit.ly/2YGNmZr>

Watch the archived webcast of the subcommittee vote at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2922tr2>

Read NLIHC's analysis of the legislation at: <https://bit.ly/2HwEvnC>

Review NLIHC's budget chart at: <https://bit.ly/2rl7MZC>

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## Disaster Housing Recovery

### Congress Enacts Disaster Aid Funding Bill

The House of Representatives voted on June 3 to approve a [disaster aid package](#) for communities impacted by major disasters in 2017, 2018, and 2019 by a vote of 354-58. The bill has been signed by the President. While the bill had been delayed for months, it was most recently held up over the Memorial Day recess by Representatives Chip Roy (R-TX), Thomas Massie (R-KY) and John Rose (R-TN) who objected to the bill on three different occasions.

In a statement upon passage of the bill, NLIHC president and CEO Diane Yentel said, “Eight months after Hurricane Michael decimated the Florida panhandle and seven months since wildfires devastated parts of California, Congress agreed to provide much-needed recovery resources to impacted communities. While they’ve waited for Congress to act, thousands of the lowest-income disaster survivors have been sleeping in tents and on the street, doubling and tripling up with other low-income families, or paying too much of their income on rent, putting them at increased risk of homelessness.”

The bill provides \$2.41 billion in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for areas impacted by recent disasters. The bill includes legislative language forcing HUD to release \$16 billion in CDBG-DR mitigation funds approved by Congress 16 months ago; HUD is believed to have held up these resources because President Trump did not want additional funding to go to Puerto Rico.

In her statement, Diane urged HUD to disperse the funds immediately noting that, “Over 33,000 deeply poor Puerto Rican families sleep in homes with roofs that were blown off by Hurricane Maria and never replaced, and the next hurricane season is rapidly approaching. Every day of HUD’s inaction in getting these funds to Puerto Rico puts American lives at risk from the next hurricane.”

Beyond CDBG-DR, the bill includes \$304 million to help Puerto Rico meet FEMA match requirements, \$349.4 million for state revolving loan funds to help rebuild damaged water systems, \$605 million for the Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico (NAP) program, \$25.2 million for nutrition assistance in the Northern Mariana Islands, and a provision allowing North Carolina to use CDBG-DR funds for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence interchangeably.

You can read the full bill at: <https://bit.ly/2Wl1jio>

Read Diane Yentel’s statement at: <https://nlihc.org/news/statement-nlihc-president-ceo-diane-yentel-passing-disaster-aid-bill>

A department-by-department overview can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2HxVfut>

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### FEMA Oversight Agency Whitewashed Disaster Response Audits

The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General’s Office (OIG), tasked with overseeing FEMA’s performance, confirmed that more than a dozen FEMA audits were found to have excluded shortcomings identified by OIG staff and were replaced with language praising the agency’s relief efforts.

The office released an [internal audit](#) in May 2019 stating that Homeland Security Department Acting Inspector General John V. Kelly had directed staff to write “feel good” reports and not to identify “systemic problems” at the agency. Instead staff were instructed to write separate “spin-off reports” on issues with the agency’s disaster

response efforts. Many of the systemic failures ignored in the reports include issues raised by the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition and other advocates for several years, including barriers to accessing FEMA individual assistance, actions that increased homelessness, and the unacceptably slow delivery of temporary housing solutions.

Staff with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that oversees FEMA informed NLIHC they will receive a briefing on the internal audit this week (the week of June 10).

Read the report at: <https://bit.ly/2Mwiiud>

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## Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – June 10, 2019

The following is a review of additional disaster housing recovery developments since the last edition of *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in the previous *Memo*, see [6/03](#)).

### **Federal Action**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) evaluating FEMA’s disaster assistance for older Americans and individuals with disabilities. The report presents a grim picture, finding that FEMA did not adequately ensure equal access to benefit programs or develop a cohesive plan for older Americans and individuals living with disabilities.

### **Midwest Flooding**

#### *Iowa*

The number of Iowa counties under a [disaster proclamation](#) by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds has grown to 45. The proclamations allow lower-income residents to access state funding for basic needs, such as paying for temporary housing.

#### *Nebraska*

Due to the lack of affordable housing in Southwest Nebraska and Iowa, flood victims have been forced to [stay in donated RVs](#) at state park campgrounds.

#### *Oklahoma*

President Trump signed a [Major Disaster Declaration](#) for three Oklahoma counties on June 2, as the area continues to experience flooding and tornadoes. Individuals in Muskogee, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties will be eligible for FEMA’s individual assistance (IA) program, as well as disaster recovery loans from the Small Business Administration.

#### *California Wildfires*

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an [executive order](#) on May 31 extending emergency regulations prohibiting price and rent gauging in counties affected by the 2018 wildfires.

### **Hurricane Michael**

#### *Florida*



The Bay County Long Term Recovery Task Force released its [final draft report](#). The plan recommends a variety of strategies to repair and expand affordable housing in the area, such as the use of modular homes, the creation of community land trusts, and the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund.

## **Hurricane Florence**

### *North Carolina*

FEMA approved over \$14 million for debris cleanup and infrastructure repair for counties affected by Hurricane Florence. [Carteret](#), [Leland](#), and [Duplin](#) Counties received reimbursement funds for debris removal efforts, and the [South River Electrical Cooperative](#) received reimbursement funds for repairs to its electrical grid.

## **2017 Disasters**

Public interest groups are [reigniting the debate](#) over permanently repealing the “Jones Act,” which places higher tariffs for shipping vessels that anchor in Puerto Rico. Opponents say that the law contributes to a rising cost of living on the island, further harming its economy during the recovery.

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## **Research**

### **Report Predicts 2020 Census Could Undercount Millions of Blacks and Hispanics**

A report from the Urban Institute, [Assessing Miscounts in the 2020 Census](#), estimates that the 2020 Census could undercount the U.S. population by 0.3% to 1.2%, representing an undercount of 900,000 to 4.1 million people. The report projects an undercount of black residents ranging from 1.1 to 1.7 million people and of Hispanic residents ranging from 1.2 to 2.2 million people. The report also projects an overcount of white residents ranging from 67,000 to 1.5 million people.

The 2020 Census faces significant challenges, including underfunded preparation, undertested new techniques like relying on internet responses and using administrative records from federal agencies and other third parties, and a potential citizenship question. There are concerns about Hispanic/Latinx participation due the citizenship question and immigrants’ fears about responding to the Census even if the question is excluded.

The authors estimated miscounts under three different scenarios. Under a low-risk scenario, the 2020 Census would perform similarly to the 2010 Census. The undercount under this scenario is projected to be nearly 900,000. Under a medium-risk scenario, the 2020 Census would perform as forecasted by the Census Bureau. The population would be undercounted by an estimated 2.8 million, largely due to low household self-response rates. Under a high-risk scenario, the household response rate would be in the lower range of the Census Bureau’s predicted response rates, and concerns about the citizenship question would lower the participation of the Hispanic population even further. The projected undercount is 4.1 million people under this scenario. The authors point out that self-response rates have been declining over time and the administration’s position on immigration may suppress participation by hard-to-reach groups even further.

Young children under the age of 5 face a projected undercount ranging from 943,000 to 1.3 million, which represents 4.6 to 6.3 percent of their total population. Blacks face a projected undercount ranging from 1.1 to 1.7 million people, representing 2.4 to 3.7 percent of their total population, and Hispanics face a projected undercount of 1.2 to 2.2 million people, representing 2.0 to 3.6 percent of their total population.

Undercounts can have a significant impact on states and communities, because government funding allocations are often based on population estimates from the U.S. Census. The decennial Census also determines the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives to each state, which could be distorted by significant undercounts. The report emphasizes that when hard-to-reach populations are undercounted, communities do not get a fair political voice or fair share of federal funding.

*Assessing Miscounts in the 2020 Census* is available at: <https://urbn.is/2Ku8DSq>

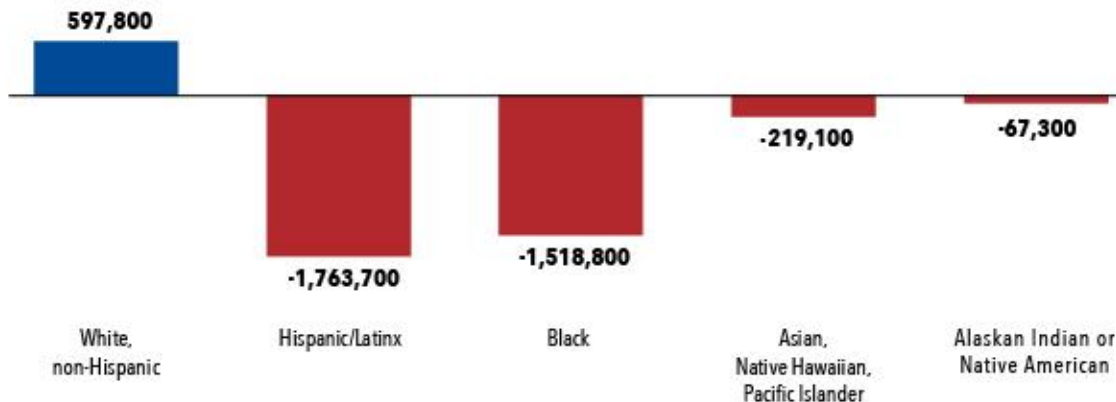
Interactive data by demographics and states are available at: <https://urbn.is/2Z7NYrs>

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## Fact of the Week

Census 2020 Could Undercount Millions of Minorities, Overcount Whites

# Potential Population Miscount for Census 2020



Source Urban Institute. (2019) *Assessing Miscounts in the 2020 Census*. Medium-risk Projections

Source: Urban Institute. (2019) *Assessing Miscounts in the 2020 Census*. Medium-risk Projections

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## Opportunity Starts at Home

### New Report Recommends Combining Multiple Policy Solutions to Improve Housing Stability

A new [report](#) from *Opportunity Starts at Home* multisector affordable homes campaign partner [Children's HealthWatch](#) recommends that efforts to build more affordable homes in Massachusetts be complemented with a combination of three other policies: 1) ensuring access to childcare assistance and reducing childcare subsidy co-payments; 2) increasing the state match to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); and 3) providing eviction-prevention assistance to families with rental arrearages. These recommendations emerged from the results of a listening tour, economic simulation modeling, and a healthcare cost-analysis, among other sources.

“This innovative combination of complementary policies would enhance the likelihood of working families having enough money to afford rent by closing the gap between earnings (income + EITC) and major expenses (childcare + rent), and provide a necessary buffer against eviction and its harmful costs,” the authors write. “No single solution is enough to fill the gap between low wages and basic needs expenses in family budgets. Though their situations are similar in many ways, each family struggling with housing instability is unique and faces a complex variety of issues that require flexible combinations of solutions.”

Read the full report, including detailed policy recommendations [here](#).

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## Field

### Philadelphia Legislator Pushes for Right to Counsel in Eviction Cases

Philadelphia City Councilmember Helen Gym introduced a bill (Bill No. 190386) on May 9 that would amend the “Landlord and Tenant” code to provide access to free legal representation to city’s lowest-income renters facing eviction in Landlord Tenant Court. Philadelphia would become the fourth city to pass legislation to provide residents such right to counsel, following New York City, Newark, and San Francisco. Community Legal Services advocates worked with Councilmember Gym on the bill.

Evictions are a growing problem in Philadelphia, especially because many landlords have little incentive to keep renting to low-income tenants when they can charge higher rents in gentrifying areas. Between 2010 and 2017, 22,000 evictions were filed in Philadelphia each year, effecting one out of every 14 renters. The Philadelphia Bar Association found that over a ten-year period, 7% of tenants had legal counsel compared to 80% of landlords. When tenants did not have representation, 78% ended up being disruptively displaced compared to 5% of renters who had legal counsel. Evictions have many negative consequences for families, including poor health, housing instability, and a reduction of housing choices.

Started in 2018 as a pilot to significantly expand access to legal services for tenants facing eviction, the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project (PEPP) is a collaboration of six organizations providing comprehensive services to tenants facing evictions. PEPP includes Philadelphia legal aid organizations Community Legal Services, SeniorLAW Center, and Legal Clinic for the Disabled; TURN, a tenant counseling and education agency; Clarifi, a financial counseling agency; and VIP, a legal services agency that coordinates pro bono representation by volunteer attorneys.

PEPP has been successful: tenants are more likely to attend their hearings and have better case outcomes when meeting with a PEPP advocate. PEPP has shown that both limited assistance and full representation are important and that choosing one over the other depends on the tenant’s circumstances. Tenants who visited the Help Center and did not receive full representation were still more likely to show up to court and win their cases



than tenants that did not meet with a PEPP advocate. For this reason, the right-to-counsel program should use a range of legal assistance, from advice to full representation. PEPP hopes to expand its pilot into a full right to counsel under Councilmember Gym's bill.

Community Legal Services worked closely with Councilmember Gym's office to draft the right-to-counsel legislation, after gaining important feedback from New York City Right to Counsel colleagues. Ms. Gym's bill would require that any renter in Philadelphia whose annual gross income is below 200% of the federal poverty guideline and who is undergoing eviction proceedings would receive free legal services from "designated organizations." Designated organizations are nonprofits or for-profit legal organizations that provide pro bono legal representation and have the capacity to offer free counsel to low-income renters. All renters covered under the bill would have the right to full legal representation as soon as the eviction is filed and no later than their first scheduled appearance in court.

The legislation also mandates that all legal representation provided to renters undergoing evictions requires funding through state appropriations. If the need for legal representation exceeds the funding available, legal services funding would be prioritized by the income levels of those served. Councilmember Gym requested \$1.5 million in annual appropriations to fund renters' right to counsel, building on her past efforts to provide resources for renter assistance. The Philadelphia Bar Association estimates it would cost \$3.5 million annually to provide legal aid for all low-income tenants in eviction cases. Councilmember Gym hopes community organizations that recognize the connections between health and housing will help fill in the funding gap. Rasheedah Phillips, former managing attorney of the housing unit at Community Legal Services, gave testimony at a Philadelphia City Council budget hearing on May 8 to support the allocation of \$1.5 million for robust legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction. She stated that investing in legal services and a right to counsel for tenants is cost-effective and one of the best measures to prevent evictions, housing instability, and homelessness. Investing in legal representation saves the city money: for every \$1 invested into legal representation to prevent evictions saves nearly \$13 in costs in city services.

For more information about the Philadelphia Right to Counsel legislation, contact Barrett Marshall, Esq., director of the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project at: [bmarshall@clsphila.org](mailto:bmarshall@clsphila.org) or Rachel Garland, managing attorney of the housing unit at Community Legal Services by email at: [rgarland@clsphila.org](mailto:rgarland@clsphila.org) or (215) 981-3774.

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## Events

### NeighborWorks Training Institute Comes to New Orleans, August 19-23

The next [NeighborWorks Training Institute \(NTI\)](#) will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana the week of August 19-23.

In addition to offering a wide array of courses for nonprofit professionals in community development, affordable housing, and nonprofit management, the NTI will feature a special Wednesday symposium on the nexus between health and community development: [Closing the Life Expectancy Gap \(ML933\)](#). Register for the NTI online [here](#).

The NTI offers courses lasting from one to five days each in affordable housing development and financing; housing asset management; community engagement; community revitalization; community economic development; housing construction and rehabilitation; financial capability and homeownership education, coaching, and counseling; nonprofit management and leadership; Native American and rural community development; and single-family and small business lending.

Online registration is at: <https://bit.ly/1ATs8Ia>

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## NLIHC in the News

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of June 2.

- “Nonprofits Have the Power to Produce Big Gains in Voter Turnout, Study Says,” *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, June 6 at: <https://rebrand.ly/ids5wn>
- “Wells Fargo donating \$1 billion to affordable housing as part of a larger philanthropic shakeup,” *Business Insider*, June 5 at: <https://rebrand.ly/zy2wxz>
- “What Long-Awaited Disaster Funding Does - And Does Not - Include,” *Scientific American*, June 5 at: <https://rebrand.ly/y3sixg>
- “New bipartisan affordable housing bill aims to add 1.9M units nationwide in the next decade,” *Curbed*, June 5 at: <https://rebrand.ly/nylwgh>
- “Renters raise housing issue,” *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, June 5 at: <https://rebrand.ly/adwcqu>

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## NLIHC News

### NLIHC Seeks Housing Policy Analyst/Senior Housing Policy Analyst

NLIHC seeks a housing policy analyst/senior housing policy analyst (depending on experience) responsible for identifying, analyzing, advocating, and engaging the Coalition’s membership and network in action on federal policy and regulatory activities related to the Coalition’s mission and priorities. The policy analyst will report to the NLIHC senior director for public policy.

The policy analyst/senior analyst will:

1. Monitor legislative, regulatory, and administrative developments, as well as other activities or events of interest on Capitol Hill and at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other relevant agencies.
2. Help develop policy strategies and advocate Coalition positions before members of Congress and the Administration by drafting letters, scheduling and participating in meetings, and leading coalitions, and preparing and sending communications to Congress, Administration officials, and their staff.
3. Develop advocacy materials that translate pending proposals and actions into an accessible and understandable format, including factsheets, briefs, white papers, testimony, and other resources.
4. Complete other policy projects, as assigned.
5. Represent the Coalition before selected national partners.
6. Coordinate and facilitate working group and coalition meetings, prepare materials, and make presentations. Attend meetings and events of other coalitions.
7. Work together with NLIHC field staff and NLIHC partners and allies in impacted communities to stay abreast of housing concerns.
8. Research and prepare articles for NLIHC’s *Memo to Members and Partners* e-newsletter, including updates on Capitol Hill, HUD, and other federal agencies, through web-based and other research and attendance at hearings and briefings.
9. Develop advocacy communications for a wide variety of Coalition members and partners.
10. Plan and implement briefings, dialogues, and other informational forums on issues related to Coalition priorities and initiatives.
11. Monitor, and provide updates for, the Coalition website.

12. Participate in the planning and implementation of all aspects of Coalition’s annual policy conference, including speaker recruitment.
13. Attend and report at all meetings of Board of Directors; participate in staff meetings, trainings, and all Coalition events. Other duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

A bachelor's degree (master's degree or law degree preferred). A degree in Public Policy, Public Administration, Humanitarian Emergency Management or related area is a plus. Applicants should have at least two years of experience in public policy or legislative affairs for the policy analyst position and at least five years of experience for the senior policy analyst position. Applicants should have a commitment to social justice and knowledge of affordable housing, homelessness, or social service delivery. Candidates should be able to work in a diverse, high-paced environment and have strong writing and editing skills, oral and interpersonal communications, organizational skills, and attention to detail. Applicants should also be proficient in the Microsoft Office suite and social media platforms.

An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time position located in Washington, DC.

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter with salary requirement, and two writing samples to Paul Kealey, chief operating officer, and Sarah Mickelson, senior director of public policy, at: [pkealey@nlihc.org](mailto:pkealey@nlihc.org) and [smickelson@nlihc.org](mailto:smickelson@nlihc.org)

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## **Where to Find Us – June 10**

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

- [Supportive Housing Network of New York Conference](#), New York, NY, June 13
- [Mental Health America, Annual Conference: Dueling Diagnoses](#), Washington, DC, June 14
- [National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness](#), New York, NY, June 18
- [RESULTS 2019 International Conference](#), Washington, DC, July 15
- NAACP State Economic Chairpersons Convening, Detroit, MI, July 18
- [Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development Home for Everyone Conference](#), Eau Claire, WI, July 18-19
- [Utah Housing Coalition Conference](#), Park City, UT, August 27–28
- [Housing & Community Development Network of NJ Annual Conference](#), New Brunswick, NJ, October 18
- New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 24
- Rural Housing Summit, San Jose, CA, November 7

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## **NLIHC Staff**

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Kyle Arbuckle, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x227  
Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245  
Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244  
Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226

Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316  
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 Coordinator, x239  
Sarah Mickelson, Senior Director of Public Policy, x228  
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242  
Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227  
Catherine Porter, Research Intern, x249  
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Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247  
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225