

NLIHC Resources

In addition to the *Advocates' Guide*, NLIHC offers many other resources for advocates, policymakers, students, and others providing information on the most relevant housing and housing-related programs and issues. Here are ways to get the most out of your relationship with NLIHC.

FIELD

Your first point of contact at NLIHC is your Housing Advocacy Organizer. Housing Advocacy Organizers are NLIHC members' best direct resource for questions regarding federal policy or NLIHC membership. The organizers also mobilize advocates from NLIHC's field when there is a federal housing issue that needs attention. NLIHC's Housing Advocacy Organizers are assigned specific states. Find the contact information for your state's Housing Advocacy Organizer at nlihc.org/sites/default/files/NLIHC_Field-Team-Map.pdf or e-mail outreach@nlihc.org.

TENANT TALK

Tenant Talk is NLIHC's periodic newsletter geared toward low-income renters and their allies. *Tenant Talk* provides NLIHC's low-income resident members and others with updates about the policies affecting them, ways to take action and get involved, tips for effective organizing, local tenant victories, and other resources. *Tenant Talk* is distributed through email and mail. To be added to the mailing list and to view past issues of *Tenant Talk*, visit www.nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research/tenant-talk.

OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

Our Homes, Our Votes is a non-partisan campaign to register, educate, and mobilize more low-income renters in elections. Our Homes, Our Votes provides tools and training to make it simple for affordable housing advocates to be involved in voting. Renters, especially low-income renters, are underrepresented among voters. To ensure low-income housing interests

are a priority for policy makers, it is critical that organizations engage renters, who make up a large and growing electorate. More information can be found at <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/>

POLICY

NLIHC's policy team tracks, analyzes, and advocates for NLIHC's policy priorities. The policy team updates fact sheets on NLIHC's policy initiatives and priority legislation on a monthly basis. NLIHC's policy priorities can be found at <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/policy-priorities>.

NLIHC also convenes a Policy Advisory Committee, comprised of NLIHC members and members of the Board of Directors. The Policy Advisory Committee informs NLIHC's policy agenda. Committee information is available online at <https://nlihc.org/take-action/policy-engagement>.

RESEARCH

NLIHC's research team publishes research on housing-related topics throughout the year. Access the latest research and reports at <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research/research>.

THE GAP

NLIHC's annual research publication *The Gap* documents the shortage of housing for extremely low-income renter households. For the nation, each state, and the 50 largest metropolitan areas, this yearly report estimates the deficit/surplus of rental homes, cost burdens (households spending more than 30% of their income on housing), and severe cost burdens (households spending more than 50% of their income on housing) for extremely low-income, very low-income and low-income renter households. The report documents the number of additional affordable and available rental homes that are needed for the lowest-income renters. *The Gap* is available on NLIHC's website at <https://reports.nlihc.org/gap>.

OUT OF REACH

NLIHC's annual research publication, *Out of Reach*, offers a side-by-side comparison of wages and rents for every county, metropolitan area [Metropolitan Statistical Area or HUD Metro Fair Market Rent (FMR) Area], combined state nonmetropolitan area, and state in the United States. Advocates across the country use the data in this report to show the lack of housing affordability in their communities for low and minimum wage workers, and other low-income households. For each jurisdiction, the report calculates the Housing Wage, which is the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a rental home priced at the area's FMR, based on the generally accepted affordability standard of paying no more than 30% of income for housing costs. The Housing Wage is available for a range of apartment sizes. *Out of Reach* is available on NLIHC's website at www.nlihc.org/oor. The Housing Wage for metropolitan area ZIP codes is also available online.

STATE HOUSING PROFILES

NLIHC's State Housing Profiles illustrate the housing needs of low-income renter households for each state in the country. The profiles include visual representations of housing affordability issues as well as key facts about housing in each state. The profiles can be found at <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state> by selecting the state and then clicking on the Resources tab.

Congressional District Housing Profiles

NLIHC's Congressional District Housing Profiles offer a snapshot of housing needs for each congressional district in the country. Each profile pulls data from a variety of sources and illuminates several dimensions of housing affordability for renter households in each district, the surrounding area, and the state. The profiles can be found at <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state> by selecting the state and then clicking on the Resources tab.

Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Programs Database

NLIHC provides up-to-date information on Treasury ERA programs through its Treasury ERA Programs Database at <https://nlihc.org/rental-assistance>. This database only includes programs that are part of the federal Treasury ERA program; a more extensive database of emergency rental assistance programs can be found at <https://bit.ly/3HBqfGM>. NLIHC also tracks the rollout and implementation of Treasury ERA programs. Visit the ERA Dashboard at <https://nlihc.org/era-dashboard> for more information on key program features that enable programs to equitably serve the lowest-income households. The ERA Dashboard also reports on spending progress for the \$46.55 billion available for emergency rental assistance, based on NLIHC's more detailed ERA Spending Tracking at <https://bit.ly/3371FB3>. NLIHC's ERA Resource Hub at <https://nlihc.org/resource-hub> provides examples from the field to help programs implement practices for an equitable distribution of assistance.

National Housing Preservation Database

NLIHC and the Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation maintain an online database of nearly all federally assisted multifamily housing in the country. It includes information on properties subsidized by HUD, the USDA, and the Treasury Department. Advocates can use this database to get a clear picture of the subsidized stock of housing in their community and to identify properties that might be at risk of being lost from the affordable housing stock. The National Housing Preservation Database (NHPD) is the only de-duplicated, geo-coded, extractable, national inventory of federally subsidized properties which links all of a property's subsidies to its main address. The database can be found at www.preservationdatabase.org. Users can also access "Preservation Profiles" on the NHPD website, which provide national and state-level snapshots of preservation needs. The Preservation Profiles are available at <https://preservationdatabase.org/reports/preservation-profiles/>.

For more information on the database, visit www.preservationdatabase.org or email aaurand@nlihc.org or kmcelwain@housingcenter.com.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

To find contact information for your federal elected officials, there are numerous template emails and factsheets that can be found on NLIHC's Legislative Action Center at www.nlihc.org/take-action. Most pieces of legislation include emails that advocates can modify and send directly through the NLIHC website. If you want to look up the contact information for your Member of Congress, visit <https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>, then enter your address in the search box.

NLIHC STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNERS

NLIHC maintains close ties with our State and Tribal Partners, housing and homeless advocacy organizations who serve statewide, regional, or tribal areas. To find a list of State and Tribal Partners and for information on becoming a State or Tribal Partner, visit www.nlihc.org/explore-issues/projects/campaigns/state-partner-project or email outreach@nlihc.org.

ANNUAL HOUSING POLICY FORUM

NLIHC hosts a forum every spring in Washington, DC. The forum offers federal housing policy plenary sessions and keynote speakers, as well as a Capitol Hill Day, during which advocates have the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and their staff. For more information, visit www.nlihc.org.

NLIHC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Like NLIHC on Facebook and get instant updates on the latest housing news and information at <https://www.facebook.com/NLIHCDC/>.

Twitter: Follow @NLIHC on Twitter for daily updates at <https://twitter.com/NLIHC?lang=en>.

Instagram: Follow @nlihc on Instagram for quick snapshots of information at <https://www.instagram.com/nlihc/?hl=en>.

Blog: NLIHC's blog, *On the Home Front*, features news and analysis from our staff, guest posts from state and national partners, and opinions on the latest developments in housing policy. Join the discussion at www.hfront.org.