



ONWARD TO HOUSING JUSTICE

2023 HOUSING POLICY FORUM

March 20-23

Hilton Capitol Hill | **Washington, D.C.**

www.nlihc.org

MONDAY, MARCH 20

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

NLIHC State and Tribal Partners Meeting
(Invitation Only) | [SPRINGWOOD](#)**Tenant Leaders Session |**
[ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**NLIHC State and Tribal Partners
and Tenant Leaders Dinner |**
[GRAND BALLROOM](#)Special Presentation by
Rutha Mae Harris,
an original Freedom Singer

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast
(Tenants and State and Tribal Partners Only)
State and Tribal Partners | [SPRINGWOOD](#)
Tenant Leaders | [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

NLIHC State and Tribal Partners Meeting
(Invitation Only) | [SPRINGWOOD](#)**Tenant Leaders Session |** [ATRIUM BALLROOM](#)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch for State and Tribal Partners and Tenant
Leaders |** [SPRINGWOOD & ATRIUM](#)**PLENARY |** [GRAND BALLROOM](#)

1:00 pm – 3:35 pm

1:00 pm – 1:20 pm

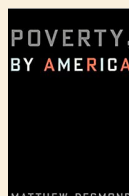
**Getting Started: NLIHC Board Leadership &
Resources for Advocates**
SPEAKERS:

- Dora Leong Gallo – *NLIHC board of directors (chair)*
- Loraine Brown – *NLIHC board of directors*

1:20 pm – 1:45 pm

Onward to Housing Justice | [GRAND BALLROOM](#)
Diane Yentel – *NLIHC, President and CEO*

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

Keynote Speaker
Matthew Desmond –
Poverty, by America
book launch and
remarks

2:45 pm – 3:35 pm

Special RemarksRev. Dr. William J. Barber II
*With introduction by Eric Price, NPH
Foundation President and NLIHC
board of directors (1st Vice Chair)***Greetings from Members of Congress (Video)**

- Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) – *Senate Majority Leader*
- Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) – *Chair, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee*

3:35 pm – 4:00 pm

Book Signing | [ASHLAWN](#)Matthew Desmond will be available to sign copies of his new book, *Poverty, by America*. Books will be available for purchase.

3:35 PM – 4:00 PM

BREAK | [FOYER AND LOBBY](#)

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

**BREAKOUT 1: Homelessness is a Housing
Problem: Best Practices in Housing First |**
[ATRIUM](#)

Homelessness is a crisis in many communities across the country – one that demands urgent action. This workshop will examine the underlying causes and solutions to the homelessness crisis. We will explore research demonstrating that homelessness is a housing problem and discuss the importance of the Housing First model, the most effective strategy for ending homelessness. We will discuss federal efforts to end homelessness, hear from communities that have successfully used Housing First to permanently house thousands of people, and learn how to center the voices of people with lived experience as we develop and implement solutions to the crisis of homelessness.

SPEAKERS:

- Clayton Page Aldern – *co-author of Homelessness is a Housing Problem*
- Ana Rausch – *VP of Program Operations, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County*
- Claudine Sipili – *Director of Lived Experience and Innovation, Destination: Home*
- **Moderator:** Alayna Calabro – *Senior Policy Analyst, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 2: Building Tenant Protections in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program | SPRINGWOOD

LIHTC is the nation's largest capital subsidy for the creation and preservation of affordable housing. It is responsible for more than 3.4 million affordable rental housing units placed in service since its inception, with more than 2.5 million currently in the LIHTC stock. Yet the program provides fewer tenant protections than most other federal housing assistance programs. The session will discuss the potential for stronger tenant protections in the LIHTC program at a time of rising rents, preservation challenges, and greater awareness of the detrimental impacts of evictions.

SPEAKERS:

- Marcos Segura – *Staff Attorney, National Housing Law Project*
- Glenda Krouse Matute – *Georgia State University*
- Faruq Hussein-Bey – *Resident Services Coordinator, National Housing*
- **Moderator:** Dan Emmanuel – *Senior Research Analyst, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 3: Expanding the Multisector Affordable Housing Movement | SAGAMORE

In the past five years, the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign has engaged over 100 organizations in its multi-sector movement to ensure those with the lowest incomes are housed. In this session, campaign national partners will discuss their reasons for joining the campaign, the ways they collaborate with the campaign, and what they've learned about the intersections of housing and racial and gender equity. Attendees will also hear from state-based organizations on sustaining multi-sector partnerships and leveraging those partnerships for federal advocacy.

SPEAKERS:

- Sarah Hassmer – *Director of Housing Justice, National Women's Law Center*
- Sam Washington – *Policy Associate, Civil Rights Corps*
- Hale Crumley – *Coalition Coordinator, Prosperity Indiana*
- Dr. Aura Obando – *American Academy of Pediatrics*
- **Moderator:** Chantelle Wilkinson – *National Campaign Manager, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 4: Tenant Leaders Advancing Housing Justice | MONTEPELIER

Tenant-led movements in the United States strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the increased inequities that tenants faced, such as evictions, discrimination and harassment from landlords, and increased homelessness. Many new tenant groups formed, and existing groups expanded to build people power and create the policy changes needed to address their needs. This session will provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about current tenant movements, how they organized during the pandemic, and lessons learned from their organizing.

SPEAKERS:

- Dee Ross – *Founder and CEO, The Ross Foundation*
- Mattye Berry-Evans – *Resident Action Project*
- Taylar Nuevelle – *Executive Director, Who Speaks for Me?*
- **Moderator:** Sid Betancourt – *Housing Advocacy Organizer, NLIHC*

5:15 PM – 6:30 PM

LIGHT RECEPTION | GRAND BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast | BALLROOM FOYER8:30 am – 9:20 am **PLENARY** | GRAND BALLROOM |

8:30 am – 8:40 am

Welcome Back!Russell “Rusty” Bennett – *NLIHC board of directors*

8:40 am – 9:20 am

Conversations with Administration Officials

Senior officials from the Biden-Harris administration will discuss the administration’s landmark *Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights*; how advocates can participate going forward in shaping federal renter protections; and lessons learned and major successes from the implementation of Emergency Rental Assistance and other pandemic resources.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SPEAKERS:

- Director Sandra Thompson – *Federal Housing Finance Agency*
- Sarah Saadian – *NLIHC SVP for Public Policy and Field Organizing*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo – *Department of the Treasury*
- Moises Loza – *NLIHC board of directors, former executive director of the Housing Assistance Council*



9:30 am – 10:45 am

BREAKOUT 5: Capitol Hill Insiders Panel | ATRIUM

Senior congressional staff and seasoned lobbyists will address the state of play in Congress in a year of deeply divided government and uncertainty. Panelists will discuss the significant threats to affordable housing and homelessness investments and the possibility of harmful legislation, as well as the opportunities to continue to advance housing justice legislation and build bipartisan support for key solutions. What does it all mean for advocates? What are the emerging threats and opportunities in 2023 and beyond?

SPEAKERS:

- Alia Fierro – *Director of Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, Office of House Financial Services Committee Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-CA)*
- Beth Cooper – *Professional Staff Member, Office of Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chair Sherrod Brown (D-OH)* (*invited*)
- Neil Siefring – *Hilltop Advocacy LLC*
- **Moderator:** Kim Johnson – *Public Policy Manager, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 6: Racial Equity in Practice | SPRINGWOOD

This session will focus on how a transformative justice framework can be applied to dismantle structural racism, strengthen accountability practices, and address the way public infrastructure investment has been historically used to harm communities of color and low-wealth communities. Panelists will highlight emerging practices, programs, and initiatives that support community-driven solutions, foster institutional change, and support more equitable outcomes in public investment.

SPEAKERS:

- Pascale Leone – *Executive Director, Supportive Housing Network of New York*
- Cathy Albisa – *Vice President of Institutional and Sectoral Change, Race Forward*
- Ramona Ferreyra – *Advocate, Save Section 9 & Founder of Ojala Threads*
- **Moderator:** Stephanie Gidigbi Jenkins – *Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Director of Policy & Partnerships, Vice President of Strategies, North Star Strategies*



BREAKOUT 7: Achieving Affordable Housing Solutions in Native and Rural Areas |

SAGAMORE

Rural and Native communities face unique barriers in building housing supply, serving low-income residents, and increasing organizing capacity. In “Achieving Affordable Housing Solutions in Native and Rural Areas,” panelists will speak to the strengths and challenges of low-income residents in Native and rural areas, including an evaluation of federal funding for housing in these communities. Learn from experts on organizing rural neighbors, emergency rental assistance programs on Native lands, and how federal resources from HUD and USDA-RD can build more affordable housing in these areas.

SPEAKERS:

- Sharon Vogel – *Executive Director, Cheyenne River Housing Authority and NLIHC board of directors*
- Stephanie Isaacs – *Founder, Bedford County Listening Project*
- Jonathan Harwitz – *Director of Public Policy, Housing Assistance Council (HAC)*
- Mel Willie – *Director of Native Partnerships and Strategy, NeighborWorks America*
- **Moderator:** Kayla Laywell – *Housing Policy Analyst, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 8: Status of Evictions and Eviction Prevention Work |

MONTPELIER

This session will give an update on the status of evictions and the eviction crisis as we move out of the pandemic and ERA funds begin to wind down. What does model eviction prevention work look like? What are and can state and local communities do to support tenants into the future?

SPEAKERS:

- Emily Benfer – *Professor of Clinical Law, George Washington University Law School; Visiting Research Collaborator, Eviction Lab, Princeton University*
- Samira Nazem – *Principal Court Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts*
- Michelle Mapp – *Equal Justice Works Law Fellow at ACLU of South Carolina, sponsored by Alston & Bird Racial Justice Fund*
- Andrew Bradley – *Policy Director, Prosperity Indiana and NLIHC board of directors*
- **Moderator:** Sarah Gallagher – *Senior Project Director for ERASE, NLIHC*

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK | BALLROOM FOYER AND LOBBY

PLENARY | GRAND BALLROOM

Greetings from Members of Congress (Video)

- Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) – *Chair, Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development*

Presentation of Organizing Awards and Best Practices in State/Local Organizing

Join the recipients of NLIHC’s 2023 Organizing Awards to hear the stories behind their successful campaigns to achieve transformative affordable housing victories in their communities. Panelists will discuss the concrete lessons learned from their campaigns, the obstacles they overcame, and key takeaways that will inform and inspire organizers across the country.

Presentation of Awards: Chrishelle Palay – *Director, HOME Coalition and NLIHC board of directors*

SPEAKERS:

- Vanny Veras – *Tenant Organizer, Miami Workers Center*
- Devetria Stafford – *Tenant Organizer, Miami Workers Center*
- Michael Chavarria – *Executive Director, Hope Fair Housing Center*
- Sharon Norwood – *Housing Justice Organizer, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance*
- **Moderator:** Courtney Cooperman – *Housing Advocacy Organizer, NLIHC*

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Buffet Lunches | Table seating in Atrium, Executive, Springwood, Sagamore, Ashlawn

PLENARY | GRAND BALLROOM

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

IDEAS into Action

Hear an overview of NLIHC’s work to center, amplify, and advance racial equity in its work, followed by a conversation between Marcia L. Fudge, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and members of NLIHC’s Tenant Leader Cohort on the policy solutions needed to actualize HUD’s mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.



SPEAKERS:

- Diane Yentel – *NLIHC, President and CEO*
- Renee Willis – *NLIHC, SVP, Racial Equity*

DISCUSSION SPEAKERS

- Zella Knight – *Member Leader, Residents United Network LA, Board Member & Tenant Leader Cohort Member, NLIHC, Resident, Los Angeles, CA*
- Loraine Brown – *President Emeritus, 334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association, Board Member & Tenant Leader Cohort Member, NLIHC, Resident, New York, NY*
- Mindy Woods – *Member Leader, Resident Action Project, Board Member & Tenant Leader Cohort Member, NLIHC, Resident, Seattle, WA*
- **Moderator:** Secretary Marcia L. Fudge – *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*



2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Achieving Housing Justice

NLIHC's Diane Yentel will lead conversations with long-time affordable housing champions about their visions for housing justice and how the movement can build the political support needed to achieve major legislative victories.

SPEAKERS:

- Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
- Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)

**Greetings from Members of Congress (Video)**

- Representative Cori Bush (D-MO)
- Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) – Ranking Member, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee
- Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) – House Minority Leader

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

BREAK | BALLROOM FOYER AND LOBBY

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

BREAKOUT 9: Countering the Criminalization of Homelessness | ATRIUM

In communities across the country, misguided policymakers are responding to growing rates of homelessness by advancing dangerous rhetoric and harmful, dehumanizing measures that will make it even more difficult for people to exit homelessness. One of the clearest threats is the alarming rise in legislation that seeks to criminalize homelessness by jailing or fining individuals for sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go. This workshop will address state and local efforts to criminalize homelessness; explore how advocates, people with lived experience, and homeless service providers are pushing back against these stigmatizing and counterproductive bills; and examine the impact of criminalization on people experiencing homelessness.

SPEAKERS:

- Carlton Martin – *Pro Bono Director, National Homelessness Law Center*
- Donald Whitehead Jr. – *Executive Director, National Coalition for the Homeless*
- Lisa Glow – *CEO, Central Arizona Shelter Services*
- Marqueia Watson – *Executive Director, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness*
- **Moderator:** Sarah Saadian – *SVP for Public Policy and Field Organizing, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 10: Effective Messaging and Communications Strategies to Advance Housing Justice | SPRINGWOOD

Effective communications strategies are executed through synergetic brand management, content creation, messaging, storytelling, and mobilization. This session provides attendees with success stories from industry leaders and tips on how to maximize audience engagement and response, elevate their visibility, and expand their reach across diverse platforms.

SPEAKERS:

- Halley Holmes – *Sr. Director of Communications, The Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development*
- Tom Murphy – *Sr. Director of Communications, National Alliance to End Homelessness*
- Deidre (Dee Dee) Swensik – *Director of Communications, National Housing Law Project*
- Nanci Flores – *Media Relations Manager, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*
- **Moderator:** Renee Willis – *SVP for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 11: Rights, Retreats, and Red Tape: In Pursuit of a Just Disaster Recovery | SAGAMORE

As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of disasters, communities across the country are grappling with one of the most fundamental questions of the new climate future: is our right to choose where and how we live compatible with our community's continued survival? Friends and members of the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition, drawn from the fields of civil and human rights law, legislative advocacy, community organizing, disability justice, and emergency management, will attempt to answer this central question. Attendees will hear real-world examples of disaster response and recovery and reform efforts and deepen their understanding of how our communities can prepare and respond to disasters while protecting the rights of those who experience the worst impacts.

SPEAKERS:

- Ariadna Michelle Godreau Aubert – *Founder and Executive Director, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico*
- Chrishelle Palay – *Director, HOME Coalition*
- Hannah Perls – *Staff Attorney, Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program*
- David Wheaton – *Economic Justice Policy Fellow, NAACP*
- **Moderator:** Noah Patton – *Senior Policy Analyst for Disaster Recovery, NLIHC*

BREAKOUT 12: Achieving Permanent Renter Protections | MONTPELIER

The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting economic fallout have laid bare the inadequacies of existing laws meant to protect tenants from eviction, harassment, and discriminatory housing practices. In the wake of

the pandemic, states and localities across the nation have enacted laws to strengthen renter protections and level the playing field between tenants and landlords. This session will focus on the work done by advocates to keep tenants safe, and what more can be done at the local, state, and federal levels to advance renter protections and ensure long-term housing stability.

SPEAKERS:

- Rasheedah Phillips – *Director of Housing, PolicyLink*
- Erika Poethig – *Special Assistant to the President for Housing and Urban Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council*
- Zella Knight – *Board Member, Activist, Residents United Network, and NLIHC board of directors*
- Foluke Akanni – *Housing Policy Organizer, Housing Action Illinois*
- **Moderator:** Geraldine Collins – *President, National Alliance of HUD Tenants, and NLIHC board of directors*

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

NLIHC Leadership Awards Presentation and Reception (separate ticket from the Forum required)

HONOREES:

- **Representative Cori Bush** (D-MO) (*Brooke Housing Leadership Award*)
- **John Parvensky** (*Dolbeare Lifetime Achievement Award*)
- **Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico** (*Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award*)

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Preparing for Capitol Hill Day Visits
(light breakfast provided)

122 C Street NW
First Floor
Washington, DC 20001

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Hill Visits & Report Backs

SPEAKERS:

- Kim Johnson – *Public Policy Manager, NLIHC*
- Gina Wilt – *Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio*
- **Moderator:** Gabby Ross – *Housing Advocacy Organizer, NLIHC*



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT

**The Wellness Room** | [HERMITAGE](#)

Need a place to relax, refresh, and reflect on the day? Visit the Wellness Room, where you'll find aromatherapy, yoga mats, comfy seats, and more. A screen-free quiet-zone, the Wellness Room offers a place to focus on self-care.

**Rise-Home Stories Project Featuring Dot's Home** | [MOUNT VERNON](#)

Learn about – and play – the award-winning *Dot's Home*, a single-player video game created by Rise-Home Stories Project with NLIHC's help. *Dot's Home* follows a young Black woman from Detroit living in her grandmother's beloved home who travels through time to re-live key moments in her family's history where race, place, and home collide in difficult choices. Rise-Home Stories Project is a groundbreaking collaboration between multimedia storytellers and social justice advocates seeking to change our relationship to land, home, and race by transforming the stories we tell about them. Find out how you can use *Dot's Home* and other projects developed by Rise-Home Stories – including the bilingual children's book *Alejandria Fights Back!*, the nonfiction podcast *But Next Time*, the animated web series *MINE*, and the interactive online experience *Steal-Estate* – in your advocacy.

VIEW THE AGENDA ONLINE



2023 NLIHC ORGANIZING AWARDS

The NLIHC Organizing Awards recognize outstanding achievements in state, local, and residential organizing that furthers NLIHC's mission. The 2023 awards are presented to campaigns that achieved a major victory in 2022, prioritize racial equity, and elevate the leadership of directly impacted residents. The 2023 Organizing Awards will honor the **Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing** and **Miami Workers Center**.

ABOUT THE WINNERS

The 2023 Statewide Organizing Award honors the **Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing** for its successful campaign to enact source-of-income protections. The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing is a group of directly impacted community members and advocates committed to making housing access in Illinois equitable and just. For nearly two decades, Illinois advocates have pushed to enact statewide source-of-income protections, which outlaw discrimination against voucher holders and other renters with housing subsidies. Source-of-income discrimination disproportionately affects renters of color, especially Black renters, and people with disabilities. As the pandemic further underscored the need for source-of-income protections, the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing entered the 2022 legislative session with a renewed sense of urgency. Thanks to the Coalition's persistent advocacy with legislators, including powerful testimony from directly impacted renters and negotiations that ultimately flipped one of the bill's chief opponents into a supporter, the legislature passed the source-of-income law in May 2022.



The 2023 Local Organizing Award honors **Miami Workers Center** for its leadership in the campaign to enact a Tenant's Bill of Rights in Miami-Dade County. Miami Workers Center is a frontline strategy and action center that builds power with working-class tenants, workers, women, and families in Miami-Dade County. The campaign for the Tenant's Bill of Rights emerged from a series of listening sessions where tenants shared stories of unaccountable landlords, dangerous conditions, and fears of retaliation if they pressed for safe and dignified living environments. Tenants' stories and ideas were synthesized into a set of demands for the Tenant's Bill of Rights. Miami Workers Center recruited two County Commissioners to co-sponsor and champion the package. Organizers prepared tenants to speak at rallies and testify to county commissioners, kept the issue in the media through public events, and spent all day at the county commission's office on the day of the vote. Months of persistent advocacy demonstrated the strength of the movement for housing justice, and the County Commission voted unanimously to adopt the Tenant's Bill of Rights in May 2022.



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SPECIAL MEMBERS

- AARP
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Cooper Housing Institute
- The Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corp.
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Federal Home Loan Banks
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas
- Homes for America
- Klein Hornig
- LISC/National Equity Fund
- Low Income Investment Fund
- Mercy Housing
- Mortgage Bankers Association
- National Alliance to End Homelessness
- NeighborWorks America
- Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Surdna Foundation
- Technical Assistance Collaborative
- Tennessee Housing Development Agency
- UnidosUS
- Zillow





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