

# Make a Difference: Ways to Engage with and Support the National Low Income Housing Coalition

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## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COALITION

The best way to demonstrate commitment to ensuring that the lowest-income people in America have access to decent, affordable homes is to become a member of the Coalition. NLIHC's power to influence change is directly proportional to the active engagement of our members. NLIHC has been a membership organization since our earliest days and it is our large and involved membership that sets us apart.

Anyone can be an NLIHC member. Our membership base is broad and diverse, including low-income renters, professionals who work in the housing field, tenant associations, state and local housing advocacy organizations, community development corporations, housing authorities, and individuals who believe in NLIHC's mission and want to support our work. Our members care about a broad array of affordable housing issues, from accessibility and affordability for people with disabilities to the preservation of resources for homelessness prevention and affordable housing programs, veterans' housing, fair housing, community development, and more.

## WHY OUR MEMBERS ARE CRUCIAL

The modest membership contributions from each individual and organization, when multiplied by our many hundreds of members, are important sources of revenue for NLIHC. Members provide invaluable feedback about the housing issues that low-income and homeless people face every day in cities, towns, and rural areas across the country. Most importantly, members are advocates—the people we count on to reach out to their networks, to their local elected officials, to local media, and to Members of Congress about the affordable housing needs of low-income people. A geographically wide and sizeable

membership base brings true power to NLIHC's advocacy efforts.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the most effective national organization working to expand affordable housing for extremely low-income individuals and families, NLIHC members receive:

- *Memo to Members and Partners*, NLIHC's acclaimed weekly newsletter on federal housing issues.
- Discounted rates to NLIHC's annual Housing Policy Forum and Leadership Awards Reception.
- Free or discounted access to our research publications like *Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing* and *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*, educational resources like the *Advocates' Guide*, frequent informational and capacity-building webinars, and tenant resources like the *Tenant Talk* publication.
- Consultations with NLIHC staff on how to most effectively use NLIHC research data.
- Periodic NLIHC Calls to Action and Updates alerting members to issues that need attention and action.
- Telephone resource referrals with links to state and regional networks.
- The opportunity to participate in NLIHC's policy-setting decisions.
- Resources and support for participation in such efforts as the NLIHC-led *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action, *Our Homes, Our Votes* nonpartisan voter engagement project, the *Opportunity Starts at Home* multi-sector affordable housing campaign, and the Disaster Housing Recovery

Coalition, among many others.

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Joining NLIHC is easy. Our membership rates are flexible and tiered by member type. All rates are suggested—you can join at any contribution amount affordable to you. Join at: [www.nlihc.org/membership](http://www.nlihc.org/membership).

You can also contact a housing advocacy organizer for assistance or to learn more about membership by emailing [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## MAKE A DONATION TO NLIHC

NLIHC is unique in that its sole focus is the housing needs of extremely low-income people including those who are homeless. We represent no segment of the housing or affordable housing industry but instead work with and on behalf of low-income people and families. As a nonprofit organization that accepts no government funding of any kind, we rely on our partners to support us in our work for solutions to housing poverty and homelessness. Contributions to NLIHC directly support our research, education, organizing, policy analysis and advocacy, and regulatory efforts. The financial support we receive through donations is crucial to helping us achieve our mission.

## WHAT CAN YOU DONATE TO NLIHC?

A contribution at any level makes a difference. You can support our work by making an end-of-year gift, a general contribution, or a donation in honor of our annual Housing Leadership Awards recipients. Your contributions are critical in helping NLIHC end housing poverty and homelessness in America. Individual donations to NLIHC are tax deductible.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The generosity of our donors makes it possible for NLIHC staff to produce and distribute our acclaimed weekly e-newsletter *Memo to Members and Partners*, conduct and publish important research like that presented in *Out of Reach* and *The Gap*, and produce valuable publications like *Tenant Talk* and the *Advocates' Guide*. Your contributions help subsidize low-income membership rates and scholarships to low-income residents who otherwise would not be able to attend our annual Policy Forum. It supports our efforts to build public and policy maker awareness about our nation's affordable housing crisis and for practical solutions; to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and with each Administration on policies to address homelessness and the lack of affordable housing; to conduct our annual Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day; to ensure the success of the national Housing Trust Fund and build support for increased funding to the program; to coordinate the annual *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action and the *Our Homes, Our Votes* nonpartisan candidate and voter engagement project; to lead the *Opportunity Starts at Home* multi-sector affordable housing campaign; to work for equitable and comprehensive disaster housing recovery for those most in need; to ensure that fair housing laws are enforced; and to keep our members informed about the federal budget and appropriations, changing federal regulations, policy developments, and much more. Each contribution makes a powerful difference. Please donate to NLIHC today at [www.nlihc.org/donate](http://www.nlihc.org/donate).

Contact the NLIHC Development Coordinator Catherine Reeves at [creeves@nlihc.org](mailto:creeves@nlihc.org) for donation questions or assistance.