

# NLIHC Resources

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In addition to the *Advocates' Guide*, NLIHC offers advocates, policymakers, and others additional resources to learn more about affordable housing issues and solutions and to easily take action. Below are ways to get the most out of your relationship with NLIHC.

## FIELD

Your first point of contact at NLIHC is the Housing Advocacy Organizer assigned to your state or region. Housing Advocacy Organizers serve as a direct resource for questions regarding data, federal policies, or NLIHC membership. The organizers also mobilize advocates from NLIHC's field when there is a federal housing issue that needs attention. Find the contact information for your Housing Advocacy Organizer at or e-mail [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## TENANT TALK

*Tenant Talk* is NLIHC's biannual publication geared toward low-income renters and their allies. *Tenant Talk* provides NLIHC's low-income 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](http://www.nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research/tenant-talk).

## OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

*Our Homes, Our Votes* is a non-partisan election engagement campaign to register, educate, and mobilize more low-income renters to vote in elections and to engage candidates on affordable housing issues. *Our Homes, Our Votes* provides tools and training to make it simple for affordable housing advocates to participate in election engagement. Renters, especially low-income renters, are underrepresented among

voters. To ensure low-income housing interests are a priority for policymakers, it is critical that organizations engage renters and their allies in the voting process. More information can be found at <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/>.

## IDEAS

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism, and Systems-thinking (IDEAS) is NLIHC's organization-wide initiative to advance racial equity and inclusion in our policy work, our internal operations and relationships, and our work with external partners. To learn more about IDEAS, visit [www.nlihc.org/ideas](http://www.nlihc.org/ideas).

## FEDERAL POLICY

NLIHC's Policy Team tracks, analyzes, and advocates for legislation and rulemaking related to NLIHC's federal policy priorities. The policy team creates fact sheets on NLIHC's federal policy initiatives and priority legislation and works closely with the Field Team to keep the field informed and mobilized to take action during key moments. NLIHC's policy priorities can be found at <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/policy-priorities>. Advocates can take action on key legislation using NLIHC's Legislative Action Center at <http://www.nlihc.org/take-action>. NLIHC also convenes a quarterly Policy Advisory Committee meeting open only to NLIHC members. The Policy Advisory Committee provides feedback on NLIHC's federal policy agenda and advocacy initiatives. To learn more about the Policy Advisory Committee meetings, contact [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## STATE AND LOCAL TENANT PROTECTIONS

NLIHC's State and Local Policy Innovations team, formerly known as the End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions (ERASE) project, tracks and supports state and local policies pertaining to NLIHC's mission, especially as they relate to tenant protections and other measures to promote

stable housing and housing choice. The State and Local team also periodically publishes reports on best practices and relevant research findings. To learn more, contact [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## RESEARCH

NLIHC's Research Team publishes research on housing-related topics throughout the year. Access the latest research and reports at [www.nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research/research](http://www.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. This report estimates the deficit or 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 for the nation, each state, and the 50 largest metropolitan areas. 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 [www.nlihc.org/gap](http://www.nlihc.org/gap).

## OUT OF REACH

NLIHC's other annual research publication *Out of Reach* offers a side-by-side comparison of wages and rents for every county, metropolitan 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. The report calculates the Housing Wage for each jurisdiction. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a rental home priced at the area's Fair Market Rent (FMR) without paying more than 30% of their income for rent and essential utilities. 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](http://www.nlihc.org/oor).

## STATE HOUSING PROFILES

NLIHC's State Housing Profiles illustrate the housing needs of low-income renter households for every state. 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 [www.nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state](http://www.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 [www.nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state](http://www.nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state) by selecting the state and then clicking on the Resources tab.

## RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAMS DATABASE

NLIHC created the Rental Housing Programs Database (RHPD) to capture the diverse ways state and local governments use their own financial resources to close the gap between available federal funding for rental housing and the unmet needs of renters in their communities. More specifically, the RHPD provides information on state and locally funded programs that create, preserve, or increase access to affordable rental housing. It includes program goals, target populations, tenant eligibility requirements, and other program characteristics. Read a summary of the findings from the 2023 RHPD report *State and Local Investments in Rental Housing* and explore the database at [www.nlihc.org/rental-programs](http://www.nlihc.org/rental-programs).

## 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 stock of subsidized 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 a property's subsidies to its main address. The database can be found at <http://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](http://www.preservationdatabase.org) or email [aurand@nlihc.org](mailto:aurand@nlihc.org) or [kmcelwain@housingcenter.com](mailto:kmcelwain@housingcenter.com).

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

NLIHC's Legislative Action Center makes it easy to directly contact your members of Congress about affordable housing issues and their solutions. To look up your federal elected officials, add your organization to NLIHC's sign-on letters, and contact your members of Congress with pre-filled emails and phone call talking points, access NLIHC's Legislative Action Center at [www.nlihc.org/take-action](http://www.nlihc.org/take-action). NLIHC State and Tribal Partners

NLIHC's State Partners are independent housing and homeless advocacy organizations who serve whole states or large regional areas, and Tribal Partners are non-profit organizations that serve members of tribes in a particular geographic region and priorities advocacy for the lowest-income renters. State and Tribal Partners are NLIHC's closest advocacy partners. NLIHC relies on these partners to educate and mobilize their networks to take action around NLIHC's policy priorities, and in return, partners receive specialized support from NLIHC. To find a list of State and Tribal Partners, visit <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/projects-campaigns/state-partner-project>.

[org/explore-issues/projects-campaigns/state-partner-project](https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/projects-campaigns/state-partner-project). To learn more about becoming a State or Tribal Partner, email [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## ANNUAL HOUSING POLICY FORUM

NLIHC hosts its annual Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day every March in Washington, DC. The forum offers housing and homelessness policy plenary and breakout sessions and networking opportunities for participants and ends with Capitol Hill Day where advocates meet with members of Congress and their staff. For more information, visit <https://nlihc.org/webinars-events/annual-forum>.

## FOLLOW NLIHC

NLIHC uses social media to share updates with the field on the following platforms:

- X: Follow @NLIHC on X for daily updates at [www.twitter.com/NLIHC?lang=en](https://www.twitter.com/NLIHC?lang=en).
- Instagram: Follow @nlihc on Instagram for quick snapshots of information at [www.instagram.com/nlihc/?hl=en](http://www.instagram.com/nlihc/?hl=en).
- Facebook: Like NLIHC on Facebook and get updates on the latest housing news and information at [www.facebook.com/NLIHCDC](http://www.facebook.com/NLIHCDC). Check out NLIHC's blog *On the Home Front*, where we feature policy analyses from our staff, advocacy wins achieved by state and local partners, and guest posts from people directly impacted by housing and homelessness issues. Join the discussion at [www.hfront.org](http://www.hfront.org).

Sign up to receive NLIHC emails for the latest federal affordable housing news, calls to action, and NLIHC events at [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org).