

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE: WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH AND SUPPORT THE COALITION

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NLIHC provides many opportunities for advocates to stay informed, connect with each other, join the housing justice movement, and support NLIHC's work. Advocates may be involved at varying degrees depending on interest and capacity. Read on to learn about how you can engage with and support NLIHC.

## Join the Movement: Become an NLIHC Member

NLIHC is a broad, member-based coalition of committed advocates across the nation. Every single member strengthens NLIHC's advocacy and builds power and momentum for the housing justice movement. Join NLIHC as a member today at: <https://nlihc.org/membership>. Request more information about membership by contacting [membership@nlihc.org](mailto:membership@nlihc.org).

NLIHC membership is open to both individuals and organizations, including tenant and resident associations, government offices and agencies, housing providers and developers, non-profits, public housing authorities, corporations, legal organizations, advocacy coalitions, people with direct experience of housing instability, professionals in the field, and more. Many NLIHC members live on low incomes or small operating budgets, which is why all membership dues are suggested amounts, ensuring members can join or renew at any amount that is affordable to them.

Members join NLIHC to strengthen their advocacy, connect with peers across the country, and add their voice to the housing justice movement. Membership provides access to the following additional benefits:

- NLIHC's weekly e-newsletter and timely calls to action
- 1:1 support from NLIHC staff for federal advocacy
- Premier access and discounted tickets to NLIHC's annual Housing Policy Forum
- Invitations to members-only meetings and trainings
- Access to free trainings on community organizing
- Opportunities to provide feedback on NLIHC's policy and advocacy strategies
- Connection to a wide network of housing advocates across the country
- Recognition for successful advocacy and organizing work
- Discounts on NLIHC publications
- New members are eligible to receive one free hard copy of the *Advocates' Guide* (<https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research/advocates-guide>)

NLIHC's power to influence policy is rooted in the active engagement of its more than 1,000 members across the country. The broad geographic base and diversity in types of members demonstrate to policymakers the widespread support for NLIHC's mission and priorities. Members' on-the-ground experiences inform NLIHC's policy priorities and strategies and ensure the issues they face are elevated at the federal level. Most importantly, NLIHC members are advocates - the people NLIHC counts on to mobilize their networks, build relationships with elected officials, speak with local media, and reach out to members of Congress about the housing needs of low-income people and the policy solutions that will solve the housing crisis.

Achieving NLIHC's mission is only possible through the creation of a robust, organized, and active coalition of members. Join NLIHC as a member today at: <https://nlihc.org/membership>.

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## NLIHC Special Membership

NLIHC Special Membership gives organizations premier access and recognition for their commitment to NLIHC. Special Members contribute at least \$5,000 in membership dues. In exchange, they receive five complimentary registrations to NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum enjoy exclusive networking opportunities and receive invitations to private virtual convenings with NLIHC leadership. Special Members are recognized through featured ads, logo placement, and year-round acknowledgment across NLIHC's print and digital channels. Special Members also receive complimentary copies of NLIHC's leading publications—all while enjoying the full suite of regular membership benefits. To learn more about NLIHC Special Membership, please contact [development@nlihc.org](mailto:development@nlihc.org).

## Stay Informed: Email Updates and Publications

Advocates can stay informed about NLIHC and housing policy through [NLIHC emails \(https://tr.ee/vtzL0q\)](https://tr.ee/vtzL0q). NLIHC's weekly newsletter - *Memo to Members and Partners* - gives an overview of relevant legislation, administrative actions, and timely advocacy opportunities. The newsletter also highlights upcoming events, the sector's latest research from NLIHC and others, and success stories from across the country. Subscribers can also receive recaps from NLIHC webinars, campaign-specific information, special event info, and urgent updates and calls to action.

In addition to the *Advocates' Guide*, NLIHC puts out several publications each year, including community and state-level housing research and key tools for advocates.

NLIHC's signature annual research reports are *Out of Reach* and *The Gap*. *The Out of Reach* report documents the intersection of wages and housing costs by calculating the hourly "housing wage" a renter must earn to afford a modest rental home in each community in the United States. *The Gap* report calculates housing shortages and cost burdens for low-income renters, documenting the stark disparities between the needs of

extremely low-income renter households and the number of units that are affordable and available to them, as well as housing cost burdens, at each income level. Advocates often use these reports to educate policymakers and media about the impact of the affordable housing crisis in their communities and to advance policy solutions. NLIHC's research team also produces specialized analyses of other topics, such as housing preservation, disaster recovery, and affordable housing trust funds. Research reports contain extensive state and local data, and NLIHC provides annually updated State Housing Profiles and Congressional District Profiles with detailed state and local affordability statistics.

Another key tool NLIHC provides advocates is the biannual *Tenant Talk* publication. *Tenant Talk*, and its complimentary monthly webinar *Tenant Talk Live*, were created as ways to lower barriers to advocacy for tenants living on an extremely low income. The resident-led Editorial Board of *Tenant Talk* approves the selection of each issue's theme and offers essential input into the publication, ensuring that it addresses the concerns and reflects the experiences of those most directly affected by affordable housing policies. Recent editions of *Tenant Talk* have focused on: navigating federal funding cuts, non-partisan election engagement, disability justice, racial justice, and housing stability for LGBTQ+ individuals. More information on NLIHC's Publications and Research can be found here: <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/publications-research>.

## Learn and Connect: Calls, Webinars, and Working Group Meetings

NLIHC's calls, webinars, and working group meetings create space for housing advocates across the country to learn, strategize, and build their networks. NLIHC's current schedule of calls and working groups can be found at <https://nlihc.org/working-groupcalls>. This schedule includes:

- **National HoUSed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing:** The HoUSed campaign advances the anti-racist policies and large-scale, sustained investments and reforms necessary to ensure that

renters with the lowest incomes have an affordable place to call home. The HoUSed call features affordable housing champions from Congress and the executive branch, legislative updates and research briefings from NLIHC staff and other organizations, and field updates from NLIHC members and other state and local partners.

- **The Training Institute for Tenants and Residents Webinar (TITR):** TITR empowers renters with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to protect their rights, organize their communities, and influence housing policies. Through training, advocacy, and leadership development, the TITR webinars equip tenants with the resources they need to take meaningful action and create lasting change.
- **Tenant Talk Live Meeting:** Geared towards low-income renters and community leaders, Tenant Talk Live provides opportunities for people with lived experience of housing injustice to connect with NLIHC and one another, to share best practices, and to learn how to influence federal housing policies and lead in their communities.
- **Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) Working Group Meeting:** The working group features updates from DHRC members on disaster recovery efforts from around the country, best practices, and the latest federal changes to the disaster recovery response framework. Working group conversations identify and guide federal policy reform needed to improve FEMA's disaster homelessness and housing recovery efforts.
- **Our Homes, Our Votes (OHOV) Campaign Webinars:** NLIHC's non-partisan voter and candidate engagement campaign offers webinars during federal election years to provide high-level resources, tools, and trainings to NLIHC's broad network that can help boost voter registration and turnout rates among low-income renters.
- **State and Local Tenant Protections Network Working Group Meeting:** This working group convenes a broad range of state and local partners and organizations working to advance, implement, and enforce tenant protections within their jurisdictions, including housing advocates, tenants and tenant leaders, academics, and legal service providers.

- **NLIHC Member Meetings:** Member meetings offer a regular opportunity to connect with the NLIHC staff team, provide input on NLIHC's policy priorities and strategies, gain new skills in advocacy and organizing, and learn what works from a network of peers across the country. Monthly meetings are open to all current NLIHC members, while some meetings and working groups are reserved for State & Tribal Partners, NLIHC Fellows, and other sub-groups of NLIHC's membership. The schedule of member meetings is only available to current NLIHC members.

## Take Action: Advocacy Hub

The Advocacy Hub is a one-stop-shop for advocates to learn about and act on NLIHC's federal policy priorities. The Advocacy Hub includes a list of active sign-on letters and calls to action, a wide range of resources and information to support effective advocacy, and opportunities to get connected with NLIHC's advocacy efforts. Visit the Advocacy Hub at <https://nlihc.org/take-action>.

## Convene and Advocate: Annual Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day

The annual NLIHC Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day convenes community leaders, policy experts, researchers, tenant advocates, affordable housing practitioners, and members of Congress for thought and action partnership on ending the housing crisis impacting the lowest-income and most marginalized renters in America. The Policy Forum also features the recipients of NLIHC's annual Leadership Awards, which celebrates and honors individual leaders and organizations for their outstanding contributions to affordable housing for those most in need. The event concludes with NLIHC's annual Capitol Hill Day, which provides the opportunity for attendees to meet directly with their congressional offices and advocate for federal policies to support the lowest-income renters.

The NLIHC 2026 Housing Policy Forum will be held in Washington, DC, on March 10-13, 2026. Email the NLIHC Events Team with questions at [events@nlihc.org](mailto:events@nlihc.org).

## Support: Donate to NLIHC

NLIHC is unique in that it solely focuses on the housing needs of extremely low-income people, including those who are experiencing homelessness. It represents no segment of the housing or affordable housing industry; rather, it advocates for proven housing solutions that support the lowest-income individuals and families, grounded in the findings of our research reports and our members' input. As a nonprofit organization that does not accept government funding of any kind, it relies on our partners to support us in our work to pursue solutions to housing poverty and homelessness. All contributions directly support NLIHC's efforts to advance racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice.

### WHAT CAN YOU DONATE TO NLIHC?

NLIHC is proud to offer a variety of giving opportunities.

- Stocks
- 401(k)/403(b) and Roth IRA Disbursements
- Donor Advised Fund Disbursements
- Estate Gifts
- Cash/Checks made out to the National Low Income Housing Coalition

*Note on U.S. H.R 1 Tax Changes for 2026: Starting in 2026, cash donations that surpass \$1k for standard deduction tax filers will no longer yield additional tax savings. However, non-cash assets such as Stocks, Qualified Charitable Distributions (IRA donations), and Donor Advised Fund gifts are not applicable with this deduction cap, and they can further maximize your tax savings.*

*Are you 70.5 years or older? Give directly from your retirement to maximize your impact and minimize your taxes.*

For questions on how to support NLIHC with non-cash assets, email our development team at [development@nlihc.org](mailto:development@nlihc.org).

### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your contributions provide stability and build momentum for the many programs and events that we host each year. Your support makes it possible for the Coalition to take action on our nation's affordable housing crisis and to achieve socially and racially just housing policy, including:

- Critical policy research and analysis publications such as *Out of Reach*, *The Gap*, *Memo to Members and Partners*, *Tenant Talk*, and the *Advocates' Guide*
- Tenant Leader Training
- Subsidized Membership Rates
- Forum sponsorships for low-income renters
- *HoUSed* Campaign
- *Opportunity Starts At Home* (OSAH) Campaign
- Disaster Housing Recovery, Resilience and Research Campaign
- *Our Homes, Our Votes*, a nonpartisan civic engagement campaign
- Regular updates to our member base about the federal budget and appropriations, changing federal regulations, and policy developments

Each contribution makes a meaningful difference. Please donate to NLIHC today at [www.nlihc.org/donate](http://www.nlihc.org/donate).

Contact NLIHC's development team at [development@nlihc.org](mailto:development@nlihc.org) for donation questions or assistance.