

# NLIHC RESOURCES

*By Brooke Schipporeit, Senior Director of Field Strategy and Innovation, NLIHC*

In addition to the *Advocates' Guide*, NLIHC offers policymakers, tenant leaders, and other advocates additional resources to learn about affordable housing issues, easily take action on solutions, and get more involved with NLIHC.

Your first point of contact at NLIHC is the Field Strategy & Innovation Team's Housing Advocacy Organizer or Coordinator assigned to your state or region. These Field Team members serve as a direct resource for questions regarding advocacy, data, federal policies, NLIHC membership, and more. They also connect advocates with each other to build power and mobilize when there are key housing issues to be elevated.

Find your Housing Advocacy Organizer or Coordinator at <https://tr.ee/GFOiVI> or e-mail [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org) to learn more or to get involved.

## Deepen Your Engagement

### MEMBERSHIP

NLIHC is a member organization of over 1,000 dues-paying individuals and organizations. Membership dues are annual and pay-what-you-wish. Members receive specialized support from NLIHC staff, exclusive access to strategy and policy feedback discussions, and discounted tickets to NLIHC's annual Housing Policy Forum. Learn more about membership in *Make a Difference* or contact [membership@nlihc.org](mailto:membership@nlihc.org). Join today at [www.nlihc.org/membership](http://www.nlihc.org/membership).

### SPACES TO CONNECT FOR TENANTS, RESIDENTS, AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOUSING INSTABILITY & HOMELESSNESS

#### *Tenant Talk and Tenant Talk Live*

Tenant Talk is a biannual publication and Tenant Talk Live is a monthly meeting geared toward low-income

renters. This publication and meeting space provide low-income tenants and residents with updates about the policies affecting them, ways to 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 <https://tr.ee/ECmxHv>. To sign up for monthly Tenant Talk Live meetings, visit <https://tr.ee/Pjbjlj>.

#### *The Collective*

The Collective is a select group of tenant advocates and community leaders with lived experience of housing instability or homelessness. These individuals lead efforts in their communities to advance housing justice and racial equity. A new cohort of The Collective is selected each year through a formal application process. Cohort members work closely with NLIHC staff during their time in the cohort to advance affordable housing solutions that support the lowest income renters. People who complete a cohort experience with The Collective stay involved with NLIHC through its alumni network. Learn more about The Collective and other tenant resources at <https://nlihc.org/tenant-engagement-and-resources> or contact [ideas@nlihc.org](mailto:ideas@nlihc.org) for information about the next application process.

#### *Generation Housing Justice*

Generation Housing Justice is a new fellowship at NLIHC that equips young adults ages 18 to 24 for involvement and leadership in the national housing justice movement. A new group of fellows is selected through an application process each year. Fellows who complete the program stay involved with NLIHC through its alumni network. Contact the NLIHC Field Team to learn more about Generation Housing Justice at [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

#### *Training Institute for Tenants and Residents*

NLIHC's Training Institute for Tenants and Residents launched in 2025 to equip tenants and residents with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to protect

their rights, organize their communities, and influence housing policies. Learn more at <https://nlihc.org/training-institute> or contact [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## Events & Webinars

### ANNUAL HOUSING POLICY FORUM AND CAPITOL HILL DAY

The annual NLIHC Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day convenes community leaders, policy experts, researchers, tenant advocates, and more for thought and action partnership to end the affordable housing crisis. 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 making housing more affordable. The event concludes with NLIHC's annual Capitol Hill Day, which provides the opportunity for attendees to meet directly with their congressional offices to advocate for better federal policy. For more information, visit <https://nlihc.org/events> or contact the NLIHC Field Team at [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

### Webinars and Working Groups

NLIHC hosts a variety of virtual working groups and webinars, some of which are mentioned in other sections of this article. The best way to learn about the latest offerings is to subscribe to NLIHC's email list at <https://tr.ee/u5d5DZ>.

## Research on Affordable Housing Needs

### THE GAP

*The Gap* report is one of NLIHC's annual research publications, and it documents housing shortages and cost burdens for low-income renters in the 50 largest metropolitan areas. The report highlights the stark disparities between the needs of extremely low-income renter households and the number of units that are affordable and available to them.

The report also documents the number of additional affordable and available rental homes that are needed

to meet the needs of 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 this data to show the lack of housing affordability in their communities for households with low-income, including those living on low or minimum wages. For each jurisdiction, the report calculates the Housing Wage, 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 computed for a range of home sizes. *Out of Reach* is available on NLIHC's website at [www.nlihc.org/oor](http://www.nlihc.org/oor).

## Resources for State and Federal Advocacy

### HOUSED CAMPAIGN

The national HoUsed campaign works towards long-term, solutions that ensure everyone, including renters with the lowest incomes, has an affordable place to call home. To achieve this goal, NLIHC advocates for all levels of impact—federal, state and local—to bridge the gap between incomes and housing costs, expand and preserve the supply of rental homes, prevent evictions and housing instability, and strengthen and enforce robust renter protections. NLIHC convenes national HoUsed calls twice a month, during which advocates can learn more about efforts to advance housing solutions and how to take action. More information on the HoUsed calls and core pillars can be found at <https://nlihc.org/housed>.

### 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).

## **STATE AND LOCAL TENANT PROTECTIONS DATABASE**

The State and Local Tenant Protections Database provides information about protections passed or implemented that have assisted in preventing evictions and keeping renters stably housed. The database tracks state and local tenant protections passed since the onset of COVID-19 as well as specific tenant protections that were in place prior to 2021, such as right to counsel, source-of-income discrimination, eviction record sealing and expungement legislation, anti-rent gouging measures, and just cause eviction laws. The

database also identifies states that have preemption legislation in place. Learn more about the *State and Local Tenant Protections Database* at <https://nlihc.org/tenant-protections>.

## **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 a property's subsidies to its main address. The database can be found at [www.preservationdatabase.org](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://tr.ee/dPfNxZ>. An interactive Preservation Dashboard is available at <https://tr.ee/BqnIMU>, where users can access preservation data for states, counties, and congressional districts. For more information on the database, visit [www.preservationdatabase.org](http://www.preservationdatabase.org) or email [demmanuel@nlihc.org](mailto:demmanuel@nlihc.org) and [kmcelwain@pahrc.org](mailto:kmcelwain@pahrc.org).

# Opportunities for Non-Housers to Connect on Housing Issues

## **OPPORTUNITY STARTS AT HOME**

The *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign is a national, long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of the low-income people across the country. This campaign recognizes that an affordable home is central to other national priorities like health care, food security, education and more, and works with leaders in these other sectors to advance proven

solutions to ending homelessness and housing instability. Explore how outcomes in other sectors are intertwined with housing and utilize factsheets available to demonstrate this in your own advocacy at [www.opportunityhome.org](http://www.opportunityhome.org).

## **DISASTER HOUSING RECOVERY, RESEARCH, AND RESILIENCE**

The lowest-income people—including people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, people with limited English proficiency, and other individuals—are often hardest hit by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover. Despite the clear need, federal efforts frequently leave these survivors without the assistance needed to get back on their feet and their communities less resilient to future disasters. NLIHC aims to reform America’s disaster housing framework and advance housing justice through its work on disaster housing recovery, research, and resilience. Learn more at <https://tr.ee/MgrtG8>.

## **Election Engagement Opportunities**

### ***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 [www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/](http://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/).

## **Get More Involved in State-Level Advocacy**

### **NLIHC STATE AND TRIBAL PARTNERS**

State and Tribal Partners are NLIHC’s closest advocacy partners. Spanning across 46 states and the District of Columbia, these member organizations are independent housing and homeless advocacy organizations who serve states or particular geographic regions and prioritize advocacy for the lowest-income renters. NLIHC relies on these partners to inform NLIHC’s policy priorities and advocacy activities and to educate and mobilize their networks to take action. In return, these organizations receive specialized support from NLIHC. To find a list of State and Tribal Partners or learn more, see *NLIHC State and Tribal Partners* or email [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

## **Take Action on NLIHC’s Federal Policy Priorities**

### **ADVOCACY HUB**

The Advocacy Hub is a one-stop-shop for advocates to learn about and take action 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> or contact the Field Team at [outreach@nlihc.org](mailto:outreach@nlihc.org).

# Stay Informed

## EMAILS

Sign up to receive NLIHC emails for the latest federal affordable housing news, calls to action, and NLIHC events at <https://tr.ee/u5d5DZ>.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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](http://www.twitter.com/NLIHC).

**Instagram:** Follow @nlihc on Instagram for quick snapshots of information at [www.instagram.com/nlihc](http://www.instagram.com/nlihc).

**Facebook:** Like NLIHC on Facebook and get updates on the latest housing news and information at [www.facebook.com/NLIHC](http://www.facebook.com/NLIHC).

## BLOG

Check out NLIHC's blog On the Home Front, which features policy analyses from NLIHC 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).