



NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

# **Coronavirus and Housing/Homelessness**

Hosted by NLIHC and the  
Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition  
August 31, 2020

# Agenda



## Welcome & Overview

- Diane Yentel, NLIHC

## Updates on Disaster, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura

- Julia Orduña, Texas Housers
- Denise Galatas, Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.
- Renard Thomas, Reentry Alliance of Louisiana
- Andreanecia Morris, HousingNOLA

## California Wildfires

- Ilene Jacobs & Jeffery Hoffman, California Rural Legal Assistance

## Iowa Derecho

- Sara Buck, City of Cedar Rapids

## Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Framework for Racial Equity

- Sam Batko, Urban Institute

## Tracking Evictions & Displacement

- Noëlle Porter, National Housing Law Project

## Congressional Action on Next Emergency Spending Bill

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC
- Joey Lindstrom, NLIHC

## Next Steps

# Welcome & Overview



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: California Wildfires



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# Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Iowa Derecho



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# Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Framework for Racial Equity



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# Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index Tool

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..... INSTITUTE · ELEVATE · THE · DEBATE

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# Framework Partnership

- This tool is Urban's contribution to the Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response
- A partnership with:
  - Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness
  - National Health Care for the Homeless Council
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition

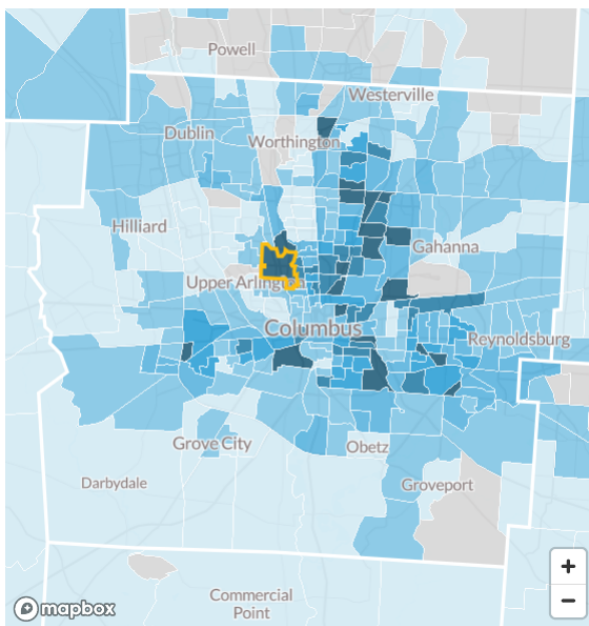
# Purpose of the Tool

- The goal is to guide communities in how and where to target rental assistance resources in a way that contributes to minimizing evictions and homelessness in a way that promotes racial equity.
- The tool identifies priority neighborhoods using several economic and demographic indicators to create an index score for each census tract in a county
- Primary audience is local government administrators of rental assistance, including heads and staff of community development agencies and housing authorities and community-based organizations

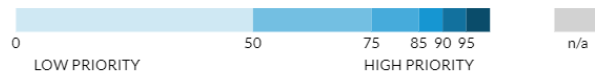


County

Continuum of Care



Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index percentile



Franklin County, OH



CENSUS TRACT 001122

in Franklin County, OH

300

ELI renters

**Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index: 95th percentile (among Ohio tracts)**

**Housing Instability Risk Subindex:** 96th percentile

*Shares of: people living in poverty, renter-occupied housing units, severely cost-burdened low-income renters, severely overcrowded households, and unemployed people*

**COVID-19 Impact Subindex:** 89th percentile

*Shares of: adults without health insurance and low-income jobs lost to COVID-19*

**Equity Subindex:** 89th percentile

*Shares of: people of color, extremely low-income renter households, households receiving public assistance, and people born outside the US*

*ELI renters = extremely low-income renters, or renters with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income*

# Index Construction

- Indicators chosen from literature identifying market-based indicators that correlate to homelessness rates & consideration for factors that may contribute to a household's vulnerability, particularly during COVID-19, including race, job loss, and health insurance coverage
- Display shows the overall index based on percentile of the tract within the state; expand to see values of sub-indices
- Weighting:
  - Weighted race 3x heavier within Equity index;
  - Weighted housing instability index as half of overall index

[urbn.is/neighborhood-rental-assistance](https://urbn.is/neighborhood-rental-assistance)



# Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Tracking Evictions and Displacement



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Noelle Porter, Director of Government Affairs

# 2-1-1 Explained

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# What is 2-1-1?

## 2-1-1 is a comprehensive source of locally curated social services information

Referrals are most often made for housing or utilities assistance; physical or mental health services; assistance finding and obtaining employment; and services to address and prevent homelessness. The 2-1-1 network also answers crisis hotlines including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

- 2-1-1 is available to 94.6% of the US population
  - In 2018, more than 12.8 million connections were made
  - Translation services are available in 180 languages
  - If you would like to ensure your services are included in your area's 2-1-1 resources, follow the instructions [here](#)

# Summary Data

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# Utilities and Rental Assistance

Pandemic Month 5



## Trending Housing Needs

- Calls for utility payments and rental assistance increased in month 5 of the pandemic
  - [Data from 33 states](#) shows
    - Major jump in utility needs as disconnection bans began to expire in some communities
    - Rental assistance calls rose after declining for 3 months, timed perfectly with federal and state eviction moratorium expirations
    - Landlord-tenant issue calls have been steadily increasing throughout (see [NHLHP report](#) on landlord harassment and other issues)

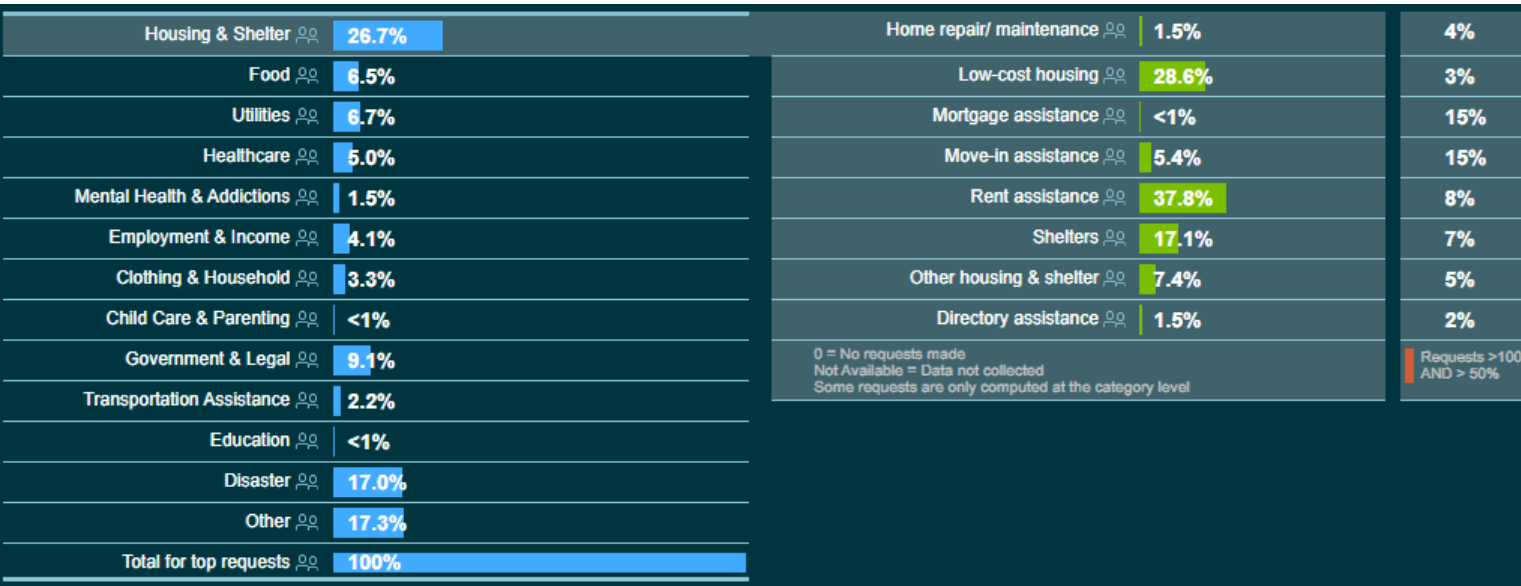
# Selected State Dashboards

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Data reported [here](#)

# Washington State

Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

























- Housing and Shelter calls are up 21% over this time last year (more than 8,000 calls in July)
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 26.7% of inquiries
    - More than 1/3 were requesting rental assistance
    - 17% needed information about shelter



# Iowa

Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

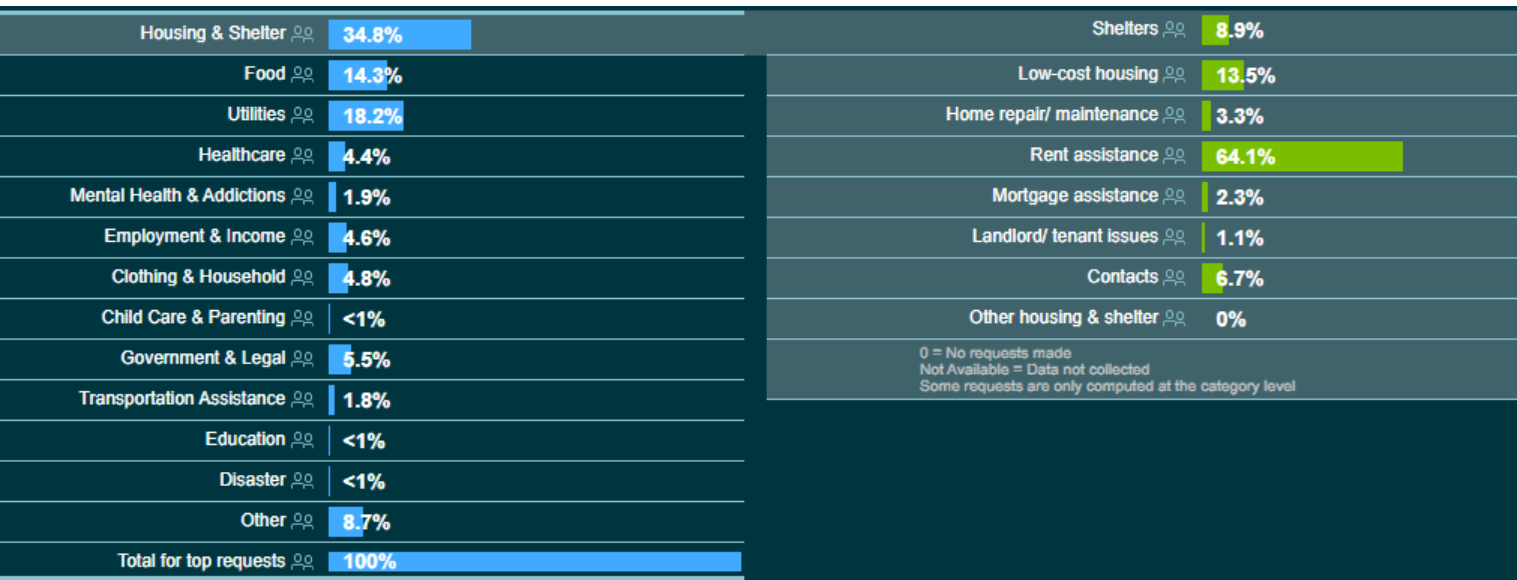
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Housing & Shelter 	12.3%	Shelters 	23.6%	7%
Food 	4.6%	Low-cost housing 	14.9%	2%
Utilities 	7.3%	Home repair/ maintenance 	5.8%	9%
Healthcare 	48.2%	Rent assistance 	52.0%	5%
Mental Health & Addictions 	<1%	Mortgage assistance 	1.0%	7%
Employment & Income 	13.0%	Landlord/ tenant issues 	2.1%	<1%
Clothing & Household 	2.4%	Contacts 	<1%	20%
Child Care & Parenting 	<1%	Other housing & shelter 	<1%	32%
Government & Legal 	2.8%	0 = No requests made Not Available = Data not collected Some requests are only computed at the category level		Requests >100 AND > 50%
Transportation Assistance 	1.4%			
Education 	<1%			
Disaster 	3.6%			
Other 	3.0%			
Total for top requests 	100%			

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 73% over this time last year – CALL CRAPO
  - Housing and Shelter was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most pressing issue for callers – representing 12.3% of inquiries
    - More than 50% were requesting rental assistance
    - 24% needed information about shelter

# Kentucky

[Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020](#) – Data from one of 3 state 2-1-1s



- Housing and Shelter calls are up 16% over this time last year
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 34.8% of inquiries
    - Almost 65% were requesting rental assistance – CALL MCCONNELL
    - Utility related calls saw a significant increase

# Virginia























Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

Housing & Shelter	23.0%	Shelters	21.6%
Food	9.4%	Low-cost housing	6.6%
Utilities	20.5%	Home repair/ maintenance	4.3%
Healthcare	6.2%	Rent assistance	54.7%
Mental Health & Addictions	1.4%	Mortgage assistance	<1%
Employment & Income	9.1%	Landlord/ tenant issues	1.2%
Clothing & Household	1.7%	Contacts	0%
Child Care & Parenting	<1%	Other housing & shelter	2.1%
Government & Legal	4.1%	0 = No requests made Not Available = Data not collected Some requests are only computed at the category level	
Transportation Assistance	1.3%		
Education	<1%		
Disaster	<1%		
Other	22.2%		
Total for top requests	100%		

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 120% over this time last year
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 23% of inquiries
    - Almost 55% were requesting rental assistance
    - 21% needed information about shelter

# Maine

Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

Housing & Shelter 	10.5%	Shelters 	19.0%	6%
Food 	3.1%	Low-cost housing 	24.7%	1%
Utilities 	6.1%	Home repair/ maintenance 	8.9%	5%
Healthcare 	33.6%	Rent assistance 	34.4%	3%
Mental Health & Addictions 	9.0%	Mortgage assistance 	1.4%	1%
Employment & Income 	5.8%	Landlord/ tenant issues 	4.3%	2%
Clothing & Household 	<1%	Contacts 	4.1%	1%
Child Care & Parenting 	<1%	Other housing & shelter 	3.1%	3%
Government & Legal 	9.5%	0 = No requests made Not Available = Data not collected Some requests are only computed at the category level		Requests >100 AND > 50%
Transportation Assistance 	1.2%			
Education 	<1%			
Disaster 	<1%			
Other 	19.7%			
Total for top requests 	100%			

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 72% over this time last year
  - Housing and Shelter was an important pressing issue for callers – representing 10.5% of inquiries
    - Almost 35% were requesting rental assistance – CALL COLLINS
    - 19% needed information about shelter

Questions?

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# Congressional Actions and Advocacy: Update from Capitol Hill



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# Congressional Actions and Advocacy: Needed Advocacy



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# Next Steps



# Resources

[Responding to Coronavirus  
\(https://nlihc.org/responding-  
coronavirus\)](https://nlihc.org/responding-coronavirus): Recommendations for  
Congress

[Coronavirus and Housing/  
Homelessness  
\(https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-  
housing-homelessness\)](https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-homelessness): National and  
Local Updates