



NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign for
Long-Term Housing Solutions

February 22, 2022

Agenda



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- Paul Kealey, NLIHC

“Build Back Better Act” Updates and Next Steps

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Election Guide for Homelessness Service Providers

- Sam Joel, US Interagency
Council on Homelessness

New Report: America’s Nonprofits Get Out the Vote

- Danny Navarro, Nonprofit
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Using Fact Specific Proxy to Determine ERA Eligibility

- Emma Foley & Sophie Siebach-
Glover, NLIHC

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- Tia Turner, Love Huntsville
- Ivy Vann, Congress for the New
Urbanism

Next Steps

Welcome & Updates

Paul Kealey

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“Build Back Better Act” Updates & Next Steps

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Election Guide for Homelessness Service Providers

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Voting While Homeless

Less than 10% of people vote while experiencing homelessness

BUT

People can vote without a permanent address, and homeless service providers can help!

New on usich.gov:

- [Step-by-Step Election Guide for Homeless Service Providers](#)
- [Step-by-Step Voting Guide for People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

New Report: America's Nonprofits Get out the Vote

Danny Navarro

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America's Nonprofits Get Out the Vote - Report Highlights

Nonprofit Landscape Summary

- Seven in 10 voters say nonprofits should offer voter support services like...
 - ◆ voter registration
 - ◆ election reminders
 - ◆ election day transportation
- Nonprofits effectively reach communities underrepresented at the polls
- Nonprofit voter engagement significantly boosts voter turnout

The evidence is clear – nonprofit voter engagement is broadly supported, reaches underrepresented communities, and boosts voter turnout to foster a more inclusive democracy.

Unanswered Questions

- How many nonprofits across the nation actually do voter engagement with the communities they serve?
- And equally important, who are the nonprofits that do voter engagement?
- What characteristics set them apart from the others?

This report sheds light on those questions using data from an Urban Institute survey of nonprofits nationwide in 2021.

Key Findings

- A fifth (20%) of all nonprofits surveyed said they did voter engagement “occasionally,” “frequently,” to “almost all the time.”
- Share of nonprofits doing voter engagement varies significantly depending on the *community served, programs offered, nonprofit leadership*, and other factors
- A third (29 to 37%) of nonprofits that serve historically underrepresented communities did voter engagement, including nonprofits that:
 - ◆ Primarily serve Black, Hispanic, or low-income communities
 - ◆ Provide services such as
 - job training and employment
 - food and nutrition
 - community improvement and capacity building
 - youth development

Key Findings

- Nearly half (38 to 50%) of surveyed nonprofits led by People of Color did voter engagement, including:
 - ◆ Nonprofits with majority People of Color boards
 - ◆ Nonprofits with CEOs of color, especially nonprofits with Black or Hispanic CEOs
 - ◆ Nonprofits with majority People of Color staff
- Other Key Findings
 - ◆ Is nonprofit urban vs. rural-based
 - ◆ Nonprofit's budget size
 - ◆ Nonprofit's lobbying or advocacy work

Based on our experience, these nonprofits may recognize the consequences of underrepresentation and seek to increase voter participation in the communities they serve as a route to positive change. They could also be a result of leadership more fully understanding and identifying with the needs of the community.

Will You Become a Voterized Nonprofit?

- Free resources are available for nonprofits looking to start voter engagement efforts
- Actions your nonprofit can take:
 - ◆ Host a National Voter Registration Day event
 - ◆ Provide your staff time to vote
 - ◆ Send election reminders
- Custom resources like trainings, in-person workshops, and webinars
- Foundations can be supported with toolkits and other resources

Thank You!

Using Fact Specific Proxy to Determine ERA Eligibility

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New Report

Implementing Fact-Specific Proxies in ERA Programs: Key Considerations and Lessons Learned

February 22, 2022

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Overview

IMPLEMENTING FACT-SPECIFIC PROXY IN ERA PROGRAMS:

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

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NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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What is Fact-Specific Proxy?



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Fact-specific proxy allows a program to use other facts to infer a household's income eligibility instead of using more burdensome income documentation. Applicants simply need to self-attest to their household income if they meet the proxy eligibility criteria.

Example: Households that reside in a zip code where the median renter household income is below 80% of the county's AMI are deemed income eligible.

Motivations for Incorporation



- Improve **application accessibility & decrease administrative burden.**
- Help achieve goals of **equitable distribution.**
- Provide documentation **flexibility while mitigating risk.**

Types of Proxies

- Types of proxies varied widely across programs, with all programs having to determine a data source and unit of analysis - typically geographic in nature.
- Programs determined proxies based off:
 - Data availability
 - Familiarity with data
 - Ease of integrating data into application



Lessons Learned



1. Test potential proxies on a sample of applications or administrative data prior to full implementation.

2. Use inclusive proxies applying to the largest number of potentially eligible renter households possible.

“Collecting wage statements, pay stubs, collecting 1040s... tax information, it’s an extremely onerous process for somebody recovering from disaster,” said a North Carolina administrator.

Lessons Learned



3. Integrate the proxy into applications to help automate income verification.

Massachusetts recently launched a centralized application process to ensure that the proxy is used as the initial income check before requesting additional documentation.

4. Offer proxies as the initial option for income eligibility to decrease documentation burden for applicants and to reduce the staff time spent processing income documentation.

Lessons Learned

5. Programs should be transparent about the availability of fact-specific proxy.

6. Programs should champion and promote their innovations to increase utilization among other program administrators.

KY's state program was an early adopter of fact-specific proxy. Program administrators publicly discussed the state's proxy, presenting at meetings with other ERA administrators and sharing information on how the proxy was constructed.

Primary Impacts



Decreasing processing times through application completeness.

Connecticut: As of December, 67% of applicants verified with fact-specific proxy. Previously, spent months going back and forth with applicants.

Denver, CO: Households diverted from eviction due to fast processing.

Primary Impacts



Increasing fund disbursement through faster processing times.

North Carolina: Fact-specific proxy core reason for 100% of ERA1 and 60% of ERA2 approved or paid as of January 2022.

Increasing application accessibility by decreasing administrative burden.

"We have absolutely seen more people get to the finish line faster...More people able to sit down and [apply] and get to their complete status," said a South Carolina administrator.

Next Steps

- Publicize use of fact-specific proxy!
- Conduct research on administrative burden.
- Integrate into other social assistance programs.

For questions regarding fact-specific proxy, email **research@nlihc.org**

Field Updates

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Field Updates

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Next Steps

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Resources

NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign
(nlihc.org/housed): Campaign
Updates