NLIHC’s HoUSed Campaign for Long-Term Housing Solutions

May 17, 2021
Agenda

Welcome
• Paul Kealey, NLIHC

Special Guests
• Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
• Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)

Update on Emergency Rental Assistance Programs
• Rebecca Yae & Neetu Nair, NLIHC

Field Update
• Arjuna Heim & Abbey Seitz, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice

Advancing Long Term Housing Solutions: Updates & Next Steps
• Sarah Saadian, NLIHC
• Jen Butler, NLIHC

Next Steps
• Karlo Ng, NASH
Welcome

Paul Kealey
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Special Guests

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Minnesota
United States Senate
Special Guests

Senator Patty Murray
Washington
United States Senate
Emergency Rental Assistance

Updates on tracking and initial findings
May 17, 2021

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Revised Resources

Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Programs

Use the search bar to find programs in your area. If you cannot find a city or county program, your state, territory, or tribal program may be able to serve you. If you cannot find any program in your area, call 2-1-1 or your local housing authority for assistance.

SEARCH STATE, TERRITORY, TRIBE, OR LOCALITY
Search for the city or county you reside in; if you don’t see a program for your locality, you should search for your state, territory, or tribe, as applicable.

Search...

346 programs were found.

Last updated: 5/14/21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State / Territory</th>
<th>Communities Served</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Program Status</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Emergency Rental Assistance Alabama</td>
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<td>Huntsville</td>
<td>City of Huntsville COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Monroe Chocow Housing Authority</td>
<td>Monroe Chocow Emergency Rental Assistance</td>
<td>Accepting applications</td>
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As of May 10th, NLIHC is tracking 972 programs, over 350 of which are from the Treasury ERA program.

The ERA Treasury program includes: 50 States + D.C., 382 cities/counties, 252 Tribal govts. and 6 Territories/Entities

Rental Assistance resources available at: https://nlihc.org/rental-assistance
**Latest Updates***

### ERA Treasury Programs in Database

| Jurisdictions Represented | 351 |

### Opened Programs

| State Programs | 47 |
| County Programs | 148 |
| City Programs | 44 |
| Territory/Tribal Govt/Other | 84 |

### Closed Programs

| State Programs | 0 |
| County Programs | 13 |
| City Programs | 4 |
| Territory/Tribal Govt/Other | 1 |

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50 **STATE**

216 **CITY/COUNTY**

85 **TERRITORY/TRIBAL GOVT.**

### Representing

$20.587 billion

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**Open**


**Not Yet Open**

- New York, North Carolina, and North Dakota: TBD
- Oregon: May 19th

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*Currently closed, may reopen*

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*NLIHC updates these numbers each week. If you are aware of a program not included in our database, please contact nnair@nlihc.org or rya@nlihc.org*
Key Issues in Programs

- Use of self-attestation
- Direct-to-tenant assistance
- Serving tenants with federal rent subsidies
Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Dashboard

- 351 Treasury ERA programs in database
  - Programs open or soon to open: 333
  - Programs closed: 18
  - Share of programs closed: 5.13%

- 152 Programs allowing Self-attestation
  - Self-attestation for COVID hardships: 110
  - Self-attestation for income: 40
  - Self-attestation for non-traditional income: 69
  - Self-attestation for housing instability: 30
  - Self-attestation for lease/proof of tenancy: 10

- 78 Programs allowing direct-to-tenant assistance

- 55 Programs with additional prioritization

Treasury ERA Dashboard available at: https://nlihc.org/era-dashboard
Resource Hub *(launching this week!)*

Includes forms/policies/procedures/sample language regarding:

1. Self-attestation
2. Direct-to-tenant assistance
3. Prioritization examples
4. Sample applications
5. Program dashboards
6. Evaluation report
7. Outreach tool-kits
8. ERA research and reports
Thank You!
Provisions for Survivors of DV, SA, & HT in HUD’s New Emergency Housing Vouchers Guidance

Karlo Ng
Director of Legal Initiatives
National Alliance for Safe Housing

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Who qualifies for EHVs?

• Individuals and families who are
  o Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking
    • Definitions are from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
    • SA and HT are not the same as DV
  o Experiencing homelessness
  o At risk of experiencing homelessness
  o Recently homeless and providing the voucher would prevent the individual’s/family’s homelessness or from having a high risk of housing instability
What’s different about EHV?

• PHAs are required to work with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and homeless services/victim service provider organizations as referral partners.
  o Eligibility of the 4 categories is determined by the CoC or other referral partners.
  o These relationships must be memorialized in MOUs.

• EHV can be used for new admissions and VAWA emergency transfers
What’s different about EHV$s$?

• $3,500 services fee per voucher to help participants access housing. Eligible uses -
  o Housing search assistance is required
  o Security deposit, utility deposit and arrears, rental application, and holding fees
  o Owner recruitment, outreach, incentive, and retention payments
  o Other eligible uses
    • Moving expenses
    • Tenant-readiness services
    • Essential household items
    • Renter’s insurance
Other waivers and requirements

• PHAs must have a EHV waiting list separate from HCV waiting list.
• Restrictions on denials of assistance
• PHAs can establish higher payment standards.
• Flexibility for participants to verify income and immigration status/SSN
• Initial search term = 120 days (instead of 60 days)
• Initial lease term can be less than 12 months
• No portability residency requirement. Participants can port anytime during the first year of EHV assistance.
• EHV do not renew after September 30, 2023
What needs to be done now?

• Deadlines are coming up quickly
• Immediate outreach and education to DV/SA/HT service providers and culturally specific organizations
• Fewer sexual assault and trafficking programs than domestic violence programs are part of housing and homelessness systems.
• NASH and partners are providing technical assistance, training, and support to PHAs, CoCs, DV/SA/HT service providers, and culturally specific organizations, to help bridge this gap.
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Field Update

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Hawaiʻi hoUSEd Campaign

May 17th, 2021 Presentation by Hawaiʻi Appleseed
FEDERAL ADVOCACY
What We’ve Heard from Hawai‘i Legislators

Support:
- NLIHC priorities & Infrastructure Bill goals
- Initiatives to improve long-term affordability
- Increasing funding for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants

Hesitancy:
- Funding for rental vouchers
LOCAL RELEVANCE
Affordable Housing Needs in Hawai‘i

"Affordable" = at or below 80 AMI

State of Hawaii
Resident Population: 1.4 million

Affordable Homes Needed by 2025: 26,000

Maui County
Resident Population: 167,000
Current Households: 53,560
Additional Affordable Homes Needed by 2025: 4,262

Source: Hawaii Housing Planning Study (2019)
Rental Assistance Programs

New Rent, Utility Relief Fund Maxes Out Applications Within Hours

The first round of applications has already closed. It’s unclear when the second round will launch.

By Christina Jedra / April 5, 2021

Within hours of Honolulu launching its new $114 million rent and utility fund, the city hit its application limit and stopped accepting new applicants, the city announced on Monday afternoon.

Low-income Honolulu residents who have been financially impacted by the pandemic were able to apply for relief at onoahu.org/renthelp starting at noon. But there were so many people in apparent need that the city almost immediately hit the maximum number of applications it is accepting in this first round of funding: 8,000.

Issue: 10% of Hawai‘i renters are behind on rent; demand for rental assistance far outweighs supply

Recommendation: More emergency relief for renters in the Infrastructure Bill
Unique Impacts to Native Hawaiians

- Native Hawaiians make up 20% of State population; over 50% of houseless community
- Increasing outmigration; over half of all Native Hawaiians live outside of Hawai‘i
Advancing Long Term Housing Solutions: Updates & Next Steps

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Advancing Long Term Housing Solutions: Updates & Next Steps

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HoUSed Campaign Media Toolkit

Amplifying through content creation, media outreach and messaging
INTRODUCTION

The HoUSeD campaign for long-term affordable housing will advance anti-racist policies and achieve the large-scale, sustained investments and reforms necessary to ensure that renters with the lowest incomes have an affordable place to call home. Bold policies are needed to ensure the most marginalized people in the U.S., especially low-income people of color, have safe, stable, accessible affordable homes.

To achieve this, we must:

1. Bridge the gap between incomes and housing costs by expanding rental assistance to every eligible household. Today, only one in four households eligible for rental assistance receives it. Learn more about how we can ensure rental assistance is universally available.

2. Expand and preserve the supply of rental homes affordable and accessible to people with the lowest incomes. There is no state or congressional district in America with enough supply of affordable housing for families with the lowest incomes. Learn more about ways to build and preserve affordable homes.

3. Provide emergency rental assistance to households in crisis by creating a national housing stabilization fund. Millions of households are one financial shock away from economic hardship that could quickly spiral out of control. Learn more about how we can stabilize households during a crisis.

4. Strengthen and enforce renter protections. The power imbalance between renters and landlords puts renters at risk of housing instability and homelessness. Learn more about how we can build power for renters.

Stay up-to-date on campaign news and events at nihc.org/housed

Be sure to direct your audience to the HoUSeD website for resources and information.
NATIONAL TALKING POINTS

Congress is working to enact an American Jobs Plan to invest in America, create good-paying jobs, combat the climate crisis, advance racial equity, and “build back better.” To achieve these ambitious goals, any comprehensive jobs package must advance bold housing solutions to ensure everyone has a stable, accessible, affordable home, starting with those with the greatest needs.

The HoUSed campaign’s top three priorities for the American Jobs Plan are targeted to serve America’s lowest-income and most marginalized renters:

- Expanding rental assistance to every eligible household.
- Investing $70 billion to preserve public housing.
- Providing $45 billion to build new homes and preserve existing affordable homes through the national Housing Trust Fund.

NATIONAL TALKING POINTS

- A major cause of today’s housing crisis is the fundamental mismatch between growing housing costs and stagnant incomes for people with the lowest incomes:
  - In the U.S., renters need an annual income of nearly $50,000 or $23.96 an hour on average to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment. This is far above the incomes of many working families, seniors, and people with disabilities.
  - Since 1960, renters’ incomes have increased by 5%, while rents have risen 61%.
  - In only 5% of all U.S. counties can a full-time minimum-wage worker afford a one-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.
  - There are no counties where a minimum wage worker can afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.

- An underlying cause of America’s housing crisis is a market failure that results in a severe shortage of rental homes affordable to people with the lowest incomes.
  - Nationally, there is a shortage of 2 million homes affordable and available to the lowest-income renters.
  - For every 10 of the lowest-income renter households, there are fewer than 4 homes affordable and available to them.
  - There is not a single state or congressional district in the country with enough affordable homes to meet this demand.

- Eight million of the lowest-income renters pay at least half of their incomes on rent, leaving them without the resources they need to put food on the table, purchase needed medications, or make ends meet.

For every 10 of the lowest-income renter households, there are fewer than 4 homes affordable and available to them.
RESOURCES

AMERICAN JOBS ACT/LEGISLATION

HoUSed Campaign Priorities:

- Expand rental assistance to every eligible household
- Invest $70 billion to repair public housing
- Invest $45 billion in the national Housing Trust Fund

The White House Proposal:

Included $213 billion for housing, including $40 billion to repair public housing, resources to support homeownership and weatherization, and new competitive grants to incentivize zoning and land-use reforms.

Housing is Infrastructure Act:

Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) released an updated discussion draft of this bill on April 12, which provides $70 billion to repair public housing and $45 billion for the HTF. It does not include an expansion of vouchers. For more information, see NLIHC’s fact sheet on the Housing is Infrastructure Act.

Letters of Support

National Sign On Letter:

Please sign your organization on to a national letter to urge Congress to support these investments and share with your networks.

Congressional Progressive Caucus endorsed the HoUSed campaign's three priorities for an infrastructure bill.

Dear Colleague Letter: Signed by 78 members of Congress and led by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY), calling on Congress to include the HoUSed campaign’s priorities in the American Recovery Plan.

Sign On Letters:

The letters are signed by 39 national cross-sector leading organizations in support of expanding rental assistance and investing in public housing and the national Housing Trust Fund.

- Letter to White House
- Letter to Congressional Leaders

8 million of the lowest-income renters pay at least half of their income on rent, leaving them without the resources they need to put food on the table, purchase needed medications, or make ends meet.
SHARE THE MESSAGE

Post on social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram). Use the hashtags
#HoUSed and #Housing4UsAll. It is helpful if you tag @NLHc in your posts and follow us for ideas on what to repost on your social media channels.

Go Viral –
Share the HoUSed images. Sample images and graphics for the campaign are included in this toolkit. Share the images with your social media networks and include information about your specific state.

Host tweetstorms and LIVE events on Instagram and Facebook – engage with your audience and amplify your messaging.

SOCIAL MEDIA SUGGESTIONS:

Post and re-post comments on campaign news throughout all your social media networks. Sample language and graphics are below. Consider pairing your posts with images for increased visibility, impact and engagement.

Bold policies are needed to ensure #Universal, #Stable, #Affordable housing for the lowest income and most marginalized people. #HoUSed #Housing4UsAll https://nlhc.org/housed

#DYK: Racial segregation & discrimination in housing are a major cause of racial inequity across all sectors of education, income, and more. Housing justice advances racial justice.

We need to bridge the gap to ensure #Housing4UsAll. https://nlhc.org/housed

To ensure the lowest-income people are #HoUSed we must preserve & expand the supply of rental homes across the US through investments in public housing & the national Housing Trust Fund. https://bit.ly/3gfQUho

Housing is health care. When we keep people #HoUSed, we prevent long-term health problems & promote healthy, productive lives. https://nlhc.org/housed

Millions of households are one financial shock away from eviction & homelessness. Everyone deserves a housing safety net; universal rental assistance for all eligible households would provide it. #Housing4UsAll. https://bit.ly/3auvF5P

#ICYMI Children learn better and are more likely to graduate when they are #HoUSed in stable, affordable homes. Learn more: https://nlhc.org/housed

We all deserve the opportunity to climb the income ladder and achieve financial stability. Housing assistance reduces poverty and helps keep low-income renters #HoUSed. https://bit.ly/3gfNASU

Congress must advance anti-racist policies and provide the large-scale, sustained investments and reforms needed to ensure renters with the lowest incomes have an affordable place to call home. #HoUSed https://nlhc.org/housed
THE HOUSED CAMPAIGN: KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

WASHINGTON, DC—Congress is working to enact an American Jobs Plan to invest in the workforce, combat the climate crisis, advance racial equity and “build back better.” To achieve these ambitious goals, any comprehensive jobs package must advance bold housing solutions to help ensure everyone has a stable, accessible, affordable home, starting with those with the greatest needs.

America is in the grips of an affordable housing crisis, most severely impacting the most marginalized and lowest-income people. Nationally, there is a shortage of 7 million homes affordable and available to the lowest-income renters. There are proven solutions that can address the affordability crisis, but current funding levels from Congress leave three out of four eligible households receiving no assistance at all. This eroded social safety net is what brought us to the brink of an eviction tsunami during a global health emergency.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLHIC) and [NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] urge Congress to repair the housing safety net and address the pervasive shortage of homes affordable to the lowest income renters by expanding rental assistance to every eligible household, investing $70 billion to preserve the country’s public housing infrastructure, and providing $45 billion to build new affordable homes through the National Housing Trust Fund to serve America’s lowest-income and most marginalized renters.

[INCLUDE QUOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR]

The Housing First campaign for long-term affordable housing advocates for four solutions to America’s housing crisis: expanding rental assistance to every eligible household; increasing the supply of affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes; providing emergency housing assistance to help stabilize families in a crisis; and strengthening and enforcing robust renter protections.

“Our first and best opportunity to advance some of these bold, long-term housing solutions is in the ‘American Jobs Plan,’” the infrastructure and recovery proposal from President Biden,” said NLHIC President and CEO Diane Yentel. “This infrastructure and recovery legislation is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in proven affordable housing solutions, including rental assistance, public housing, and the National Housing Trust Fund.”

An underlying cause of America’s housing crisis is a market failure that results in a severe shortage of rental homes affordable to people with the lowest incomes. In [STATE] there are [#] extremely low-income households but only [#] affordable rental homes available to them. The result is only [#] affordable and available rental homes for every 10 households with extremely low incomes.

Despite the clear and urgent need, only one in four households who qualify for housing assistance receives it due to decades of chronic underfunding by Congress. People of color — especially women of color — and other marginalized renters are most harmed by the housing crisis.

The American Jobs Plan proposes an historic $213 billion investment in the country’s affordable housing infrastructure. This investment must include the Housing First campaign’s priorities of $45 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund to build, preserve and rehabilitate apartments affordable to the lowest-
POINT OF CONTACTS:

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Next Steps

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Resources

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