



NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign for
Long-Term Housing Solutions

September 20, 2021

Agenda



Welcome & Updates

- Renee Willis, NLIHC

Advancing Long Term Solutions: Updates, Resources & Next Steps

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Rental Assistance Funding in the Build Back Better Plan

- Ann Oliva, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Field Updates

- Cathy Garcia, Chainbreaker Collective
- Brian Hanlon, California YIMBY
- Christine Hess, Nevada Housing Coalition

ERA Spending Tracking & Dashboard Updates

- Sarah Gallagher & Emma Foley, NLIHC
- Erin Kemple, Connecticut Fair Housing Center

Next Steps

Welcome & Updates

Renee Willis

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Advancing Long Term Housing Solutions: Updates & Next Steps

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Rental Assistance Funding in the Build Back Better Plan

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Field Updates

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Field Updates

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ERA Spending Tracking & ERASE Project Updates

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Emergency Rental Assistance and ERASE

Updates on tracking and ERASE cohort September 20, 2021

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Treasury ERA Implementation



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Treasury ERA programs in database

Programs open or soon to open **96.2%**



Programs closed **3.2%**



57.1%

Programs allowing at least one form of
self-attestation **?**

[See Programs](#)

Self-attestation for COVID
hardships **43.3%**



Self-attestation for income **16.1%**



Self-attestation for non-
traditional income **26.6%**



Self-attestation for housing
instability **12.9%**



Self-attestation for lease/ proof of
tenancy **7.5%**



27.8%

Programs allowing direct-to-tenant
assistance **?**

[See Programs](#)

36.3%

Programs serving households with
federal rent subsidies **?**

[See Programs](#)

48.4%

Programs covering other housing
expenses **?**

[See Programs](#)

Programs covering:

Relocation expenses **21.4%**



Late fees **17.1%**



Hotel/motel stays **7.7%**



Internet costs **25.0%**



Uncategorized housing
expenses **14.3%**



22.4%

Programs with additional prioritization
?

[See Programs](#)

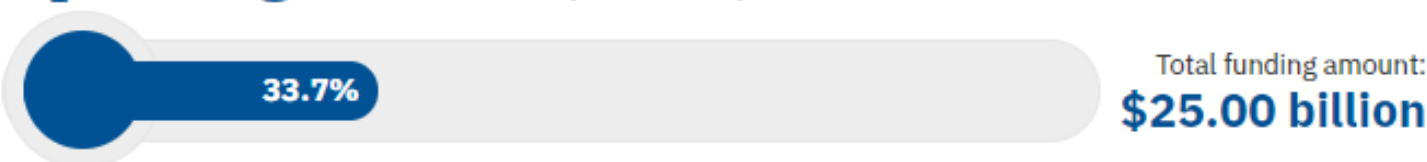
Link: nlihc.org/era-dashboard

NLIHC Spending Tracking



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Spending Tracker (ERA1)



Amount approved or paid to households: **\$8.41 billion**

NLIHC tracks data on ERA1 funds approved or paid to households from all 50 state ERA programs the District of Columbia's ERA program, and nearly 300 local ERA programs. The tracker includes information from (1) U.S. Department of the Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program Monthly Compliance Report and Quarterly Reports, (2) publicly available data from program dashboards, (3) data from communications with program administrators and advocates, and (4) news articles. Data is not yet available for ERA programs run by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, so the tracker does not include spending data from these grantees. This data will be added as it becomes available.

Additional data points and disaggregated spending and other data from state and local programs with ERA dashboards can be found [here](#) (see State spending rates in the third tab).

Link: nlihc.org/era-dashboard

NLIHC Spending Tracking



	Amount Approved (Obligated) or Paid (Expended) to Households (ERA1)	Total ERA1 Funding Amount	% ERA1 Approved (Obligated) or Paid (Expended) to Households
ALL	\$8,414,348,853	\$25,000,000,000	33.66%
STATE	\$6,288,341,174	\$18,363,466,728	34.24%
LOCAL	\$2,049,514,290	\$5,463,696,044	37.51%
TERRITORY	\$4,388,093	\$400,000,000	1.10%
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	\$72,105,296	\$560,834,564	12.86%
ENTITY	\$0	\$2,400,000	0.00%

Resources & Questions



NLIHC Spending Tracker

→ bit.ly/ERA-spending

Know of ERA dashboards not listed in the database?

→ Email research@nlihc.org and we will add it to the list!



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Ending Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions (ERASE)

Project Spotlight:

Erin Kemple, Executive Director
Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Inc.

ERASE Call to Action



To prepare for the end of the moratorium, NLIHC is asking state partners, local jurisdictions, and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) administrators to focus on three key areas to ensure that ERAP is **visible, accessible, and preventive**:

- 1. Visible:** Conduct equitable and robust marketing and outreach efforts to ensure that all landlords and low-income renters know about the Emergency Rental Arrears Program (ERAP) and how to access it in their community.
- 2. Accessible:** Support access to and disbursement of financial support to landlords and tenants by ensuring an accessible, streamlined, and low-barrier ERAP application process.
- 3. Preventive:** Prevent housing displacement by creating formal partnerships with your state and/or local court to support eviction prevention and eviction diversion in coordination with ERAP.

28 ERASE Cohort Members



- Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama
- Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
- CT Fair Housing Center
- Housing and Counseling Service of DC
- Empower DC
- United Community Housing Coalition
- Florida Housing Coalition
- Miami Workers Center
- Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.
- Hawai'i Appleseed Corporation
- Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy
- Housing Action IL
- Chicago Anti Eviction Campaign
- Prosperity Indiana
- Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- HousingLOUISIANA
- Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
- Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Hope Enterprise
- Nebraska Housing Developers Association
- Dataworks
- Housing Alliance PA
- Housing Network of Rhode Island
- Richland Library
- Texas Housers
- Utah Housing Coalition
- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
- Byrd Barr Place Seattle

Cohort Goals and Activities



Influence programs to accelerate use of funds

- **Convening partners to support program planning, design and** address system barriers in real time.
- **Educate program administrators and others** on emerging, innovative, and best practices.
- **Enhance marketing and outreach efforts** and center equity in program design.
- **Provide technical assistance.**
- **Build public and political will.**

Support eviction prevention and diversion

- **Advance strategies, legislation and policy** that promote tenant protections, eviction diversion and prevention.
- **Hold education sessions with court staff** to ensure they are up to date on eviction procedures.
- **Monitor and track eviction filings** and ensure eviction diversion policy is being implemented as intended.

Transparency through data

- **Create and utilize a data dashboard and/or program scorecard.**
- **Using data to develop and share best practices**
- **Conduct qualitative interviews, surveys. Story telling and other activities** to understand the impact of COVID 19, ERA and eviction prevention and diversion activities on low-income renters.

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ERA Spending Tracking & ERASE Project Updates

Erin Kemple

Executive Director

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Pandemic Effect on BIPOC

Presented by Erin Kemple

Executive Director



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Facebook: [ctfairhousing](https://www.facebook.com/ctfairhousing)

The Center and its work



- Statewide fair housing organization whose mission is to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to the housing of their choice
 - Fair housing enforcement
 - Education and outreach
 - Foreclosure prevention
 - Local, state, and national policy advocacy

Response to the pandemic



- Realized early that the pandemic would have a disproportionate impact on BIPOC and people with disabilities
 - More front-line jobs so higher likelihood of losing their employment
 - Higher rates of infection because of front-line employment and systemic racism in access to health care
 - More likely to be evicted as the result of income loss, etc.

Response to the pandemic



- Every response to every economic crisis resulted in BIPOC and people with disabilities losing income and wealth
 - Great Depression—redlining
 - WW II returning vets—BIPOC vets prevented from getting GI loans; prevented from living in public housing
 - Urban renewal—segregation of cities; disinvestment in public housing
 - Great Recession—BIPOC homeownership levels at lowest since Great Depression



4-part Strategy to Respond

Eviction prevention program



- Asked the Board to create an eviction prevention program using funds from the Center's reserve
 - Hired an attorney to handle eviction cases
 - Hired a tenant organizer to respond to issues on the ground
- Represented tenants being moved out
- Worked with grassroots organizations to propose and support right to counsel legislation

Education and Outreach



- Began sending daily, and then weekly, updates to more than 6,000 people that:
 - Called on government to respond to specific needs
 - Included information on available assistance
 - Gave details on what government is doing, i.e., unemployment, stimulus checks, Executive Orders, eviction moratorium, etc.
 - Included information from clients about what they needed

Education and Outreach



- Said yes to every request from media for an interview
- Spoke at numerous webinars and education events on the link between systemic racism and the pandemic
- Used social media to promote calls to action with community organizers
- Co-hosted remote town halls with legislators

Technology



- Created a rent recalculation request generator
 - Allowed tenants in subsidized housing to request a change in rent when they lost income
- Created an eviction database
 - Includes all filings and is updated daily
 - Searchable for issues like issuance of executions, number of tenants represented by counsel, etc.
- Used website and social media to highlight problems with government response or lack of response

Administrative Advocacy



- Participated in ESF-14 FEMA mandated committee to address housing issues facing low-income residents
 - Pointed out problems with ERA programs
 - Requested specific changes
 - Wrote an Op-Ed saying state response promoted segregation
- Used individual case representation, weekly update, and contacts within the State to speak to Governor's office, Department of Housing, etc. to ask for specific relief

Outcomes



- Eviction prevention program allowed us to link fair housing and eviction prevention
 - Gave us more information about how the pandemic was affecting BIPOC and people with disabilities
- Outreach efforts have brought more attention to the effect of the pandemic on BIPOC and people with disabilities
 - Still trying to design responses that emphasize equity
- Stronger voice in advocating for changes

Outcomes



- Right to Counsel passed the legislature
 - Tenants at 80% of State Median Income will be given an attorney when they receive a Notice to Quit
 - Funded at \$10 million a year for 2 years
 - Is being designed and implemented now
- Eviction database allows advocates to track number of eviction filings as well as specific issues like requests for execution, etc.

Outcomes



- Changes to emergency rental assistance programs
 - Asked for a better marketing program because program is not reaching people most in need—did not happen
 - Asked for more streamlined applications in accordance with Treasury guidance—partially successful
 - Requested higher payment amounts—successful
 - Asked for more money to go to housing counselors—partially successful
 - Asked that tenants get money directly—discussion ongoing

Lessons learned



- Outcomes were the result of years of work
- Media interviews allowed us to frame the issues as ones of equity and justice
- Outreach gave us a bigger voice
- Partnering with new organizations made us stronger and more responsive to our clients
- Having staff leading our response allowed us to respond quickly and effectively
- Staff is at capacity or overcapacity

Next steps—ERASE grant funding



- Continuing to meet with UniteCT administrators and other advocates to demand changes to the program to meet tenant needs
- Working to implement RTC as it was envisioned in the legislation
- Filing housing discrimination complaints against landlords who refuse to participate in the program
- Creating a front-facing dashboard that tracks evictions by race, national origin, and gender



Questions?

Next Steps

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Resources

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