

CAPITOL HILL DAY ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

MARCH 2025



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CAPITOL HILL DAY OVERVIEW



March 2025

Dear advocates,

In recent months, we have seen multiple attacks on HUD programs and staff. A sudden freeze on federal funding announced by the White House in late January – and then rescinded 48 hours later – created chaos and confusion. A hiring freeze and buyouts offered to federal employees threaten to further strain an already under-resourced and overworked staff at HUD, and the termination of federal diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility programs and policies undermine efforts to repair racial and social inequities in housing, making it impossible to truly end the housing and homelessness crisis. Going forward, we expect further attacks targeting mixed-status immigrant households, LGBTQ people, those experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized people.

Despite the chaos, we cannot lose focus. Millions of people rely on HUD programs to keep a roof over their heads, and thousands of communities depend on HUD funding for needed projects and services, like constructing new or preserving existing affordable housing, and providing shelter, housing, and wrap-around services to people experiencing homelessness. Millions more are struggling to make ends meet, and more people than ever before experienced homelessness in 2024 on any given night. Historic and ongoing discrimination in the housing and job markets have caused Black, Latino, and Native people, as well as people with disabilities, to be disproportionately represented among people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. These are the tragic, yet predictable consequences of decades of underfunding programs that help people find and maintain safe, stable housing.

But when we invest in solutions, we see results: while homelessness increased in 2024, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness **dropped by 8%** thanks to continued investments in successful programs that provide housing resources and support. And during the pandemic, Congress, as well as many state and local governments, passed unprecedented resources and protections to ensure people could remain in their homes. These investments worked – eviction filings dropped by more than half, and the number of people experiencing homelessness declined by 17%.

When we fight together, we win together. We have fought these battles before, and we have won; together, we must continue the vital work to ensure everyone has an affordable place to call home.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) welcomes advocates to participate in our Capitol Hill Day on Thursday, March 27. Together, we will defend vital programs and demand Congress advance the long-term solutions needed to address our nation’s housing and homelessness crisis. These solutions include ensuring rental assistance is universally available to all households in need; expanding and preserving the supply of homes affordable and accessible to people with the lowest incomes; creating permanent tools to prevent evictions and homelessness; and strengthening and enforcing renter protections.

This toolkit includes key resources to help you participate, including factsheets on NLIHC’s legislative priorities and resources to help you have a successful visit with your members of Congress.

Your voice and your story matter. It is important for policymakers to hear from you about why everyone needs a safe, affordable, accessible place to call home.

Thank you for your advocacy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Willis", is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Renee Willis
NLIHC Interim President & CEO

TOP PRIORITIES FOR CAPITOL HILL DAY 2025

In 2025, NLIHC urges all senators and representatives to:

1. Protect HUD staff and funding from attacks by Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Media reports that Elon Musk and DOGE plan to terminate half of all HUD staff. This would significantly harm the Department's ability to provide and oversee federal housing, community development, and homelessness resources to states and local governments, including resources to:

- Provide rental assistance to help low-income households afford their homes.
- Build and preserve affordable rental housing for low-income households.
- Address and prevent homelessness, which has reached its highest level on record.
- Operate and maintain public housing and other affordable housing for millions of seniors, people with disabilities, and families with young children.
- Revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, and improve community facilities, including infrastructure and services in low-income communities.
- Reform restrictive zoning and land use regulations that drive up housing costs.
- Investigate and enforce fair housing and civil rights laws.
- Rebuild housing and infrastructure after major disasters and mitigate future harm.

In late January, the Trump administration attempted to freeze all federal financial assistance, including funding for key HUD programs. While the administration rescinded its directive within 48 hours due to pressure from advocates and congressional champions, DOGE is now attempting to decimate HUD by terminating critically needed staff.

Without access to these funds - whether because the Administration freezes funding or DOGE terminates HUD staff - shelters would be forced to close their doors, communities will stop construction on new projects to build housing and community centers, households receiving rental assistance will face immediate rent increases and evictions, and communities, families and small businesses impacted by disasters will be unable to rebuild.

2. Support the highest level of funding possible in fiscal years (FY) 2025 and 2026.

Lawmakers have yet to finalize a long-delayed FY25 spending bill, and many Republicans in Congress are calling for deep spending cuts in FY25 and beyond. Congress has until March 14 to reach a final agreement on spending in FY25 or risk a government shutdown.

At this time, neither the House nor Senate versions of the FY25 spending bill provide enough funding to renew all housing vouchers. Under the House version, 330,000 fewer households would receive assistance, and 60,000 fewer households would receive assistance under the Senate version.

If lawmakers cannot reach an agreement, HUD programs could be at risk of a full-year continuing resolution (CR) that will not provide the resources needed to keep up with growing housing costs. Under a full-year CR, 330,000 fewer households would receive housing assistance. The funding shortfall could be so severe that some housing agencies would have no choice but to end families' ongoing assistance.

Advocates should urge their members of Congress to reject any attempts to cut or freeze HUD funding, and instead ensure the highest possible funding in FY25 and FY26, including:

- Full funding to renew all existing Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) contracts.
- Guaranteeing full funding for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people

experiencing homelessness.

- Ensuring full funding for public housing operations and repairs.
- Maintaining funding for HUD's Eviction Prevention Grant Program (EPGP).
- Additional funding for the competitive Tribal housing program, targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

3. Oppose harmful policies to restrict access to housing assistance.

Advocates should urge their members of Congress to oppose efforts to create new barriers to housing assistance, which would leave even more people at risk of housing insecurity and homelessness.

NLIHC expects the Trump administration to attempt to prevent access to housing assistance, including by proposing work requirements and time limits, or increasing cost burdens on HUD households. We anticipate the administration will seek to evict households with mixed immigration status, forcing them to choose between breaking up their families or facing eviction and possible homelessness. The administration has already announced that it will not enforce protections that ensure transgender people experiencing homelessness can access appropriate shelter and services.

These proposals will make it more difficult for people to access housing assistance and will harm the families and individuals who need assistance the most, including seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and individuals.

Imposing new time limits or work requirements, or increasing cost burdens on HUD households will not create well-paying jobs and opportunities for financial security; evicting households with mixed immigration status will not address the underlying systemic causes of our housing crisis; and denying trans people access to appropriate shelter and services will not create additional resources for our strained homelessness system. Rather, these proposals will only make housing insecurity and homelessness worse by cutting off access to needed assistance.

4. Oppose policies that undermine state and local efforts to address homelessness.

Advocates should encourage their members of Congress to oppose efforts to undermine proven, effective solutions to homelessness.

NLIHC [opposes](#) the **Housing PLUS Act** (HR 3405 in the 118th Congress) from Representative Andy Barr (R-KY). The bill forces HUD to divert funds away from successful local programs to outdated, ineffective, and costly strategies used by the federal government decades ago before bipartisan members of congress demanded better outcomes and greater accountability for homelessness spending.

NLIHC also opposes efforts to cut or restrict access to Medicaid, as currently being discussed as part of the budget reconciliation package. Medicaid provides critical supportive services, such as mental health and substance use counseling, to help unhoused people remain stably housed.

NLIHC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

NLIHC and our members, partners, and allies will continue building Congressional support for legislation to advance the long-term, large-scale investments needed to end homelessness and housing poverty.

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

[Eviction Crisis Act, Stable Families Act](#) (H.R.8327 in the 117th Congress) – Sens. Bennet (D-CO) and Young (R-IN) and Rep. Torres (D-NY). This bill creates a permanent program to provide emergency rental assistance (ERA) and housing stability services to renters facing temporary financial setbacks that put them at risk of housing instability, eviction, and homelessness. The bill builds on the success of the pandemic-era ERA programs that helped reduce eviction filings and keep households stably housed. The bill is supported by the Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign. After the Senate reintroduction, NLIHC will share a fact sheet on the bill with our partners.

[Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act](#) (S.1257, H.R.3776 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Van Hollen (D-MD) and Young (R-IN) and Reps. Neguse (D-CO) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA). This bipartisan bill provides 250,000 new housing vouchers and mobility counseling services to families with young children, helping them move to safe, affordable housing in communities of their choice, including areas connected to well-performing schools, well-paying jobs, healthcare services, and transit. The bill is supported by the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign. To learn more, see the factsheet on the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act.

[Choice in Affordable Housing Act](#) (S.32, H.R.4606 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Coons (D-DE) and Cramer (R-ND) and Reps. Cleaver (D-MO) and Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR). The bill expands access to affordable housing options by removing barriers to landlord participation in HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

[Yes In My Back Yard \(YIMBY\) Act](#) (S.1688, H.R.3507 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Young (R-IN) and Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Kilmer (D-WA). The bill requires HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grantees to report on actions taken to address zoning and land use barriers.

[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#) (S.1686, H.R.5940 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Schatz (D-HI) and Collins (R-ME), and Rep. Green (D-TX). The bill permanently authorizes the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and provides important safeguards and tools to help ensure that disaster recovery efforts reach the lowest-income and most marginalized disaster survivors.

[Fair Housing Improvement Act](#) (S.1267, H.R.2846 in the 118th Congress) – Sen. Kaine (D-VA) and Reps. Peters (D-CA), Schiff (D-CA), Evans (D-PA), Bonamici (D-OR), and Norton (D-DC). The bill protects veterans and low-income families from housing discrimination by expanding the Fair Housing Act to prohibit housing discrimination based on source of income and military or veteran status. To learn more, see NLIHC’s [factsheet](#) on the bill. Past versions of the bill were led by former Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

[Rural Housing Service Reform Act](#) (S.1389, H.R.6785 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Smith (D-MN) and Rounds (R-SD) and Reps. Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Cleaver (D-MO). The bill improves USDA rural housing programs and helps preserve affordability in rural communities. The bill preserves access to rental assistance, permanently authorizes preservation tools, and improves staff training and capacity, among many other reforms.

[Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act](#) (S.1557, H.R.3238 in the 118th Congress) – Sens. Cantwell (D-WA), Young (R-IN) and Reps. LaHood (R-IL) and DelBene (D-WA). This bill expands and reforms the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). NLIHC supports key reforms to better serve households with the greatest needs and those in rural and Tribal communities. For more information, see NLIHC’s [factsheet](#) on critical reforms to LIHTC.

[Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act](#) (S.2285, H.R.6949 in the 118th Congress) – Sen. Schatz (D-HI) and Murkowski (R-AK), and Rep. Waters (D-CA). The bill reauthorizes key tribal housing programs and includes reforms to expand local control of the programming, streamline environmental reviews for tribal housing projects, and incentivize private partnerships.

CRITICAL, LONG-TERM HOUSING SOLUTIONS

[Ending Homelessness Act of 2023](#) (H.R.4232 in the 118th Congress) – Rep. Waters (D-CA). The bill ensures rental assistance is universally available to all eligible households. The bill prohibits source of income discrimination to help increase housing choice and invests \$5 billion over 5 years in the national Housing Trust Fund to address the shortage of affordable housing and to combat homelessness. For more information, see Rep. Waters’ [factsheet](#) on the Ending Homelessness Act.

[Housing Crisis Response Act of 2023](#) (H.R.4233 in the 118th Congress) – Rep. Waters (D-CA). This bill proposes \$150 billion in critical investments to help renters with the lowest incomes afford the cost of rent. Investments include NLIHC’s top priorities: \$25 billion to expand rental assistance, \$65 billion to repair and preserve public housing, and \$15 billion to build rental homes for those with the greatest needs through the national Housing Trust Fund. If enacted, this legislation would amount to the single largest investment in affordable housing in our nation’s history, creating nearly 1.4 million affordable and accessible homes, and helping nearly 300,000 households afford their rent. For more information, see Rep. Waters’ [factsheet](#) on the bill.

[American Housing and Economic Mobility Act](#) (H.R.9245/S.4824 in the 118th Congress) – Rep. Cleaver (D-MO) and Sen. Warren (D-MA). This bill significantly expands investments on the national Housing Trust Fund and other solutions that would help millions of renters struggling to pay rent, and the over 770,000 people in the United States living with no home. The bill invests \$44.5 billion annually for 10 years into the Housing Trust Fund – enough to build and preserve almost two million rental homes affordable to people with the greatest needs. The bill expands fair housing protections; incentivizes communities to reduce zoning and regulatory barriers; provides significant funding to build and rehabilitate affordable homes in Tribal and rural areas; and allocates needed funding to make repairs to the nation’s public housing infrastructure.

TALKING POINTS

Bridge the gap between income and housing costs.

- A major cause of the affordable housing crisis is the growing gap between income and the cost of rent. Renters today need to earn nearly \$27 per hour to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at fair market rent without spending over 30% of their income on housing alone. The average renter earns just over \$23 per hour; the prevailing federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.
- Fourteen of the 20 most common occupations in the U.S. pay less than the \$27 per hour needed to afford a one-bedroom rental home. This accounts for 64 million people – 42% of the U.S. workforce.
- Because of decades of underinvestment, only [one in four households](#) eligible for rental assistance receives it, leaving the other 75% of eligible households to struggle to afford the cost of rent.
- A growing body of research finds that rental assistance can improve longer-term health and educational outcomes, increase children’s chances of long-term success, and increase racial equity.
- People of color, as well as people with disabilities, are most harmed by the housing crisis. Black households account for 13% of all households, but 26% of the lowest-income households and [37% of people experiencing homelessness](#). Households with members who have a disability requiring long-term care are [nearly twice as likely](#) to be severely housing cost burdened than households in which no one has a disability requiring long-term care.
- Find more talking points and resources [here](#).

Expand and preserve the supply of affordable, accessible rental homes for people with the lowest incomes.

- A root cause of the nation’s affordable housing crisis is the lack of safe, decent, affordable, accessible homes for people with the lowest incomes. Nationally, there are fewer than four affordable, available rental homes for every 10 households with the lowest incomes.
- Local zoning and land use reforms have an important role to play in increasing the supply of affordable housing for middle- and even low-income renters, but zoning and land use reforms alone are not enough to meet the housing needs of people with the lowest incomes.
- The private market cannot – on its own – build, operate, and maintain rental housing that is affordable to people who are paid the lowest wages. Instead, federal investments are required to increase and maintain the supply of quality, affordable homes, targeted to those with the most urgent housing needs.
- Increasing the supply of deeply affordable, accessible homes for the lowest-income renters helps alleviate growing rent pressure on people with higher incomes. Without additional affordable stock, millions of the lowest-income renters occupy units they cannot afford. A greater supply of affordable, accessible rental housing for those with the lowest incomes would allow these renters to move into affordable units, freeing up their original units for those who can better afford them.
- Find more talking points and resources [here](#).

Provide emergency rental assistance to households in crisis.

- Emergency rental assistance (ERA) programs played a critical role in preventing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing funds to help [over 5.3 million](#) renter households afford their housing

expenses and avoid eviction.

- Thanks to ERA and other COVID-era policies, eviction filings fell by more than half between the start of the pandemic and the end of 2021. These funds were also well-targeted to help those most at-risk of eviction, with [64% of recipients](#) identifying as extremely low-income.
- Nearly all of the 514 ERA programs launched during the pandemic have exhausted funds and closed their doors, despite clear and ongoing need: the number of extremely low-income renter households is growing, and median rents have skyrocketed around the country in recent years.
- Learn more about the continued need for ERA [here](#).

Strengthen and enforce renter protections.

- The power imbalance between renters and landlords puts renters at greater risk of housing instability, harassment, evictions, and homelessness, while also fueling racial inequity.
- Fewer than 3% of renters have access to legal counsel when facing eviction, compared to 81% of landlords. In communities with right to counsel laws, 86% of renters facing evictions remained in their homes, and eviction filings decreased by 10%.
- Discrimination by landlords against renters prevents households from utilizing federal, state, or local rental assistance, and is often a pretext for illegal discrimination against renters of color, women, and people with disabilities.
- Find more talking points and resources [here](#).

Oppose efforts to undermine proven solutions to homelessness.

- The most successful strategy to address homelessness is to provide access to safe, stable housing and voluntary supportive services, such as substance use and mental health counseling.
- This model - known as Housing First - has been shown to quickly end homelessness, increase housing and economic stability, and improve quality of life, among other outcomes. It is a strategy that is flexible and can be tailored to meet the unique short- and long-term needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Arresting or ticketing people experiencing homelessness is counterproductive, expensive, dehumanizing, and ineffective. These policies do nothing to alleviate homelessness because they do nothing to address the root causes of homelessness: the severe shortage of affordable, accessible housing available to people with the lowest incomes, and the growing gap between income and housing costs.
- Learn more about Housing First [here](#).

MEETING TIPS

Scheduling a Meeting

Advocates joining NLIHC's Capitol Hill Day will be assigned to a group from their state when possible. Each state group is typically headed by a State Captain, a representative from one of NLIHC's [State and Tribal Partners](#) who will be responsible for scheduling meetings with member offices (where applicable).

Advocates who do not have a State Captain or who wish to schedule their own meetings can use the tips below for scheduling a meeting with your elected officials.

- Request a meeting about two weeks in advance by phone or email using the Meeting Request Template that follows. Contact your [Field Team member](#) for help getting scheduler contact info.
- Ask to meet with the member of Congress or a housing staffer. *Note: Meeting with staff members can be just as good as or even better than meeting with the senator or representative. Staff inform members of Congress as they make decisions and likely have more time to explore the various issues you are discussing.*
- Share what issue you will be discussing, the number of people joining you, whether constituents will be joining, and your available times. Follow up as needed to ensure your request was received.
- Once the meeting is scheduled, confirm the building and room number, or if you are meeting virtually, what virtual platform will be used (i.e. a conference call, Zoom, Google Meet, etc.), the link or phone number, and any passcodes needed. Share this information with others attending your meeting.

Preparing for a Meeting

- Review the NLIHC talking points, data resources, and storytelling tips in this toolkit.
- Outline an agenda that includes the amount of time to spend on each section. You should include numbers and stories about the issues you are talking about where appropriate.
- If you are conducting a meeting with a group of advocates, you may want to assign who will discuss what, and who in your group will open, close, and deliver specific asks. Establish cues for when each person should speak.
- Do research on the person you are meeting with. For example, if you can say, "It's great to be meeting with you today. I was happy to see that the congresswoman received an award on a particular issue," it shows that you're interested in what they are doing, and not only looking for them to be interested in your issues. Additionally, knowing your legislator's past votes or general stances on housing policy will help you craft a more effective argument, if possible.
- Practice, practice, practice! Plan what you want to say and rehearse.
- Practice and test technology if meeting virtually.
- Gather materials you want to share with the office (in addition to factsheets and state-level data NLIHC will have available for you at the Housing Policy Forum).

Meeting Time!

- Dress professionally, and wear your Capitol Hill Day t-shirt if you have one (limited availability). If meeting virtually, avoid background clutter and/or noise.
- Be punctual—arrive 10 minutes before the start time.

- Open your meeting with introductions, including your connection to the state or district represented by the office you are meeting with, such as whether you are a constituent or your organization serves their constituents.
- Provide the elected official or legislative staff with the NLIHC materials and refer to those materials during your meeting. You can provide these materials via email ahead of time.
- Follow your agenda. If the staff member or your elected official does not have much knowledge of affordable housing challenges in your community, use this as an opportunity to educate them. Connect your work to the elected official's interests as much as possible.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, simply say, "I don't know. I will follow up with an answer."
- Always make a specific ask in your meeting using a question with a yes or no answer, such as, "Will you support increased investments in affordable homes for the lowest income renters in the federal budget?" If they say maybe, you can use that as an opportunity to follow up later.
- Ask if you or your group can take a picture with them to share on social media later!
- Thank the elected official or legislative staff for their time and consideration.

After the Meeting

Remember: The best advocacy focuses on sustained relationship building, rather than a single conversation.

- Tweet and mention (@) NLIHC and your members of Congress to thank them for the meeting, including a photo if you have one. Doing so publicly strengthens your relationship and reminds them about any commitments they made to you. Include the hashtag #NLIHCHillDay25.
- Share what you learned with your [Housing Advocacy Organizer](#) or other NLIHC staff at Capitol Hill Day. We are in a better position for our own advocacy when we know the outcomes of your meetings.
- Share about your meeting(s) with your network - including your members, your board, and your volunteers.
- Stay in touch by sending a follow-up email or thank you card to everyone you met with. You can also follow up to check in about the status of the request you made during your meeting.

MEETING REQUEST TEMPLATE

Below is an email template you can use to request meetings with your members of Congress. Please personalize the bold portions before sending an email. Also, please remove information that may not be pertinent to your meeting. Some House or Senate offices may have online forms for you to fill out, but most often sending an email to the office's scheduler is fine. To find who the schedulers are for sending a meeting request email, contact your [Field Team member](#) or email outreach@nlihc.org.

NOTE: This template was inspired by an example from our partners at RESULTS.

Email subject line: Request for meeting

Dear **[scheduler name]**:

My name is **[your name]** and I work at **[your organization]** OR I am a constituent of **Representative/ Senator [member of Congress's name]** and I live in **[insert name of community / city community/city]**.

[Insert details about your organization if applicable: In a couple of sentences, who are you and what is your mission?] I will be in Washington, DC, on Thursday, March 27, and request the opportunity to meet with the **Representative/Senator** as **his/her** schedule permits. There will be **[insert number of people]** of us attending the meeting.

I/We would like to speak with the **Representative/Senator** about practical solutions to housing instability and homelessness in the communities they represent. These solutions address both immediate and long-term needs.

I/We will also be willing to meet with staff if the **Senator/Representative** is not available. Thank you for considering this meeting request. **I/We** look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name]

[Insert your organization, if applicable]

STORYTELLING TIPS AND TRICKS

Storytelling can add emotional weight to your meeting and help form connections with lawmakers by pointing out shared values. It can also help lawmakers see how their policy decisions impact real people.

Elements of an Effective Story

- Describe your direct experience about the topic at hand, such as your time working at an organization that provides shelter for others, or what an affordable home means to you.
- Share your values that are informed by these experiences.
- Describe what needs to happen next—actionable steps that relate to your story—and emphasize that homelessness and housing instability are solvable!

Tips and Reminders

- The story you tell must be true, and it must relate to the topic at hand.
- Explain the impact of your experience.
- Keep it simple – don't overcomplicate it – and keep it brief (under 3-5 minutes)
- Don't explain a culture or community that is not your own. If you are telling someone else's story, make sure you have permission to share it.

Prompts for People with Lived Experience

- Describe your home and your living conditions.
- How did you get to where you are today as it relates to housing? If you've received housing assistance, how has it impacted your life?
- Describe how housing issues have played a role in the challenges you've faced and, if applicable, what you have accomplished as a result of securing a stable, accessible, and affordable home.
- What makes you proud to live in the place you call home?
- How would your community improve with more housing assistance available for households who are struggling?
- Describe your hopes for the future and how your home is a part of these hopes.

Prompts for Housing Services Providers

- Describe the community and the clients you serve.
- How has access to affordable housing, or a lack of access to affordable housing, impacted your community?
- What makes you proud of your organization's mission and the work you accomplish?
- How would more housing assistance improve your community?
- How have federal housing assistance and production programs enhanced your work?

Other Possible Prompts

- Why do you care about housing justice?
- Why did you join the organization you are representing?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Housing Needs by State:](#)

(Select your state and navigate to “resources tab” to find the following)

- State Housing Profiles include key data for each state, such as the shortage of affordable homes, housing cost burdens by income group, and the demographic makeup of extremely low-income renter households. This is a compelling factsheet to present to members of Congress and their staff.
- Congressional District Profiles include several dimensions of housing affordability for renter households in by Congressional district, the surrounding area, and the state. These are especially helpful in meetings with representatives who might not believe statewide data applies to their district.

[State Housing Preservation Profiles:](#) Preservation Profiles use data from the National Housing Preservation Database to provide an overview of the affordable housing inventory at the state level. Each profile features a graph depicting the number of affordable homes with subsidies set to expire in the near future. Use this data sheet to advocate for expanding investments to preserve these homes before many developments convert to market rents.

[The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes:](#) The Gap data demonstrates the gap between the number of renter households and the number of rental homes that affordable and available to them. It also breaks down the number of households who are cost burdened by income group. Much of this data is available on the State Housing Profiles.

[Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing:](#) Out of Reach shows that affordable rental homes are out of reach for millions of low-wage workers and their families. The report calculates the “Housing Wage” nationally and by state, metropolitan areas, and counties, demonstrating the estimated hourly wages full-time workers must earn to afford rental homes at fair market rent. State Reports with this data are available every state and their respective metropolitan areas and counties.

For more information, contact your [Field Team member](#) directly or email outreach@nlihc.org.

