NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

2027 HOUSING POLICY FORUM

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

MARCH 2-5 I WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

MARCH 5 I CAPITOL HILL DAY



NLIHC 2027 HOUSING POLICY FORUM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

NLIHC is strongest when people living on low incomes actively participate in all areas of our work, including the annual Housing Policy Forum in Washington, DC. Each year, a limited number of scholarships are provided for low income individuals to cover lodging and travel costs. For questions about this application, please contact membership@nlihc.org.

In order for your application to be considered, you must meet each of the following requirements by Dec. 21, 2026:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Identify as a low income individual who, without a scholarship, would not be able to attend NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum. *NLIHC strongly encourages those who work for member organizations to **explore all other options** to attend, in order to reserve scholarships for individuals who have no other options.*
- Be a current member of NLIHC, or a listed affiliate of an organization that is a current member of NLIHC. Contact membership@nlihc.org to verify your membership status.
- Have not previously received a scholarship to attend NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum.

Upon selection, all scholarship recipients:

- Must register and pay the $125 low-income rate to attend the 2027 Housing Policy Forum
- Must reserve and pay for their own travel to and from Washington, DC. If a recipient is unable to do so, they must request NLIHC to arrange their travel on their behalf.
- Will be eligible for up to $800 in travel reimbursement *after* the event concludes.
- Will receive one (1) standard room at the Washington Hilton for three nights (March 2-4).

Scholarships are very limited and in high demand. NLIHC will review all eligible applications and evaluate them based on the following criteria:

- How the applicant plans to connect the experience and learnings from the Housing Policy Forum back to their efforts to advance housing justice in their own community or region.
- How active the applicant is with organizing or policy advocacy, including leadership roles, in their own community or region.
- To what extent the applicant has been engaged with NLIHC in the past, including with their affiliated organizations.

KEY SCHOLARSHIP DATES AND DEADLINES

November 23, 2026: Scholarship application opens.

December 21, 2026: Scholarship applications due.

January 8, 2027: Initial scholarship recipients notified. Other applicants placed on a waitlist.

January 18, 2027: Deadline for initial scholarship recipients to register and pay the $125 Forum registration fee and to reserve and pay for their travel arrangements or request NLIHC to arrange travel on their behalf. After this date, those who have not met these terms will forfeit their scholarship to someone on the waitlist.

January 20, 2027: As needed, individuals from the waitlist are notified that they have been awarded a scholarship. Other waitlisted applicants notified that they will not receive a scholarship for 2027 Housing Policy Forum.

January 29, 2027: Deadline for final scholarship recipients (from waitlist) to register and pay the $125 Forum registration fee and to reserve and pay for their travel arrangements or request NLIHC to arrange travel on their behalf.

March 2-5, 2027: Housing Policy Forum takes place in Washington, DC.

March 19, 2027: Deadline for submitting travel reimbursement form.

APPLICATION GUIDE

This document is NOT the application. The application must be completed online via our SurveyMonkey link. This document provides an overview of the questions included in the application. Please feel free to use this document to help prepare your answers for the online application. If you have any questions, please contact membership@nlihc.org.

1. *Requirements for your application to be reviewed. Please read and select that you meet each requirement or will meet it by Dec. 21, 2026.

   ☐ I am at least 18 years old.

   ☐ I identify as a low income individual who, without a scholarship, would not be able to attend NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum. NLIHC strongly encourages those who work for member organizations to explore all other options to attend, in order to reserve scholarships for individuals who have no other options.

   ☐ I am a current member of NLIHC or I am affiliated with an organization that is a current member of NLIHC (contact membership@nlihc.org to verify your membership status).

   ☐ I have not previously received a scholarship to attend NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum.

CONTACT INFORMATION

2. *Name

3. *Address

4. *Email Address

5. *Phone Number

6. Organization Name (if affiliated with a NLIHC member organization)

7.*Emergency contact Name

Relationship **Phone Number**

TRAVEL PLANS

8. *Which nights of hotel stay are you requesting? Check all that apply:

- [ ] Tuesday, March 2 (check-in after 3pm ET)
- [ ] Wednesday, March 3
- [ ] Thursday, March 4 (check-out Friday, March 5 by 11am ET)
- [ ] None, I have other accommodations March 2-5.

9. Travel cost reimbursement for up to $800 will be provided to individuals for travel by plane, bus, vehicle, or rideshare to and from the Hilton with completion of the reimbursement paperwork.

- [ ] I choose to waive this travel reimbursement. I will not seek reimbursement for any travel expenses associated with this scholarship.

REASON FOR APPLYING

10. *Why do you want to attend the 2027 Housing Policy Forum? How will you connect this experience back to your efforts to advance housing justice in your own community or region? How will this experience make a transformative and long-term impact on your work as an organizer, leader or advocate? (Minimum 300 characters. Please do not use AI to generate your answer.)

11. *Do you have prior experience with advocacy as it relates to housing, homelessness, or tenant rights/ organizing? If so, please highlight some of the ways you have participated in this work and any groups you have been involved with, including leadership roles.

12. *Have you engaged with NLIHC before? Please check all that apply.

- [ ] I am a current NLIHC member
- [ ] I have attended NLIHC events (Policy Forum, regional convenings)
- [ ] I have participated in NLIHC webinars/ workshops
- [ ] I am involved with an NLIHC member organization
- [ ] I have read NLIHC reports and/ or publications
- [ ] I am subscribed to NLIHC's email list/ follow NLIHC on social media
- [ ] None of the above
- [ ] Other (please specify)

13. How did you first learn about this scholarship application?

- ☐ NLIHC email
- ☐ NLIHC virtual event
- ☐ Internet search/ NLIHC website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Friend, neighbor, or colleague (please share so we can thank them!)

14. Is there anything else we should know about why you are applying for this scholarship?

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Answers to Questions 15-21 are optional but help to assess whether the scholarship applicants reflect diverse identities and perspectives, including those impacted by affordable housing policies.

NLIHC is an equal opportunity employer. Consistent with applicable law, all qualified applicants will receive consideration for the program without regard to citizenship, gender identity or expression, immigration status, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, protected veteran or military status, race, ethnicity, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable local laws, regulations and ordinances.

15. Which best describes your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a/e.
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White / Caucasian
- ☐ Prefer not to share
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

17. Follow-up: If you answered yes to the previous question, can you list the accommodations you would need to fully participate in the Housing Policy Forum, including lodging accommodations? Note: We will do our best but cannot guarantee we can meet all accommodation requests.

18. What is your gender identity?

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Genderqueer or Non-binary
- ☐ Agender
- ☐ Other (specify here) _____

19. What is your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Gay or Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual or pansexual
- ☐ Asexual
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Prefer not to share
- ☐ Other (specify here) _____

20. What age range do you fall within?

- ☐ 18-24 years
- ☐ 25-40 years
- ☐ 41-55 years
- ☐ 56-64 years
- ☐ 65 years and older

21. Are you a person with lived or living experience of homelessness or housing instability, or do you identify as a low-income renter?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to share

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

22. *Please read the following expectations for those who are SELECTED to receive a hotel/ travel scholarship. Check the box to indicate your commitment to each should you be selected for a scholarship.

- [ ] I will register and pay the $125 Forum registration fee.
- [ ] I will attend all programming the week of the Policy Forum, including:

    1) Pre-Forum Tenant Sessions on Tuesday, March 2 (starting at 2pm ET) and Wednesday, March 3

    2) Forum sessions on Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4

    3) Capitol Hill Day on Friday, March 5 (concluding by 4pm ET or when you need to leave to travel home)

- [ ] I will reserve and pay for my own travel to and from Washington, DC. If I'm unable to do so, I will request NLIHC arrange my travel on my behalf.
- [ ] If I opt into the travel reimbursement, I will sign and return the separate Travel Reimbursement Terms agreement issued by NLIHC and complete and return an expense form with receipts by March 19, 2027 in order to receive the reimbursement.
- [ ] I understand the scholarship is for three nights of lodging at the Washington Hilton (checking in Tuesday, March 2 after 3pm ET and checking out Friday, March 5 by 11am ET). I will arrange and pay for my own lodging for any additional nights I plan to stay in DC.