

# MEMO OF MEMBERS

*The Weekly Newsletter of the National Low Income Housing Coalition*

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## NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

### Call for Co-Sponsors of H.R. 1213

With Congress convening after a two-week break, Members of the House of Representatives will be able to sign up as co-sponsors of H.R. 1213, the Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2013. H.R. 1213 would make modifications to the mortgage interest deduction and use the revenue raised as dedicated revenue for the National Housing Trust Fund.

The bill's sponsor, Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN), has sent a "dear colleague" letter to the Members of the House asking them to co-sponsor his bill.

Advocates are asked to contact their Member of Congress to request that they co-sponsor H.R. 1213.

To read Representative Ellison's "dear colleague" letter, go to <http://bit.ly/145DgU3> (PDF).

### United for Homes Campaign Schedules Webinars for Endorsers

The United for Homes Campaign has scheduled four webinars for campaign endorsers to provide detailed information to use as advocates for the campaign.

The first one, to be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 3pm ET, will offer endorsers a straightforward way to explain the proposal to modify the mortgage interest deduction and use the revenue raised to fund the National Housing Trust Fund.

To register for "How to Explain the National Housing Trust Fund and Housing Tax Reform in 3 Easy Steps" on April 10, go to <http://bit.ly/ZJ9JH4>. You will receive log-in and call-in information once you have done so.

Please save the date for our other webinars taking place in April and early May:

- Friday, April 19, 3-4pm ET: NHTF Regulations: How the NHTF Will Operate in Your State and Community
- Friday, April 26, 3-4pm ET: Making the Case to Realtors for the NHTF and Housing Tax Reform
- Friday, May 3, 3-4pm ET: Making Twitter an Effective Tool for Spreading the United for Homes Message

### Endorsers of United for Homes Campaign Exceed 1,000

The number of organizational endorsements of the campaign to fund the National Housing Trust Fund with revenue raised by modifying the mortgage interest deduction has reached 1,028 as of April 5, 2013. The 1,000th endorser was the Edison Housing Authority of Edison, NJ, recruited by Richard Brown of Monarch Housing Associates of Cranford, NJ.

To endorse the campaign, please go to <http://bit.ly/R4CZWo>.

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## FEDERAL BUDGET

### President Obama Scheduled to Release FY14 Budget Request; Sign-On Letters Continue to Circulate in House

The Administration will officially enter the FY14 budget debate when President Barack Obama release his FY14 budget request to Congress, expected on April 10. The request will come nine weeks after the statutory deadline for the President to submit his budget. HUD will hold a briefing on its budget request that can be viewed via webcast on April 10 at 3pm ET.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations continued planning their FY14 work. The House Committee on Appropriations extended its deadlines for Members to submit programmatic and language requests for the FY14 budget to allow further time to consider the President's budget release. The new deadline for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies subcommittee is April 22, and the new deadline for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies subcommittee is now April 17. The Senate Appropriations Committee also set its deadlines for Member budget requests; THUD subcommittee and Agriculture subcommittee requests are due on April 26.

Members of the House began circulating "dear colleague" sign-on letters in support of FY14 HUD and USDA budget requests the week of March 25 (see *Memo*, 3/29). Representative Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX) circulated a letter in support of funding for Rural Housing Service programs, including \$26 million for the Section 514 program, \$64.5 million for the Section 515 program, \$9 million for the Section 516 program, and \$907 million for the Section 521 Rental Assistance program. The letter closed on April 5.

Representative Jerrod Nadler (D-NY) is circulating a letter in support of "proper" funding for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance,

Project-Based Rental Assistance, and the Public Housing Operating and Capital Funds. The deadline for Members to sign onto the letter is April 10.

Representative Marsha Fudge (D-OH) is circulating a “dear colleague” letter supporting \$1.6 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships program in FY14. The deadline for Members to sign the letter is April 9.

Representatives Nadler, Joseph Crowley (D-NY), and Jim McDermott (D-WA) are circulating a letter in support of funding the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program at \$335 million. In their cover letter to Members, the Representatives acknowledge that advocates recommend funding the program at \$365 million.

Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI) is circulating a letter in support of “robustly funding” Homeless Assistance Grants. The letter deadline for Members to sign the letter is April 9.

Representatives Robert Brady (D-PA), Peter King (R-NY), Lou Barletta (R-PA), and Rep. Gibson (R-NY), Jim McGovern (D-MA), and Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) are circulating a bipartisan letter in support of funding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at \$3.3 billion. The deadline for the letter is April 10.

Additional Members of the House are expected to circulate letters during the week of April 8. Senators are also expected to start circulating “dear colleague” letters in the coming weeks.

Register for the HUD budget briefing webcast at <http://1.usa.gov/10klEe>.

View the House “dear colleague” letters at <http://bit.ly/145DDy4>.

## NLIHC to Present Webinar Briefing on President’s Budget Request

With President Barack Obama expected to release his budget on April 10 (see article above in *Memo*), NLIHC will hold a webinar on Thursday, April 11 at 2 pm ET to brief members on what the budget request means for housing programs.

The presentation will provide an overview of the HUD and USDA rural housing portions of the budget request. Members participating in the webinar will have the opportunity to ask questions about topics such as funding levels and the implications of policy provisions in the budget.

To register for the webinar, visit <http://bit.ly/16Cq9XW>.

## Sequestration Impacts Continue to Emerge

As sequestration implementation continues, reports of the negative impacts for low income households continue to surface. The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is collecting stories on impacts,

including housing impacts.

The Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum on April 4 regarding sequestration implementation. OMB urges heads of federal agencies to reduce negative impact in areas where discretion can be exercised in their budgets.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) issued a paper on April 2 on the impact that sequestration will have on HUD programs. CBPP estimates that HUD funding will be reduced by \$2 billion; this funding reduction will have serious impacts on low income families. CBPP estimates that 140,000 fewer households will be served by the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program, that public housing agencies will raise rents on tenants thereby increasing the rent burdens of low income household, and that landlords will be less interested in accepting households with Section 8 vouchers as tenants.

In its paper, CPBB also describes impacts of cutting Homeless Assistance Grants and the impact that sequestration cuts at HUD will have on the overall shortage of affordable housing.

On April 23 from 3-4pm ET CBPP will hold a webinar, “Housing Voucher Funding Shortfalls Due to Sequestration: What Advocates Need to Know,” describing the anticipated impacts outlined in the report and providing advocates and public housing agencies with strategies to mitigate harm to the low income household served by the voucher program.

View the CHN impact stories at <http://bit.ly/14TBODG> (PDF).

View the OMB memorandum at <http://1.usa.gov/14TBPaN> (PDF).

View the CBPP paper at <http://bit.ly/14TBSn3> (PDF).

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## DISASTER HOUSING

### Disaster Housing Assistance Program to be Reinstated for Survivors of Super Storm Sandy

HUD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on March 27 that the agencies will reinstate the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) for survivors of Super Storm Sandy living in New York.

DHAP-Sandy will provide temporary rental payments to landlords housing families displaced by Sandy. Families will not have to apply separately from other applications for assistance; FEMA will determine qualified households and refer them to HUD.

“This new program will allow displaced families now living from week-to-week to secure more stable housing. It is a better bridge from displacement to permanent relocation in their former homes. The Disaster Housing Assistance Program has supported over 30,000 families in past disasters and now after Super Storm

Sandy, it's important that displaced New Yorkers have the means to affordable housing while they search for a more permanent home," said Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) in a press release. "I am pleased that FEMA and HUD have stepped up to the plate to reinstate this critical program so that displaced individuals can move forward after Super Storm Sandy."

The temporary DHAP program was previously used to assist survivors of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav. More details about DHAP Sandy will become available in coming weeks.

## Survey Finds Housing Instability Two Years after Disaster Housing Assistance Program Ends

Two years after the DHAP-Katrina program ended, and seven years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many are still at risk of housing instability, according to a recent report. *The Study of Household Transition from the Disaster Housing Assistance Program Final Report* was prepared by Abt Associates for HUD and presents post-program results from DHAP-Katrina, a new approach to post-disaster housing assistance. The study's authors looked at how the type and duration of assistance, participant characteristics, and case management services contributed to housing outcomes. They also provide guidance about how to shape rental assistance and case management in future disaster housing assistance programs.

Thirty-six thousand households participated in DHAP-Katrina, joining the program in three phases starting in August 2007. The program was limited to households that had not previously been assisted by HUD programs and offered time-limited, declining rental subsidies and case management services. While households without permanent housing two years after the hurricanes were likely to be low income, DHAP-Katrina had no income limit. Phase 1 participants had declining rental subsidies per the program design, but Phase 2 and 3 participants received full subsidies throughout their enrollment, a decision, according to the authors, to "reduce any disincentive families may have had to leave their [temporary housing units], for which they had not been paying rent." In late February 2009, HUD announced that participants were eligible for the Disaster Housing Assistance Transitional Closeout Program (TCP) that would extend rental contributions through August 2009. At the end of DHAP-Katrina and TCP, staff helped potentially eligible participants apply for HUD Housing Choice Voucher assistance.

According to the study, DHAP-Katrina participants were primarily small households headed by people aged 25 to 54 at program entry, but also included small numbers of elderly people and young heads of households under age 25. Somewhat surprising, according to the authors, was that 27% of participants were single individuals under the age of 55. The median amount of assistance (DHAP-Katrina and TCP) was \$7,620 for Phase 1 participants and \$9,000 for Phase 2 and 3 participants. The later groups also participated in the TCP at

significantly higher rates --53% were still enrolled in August 2009 compared to just 10% of Phase 1 participants. The median length of participation did not vary by need (assessed by case management tier groups) but subsidy and hardship exemptions were highly correlated with length of stay: 85% of those that received first month subsidies of \$1,201 or more and 90% of participants that received hardship exemptions stayed longer than one year.

The survey also found that while 50% of Phase 1 and 41% of Phase 2 and 3 participants transitioned to HUD's voucher program, many DHAP-Katrina participants were still at risk of housing instability. Employment levels across phase groups were lower than at the onset of DHAP-Katrina, households had little or no savings (92% had less than \$500), and expenses were higher than before the hurricanes. The authors did not find evidence that the incremental rent assistance in Phase 1 negatively affected post-program housing outcomes. They also concluded that the zero rent strategy in Phase 2 and 3 did not seem to help people save money, possibly because even without the expense of rent, their incomes were too low to save after paying for other household expenses.

Most participants surveyed reported being in stable housing, but nearly one-fifth of all participants had to double-up or experienced homelessness in the past 12 months, a rate higher than the national average. Significantly more Phase 2 and 3 participants faced these issues (27% compared to 18%). Phase 1 participants who received a hardship exemption during their DHAP-Katrina participation but did not receive a voucher later were more likely to have experienced housing instability at the time of the follow-up survey. Voucher receipt was highly correlated with stable housing, controlling for other variables, but when asked to include utilities in their rent, 47% of assisted households and 40% of unassisted households still pay 50% or more of their income on rent and utilities.

Only 54% of Phase 2 and 3 participants (compared to 63% of Phase 1 participants) felt the case management services helped them get back on their feet. Fifty-seven percent of all participants were referred for help searching for housing but fewer than 20% received referrals related to financial security. Further, Phase 2 and 3 participants were less likely than their counterparts to receive referrals for accessing benefits, credit counseling and job training. The authors argued that while benefits and employment related referrals are outside of HUD's purview, future disaster assistance programs for similar populations must incorporate these efforts.

*The Study of Household Transition from the Disaster Housing Assistance Program* used data from administrative sources and two rounds of survey data, the first conducted by HUD as the program was ending and the follow-up survey conducted by Abt Associates two and half years afterward. The response rate for the initial survey was 48% and the follow-up survey, targeting those that had participated in the initial survey, had a response rate of 54%. To help account for non-respondents, responses were weighted using observable

characteristics and experiences that might affect outcome: age, race, receipt of SSI, gender and participation in the TCP. The authors acknowledged that survey results might be skewed; it is possible that the survey respondents had more stable housing since the program ended, as they were more easily located than non-respondents.

Access *The Study of Household Transition from the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP-Katrina) Final Report* at <http://bit.ly/16wSEUZ>.

## USICH

### USICH Introduces “Solutions Database”

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has launched a new solutions database on its website. The database includes more than 50 profiles of community-based practices and programs intended to prevent and end homelessness. Each profile includes ideas for implementation, information about results achieved through each practice or program, and links to additional information.

The database includes four different types of profiles:

- Evidence-based practices: practices that are supported by evidence from a body of research that consistently shows positive outcomes in different locations and environments.
- Promising practices: practices that have been implemented in multiple locations, and for which there is growing evidence that the practices result in positive outcomes.
- Model programs: programs that have been implemented in at least one community and have resulted in positive outcomes.
- Emerging approaches: programs and practices that appear to advance the goals described in *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness*, but are so new that there is not yet an evidence base to demonstrate impact.

The Solutions Database is “an evolving library of information,” and USICH intends to update it regularly with additional profiles as other promising models are identified.

Readers can access the database at <http://1.usa.gov/10jxj0T>.

## FROM THE FIELD

### Ohio Advocates Press for Fair State Taxes, Housing Trust Fund Dollars in Legislative Session

With Ohio’s biennial budget process scheduled to end in June, the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), an NLIHC state coalition partner, has prioritized Governor John Kasich’s (R) proposed tax reform package, expansion of Medicaid,

and revenue for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) as its leading legislative issues. COHHIO and its partners are hopeful their advocacy will lead to expanded programs and services that support Ohio’s lowest income people.

Included in Governor Kasich’s tax reform plan is a proposal to increase the oil and gas severance tax on high-volume horizontal wells, which would require the oil and gas industry to pay more of its fair share in taxes. The industry has contributed to population growth in eastern Ohio, as oil and gas industry employment has increased in the Utica Shale region. The resulting increase in demand for housing in this mostly rural area has forced rents higher and consequently has decreased the supply of affordable housing, especially for low-wage workers and fixed income renters. Much of the region already faced challenges to infrastructure, increased demand on social and public services, and environmental health concerns, compounding the housing affordability problems.

In March, COHHIO Executive Director and NLIHC board member Bill Faith testified before the Ohio House Ways and Means Subcommittee in support of a tax increase for the industry, but urged lawmakers to increase the rate beyond the governor’s proposal. The proposed 1% tax rate for gas would be the second lowest in the country, and the 4% rate for oil would be the sixth lowest. Mr. Faith advised lawmakers to reserve a significant portion of revenue generated from a tax increase for the affected region to address the demand for affordable housing and services.

COHHIO opposes certain parts of the governor’s tax reform plan, mainly his across-the-board income tax break for business owners and other individuals that primarily benefits wealthy Ohioans at the cost of critical state revenues. The tax cut would give middle income individuals \$144 a year, compared to \$7,777 for those with annual incomes of \$335,000. Tax cut proponents say the change will create jobs by providing small business owners the means to hire additional staff with funds gained through the benefit. However, advocates point to a similar 2005 state tax benefit that lawmakers claimed would create jobs, but the state actually lost 236,000 jobs while the national economy added more than 1.1 million.

COHHIO joins many other organizations in backing Governor Kasich’s plan to expand Medicaid coverage to adults making \$15,415 or less per year (138% of poverty) as provided for under the federal Affordable Care Act. This proposal would make an additional 578,000 people eligible for coverage and help many obtain behavioral health services. The plan also would boost the state’s economy by providing \$17 billion in federal funds, which would free up state and local dollars to help house people with disabilities.

Advocates are pleased with the governor’s decision to include full funding for the OHTF at \$106 million in his biennial budget proposal. Given the many new House and Senate members to educate, COHHIO kicked off 2013 with updated messaging and a new trust fund campaign slogan, “The Trust is a Must.” A new

campaign handout highlights the OHTF's effectiveness OHTF in communities across the state. Since 1991, it has provided emergency shelter for 133,000 households, helped finance the construction and rehabilitation of 56,000 units, provided supportive services to 105,000 households, given homeowner counseling and assistance to 28,000 households, and trained and provided technical assistance to 45,500 households. New materials show OHTF's ability to stretch scarce state dollars; for every \$1 allocated to it, \$6.23 is leveraged from other sources. The OHTF also is credited with the creation of approximately 10,000 jobs in 2009.

The Ohio House is expected to vote on the biennium budget in April. Advocates now are turning their attention to the Senate, which is expected to consider it in May and June.

"While there are provisions of Governor's Kasich budget we disagree with, including yet another income tax cut, we are pleased to stand with him in backing such critical initiatives as expanding Medicaid coverage and full funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund," Mr. Faith said. "The governor is demonstrating common sense, compassion, and courage, three things that are in short supply coming from our elected officials these days."

For more information, contact Suzanne Gravette Acker at [suzannegacker@cohhio.org](mailto:suzannegacker@cohhio.org).

## EVENTS

### Congressional Briefing on Family Homelessness Scheduled

The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness will hold a congressional briefing, "Exploring Child and Family Homelessness Across 50 States: the American Almanac of Family Homelessness," on April 16. The briefing will be held at 9:30 am in room 2168 of the Rayburn House office building.

Scheduled panelists are Dona Anderson and Matthew Adam of the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness; Joe Volk of Community Advocates; and Deborah Boone of the Parents and Students Succeed Project, Richland County School District One.

Panelists will present information included in the American Almanac of Family Homelessness, which "provides a comprehensive state-by-state analysis on family homelessness statistics, policies, and programming." Presenters will also discuss federal, state, and local policy initiatives aimed at ending family homelessness.

Readers can RSVP for the briefing at <http://bit.ly/16wWk9j>.

### Upcoming Webinar to Cover Ways to Address Needs of New Veterans

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will host a webinar, "Addressing Homelessness among

Veterans of Recent Conflicts," on April 18. The webinar will be held at 2 pm ET.

Scheduled presenters are A. Kathryn Power of SAMHSA; Susan Angeless of the Homeless Veterans Initiative, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; Stephen Metraux of the National Center for Homelessness; U.S. Department of Veteran affairs; and Stephen Peck of the United States Veterans Initiative. The presenters plan to discuss recent research findings and successful strategies for working with veterans of recent conflicts. Presenters will also discuss strategies for working with this emerging population implemented by the Homeless Veterans Initiative at the VA.

Readers can register for the webinar at <http://bit.ly/10jxQQv>.

For more information on the webinar, contact Kathleen Hess at (518) 729-1266 or [KHess@ahpnet.com](mailto:KHess@ahpnet.com).

### State of Homelessness in America to be Released; Webinar Scheduled

The National Alliance to End Homelessness will hold a webinar in conjunction with the release of its annual report, State of Homelessness in America, on April 9. The webinar will be held at 3 pm ET. Samantha Batko, Director of the Homelessness Research Institute at the Alliance, will discuss the findings of the report, which is to be released on the same day and will be available on the Alliance website at [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org).

The report includes national and state counts of people experiencing homelessness, as well as an examination of "rates of severe housing cost burden, unemployment, poverty and rental vacancy, as well as a variety of demographic factors of homeless populations, including doubling up and safety net benefits."

Readers can register for the webinar at <http://bit.ly/10jBeKZ>.

## RESOURCES

### MacArthur-Commissioned Survey Finds Public Attitude Shifting on Rental Housing and Housing Policies

Americans understand the importance of housing stability to communities and increasingly support rental housing and more balanced housing policies, according to a new survey commissioned by the John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation. *The How Housing Matters Survey* was conducted by Hart Research Associates to examine how Americans view housing in the aftermath of the housing crisis and how housing matters to their communities. On Wednesday, April 3, staff from MacArthur's Housing Matters program and Hart Research hosted a webinar to discuss the survey findings.

According to the survey, while 72% of renters still aspire to be homeowners, renting has become more appealing. Nearly half of current owners (45%) can see themselves renting at some point in the future and 61% of all respondents believe that “renters can be just as successful as owners at achieving the American Dream.” The survey also found that the public has a strong sense of how vital stable housing is in people’s lives and communities. Seven in ten believe that “ensuring that more people have decent, stable housing that they can afford” has a major impact on safety and the economic well-being of communities, children’s ability to do well in school, and families’ financial security.

While most surveyed feel stable and secure in their current housing situation, nearly half of all respondents (45%) have experienced a time in their lives when their “housing situation was not stable and secure.” According to Hart Research Associates’ Rebecca Nasser, these results show that housing instability is not reserved for just a narrow population, and nearly half of those surveyed personally know the anxieties associated with housing insecurity.

More than three out of four survey respondents (77%) believe the country is either in the midst of a housing crisis or that the worst is yet to come, a sentiment felt slightly more by renters and low income respondents. In order to further address the housing crisis, two-thirds of adults surveyed believe the national housing policy focus should be split more fairly between homeownership and renting. Respondents were provided information about current housing policy and demographic and lifestyle changes in the past few decades and in response, 69% of Democrats, 65% of Independents and 62% of Republicans believe the “focus of our housing policy should be fairly equally split on rental housing and housing for people to own.” These results were similar among all races, ages, and income levels. No specific policies were suggested, but according to Nasser, anecdotal evidence suggests homeowners know little about the particulars of the mortgage interest deduction.

The nationwide telephone survey of 1,433 adults (including 240 with only a mobile phone) was conducted between February 27 and March 10, 2013. Survey questions were informed by 10 focus groups, seven of which represented various segments of the general population and three conducted with public policy experts and social service practitioners.

Access the survey report, data and webinar presentation at <http://bit.ly/10jtAjl>.

## New America Foundation Event Discusses Great Recession and Homelessness

“The New Suburban Homeless: How Foreclosures and the Great Recession have Impacted American Families,” an event held by the New America Foundation on April 5, highlighted the struggles of newly homeless families in the suburbs of the United States. The event was a discussion centered on “The Weeklies,” an article

written by Monica Potts of *The American Prospect*. Participants in the discussion included Ms. Potts; Janis Bowdler, Economic Policy Director at the National Council of La Raza; and Reid Cramer, the Asset Program Director of the New America Foundation.

Ms. Potts began by briefly discussing her article, a chronicle of the challenges faced by two separate families that had become homeless as a result of a combination of an inability to afford rent and the impact of predatory lending practices. The discussion ensued with a description of tight rental markets, the lack of supply of affordable housing, and the need for government resources dedicated to those in need. Ms. Potts stated that in Jefferson County, Colorado, where the chronicled families reside, the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list is 2,500 households long, with only 30-40 spots opening up in any given year. The increased resources needed to serve the formerly stable new homeless families “drains resources for those most in need,” according to Ms. Bowdler.

The speakers also discussed tenants’ lack of understanding about their rights when a landlord goes into foreclosure. The federal Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA) ensures that most renters have the right to at least 90 days’ notice before being required to move after the property they live in is foreclosed on. The law is set to expire at the end of 2014 unless extended by Congress. Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are expected to soon reintroduce legislation to remove to sunset date altogether and add a private right of action to the law. NLIHC has endorsed the forthcoming legislation.

No formal policy recommendations were made by the speakers.

An archived webcast of the briefing and all briefing materials are available at <http://bit.ly/16CuhXZ>.

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## NLIHC NEWS

### 2013 Advocates’ Guide Available for Purchase

The *2013 Advocates’ Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy*, the latest edition of this National Low Income Housing Coalition classic, is now available for purchase. It is a compendium of all federal housing, community development, and related programs and issues with both current and historical information. Whether you are a new employee at a housing agency, a student in an urban planning program, or a seasoned affordable housing advocate looking for a refresher on key programs, this book will give you the overview of housing programs and advocacy tools you need to be a leader in the affordable housing movement.

To order a copy of the *2013 Advocates’ Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy*, please contact Christina Sin at [christina@nlihc.org](mailto:christina@nlihc.org) or 202-662-1530 x224. NLIHC members receive a discounted rate, and special bulk rates are also available.

NLIHC's *Advocates' Guide* is made possible by the generosity of PNC.

## NLIHC Seeking Applicants for Executive Assistant

NLIHC is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Assistant, who supports the President and CEO by providing a full range of administrative services, including logistical support for the Board of Directors and assistance to the Vice President of Operations.

Qualifications include highly developed organizational, administrative, interpersonal, oral and written communication skills; proficiency in all Microsoft Office software applications and experience in use of database applications; and a commitment to social justice. A bachelor's degree is required; non-profit experience is preferred. An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. The position is based in Washington, D.C.

Interested candidates should send their cover letter, resume, writing sample, and salary requirements to: Bill Shields, Vice President for Operations, National Low Income Housing Coalition, 727 15th Street NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, or to [bill@nlihc.org](mailto:bill@nlihc.org).

## NLIHC Welcomes New Members for March 2013

Welcome to these new members who joined in March 2013:

Carole Allegro, Bronx, NY  
Kevin Barrett, Needham Heights, MA  
Stephen Callahan, Washington, D.C.  
Emma Clifford, Pine Ridge, SD  
Joseph DeLuca, New York, NY  
Miranda Davis, Brattleboro, VT  
Terry Hill, Alexandria, VA  
Nancy Hood, Ann Arbor, MI  
Elizabeth Hope, Sarasota, FL  
William Hbranchak, Washington, D.C.  
The Lakota Fund, Kyle, SD  
Ralph Major, New York, NY  
Keith Massey, New York, NY  
People United Saving Humanity, Sanford, FL  
Derrick Perkins, Washington, D.C.  
Lorna Peterson, Buffalo, NY  
Alexander Salazar, Washington, D.C.  
Pete Schenck, Washington, D.C.  
Alexandria Sveum, Osage, IA  
Brian Thomas, Decatur, GA  
Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Burlington, VT  
Dalonda Walls, Buffalo, NY

## FACT OF THE WEEK

### Housing Assistance and Rent Burdens After DHAP-Katrina

	Assisted Households in 2011	Unassisted Households in 2011
Average monthly rent/mortgage	\$267	\$587**
Average monthly utility costs	\$271	\$250
Average gross rent/mortgage	\$538	\$837**
<b>Rent Burden</b>		
0-30% of income	73%	49%**
31-50% of income	17%	30%**
>50% of income	11%	22%**
<b>Rent and utility (i.e., gross rent) burden</b>		
0-30% of income	19%	31%**
31-50% of income	34%	30%**
>50% of income	47%	40%**

\*\*Indicates significant difference between assisted and unassisted households at 5% significance level. Assisted households are those that received assistance from HUD's Housing Choice Voucher and public housing programs.

Source: Buron, Larry and Gretchen Locke. (2013). Study of Household Transition from the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP-Katrina): Final Report. [Report prepared for HUD by Abt Associates]. Excerpts from Exhibit 6-6. Housing Costs by Housing Assistance Status. Retrieved from: <http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/destech/DHAPht>

## NLIHC STAFF

**Altha Arnold**, Research Analyst, x237  
**Megan Bolton**, Research Director, x245  
**Elina Bravve**, Research Analyst, x244  
**Sarah Brundage**, Communications Project Manager, x246  
**Amy Clark**, Communications Director, x227  
**Linda Couch**, Senior Vice President of Policy and Research, x228  
**Sheila Crowley**, President, x224  
**Ed Gramlich**, Director of Regulatory Affairs, x314  
**Ashley Juvonen**, Outreach Intern, x229  
**Mary Kolar**, Outreach Associate, x233  
**Linda Leaks**, Outreach Associate, x316  
**Joseph Lindstrom**, Outreach Associate, x222  
**Sham Manglik**, Policy Analyst, x243  
**Khara Norris**, Director of Administration, x242  
**Christina Payamps-Smith**, Policy Intern, x252  
**Olivia Posner**, Research Intern, x249  
**Melissa Quirk**, Senior Policy Analyst, x230  
**Christina Sin**, Executive Assistant, x224  
**Bill Shields**, Vice President of Operations, x232  
**La'Teashia Sykes**, State Coalition Project Director, x247  
**Kate Traynor**, Development Coordinator, x234  
**Rachel Turner**, Communications Intern, x250

## ABOUT NLIHC

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to achieving equitable federal policy that assures affordable, accessible, and healthy homes for the people with the lowest incomes in the United States.

Established in 1974 by Cushing N. Dolbeare, NLIHC educates, organizes, and advocates to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods for everyone.

## SPREAD THE WORD!

NLIHC membership is the best way to stay informed about affordable housing issues, keep in touch with advocates around the country, and support NLIHC's work.

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