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HoUsed Campaign

Congressional Appropriators Announce Progress Toward FY22 Spending Deal – Take Action to Advance the HoUsed Campaign’s Affordable Housing Agenda

Congressional appropriators in the House and Senate announced progress towards reaching a deal on a federal spending package for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The announcement came after a January 13 meeting between Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) and House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX).

While a final deal has yet to be reached, news of progress is welcome after a monthslong stalemate between Democratic and Republican legislators. Congressional appropriators have disagreed on overall funding numbers between defense and non-defense programs and on maintaining certain policy provisions included in the previous year’s spending bill. As a result of the stalemate, Congress has enacted a series of continuing resolutions (CRs), which maintain federal funding levels from the previous fiscal year to keep federal programs operating. The current CR is set to expire February 18, at which point Congress will need to pass an FY22 spending bill, enact another CR, or face a government shutdown.

The FY22 spending bill presents Congress with an opportunity to move our nation towards universal, stable, and affordable homes for all by making significant investments in affordable housing, including expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to an additional 125,000 households with low incomes. The House spending bill would fund HUD programs at almost \$7 billion above FY21 enacted levels and includes significant funding increases to nearly all HUD programs, including an expansion of rental assistance through the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program to an additional 125,000 households. The Senate proposal, however, would provide HUD with over \$1 billion less than the House proposal and does not include the major expansion of rental assistance.

It is vital that advocates urge members of Congress to enact a final spending bill that provides the highest possible funding for affordable housing and community development programs and includes the House proposal to expand rental assistance to an additional 125,000 households.

Take Action

The FY2022 appropriations bill must advance the HoUsed campaign’s bold agenda for affordable housing. We cannot let lawmakers pass up this historic opportunity to make desperately needed affordable housing investments.

[Contact your members of Congress today](#) and urge them to enact an FY22 spending bill that includes the major expansion of housing vouchers included in the House bill.

Join Today’s National HoUsed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing

Join today’s (January 18) national HoUsed campaign call from 2:30-4 pm ET. We will discuss the latest developments, negotiations and critical discussions happening on Capitol Hill around the “Build Back Better Act” and the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill, and what more advocates can do to ensure both bills provide essential investments in affordable housing. Kate Walz from the National Housing Law Project will provide an overview of how communities can use American Rescue Plan Act resources to meet the housing needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. We will hear the

latest on NLIHC's End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions (ERASE) project; receive updates from the field; and more.

Register for the call at: <https://tinyurl.com/ru73qan>

Recording Available of January 10 National HoUsed Call

On our most recent (January 10) national call on “HoUsed: Universal, Stable, and Affordable Housing,” we were joined by House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), who discussed the vital affordable housing investments in the “Build Back Better Act.” He stressed the importance of housing as a foundation for safety and success and emphasized the need for continued advocacy to ensure significant affordable housing resources are included in the Build Back Better Act and appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2022. “I encourage you to call on your senators to stand up and support making America’s greatness accessible and affordable for all by passing the Build Back Better Act,” said Majority Whip Clyburn.

NLIHC’s Sarah Saadian provided updates on the Build Back Better Act and congressional appropriations for FY2022. While Congress has temporarily shifted its focus to enacting voting rights legislation, the Build Back Better Act remains a high priority for congressional democrats. House and Senate Appropriators are also working on finalizing a federal spending bill for FY2022 before the current continuing resolution expires on February 18. Both the Build Back Better Act and FY22 appropriations bill present an opportunity for advocates to push Congress for significant investments in affordable housing programs, including expanding access to housing vouchers, obtaining funds to make desperately needed repairs to public housing, and constructing new affordable housing stock through the national Housing Trust Fund (see *Memo*, [1/10](#)).

Alayna Calabro, policy analyst at NLIHC, discussed new guidance from the Treasury Department on using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRFs) for affordable housing. Treasury issued on January 6 its [final rule](#) on the SLFRF program (see *Memo*, [1/10](#)). NLIHC’s Emma Foley presented the latest data from Treasury on emergency rental assistance (ERA) spending and provided details on the ERA reallocation process (see *Memo*, [1/10](#)). Alison McIntosh from Neighborhood Partnerships in Oregon and Paola Martinez from United Way of Metropolitan Dallas provided field updates.

NLIHC hosts national calls every week. Our next call will be today, January 18, at 2:30 pm ET. Register for the call at: tinyurl.com/ru73qan

Watch a recording of our January 10 call at: tinyurl.com/ycykmhzc

View presentation slides at: tinyurl.com/5n943vn9

Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness

House Financial Services Committee to Hold Hearings on Delivery of Disaster Recovery Assistance and Homelessness; NLIHC to Testify

The House Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing on January 19 at 10 am ET titled “Ensuring Equitable Delivery of Disaster Benefits to Vulnerable Communities and Peoples: An Examination of GAO’s Findings of the CDBG Program.” NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel will testify. The hearing will address a [study](#) released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluating how HUD uses Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to serve

vulnerable populations. GAO found that HUD does not collect the necessary data to fully analyze the extent to which grantees serve these populations. Read NLIHC *Memo*, [12/20](#) to learn more about the GAO report. Watch the January 19 hearing online at: <https://bit.ly/3JZLgMT>

In addition, the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance will hold on January 20 at 10 am ET a hearing, “Ending Homelessness: Addressing Local Challenges in Housing the Most Vulnerable.” Details of the hearing, including witnesses, are yet to be released. Watch the January 20 hearing online at: <https://bit.ly/3fbZgF0>

NLIHC’s [Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition](#) is a group of over 850 local, state, and national organizations that including many working directly with disaster-impacted communities and with first-hand experience recovering after disasters.

NHLP Publishes Newsletters on Housing Rights and Needs of Survivors of Violence during Pandemic

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) published two newsletters ([here](#) and [here](#)) on addressing the housing rights and needs of survivors of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [first newsletter](#), published in September 2021, features a Q&A for advocates about how survivors can access emergency rental assistance (ERA), including a list of eligible uses for ERA and a link to NLIHC’s [database](#) of ERA programs. The newsletter also outlines provisions of the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program established in the “American Rescue Plan Act.” EHV’s are targeted specifically to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and survivors fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

The [second newsletter](#), published in December 2021, provides details on the implementation and availability of EHV’s, including using EHV’s to facilitate an emergency transfer under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The issue discusses updated VAWA guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which has jurisdiction over federal rural rental assistance and housing development programs. The guidance reminds owners and operators of USDA-assisted housing of their obligations under VAWA and provides suggestions for ensuring VAWA protections are available to tenants.

Read NHLP’s first newsletter at: <https://tinyurl.com/28k4x6us>

Read NHLP’s second newsletter at: <https://tinyurl.com/36uwhke7>

HUD Inspector General Releases Audit of Houston Hurricane Harvey Recovery Funding

The HUD Office of the Inspector General (OIG) [released](#) an audit report detailing issues in distributing HUD Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds in Houston as the city continues to recover from 2017 Hurricane Harvey. Only 1.8% of grant funds have been spent, and only 297 out of 8,784 housing program participants have been assisted. HUD had previously designated the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the state agency in charge of distributing funding, as a “slow spender.”

According to the [report](#), the slow pace of recovery funding was the result of significant disagreements between the City of Houston and the GLO over the implementation of recovery programs, capacity issues within Houston city government, and the GLO’s failure to implement benchmarks to measure the pace of funds and

increase accountability. As a result, Houston risked missing HUD spending deadlines and potential recapture of the funds, which would have resulted in the city losing access to \$1.275 billion in disaster recovery grants. As a result of this disagreement, the GLO sought to take control over all funds being administered in the city, which would have resulted in additional delays. Instead, the city and GLO agreed to new terms providing the city with \$835 million in grant funds, with the GLO taking over the remaining \$440 million.

To prevent future issues, the OIG recommended that HUD require GLO to include milestones and accountability measures in future contracts between the office and municipalities, ensure that Houston residents whose assistance will now be handled by GLO instead of the city are assisted, and ensure that the City is able to meet future guidelines and requirements. In a [separate review](#) of HUD’s role in the situation, the OIG recommended that HUD create stronger reporting requirements and oversight mechanisms to ensure that states and municipalities that are experiencing difficulty spending CDBG-DR funds are flagged and assisted.

One reason that cities and states have difficulty implementing CDBG-DR programs is because of the program’s lack of formal authorization, requiring HUD to issue notices and regulations each time funding is approved by Congress. The ever-shifting nature of the rules and regulations prevent states and cities from creating consistent protocols to handle funds when they arrive.

Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Todd Young (R-IN), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the “[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#)” to permanently authorize the program. The bill is supported by NLIHC and its Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) – a group of over 850 local, state, and national, organizations working to ensure that all disaster survivors receive the assistance they need to fully recover. The bipartisan bill contains [critical reforms](#) proposed by DHRC members to help ensure the CDBG-DR program better serves disaster survivors with the lowest incomes and their communities.

Read the HUD OIG Audit of Houston Disaster Recovery Spending at: <https://bit.ly/3nrBY2m>

Read the HUD OIG Report on HUD oversight at: <https://bit.ly/3Ka3Dic>

Learn more about the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act at: <https://bit.ly/3KdcOOL>

HUD Publishes Notice Allocating Recovery Funding for 2018 and 2019 Disasters

HUD allocated over \$85 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds and over \$186 million in Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds on January 11. This allocation of funds, announced in notices in the *Federal Register*, is the last allotment approved by Congress through the “Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019.” That bill approved over \$2.431 billion in disaster recovery funds for disasters occurring in 2017, 2018, and 2019. HUD had previously allocated over \$2.15 billion from those funds in January of 2020, and the remaining funds are included in these two most recent appropriations.

The \$85 million in long term recovery CDBG-DR funds were allocated by HUD to cover remaining needs stemming from 2018 and 2019 disasters. Funds can be spent on a wide variety of activities provided they meet CDBG program requirements and address a disaster impact. Recipients include Hawaii (\$23 million); the Northern Mariana Islands (\$10 million); Texas (\$14 million); and Puerto Rico (\$36 million). A portion of each allocation must be spent within HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas.

The \$186 million in CDBG-MIT funding was allocated by HUD to states and territories that suffered from disasters in 2018 and 2019. These funds must be used for activities that increase resilience to disasters and

reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship by lessening the impact of future disasters. States and territories receiving funds include Alaska, American Samoa, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, the Mariana Islands, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. The largest share of the funds went to California, Florida, and North Carolina. Like CDBG-DR, a portion of each allocation must be spent within HUD-designated MID areas.

HUD's delay in allocating CDBG-DR funds is caused in part by the program's lack of formal authorization, requiring HUD to issue notices and regulations each time funding is approved by Congress. Representative Al Green (D-TX), and Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Todd Young (R-IN), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the "[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#)" to permanently authorize the program. The bill is supported by NLIHC and its Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) – a group of over 850 local, state, and national, organizations working to ensure that all disaster survivors receive the assistance they need to fully recover. The bipartisan bill contains [critical reforms](#) proposed by DHRC members to help ensure the CDBG-DR program better serves disaster survivors with the lowest incomes and their communities.

Read the notice for disaster recovery funds at: <https://bit.ly/33a2Ihb>

Read the notice for mitigation funds at: <https://bit.ly/3qpykbi>

Learn more about the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act at: <https://bit.ly/3KdcOOL>

Coronavirus Updates – January 18, 2022

National Updates

Biden Administration

The Biden administration announced on January 7 a [state-by-state breakdown of funding](#) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The administration is distributing an additional \$4.5 billion in funds to help low-income Americans cover heating costs. The funding boost, which is part of the American Rescue Plan, more than doubled LIHEAP funding.

Department of Treasury

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) released its [November ERA report](#) on January 7, announcing that state and local governments provided assistance to approximately 665,000 renters and landlords in November 2021, bringing the total number of ERA payments to more than \$3.1 million. Read [Treasury's press release](#) and [NLIHC's analysis](#) of the spending report.

Treasury released the reallocation amounts for [ERA1 Round 1 Reallocation](#) and [Voluntary Reallocation](#) on January 7, as well as updated forms relevant for the second round of reallocation:

- [Request for Reallocated Funds](#): Grantees that would like to be considered for additional ERA1 funds in the next round of reallocations must submit this form to Treasury's portal by January 21, 2022
- [Reallocated Funds Form with Exhibit C - Voluntary Reallocated Funds](#)

Treasury [published](#) on January 6 a [final rule](#) on the coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, along with an [overview of the final rule](#). The final rule presumes that an expanded set of households and communities are "impacted" and "disproportionately impacted" by the pandemic, allowing

recipients to assist a broad set of individuals and households without requiring additional analysis. Further, the final rule expands eligible uses of SLFRF funds, including increasing access to affordable housing development, permanent supportive housing, and other programs to improve access to stable, affordable housing for individuals who are homeless. See NLIHC's [Memo, 1/10](#) and [updated fact sheet](#) to learn more.

Reporting

State and local governments in November distributed the largest amount of emergency rental assistance (ERA) in a single month since the federal ERA program launched, the [Associated Press](#) reports. "Efforts by the Biden administration, advocates, program administrators, and others have significantly improved ERA programs and quickened the pace of ERA distribution, keeping millions of people stably housed," [said NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel](#). With improved results, however, come concerns that the \$46.5 billion ERA program will not reach all tenants who need assistance.

The [New York Times](#) reports that federal rental assistance funds are running out across the country, with millions of struggling tenants still in need of aid. New data from the U.S. Department of the Treasury underscore that the ERA program was never intended to be a long-term solution. Several states, including New York, Texas, and Oregon, have already distributed nearly their entire share of ERA.

[Forbes](#) reports some states – including New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Oregon – have stopped accepting applications for emergency rental assistance (ERA) since federal funds have been exhausted. The article provides information on how to find local ERA programs, linking to [NLIHC's ERA dashboard](#).

[Route Fifty](#) highlights Treasury's ERA reallocation process, reporting that about \$1.1 billion in federal rent relief funds will be redistributed. Most of the recaptured funds are being redistributed voluntarily within states, but some funds are being retrieved from states that did not meet the federal expenditure deadlines. The article links to [NLIHC's analysis](#) of the latest ERA spending data.

The [Associated Press](#) reports the Biden administration is distributing an additional [\\$4.5 billion](#) in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to help low-income Americans cover heating costs, with cold-weather states receiving the largest share.

State and Local News

California

The Department of the Treasury approved an [additional \\$68.7 million](#) in emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds for California. The statewide Housing Is Key program has received applications requesting \$4.2 billion more than California's original allocation, and this number does not include applications submitted to the many local jurisdictions running their own rent relief programs.

Connecticut

[Evictions are on the rise in Connecticut](#) as the state cuts back on staffing for its rental assistance program due to a lack of funding. Advocates fear the situation will worsen in February when an executive order issued by Governor Ned Lamont expires, reducing the number of days landlords must give tenants notice before evicting them to just three.

Louisiana

The U.S. Department of the Treasury approved a direct allocation of \$25 million in [reallocated federal ERA funds for New Orleans](#). The additional funds are from other parishes that did not meet the federal expenditure

deadline. City officials expect to receive the funds within a month and plan to begin distributing rent and utility payments immediately.

Michigan

The [Detroit Free Press](#) reports Michigan has received more than 173,000 applications for its COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program since launching in March 2021. Wayne County accounts for about one-third of those applications. According to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's [dashboard](#), 46% of applications for rent and utility assistance were approved as of January 7.

New York

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on January 11 that New York will [allow its eviction and foreclosure moratorium](#) to expire on January 15, but the state will once again let people apply for eviction protection and rent relief. [Dozens of faith leaders](#) called on Governor Hochul to extend New York's eviction moratorium through June.

[Law 360](#) reports State Judge Lynn Kotler [ordered](#) the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to reopen the application portal for the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), which stopped considering most new applications in mid-November as funds dwindled. Judge Kotler noted that ERAP applicants receive an automatic eviction stay while their paperwork is being processed. Tenants should "at least...have the benefit of being able to apply for ERA now and obtain their rightful place on a de facto waitlist," wrote Judge Kotler in the [three-page preliminary injunction order](#).

Pennsylvania

According to [Axios](#), Philadelphia is altering the city's eviction diversion program after closing its rental assistance program on January 7 due to low funds. Landlords seeking to evict will continue to be required to participate in the eviction diversion program through 2022, but there will be shortened mediation periods and opportunities to expedite the process.

[Eviction filings in Allegheny County](#) increased in November and December following the expiration of pandemic-related eviction moratoriums. Emergency rental assistance and a landlord-tenant mediation program have reduced the number of evictions, but funding for rent relief is dwindling.

Texas

Texas Housers is [tracking the progress](#) of state and local ERA distribution in Texas. [Texas Housers' ERA dashboard](#) displays information on program expenditures and recipient characteristics for state and local ERA programs in Texas.

Staff of the Travis County Commissioners introduced a [\\$1.6 million plan](#) on January 11 that would allow the county to expand its agreements with the Austin Tenants' Council, Volunteer Legal Services, and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid for two years. A significant portion of those funds would go towards hiring lawyers to help tenants navigate the eviction process. Commissioners asked staff to provide a side-by-side comparison of potential funding options, including from the American Rescue Plan or the general fund.

Washington

The [Spokane City Council](#) narrowly approved an ordinance on January 10 that prevents landlords from seeking to evict a tenant awaiting a decision on their emergency rental assistance (ERA) application. The protections for tenants seeking ERA will remain in place through 2022.

[Cowlitz County](#) approved a \$9.4 million contract with the Washington State Department of Commerce to administer the Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) 2.0 through June 2023. Over the last 16 months, the Lower Columbia Community Action Program has distributed about \$6.9 million in rent and utility assistance to more than 1,300 households.

Washington, DC

Washington, DC will receive [\\$17.7 million in reallocated](#) federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds. The money will flow to STAY DC, the District’s ERA program, which has disbursed \$352 million in funding to more than 23,000 residents.

Guidance

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- [Omicron Surge and Homeless System Response](#) – January 7, 2022

Department of the Treasury

- [Treasury ERA Program: November ERA Report](#) – January 7, 2022
- [Treasury ERA Program: ERA1 Round 1 Reallocation](#) – January 7, 2022
- [Treasury ERA Program: ERA1 Voluntary Reallocation](#) – January 7, 2022
- [Treasury ERA Program: Improving Access for Those with Limited English Proficiency](#) – January 7, 2022
- [Treasury SLFRF Program: Final Rule](#) – January 6, 2022
- [Treasury SLFRF Program: Overview of the Final Rule](#) – January 6, 2022

Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – January 18, 2022

Take action! To ensure more efficient and equitable disaster recovery, Congress should pass the “[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#)” ([S.2471/H.R. 4707](#)). The bill would permanently authorize the CDBG-DR program and enact critical reforms to help ensure that long-term disaster recovery funds are made quickly available after disasters and that all disaster survivors and their communities can fully and equitably recover. If you live in a state with a Republican senator, please [call them today](#) and urge them to cosponsor this important bill. NLIHC and Enterprise Community Partners are also circulating an organizational [sign-on letter](#) to congressional leadership in support of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. Sign your organization on to the letter [here](#).

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD [halted the distribution of \\$1.95 billion](#) in CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds to Texas following Hurricane Harvey because the Texas GLO failed to submit paperwork detailing how the funds would be spent to help individuals and communities at risk of natural disasters. Texas officials have 45 days to provide the information. Congressman Al Green (D-TX) released a [statement](#) disapproving of the Texas GLO’s mismanagement of the funds and urging the state to produce a meaningful plan outlining how the funds will support impacted communities

FEMA

FEMA is accepting public comments in response to its request for information on proposed changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. Here are links to a [brief comment template](#) and a [long-form comment](#). Comments must be submitted by January 27, 2022.

FEMA is updating the [National Flood Insurance Program's](#) (NFIP) risk rating methodology through the implementation of a new pricing methodology called [Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action](#). You can view [data that compares rate changes](#) from the new rating methodology to the legacy rating system in place since the 1970s.

FEMA announced on January 6 its [2022 traditional reinsurance placement](#) for the NFIP.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) announced on January 10 that at least 20 individual billion-dollar disasters occurred in the United States in 2021, the second-most on record. The [Washington Post](#) published an article on NOAA's findings on the 2021 billion-dollar disasters, highlighting that the Marshall Fire near Boulder, Colorado damaged or destroyed more than 1,000 homes and businesses.

Flooding

President Biden approved a [major disaster declaration](#) for the State of Washington to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by flooding and mudslides from November 13-15, 2021. The declaration makes FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) available to residents in Clallam, Skagit, and Whatcom counties and the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and Quileute Tribe. [HUD announced assistance](#) is available to affected individuals in the counties and tribes covered by President Biden's major disaster declaration.

Hurricanes

Some Louisiana residents displaced by Hurricane Ida, which hit the area in August 2021, are only now being [moved into FEMA mobile homes](#). As of January 10, about 7,500 Louisiana residents from over 2,600 households are residing in the roughly 3,000 RV trailers that FEMA and the state have set up. The trailers are part of Louisiana's state program, which is funded through FEMA but operated by the state.

More than four months after Hurricane Ida, some Terrebonne Parish residents are finally moving out of tents and into temporary housing. About [1,800 trailers](#) are set up in Terrebonne Parish and 3,000 across Louisiana. The demand far outweighs the supply of trailers, with nearly 19,000 people registered for the program.

The [Advocate](#) reports that almost a year and a half since back-to-back hurricanes devastated Lake Charles, nearly 2,000 households remain in FEMA-funded trailers and mobile homes. Most families will have to move out of the trailers on February 28, but the shortage of affordable housing is leaving many with no place to go. Many Section 8 and public housing units were severely damaged by the hurricanes and have yet to be repaired. The State of Louisiana requested a six-month extension and is awaiting a response.

“Unfortunately, I think what you’re seeing in Louisiana is the same thing that we see every time after a disaster, where you have a housing crisis before a disaster hits,” NLIHC Vice President of Public Policy Sarah Saadian told the [Advocate](#). “You immediately have less housing supply, landlords raising the rents, evicting people so they can raise the rents for the next person, and FEMA programs that don’t adequately address the needs, especially for low-income renters.” NLIHC is advocating for several policy solutions to address these issues, including the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act, which would provide a permanent funding process, and the use of the federal Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

FEMA also released an [update on federal support](#) provided to New York residents in response to Hurricane Ida.

Tornadoes

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear asked President Biden to extend the federal government's commitment to pay 100% of the cost of debris removal and emergency protective measures for an additional 90 days, but that request was denied. Instead, President Biden [amended the major disaster declaration](#) for Kentucky to make federal funds for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) costs available at 100% federal cost-share for a 30-day period of the state's choosing within the first 120 days of the declaration.

Governor Beshear announced on January 10 that he has [extended housing and food services](#) at state parks for tornado survivors for an additional 30 days. The parks are currently housing 480 displaced individuals in 177 state park rooms. "For those who are displaced because of the tornadoes staying in our state parks, we've got you," said Governor Beshear. "We are going to make sure that we can make that transition to semi-permanent housing and do it the right way. We are going to keep that housing available for at least another 30 days."

The Kentucky House Appropriations and Revenue Committee passed a bill on January 11 to provide [\\$200 million](#) in tornado relief funds. [H.B. 5](#) would provide \$45 million in immediate relief and \$155 million to be spent as needs are determined. The emergency funding would go toward temporary housing, transportation for displaced students, and wraparound services for students. Lawmakers are looking to fill in the gaps left in coverage offered by FEMA and insurance.

Wildfires

The Marshall Fire in Colorado [destroyed more than 1,000 homes](#) with a total value of more than \$500 million. As of January 6, the fire had burned 1,084 homes and damaged another 149 residential structures. Governor Jared Polis explained that there are [not enough available housing units](#) near the Marshall Fire area to rehouse everyone who lost their homes in the fire.

According to the [Colorado Sun](#), state officials and local organizations have been working to find more permanent lodging for the residents displaced by the Marshall Fire. A state recovery task force led by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management began meeting on December 31 and will be prioritizing emergency housing. Governor Jared Polis spoke with President Biden and a FEMA administrator about resources for medium-term housing for residents who want to keep their children in local schools before rebuilding destroyed homes.

Boulder County is partnering with the Boulder Area Rental Housing Association to offer a [list of housing resources](#) available to residents displaced by the Marshall Fire. Boulder County and a network of community partners opened a [Disaster Assistance Center](#) on January 3 to help people who were displaced by the fire by offering access to a range of services. Those impacted by the Marshall Fire are encouraged to visit [Boulder County's Marshall Fire webpage](#), which is also available in [Spanish](#), to learn about the recovery process and available resources for which they may qualify.

Upcoming Events

[NLIHC's Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice](#), taking place March 22-23, 2022, will feature a variety of interactive sessions with NLIHC experts, including one on Disaster Housing Recovery. Households with low incomes are frequently the most severely impacted by worsening climate-change-driven disasters, yet these households typically receive the fewest resources to help them fully recover. This interactive session with Noah Patton, NLIHC policy analyst for disaster recovery, will prepare participants to meet the challenges of short- and long-term disaster housing recovery. [Register for the forum today!](#)

Emergency Rental Assistance

More than 80% of Reallocated ERA Funds Remained in Same States during First Reallocation Round

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) [released new data](#) about Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) grantees that voluntarily reallocated their funds or had their funds recaptured and the programs that received those reallocated funds. The reallocation was the first of several rounds in which Treasury will recapture “excess” ERA1 funds from programs that did not meet required benchmarks, after which Treasury will reallocate those funds to programs with additional need. Due to the large amount of voluntarily reallocated funds, 81% of the funds reallocated by Treasury during this first round remained in the states in which they had been recaptured.

Treasury is statutorily required to reallocate ERA1 money from grantees with “excess” funds to grantees in need of additional resources. Grantees that did not obligate 65% of their funds and did not meet a 30% expenditure ratio by September 30 were determined to have “excess funds.” The expenditure ratio is the amount grantees have distributed divided by 90% of their total ERA1 allocation. The amount of funds recaptured was based on the difference between a grantee’s expenditure ratio and the 30% threshold. The expenditure ratio benchmark increases each month, and Treasury intends to reevaluate grantees’ expenditure ratios approximately every two months.

Treasury released updated reallocation documents that detail which grantees had funds [recaptured](#) and which grantees [voluntarily gave up funding](#), as well as where the funding went. More than \$1 billion was voluntarily reallocated, with \$875 million going to grantees in the same states and \$162 million going toward general reallocation. Another \$91 million was recaptured from grantees that did not meet the required expenditure threshold and did not voluntarily reallocate funds, making the total reallocation pool approximately \$1.1 billion. Wisconsin, North Dakota, Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee all voluntarily gave up more than \$100 million of their allocations. In North Dakota, which has no local grantees, the state relinquished a total of \$149 million from a general fund. In the four other states, the voluntarily reallocated funds went to local grantees within each state. Idaho, Montana, and Delaware had the largest amounts of funding recaptured involuntarily, with \$33 million, \$22 million, and \$11 million, respectively, being recaptured.

Because most of the reallocated funds were given up voluntarily during the first round, most of those funds remained in the same states. Only \$209 million of the more than \$1 billion in reallocated funds, or 19%, crossed state lines. This is promising for slow-spending states that were able to reallocate their funds locally, as many local grantees have been more efficient than their state counterparts in spending their allocations. As a result, spending may pick up in states like Georgia, Arizona, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, where large amounts of funding were reallocated within the state. The small amount of funds available for reallocation across state lines, however, meant that some states with significant needs received far less than they requested. [New York](#), for example, received only \$27 million, despite requesting \$1 billion, and [Texas](#) received nothing, despite requesting \$3 billion. Grantees that received less funding than requested may have the opportunity to receive additional funds in future rounds of reallocation, though it remains unclear how Treasury is prioritizing grantees in the reallocation process.

Congress

Representatives Waters, Cleaver, Torres, Ocasio-Cortez, and Dean Submit Letters Demanding Answers on Tragic Housing Fire Deaths

House Financial Services Committee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA) and members of the committee, including Representatives Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Richie Torres (D-NY), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Madeline Dean (D-PA), sent on January 13 [letters](#) to HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge and officials from New York City and Philadelphia after two fires in federally assisted housing located in the Bronx, NY and Philadelphia, PA killed 29 residents, including 17 children.

The letters presented six questions about HUD's and the city housing authorities' role in preventing and responding to the tragedies, and how HUD can improve the safety of federally assisted housing units. Despite failing a 2017 Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspection, the Philadelphia property did not receive a follow-up inspection, allowing the "life threatening fire safety violations" to continue unabated.

"Unfortunately, this tragedy highlights the unsafe and inadequate housing conditions that too many families currently face across the country and our nation's affordable housing crisis that forces families to accept such conditions," the letter stated. "However, it is egregious that preventable life-threatening events continue to happen in housing supported by the federal government. Every family should be able to live safely in their homes. This is a systemic issue that has a solution."

The members of Congress also discussed the housing provisions in the "[Build Back Better Act](#)," which would provide \$65 billion to make urgently needed repairs to public housing, \$1 billion to improve conditions in HUD-assisted multi-family properties, and \$1.75 billion to increase capacity for building inspections.

Read the press release and text of the letters at: <https://bit.ly/3nrLyCv>

Opportunity Starts at Home

Poll Shows Public Wants Housing Investments in Build Back Better Act

The Opportunity Starts at Home multi-sector affordable homes campaign released a [national opinion poll](#) that shows the public supports affordable housing investments in the "Build Back Better Act" by significant margins.

The poll found that:

- 74% of respondents support policies that expand investments in housing development programs that will build more housing units that are affordable for low-income people
- 70% of respondents support policies that ensure that families with young children who are receiving rental assistance can move from high-poverty neighborhoods to low-poverty neighborhoods that have less crime, better job prospects, and better schools
- 68% support policies that expand funding to provide critical infrastructure repairs to public housing units, addressing a \$70 billion backlog of needs that would improve the health and living conditions for millions of residents

The poll showed respondents want to see action taken to address the housing crisis even in the face of difficult trade-offs:

- A substantial portion of respondents said that the government should make major investments related to safe and affordable housing – even if it meant a national debt increase – 1.5 times more respondents than those who said that limiting the debt should be prioritized

- 6 in 10 (59%) respondents agreed that investing in federal housing programs is so important that we should consider things like raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy or cutting spending in other areas – 2.5 times the number of people (23%) who disagreed

Learn more about OSAH’s national poll [here](#).

Follow the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign on social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Be sure to [sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to get the latest updates about the campaign, including new multi-sector partners, [calls to action](#), events, and [research](#).

Research

Evictions Associated with Lower Voter Turnout

A new article in the journal *Politics & Society*, “[Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability](#),” examines the impact of evictions on voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election. The authors, Gillian Slee and Matthew Desmond, find increases in neighborhood residential evictions led to significant decreases in voter turnout, especially in neighborhoods where residential evictions were less common. Their findings suggest evictions had a significant impact on the 2016 election.

The study employed two large administrative datasets: one on evictions from Princeton University’s Eviction Lab and another on registered voters compiled by Labels and Lists. The data covered 82 million court-ordered evictions that occurred across 48 states and the District of Columbia from 2000 to 2016 and 94% of ballots cast in the 2016 election. The researchers aggregated the eviction and voter data to the census tract level to approximate neighborhood eviction and voting rates. They combined the eviction and voting data with tract-level data from the *American Community Survey* (ACS) to control for demographics, housing conditions, and material disadvantage. The authors controlled for population factors such as poverty, race, gender, education, and age, as well as housing factors like the percentage of residents in group quarters, tenure, vacancies, the percentage of newly built housing units, and general residential instability.

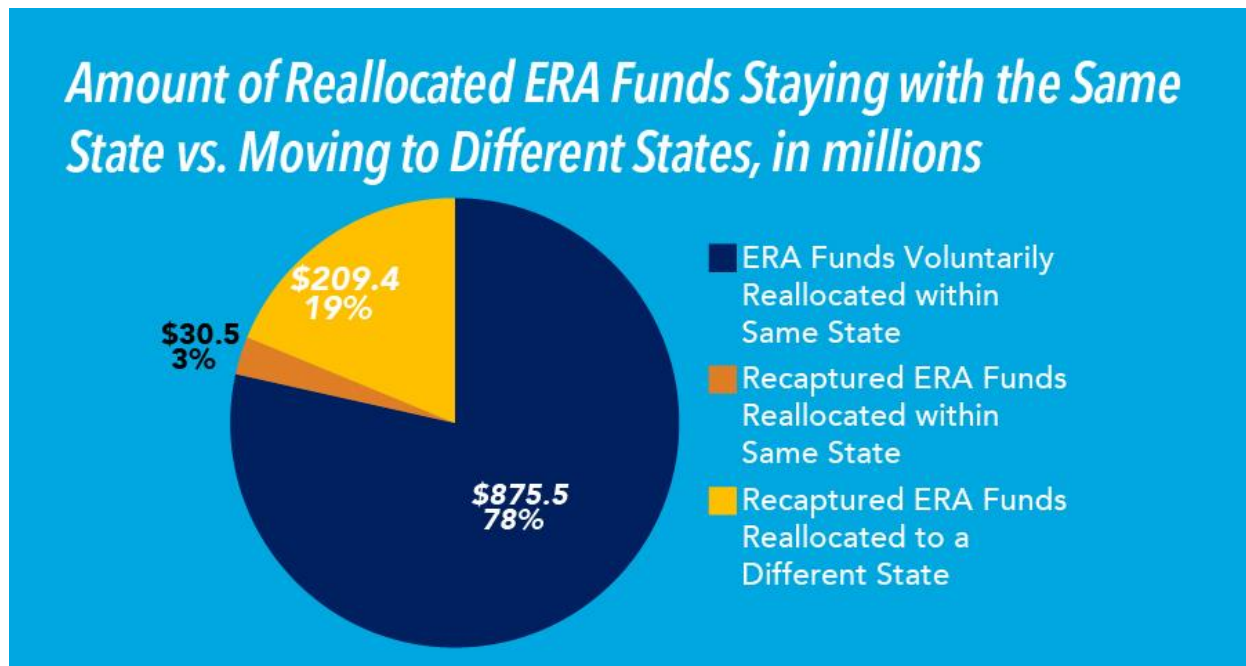
The study found a correlation between eviction rates and voter turnout. A one percentage point increase in the residential eviction rate was associated with a 0.46 percentage point decline in the voter turnout rate. The strength of the association varied across neighborhoods depending on their eviction rates. In neighborhoods with the highest rates of eviction, a one percentage point increase in the eviction rate correlated with a 0.39 percentage point decline in voter turnout, while a one percentage increase in the eviction rate correlated with a 5.54 percentage point decline in turnout in neighborhoods with the lowest rates of eviction.

The authors further examined how state and local voting laws might impact the relationship between evictions and voter turnout. The strength of the relationship between evictions and voter turnout was twice as strong in states with restrictive voting laws leading up to the 2016 election, while the relationship was statistically insignificant in states that implemented same-day voter registration. The authors suggest efforts to expand voting access have the potential to counter the negative impact of evictions on voter turnout, though they stress more evidence is needed.

To provide evidence of a causal relationship and not just a correlation between evictions and voter turnout, the researchers employed a procedure known as instrumental variable (IV) analysis. According to their IV model, a one percentage point reduction in residential evictions would have increased voter turnout by 2.73 percentage points in the 2016 presidential election. In six states, election results were decided by less than two percentage points.

Fact of the Week

Majority of Reallocated ERA1 Funds Remained in Same States rather than Moving to Different States



Sources: U.S. Department of the Treasury, ERA1 Voluntary Reallocation Voluntary Reallocation to Designated Entities; U.S. Department of the Treasury, ERA 1 Round 1 Reallocation



Sources: U.S. Department of the Treasury, ERA1 Voluntary Reallocation Voluntary Reallocation to Designated Entities; U.S. Department of the Treasury, ERA 1 Round 1 Reallocation

From the Field

New Jersey Landlord to Pay \$4.5 Million to Tenants He Sexually Exploited

A New Jersey landlord accused of coercing more than 20 tenants into sexual acts in exchange for housing has reached a [landmark \\$4.5 million settlement with the Department of Justice](#) (DOJ). Joseph Centanni, 74, owned hundreds of rental units in Elizabeth, NJ, many of which accepted Housing Choice Vouchers. Mr. Centanni collected more than \$100,000 a month through his participation in the voucher program. He has been accused of sexual misconduct by tenants and prospective tenants since 2005. This case is several years in the making. The process began with an investigation in 2019 by the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, followed by a federal civil suit filed by the DOJ in August 2020, criminal charges brought by local law enforcement in March 2021, and finally the settlement reached in December 2021.

[According to the suit filed by DOJ in 2020](#), Mr. Centanni demanded sexual favors from tenants who were trying to obtain or keep their housing or reduce their rent. In some cases, Mr. Centanni threatened tenants with

eviction after they rejected his sexual advances. The lawsuit is the result of a joint investigation by the HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office and the Office of the Inspector General. [A separate investigation conducted by the Elizabeth Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office's Special Victims Unit](#) found Mr. Centanni purposely targeted people who were financially struggling, extremely low-income, homeless, or facing eviction. The criminal charges brought by the Office of the Union County NJ Prosecutor include 13 counts of second-degree sexual assault, one count of second-degree attempted sexual assault, and 21 counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual contact.

[The terms of the DOJ settlement](#) reveal Mr. Centanni has sold all rental properties and is permanently banned from owning and managing rental properties in the future. Additionally, any housing court proceedings brought against victims will be dismissed if it is found to be retaliatory in nature. Furthermore, he will be required to take the steps to repair the credit of the victims. Once approved by the U.S. District Court of New Jersey, this will be the largest monetary settlement in a case dealing with sexual harassment in housing.

The DOJ lawsuit was filed based on Mr. Centanni's behavior being a violation of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits housing providers from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. In this case, the harassment was based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as Mr. Centanni targeted women and gay or bisexual men. The Fair Housing Act outlines two types of sexual harassment: quid pro quo and hostile environment. Mr. Centanni is accused of the former, which [is defined by HUD](#) as "harassment that occurs when a housing provider requires a person to submit an unwelcome request to engage in sexual conduct as a condition of obtaining or maintaining housing or housing related services."

"Unfortunately, this is not a unique case," said Staci Berger, president and CEO of the Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey. "There are similar stories across the country of vulnerable tenants struggling to get by, exploited and harmed by predatory landlords. It is appalling to see this happen anywhere, but especially here in New Jersey where it is already difficult to find an affordable place to rent. We applaud the DOJ for making an example of this deplorable individual. We hope it will send a message that sexual harassment and predatory behavior will not be tolerated and there will be consequences."

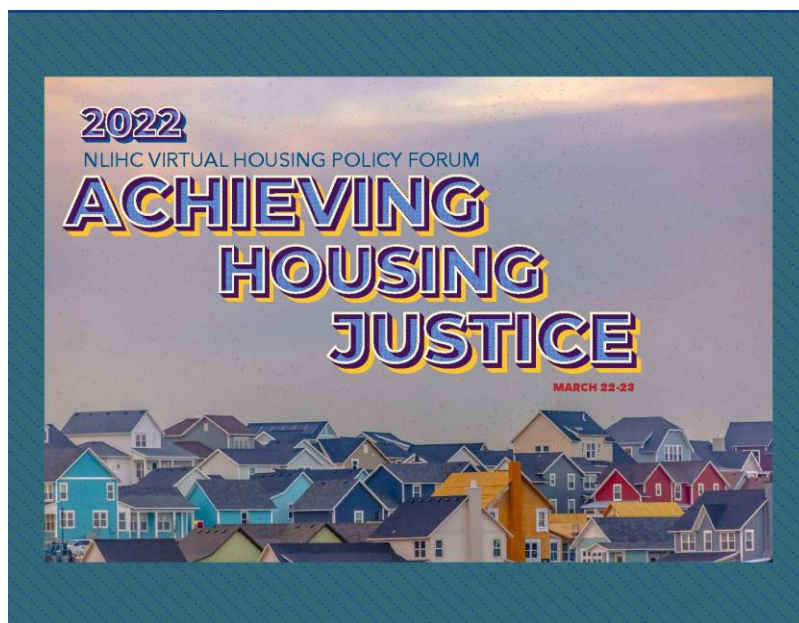
[The Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#) was launched by the DOJ Civil Rights Division in 2017 to address cases where individuals are being sexually harassed by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, or anyone else who is involved with or has control over one's housing.

If you believe you or anyone you know is a victim of sexual harassment in housing, you can submit a report to the DOJ Civil Rights division [here](#). You can also call the hotline at 855-281-3339 or email the Justice Department at fairhousing@usdoj.org.

NLIHC Housing Policy Forum 2022

Learn How to Expand the Multi-Sector Affordable Housing Movement at NLIHC Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022, March 22-23!

[NLIHC's Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice](#), taking place March 22-23, 2022, 12:30-5:30 pm ET on March 22 and 1-5:30 pm ET on March 23, will feature an in-depth session exploring the opportunities, challenges, and best practices associated with expanding the affordable housing movement to various sectors. Attendees will hear from leading national organizations from other sectors about why and how they are focusing on housing affordability, as well as from a state-based housing organization about why and how it is recruiting new voices from other sectors. Presenters will discuss their contributions to the campaign, key milestones they use to measure success, and ways to sustain multi-sector advocacy efforts in today's evolving political environment.



The forum will also involve keynote speakers and feature panels like the following: Racial Equity and Housing Justice (featuring MacArthur “Genius” photographer LaToya Ruby Frazier); the HoUSED Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing – Progress To-Date and the Road Ahead; Capitol Hill Insiders Panel; Ending Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions; Achieving Renter Protections; Best Practices in Organizing; and Discussions with Members of Congress and Senior Administration Officials.

Forum attendees will have an opportunity to network with other attendees, and NLIHC will offer a selection of interactive sessions with our staff experts. These sessions will include Our Homes, Our Votes 2022: Non-partisan Voter and Candidate Engagement; Disaster Housing Recovery; Effective Media/Social Media Strategies and Practices; and Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

[Register today](#) for the March 22-23, 2022, Virtual Housing Policy Forum!

Leadership Awards Celebration 2022

NLIHC to Honor Representative Ritchie Torres at the 2022 Housing Leadership Awards Celebration on April 28

NLIHC will honor **Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY)** at our 40th Annual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration, held virtually on Thursday, April 28. Representative Torres will receive the Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award for his outstanding leadership in elevating the need for historic affordable housing

investments for people with the lowest incomes in 2021. This award is named after former NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley, who led NLIHC for more than 17 years. The ceremony will also honor Ann O’Hara and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Donate to NLIHC as an [individual](#) or as an [organization](#) in recognition of these exceptional leaders.



Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

Born, raised, and still residing in the South Bronx, Congressman Torres grew up in public housing. At just 25 years old, he was elected to serve as a City Council member in 2013, making him New York City’s youngest elected official and the first openly LGBTQ person elected to office in the Bronx. As a Council member, Congressman Torres worked tirelessly to improve, protect, and expand New York’s affordable housing stock, including by holding the first ever hearing on public housing, which led to a \$3 billion investment in the New York City Housing Authority.

In November 2020, Congressman Torres was elected to represent his community – New York’s 15th District – in the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first openly gay Afro-Latino man elected to Congress. Representative Torres has already become a leader in Congress in the fight for affordable, accessible housing for people with the lowest incomes.

Congressman Torres was pivotal in ensuring historical affordable housing investments remained in the House of Representative’s “Build Back Better Act,” organizing “Dear Colleague” letters that galvanized the support of half the Democratic caucus. When housing investments were at risk of deep cuts or elimination from the bill, Congressman Torres met with President Biden directly to make the case for these vital investments, and he appeared frequently on national news programs, always making the case for bold housing investments for those most in need. Thanks to his unwavering leadership and awareness raising, the Build Back Better Act passed in the House of Representatives included an historic \$150 billion in affordable housing and community development investments, with the largest share of those funds going to programs for people with the lowest incomes.

In addition to presenting this award to Representative Torres, NLIHC will bestow the Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award – named for NLIHC’s founder Cushing Niles Dolbeare – on **Ann O’Hara** for her decades of advocacy for quality, accessible, affordable homes for extremely low-income households as a public housing authority director, Section 8 administrator, state housing official, founder and associate director of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), and NLIHC board member. The 2022 Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award – named after the late senator from Massachusetts and former NLIHC board chair who was a strong leader for affordable housing throughout his career – will be presented to the **Congressional Progressive**

Caucus for its exceptional commitment to advancing historic affordable housing investments to address homelessness and housing poverty in the U.S.

Recognize these outstanding leaders by donating to NLIHC in their honor!

Donate and learn more about the event at: <https://bit.ly/LEADERS22>

Or text LEADERSHIP to 41444 to donate in honor of the awardees.



Your donation will be recognized in the Leadership Awards Celebration program, and your contribution will support NLIHC’s mission to achieve racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. Registration to attend the Housing Leadership Awards Celebration will be forthcoming.

Updates will be posted on the event page at: <https://bit.ly/LEADERS22>

Events

Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response to Host Jan. 20 Webinar on Partnering with People with Lived Expertise for Homelessness Response

The [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#) is hosting a [webinar](#) on January 20 at 3-4:30 pm ET on partnering with people with lived expertise to design and implement homelessness response systems.

Drawing on their experience working with community members and professionals with lived experience of housing instability and homelessness, members of the Framework consultant team will discuss how they strived to achieve authentic collaboration in co-designing approaches to ending homelessness and provide suggestions for how advocates can adopt similarly collaborative approaches in their own communities.

The webinar will feature presentations from a series of Framework consultants, including Josephine Pufpaff and Riviana Hyatt (both of the Housing Justice Collective), Tiffany Haynes, LaQuita Limo, and Vachel Hudson.

Register for the webinar at: <https://tinyurl.com/3k2fssnt>

NLIHC Careers

NLIHC Seeks Housing Policy Analyst/Senior Housing Policy Analyst

NLIHC seeks a housing policy analyst/senior housing policy analyst (depending on experience/expertise of candidate) whose primary responsibility entails identifying, analyzing, advocating, and engaging the Coalition's membership and network around proposed and final federal legislation related to the Coalition's mission and priorities. Secondary responsibility entails similar actions pertaining to select regulatory activities. The senior policy analyst has more experience and operates with a greater degree of independence and decision-making than the housing policy analyst, and he/she/they lead at least one important portfolio of NLIHC policy work with significant autonomy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Legislative/Administrative

1. Monitor legislative, regulatory, and administrative developments, as well as other activities or events of interest on Capitol Hill, at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other relevant agencies. A primary responsibility of this position is to help support the Coalition's portfolio related to fair housing. Other policy areas will also be assigned.
2. Help develop policy strategies and advocate Coalition positions before members of Congress and the Administration by drafting letters, scheduling and participating in meetings, and leading coalitions, and preparing and sending communications to Congress, Administration officials, and their staff.
3. Develop advocacy materials that translate pending federal bills, and to a lesser extent regulations and actions, into an accessible and understandable format, including factsheets, briefs, white papers, testimony, and other resources.
4. Complete other policy, congressional and administration, projects, as assigned.

Coalition

1. Represent the Coalition before selected national partners.
2. Coordinate and facilitate working group and coalition meetings, prepare materials, and make presentations. Attend meetings and events of other coalitions, particularly the Fair Housing Task Force.
3. Work with NLIHC field staff and NLIHC partners and allies in impacted communities to stay abreast of housing concerns.

Policy Communication

1. Research and prepare articles for *Memo to Members and Partners* e-newsletter, including updates on Capitol Hill, HUD, and other federal agencies, through web-based and other research and attendance at hearings and briefings. Annually update select *NLIHC Advocates' Guide* articles.
2. Develop advocacy communications for a wide variety of Coalition members and partners.
3. Plan and implement briefings, dialogues, and other informational forums on issues related to Coalition priorities and initiatives.
4. Monitor, and provide updates for, Coalition website, particularly the Fair Housing webpages.

Organizational Support

1. Attend and report at all meetings of Board of Directors; participate in staff meetings, trainings, and all Coalition events.

2. Participate in the planning and implementation of all aspects of Coalition’s annual policy conference, including speaker recruitment.
3. Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Requirements include a bachelor's degree (master's degree or law degree preferred). A degree in Public Policy, Public Administration, or related area is a plus.
- Applicants should have at least two years of experience in public policy or legislative affairs for the policy analyst position and at least five years of experience for the senior policy analyst position. Applicants should have a commitment to social justice and knowledge of affordable housing, homelessness, fair housing, or social service delivery.
- Candidates should be able to work in a diverse, high-paced environment and have strong writing and editing skills, oral and interpersonal communications, organizational skills, and attention to detail. Applicants should also be proficient in the Microsoft Office suite and social media platforms.

An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time position located in Washington, DC, but NLIHC will be flexible about location for the first year.

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter with salary requirement, three references and contact information (at least two being current or former supervisors; references will not be contacted before consulting with applicant) and two writing samples to Bairy Diakite, director of operations, and Sarah Saadian, senior vice president for public policy, at: bdiakite@nlihc.org and ssaadian@nlihc.org

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of January 9

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of January 9:

- “House fires strike U.S. poor amid affordable housing shortage,” *Yahoo News*, January 10 at: <https://yhoo.it/3zXXG38>
- “In deadly fires in New York and Philadelphia, experts see long-neglected safety challenges,” *Washington Post*, January 11 at: <https://wapo.st/3nsf7nt>
- “New York's eviction ban expires Saturday. What renters need to know,” *CNBC*, January 14 at: <https://cnb.cx/3qr8nrW>

NLIHC Staff

Xavier Arriaga, Policy Analyst, x231

Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245

Sidney Betancourt, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x200

Jordan Brown, Research Intern,

Victoria Bourret, ERASE Project Coordinator x244

Jen Butler, Senior Director, Media Relations and Communications, x239

Alayna Calabro, Policy Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x252

Josephine Clarke, Senior Executive Assistant, x226

Matthew Clarke, Writer/Editor
Courtney Cooperman, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x263
Bairy Diakite, Director of Operations, x254
Emma Foley, Research Analyst, x249
Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314
Sarah Gallagher, Senior Project Director, ERASE, x220
Sydnee Graves, Field Intern
Kim Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst, x243
Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232
Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317
Joseph Lindstrom, Director, Field Organizing, x222
Mayerline Louis-Juste, Senior Communications Specialist, x201
Khara Norris, Senior Director of Administration, x242
Neetu Nair, Research Analyst, x291
Brenna Olson, Policy Intern
Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227
Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Manager, x246
Betty Ramirez, Research Analyst, x202
Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234
Gabrielle Ross, Housing Advocacy Organizer
Sarah Saadian, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, x228
Brooke Schipporeit, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
Sophie Siebach-Glover, Research Specialist, x205
Lauren Steimle, Web/Graphic Design Specialist, x246
Jade Vasquez, ERASE Project Coordinator, x264
Maya Ward-Caldwell, Fund Development Intern
Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Manager, x230
Renee Willis, SVP for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, x247
Rebecca Yae, Senior Research Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x256
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225