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Federal Budget and Appropriations

More than 4,700 Organizations Join NLIHC in Urging Congress to Fund Affordable Housing, Community Development Programs

More than 4,700 organizations – including national, state, and local housing and community development, business, transportation, faith-based, disability, and civil rights organizations, as well as officials in municipal, tribal and state governments – sent a [letter](#) on February 21 urging Congress to provide the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs in fiscal year 2021 (FY21).

The letter explains the broad, positive impacts affordable, accessible housing has for families, seniors, and people with disabilities and discusses the importance of accessible transportation systems and community development programs for rural, urban, and suburban communities. While the two-year bipartisan budget agreement signed last summer (see [Memo 7/29/19](#)) provided some relief from the low spending caps on defense and domestic programs, Congress will only have about \$5 billion more in FY21 than this year for non-defense programs, including affordable housing and community development programs. In order to cover rising costs, HUD's budget will need a significant increase over FY20 levels just to maintain assistance to the current number of households. The [president's budget request](#) – released last week – proposed to cut funding for HUD by 15%, or \$8.6 billion, below current enacted levels.

Read the full letter at: <https://bit.ly/2Ve2peK>

Congress

House Committee to Vote on “Housing Is Infrastructure Act”: Sign Letter Today!

The House Financial Services Committee will vote – possibly on Wednesday of this week - on H.R. 5187, “The Housing Is Infrastructure Act,” which was introduced by Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA). Advocates with [representatives serving on the committee](#) should contact them to urge them to vote for the bill.

NLIHC supports this legislation, which would make robust investments in the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and public housing. H.R. 5187 provides a one-year investment of \$5 billion for the HTF and \$70 billion to address all of the capital backlog needs of public housing. NLIHC is committed to working with advocates and congressional leaders to ensure that any infrastructure package enacted by Congress includes at least \$5 billion for the HTF and \$70 billion for the public housing capital fund in order to increase and preserve the supply of affordable, accessible homes for people with the lowest incomes.

As included in [testimony](#) NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel gave before the House Financial Services Committee on April 30, 2019, an infrastructure package provides a unique opportunity to address one of the most critical issues facing extremely low-income families today – the lack of decent, accessible, and affordable housing. The underlying cause of our nation's affordable housing crisis is the shortage of homes affordable and available to the poorest seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and others. In many communities, the lack of affordable, accessible housing for the lowest-income households has led to increased evictions, and in worst cases, homelessness.

In addition to contacting your member of Congress to vote for this bill, **please [sign](#) onto a national letter urging Congress to include in any infrastructure bill at least \$5 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and \$70 billion to repair public housing.** Sign the letter at: <https://sforce.co/2S4u3rm>

A list of House Financial Services Committee members is at: <https://bit.ly/3bSQskw>

NLIHC's letter of support of the bill is at: <https://bit.ly/2vPc9Bt>

More information about HTF funding is on [page 3-12](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More information about the HTF program is on [page 3-1](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More information about public housing is on [page 4-25](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

Fight for Housing Justice

NLIHC Offers Sample Comment Letter to Oppose HUD's Proposed AFFH Rule; NLIHC and Others Issue Statement Opposing the Proposed Rule

The [Fight for Housing Justice](#) campaign released new resources regarding the Trump administration's proposed changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule. These resources include a [sample comment letter](#) from NLIHC and a [joint statement](#) from NLIHC and other key housing advocacy groups. In addition, a [video](#) is now available from the Alliance for Housing Justice, "Understanding Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing," which describes the importance of AFFH and the harmful impacts the proposed changes would have if implemented. The proposed AFFH rule removes key civil rights protections and retreats from national efforts to enforce housing desegregation. NLIHC and other civil rights and housing advocacy groups urge supporters of decent, accessible, affordable housing options for all to submit comments before the comment deadline on March 16.

NLIHC's [sample comment letter](#) can help organizations and individuals write and submit comments opposing HUD's proposal to radically alter the 2015 AFFH rule. NLIHC's sample comment letter provides some background information and offers language advocates can use to articulate why they think affirmatively furthering fair housing is important. The letter has seven general supporting arguments, each with multiple potential examples upon which advocates can choose to elaborate.

In the [joint statement](#), NLIHC and our partners at the National Fair Housing Alliance, National Housing Law Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Relman Colfax, Poverty & Race Research Action Council, and National Consumer Law Center explain the harmful impacts the proposed revisions would have on marginalized communities.

"Housing justice and racial justice are inextricably linked. More than 50 years after the passing of the Fair Housing Act, Black and Latino people are disproportionately harmed by the housing crisis," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of NLIHC. "Until the 2015 AFFH rule, no meaningful guidance existed to combat the decades of segregation laws built into federal housing policies. The AFFH rule was a critical step in addressing historic and current discrimination. By gutting this rule and proposing provisions that eliminate any accountability by the federal government, states, and local communities to work to undo segregation, this administration is taking a big step backwards. We will not stand for the willful neglect of HUD's obligation to advance fair housing access to all communities. We will remain dissatisfied and active until Secretary Carson vigorously enforces the country's obligation to further fair housing."

Nearly 14,000 comments had been submitted in response to the rule so far, and advocates will continue to urge the proposed AFFH revisions be abandoned in favor of stronger guidelines for implementing the Fair Housing

Act. Fight for Housing Justice partners and allies will host a week of action March 9 to March 13 to push for more opposition comments to be submitted by the March 16 deadline.

NLIHC's sample comment letter is at: <https://bit.ly/2PeI991>

The joint statement is at: <https://tinyurl.com/vruzv9s>

The Alliance for Housing Justice's two-minute video is at: <https://bit.ly/38Owt4G>

Fight for Housing Justice has more resources and a web portal for submitting comments at: www.fightforhousingjustice.org/affh

More about AFFH under the Trump/Carson administration is on NLIHC's website at: <https://bit.ly/2Snb2Ax>

Information about the 2015 AFFH rule, Secretary Carson's suspension of the 2015 rule, and the AI process that jurisdictions must follow until a final rule is implemented can be found on pages [7-14](#), [7-21](#), and [7-26](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

Elevate Opposition to Proposed AFFH Rule on Twitter Chat, February 27

Nearly 14,000 comments have been received so far in response to the administration's harmful proposed changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule. Let's keep going!

NLIHC, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and the National Housing Law Center will host a **Twitter chat on Thursday, February 27, at 2:00 p.m. ET** to continue elevating the conversation around the specifics of the proposed rule and to educate and engage more advocates. The Twitter chat will share information and resources to help you understand the rule and answer questions you may have about it. Join the conversation and be sure to use #KeepHousingFair, #FightforFairHousing or #FightforHousingJustice in your tweets.

Also, save the dates of **March 9-13** for a national **Fight for Housing Justice Week of Action** to oppose the rule before the March 16 comment deadline. Rally with other advocates from around the country for a series of events/activities such as comment parties, tweetstorms, and a Facebook-Live event, as a last collective effort to let HUD know that we oppose the changes to the AFFH rule before the comment period closes. More information about the Fight for Housing Justice Week of Action will be available on the [Fight for Housing Justice](#) website. Begin planning an event/activity of your own now!

Fight for Housing Justice has more resources and a web portal for submitting comments at: www.fightforhousingjustice.org/affh

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Take Action

Urge the Trump Administration to Support Evidence-Based Approaches to Ending Homelessness

Homelessness is one of our country's most urgent, tragic and solvable crises. We cannot end homelessness, however, by ignoring the evidence about what works. For this reason, NLIHC, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and other national leaders are urging organizations to sign onto a letter expressing concerns about the Trump administration's rejection of evidence-based approaches to ending homelessness.

Sign the letter at: <https://sforce.co/2UfhhZY>

Background

It is critical that any federal effort to address homelessness is rooted in evidence and data. Dr. Robert Marbut, President Donald Trump's pick to lead the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), rejects evidence-based approaches to ending homelessness, including "Housing First" and initiatives to stop the criminalization of homelessness.

Housing First and anti-criminalization efforts are supported by [decades of learning and research](#), which has led to broad, bipartisan agreement that the solution to homelessness starts with an affordable home coupled with supportive services to help individuals address other challenges, not with a ticket or jail.

To end homelessness once and for all, our nation must significantly expand investments to make homes affordable for people with the lowest incomes, and Housing First and efforts to stop the criminalization of homelessness must remain the foundation for any federal approach to addressing homelessness.

Take Action

Please sign onto [this national letter](#) to ensure that any federal action on homelessness is based proven solutions and then tweet about it using the hashtag #HomesEndHomelessness.

[Read and sign the letter today!](#)

Department of Justice

Office of Violence Against Women Clarifies: VAWA Housing Protections Do Not Expire

Acting Director of the Office on Violence Against Women Laura Rogers issued a [statement](#) on February 19 clarifying that legal protections established in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – including housing protections – do not expire even though VAWA has not yet been reauthorized.

"VAWA contains no sunset provision and does not expire," Ms. Rogers notes in her statement. "Expiration of the appropriations authorizations in VAWA pertains to the grant programs alone and not to the other legal improvements that have accompanied these authorizations." Although appropriations authorizations expired, Congress continued funding for VAWA grant programs for FY20, ensuring there is no lapse in funding for these critical programs.

First enacted in 1994, VAWA provides comprehensive protections and vital services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The bill is meant to be reauthorized every five years to

build on existing protections and better meet the needs of survivors. In April 2019, the House of Representatives passed the “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019” ([H.R.1585](#); see *Memo*, [4/8/19](#)), but negotiations in the Senate are ongoing. NLIHC sent a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein in December 2019 expressing support for the robust provisions outlined in the Senate’s “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019” ([S.2843](#); see *Memo*, [12/23/19](#)).

Learn more about the “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019” at: <https://bit.ly/2SEUntD>

Read Acting Director Rogers’s statement at: <https://bit.ly/32atMrv>

Information about the housing needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking is on page [6-2](#) of NLIHC’s *2019 Advocates’ Guide*.

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020

Affordable Housing Continues to be Featured Prominently on Campaign Trail, in Town Halls

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020, NLIHC’s non-partisan voter and candidate engagement project continues to push presidential candidates to address affordable housing and homelessness. Voters are demanding answers on the campaign trail and in televised town halls, and candidates are responding as never before.

[Nevada HAND](#) hosted former HUD Secretary Julian Castro - for a campaign surrogate for presidential candidate Senator Elizabeth Warren - at a voter education event on February 18 at the Rose Gardens community in Las Vegas. Nevada HAND is the largest nonprofit developer in Nevada, and its Rose Gardens community serves low-income seniors. Secretary Castro spoke at the event about Senator Warren’s plans to address affordable housing for seniors and others as president. Images are available [here](#) on the *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* website.

At a nationally televised CNN Town Hall on February 18, Senator Bernie Sanders was asked a question from an audience member about how he would address the lack of affordable housing in America. In his response, Senator Sanders talked about his plan to build 10 million units of affordable housing and his proposal to implement national rent control. The full clip of this exchange—as well as more information on Senator Sanders’ affordable housing proposals—is available on his [candidate profile](#) on the *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* website.

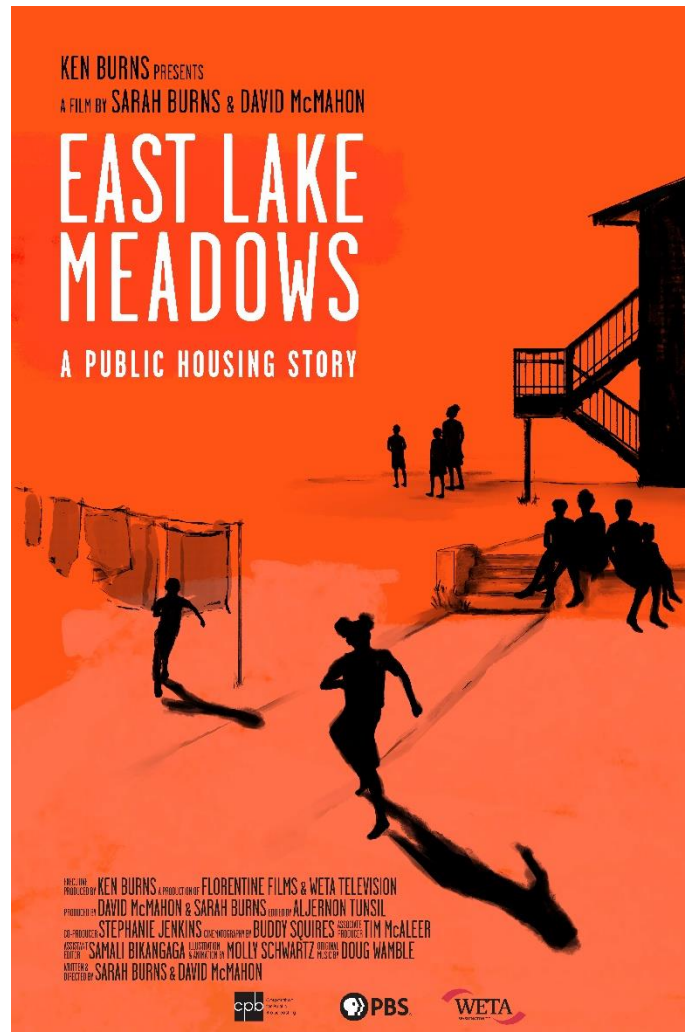
At another nationally televised CNN Town Hall on February 20, Senator Warren was asked how she would solve chronic homelessness in America. The senator [addressed the question](#) in part by talking about the nation’s affordable housing crisis, the critical role the federal government needs to play in supporting affordable housing, and her proposals to do so – to a rousing crescendo of applause from the audience. “We need affordable housing in this country and that means we need to put federal resources in to be able to get it done,” Senator Warren said. “We can make this country work for everyone and that means a safe, affordable place to live. I’ll fight for it.” The video of her answer—as well as more information on her proposals to address affordable housing and homelessness in the U.S.—is available on her [candidate profile](#) on the *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* website.

For more information on what candidates are saying on affordable housing and homelessness, visit [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020](#).

NLIHC Housing Policy Forum 2020

New Ken Burns Film “A Public Housing Story” (with Film’s Directors) at NLIHC Housing Policy Forum, Other Locations

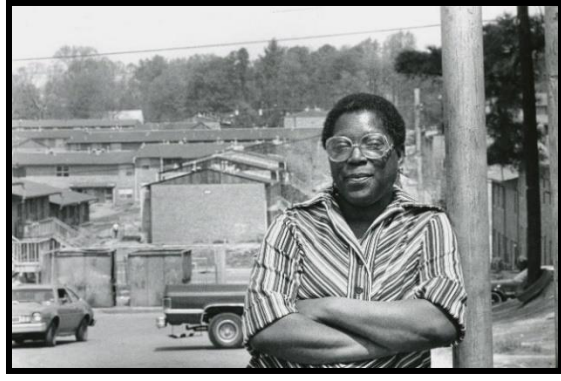
A new **Ken Burns Film**, “**East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story**,” along with the film’s directors Sarah Burns and David McMahon and a resident featured in the film, will be showcased at [NLIHC’s Housing Policy Forum 2020: Ending Homelessness and Housing Poverty](#) in Washington DC, March 25-27, and at other locations around the country for those who cannot attend the Policy Forum. [Register](#) for the Forum today!



“The documentary tackles the impact of racism on public housing while also exploring the daily lives of those who called East Lake Meadows home,” states a press release from PBS, which will broadcast the film in March.

In October of 1970, the Atlanta Housing Authority opened a public housing community on the edge of Atlanta called East Lake Meadows. Over the next 25 years, many thousands of low-income Atlantans, mostly African-American, would call it home.

Residents moved in for hundreds of different reasons and created strong bonds despite the many challenges they faced. But as public housing in America was abandoned and stigmatized, and a crack wave swept through the neighborhood, East Lake Meadows became nearly uninhabitable. In the mid-1990s, Atlanta bulldozed the housing project to make way for new mixed-income housing, as government and philanthropic funds poured in.



Through the stories of former residents, the film gives voice to some of the most marginalized people in our society and raises critical questions about how we as a nation have created concentrated poverty and limited housing opportunity for African Americans, and what can be done to address it. Executive-produced by Ken Burns, “East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story” is a feature-length documentary that will air on [PBS on March 24](#).

At NLIHC’s March 25-27 Housing Policy Forum, the film’s directors will present a 45-minute, professionally produced summary version of the film, followed by a panel discussion with the film’s directors, one of the residents featured in the film, and a policy expert to talk about what it all means for policy advocacy.

[Register for the Forum Today!](#)

If you cannot make it to the NLIHC Housing Policy Forum, the film will be previewed at other locations around the country. Those locations and links to register for them are:

- Boston – March 3: <https://bit.ly/2vGRDTy>
- Buffalo – March 5: <https://bit.ly/2V7ZX9L>
- Chicago – March 9: <https://bit.ly/2SGudHb>
- Atlanta – March 11: <https://bit.ly/2P27q64>
- San Francisco – March 19: <https://bit.ly/2P3K68a>

Some essentials about the NLIHC Housing Policy Forum:

When: The Forum begins for most participants (see note about special Resident sessions below) on Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00 pm, with a full day of sessions on Thursday, March 26. Capitol Hill Day will take place on Friday, March 27.

Additional Sessions for Resident Leaders: NLIHC will offer additional sessions for resident leaders starting on **Tuesday, March 24, at 2:00 p.m.**, including a dinner with state partners that evening. The special resident sessions will continue on Wednesday, March 25 at 8:30 a.m. prior to the full Forum start at 1:00 p.m.

Register for the 2020 NLIHC Housing Policy Forum at: <https://bit.ly/2V6Np2d>

Effective Advocacy and NLIHC Policy Priorities – Webinars, March 5 and 12

NLIHC will host two free webinars in March to prepare Capitol Hill Day participants and other advocates on effective advocacy and NLIHC’s policy priorities. NLIHC’s annual Capitol Hill Day will take place on March 27 as part of [NLIHC’s Housing Policy Forum 2020: Ending Homelessness and Housing Poverty](#), March 25-27.

The first webinar, “Advocacy 101,” an introduction to effective advocacy, will take place on March 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET. The NLIHC field team will cover how a bill becomes a law, the federal budget process, and tips for effective advocacy. The session will also include a mock legislative visit. The webinar is an excellent training opportunity for those new to advocacy. Sign up for the March 5 webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3akfs3d>

The second webinar, “NLIHC 2020 Forum Policy Priorities,” will provide an overview of NLIHC’s policy priorities and talking points. The NLIHC policy team will discuss key legislation before Congress and specific requests advocates should be making to increase federal investments in affordable homes. Sign up for the March 12 webinar at: <https://bit.ly/360jVEX>

Register for NLIHC’s Housing Policy Forum 2020: *Ending Homelessness and Housing Poverty*, March 25-27, at:

NLIHC Housing Leadership Awards

Celebrate Jennifer Ho from Minnesota Housing at March 26 Housing Leadership Awards Reception

Join NLIHC in celebrating 2020 Housing Leadership Award Honoree **Jennifer Leimaile Ho**, who will be recognized at the **38th Annual Housing Leadership Awards Reception** on March 26 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. The other honorees are **Bill Faith** and **Shauna Sorrells**. Register to [attend](#) the reception and/or make a contribution as an [organization](#) or [individual](#) in their honor.

The Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award, named after the former NLIHC president and CEO who led the Coalition for 17 years, will be bestowed to **Jennifer Ho**, commissioner of Minnesota Housing and former senior advisor at HUD and deputy director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).



Jennifer Ho

Jennifer has worked to end housing poverty and homelessness since 1999. As executive director of Hearth Connection, a Minnesota non-profit, she managed a nationally recognized demonstration project on supportive housing and long-term homelessness for single adults, youth, and families in two counties and oversaw its replication in 34 additional counties in partnership with the Fond du Lac, Bois Fort, and Grand Portage Tribal Bands. Jennifer served as a senior policy advisor for housing and services at HUD in the Obama administration and as deputy director at USICH, shepherding the creation of “Opening Doors,” the nation’s first-ever comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness. She worked with First Lady Michelle Obama to launch the “Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness” that reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness on any night by nearly half. Jennifer has served on the boards of directors for West Side Community Health Services in St. Paul, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the Melville Charitable Trust. As commissioner of Minnesota Housing, Jennifer is leading statewide efforts to provide access to safe, decent and affordable housing and to build stronger communities.

The second award is named for Senator Edward Brooke (R-MA), who championed low-income housing as a U.S. senator and later as chair of the NLIHC board of directors. **Shauna Sorrells** will receive the 2020 Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award posthumously for her unwavering commitment to ending homelessness and housing poverty in the U.S. over many years at HUD, at the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, and on the executive committee of the NLIHC Board of Directors.



Shauna Sorrells

The third honoree is **Bill Faith**, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) since 1994, who will be bestowed with the 2020 Cushing Dolbeare Award, named after NLIHC's founder and an early affordable housing pioneer. In addition to leading COHHIO, Bill served on the NLIHC board of directors in various forms for 26 years and was the board chair for six years.



Bill Faith

Come celebrate the contributions of Jennifer, Shauna, and Bill at the 2020 Housing Leadership Reception on March 26 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington DC! Register for the event at: <https://bit.ly/362lyDf> (Note: A separate ticket from the NLIHC Housing Policy Forum is required for the Leadership Awards Reception.)

Recognize these outstanding individuals by making a donation to NLIHC in their honor!

Donate as an individual at: <https://bit.ly/34ng1FP>
Donate as an organization at: <https://bit.ly/2WyFnOb>

Your donation will be recognized in the Leadership Awards Reception program. The contribution will support NLIHC's mission to achieve socially just public policy to ensure the lowest-income people have decent, affordable homes.

The 2020 Leadership Awards Reception will be held on the second evening of NLIHC's 2020 Housing Policy Forum: *Ending Homelessness & Housing Poverty* taking place March 25-27, 2020. Register for the Forum at: <https://bit.ly/2PutSGn> and/or Leadership Awards Reception at: <https://bit.ly/362lyDf>

Opportunity Starts at Home

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium and *Opportunity Starts at Home* Campaign Publish Companion Articles on Housing and Health

The [National Nurse-Led Care Consortium](#) (NNCC) and the [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) (OSAH) multi-sector affordable homes campaign published on February 20, companion articles about the intersections of the health and housing sectors. Kristine Gonnella, senior director of strategic initiatives at NNCC, published “[Housing is Health in 2020, The Year of the Nurse](#)” on OSAH’s website. In turn, Mike Koprowski, national director of OSAH, published “[Nurse Leaders ARE Housing Advocates](#)” on NNCC’s website. NNCC, the leading advocate for nurse-managed health care, participates on the OSAH campaign’s [Roundtable](#) along with 83 other organizations from many sectors.

“Across the country, more in the healthcare sector are beginning to recognize the importance of stable, affordable homes to the health of their patients,” writes Ms. Gonnella. “Unfortunately, the nation is in the grips of an unprecedented housing affordability crisis in which wages for the lowest income people have stagnated while rents continue to climb. A lack of stable, affordable housing is a public health concern and one that the nursing community has a longstanding commitment to address.”

“Every day, nurse leaders see first-hand the harmful health impacts of unstable and unaffordable housing on their patients,” writes Mr. Koprowski. “Therefore, they are uniquely positioned to weigh in on housing policy issues and join in the advocacy to make homes affordable for low-income people. Housing advocates and healthcare professionals must recognize that their fates are intertwined and work shoulder-to-shoulder to advance research-based housing solutions. That is exactly what we are doing through *Opportunity Starts at Home*.”

Ms. Gonnella’s article is [here](#) and Mr. Koprowski’s article is [here](#).

The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium website is at: <https://nurseledcare.phmc.org>

The *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign website is at: <http://www.opportunityhome.org>

Disaster Housing Recovery

Disaster Housing Recovery Updates - February 24, 2020

The following is a review of additional disaster housing recovery developments since the last edition of *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in the previous *Memo*, see [02/18](#)).

Federal Action & National News

During a hearing on President Donald Trump’s fiscal year 2021 budget proposal, House Democrats [criticized](#) the acting chief of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the administration’s delayed release of recovery funding approved by Congress for Puerto Rico. Specifically, House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman David Price (D-NC) [asked](#) about testimony provided by HUD that the OMB had curtailed HUD’s ability to request a recovery-funding release.

Senator Doug Jones (D-LA) introduced [S. 3285](#), the “Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (HELP) Act,” which would [expedite](#) the initiation of certain natural disaster hazard mitigation and community safety projects while

additional grant applications are being processed. The bill is companion legislation to a House version introduced by Representative Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX) and passed by the chamber in June, 2019.

Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) introduced legislation [designed](#) to accelerate flood disaster recovery by allowing local entities, such as Nebraska's natural resource districts, to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with infrastructure repairs.

Coastal cities from [Boston](#) to [San Francisco](#) are starting to assess the risk they face from rising sea levels. San Francisco officials estimate the city would experience billions of dollars in damage if preventative measures are not taken.

A recent study found that [smoke from wildfires](#) can affect immune systems up to 12 years after exposure, prompting a new investigation into the impact of wildfires on the health of children.

Midwest Flooding

A National Weather Service flood outlook report predicts an [above-normal risk](#) of flooding in Nebraska and Iowa this spring. Communities hope 2020 is not a repeat of last year's historically destructive flooding.

Mississippi

Major flooding damaged hundreds of homes in Mississippi last week, and [record-breaking](#) water levels are expected to continue rising, according to weather forecasts.

Puerto Rico Earthquakes

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) was joined by Representatives Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) on a [two day](#) trip to Puerto Rico to ensure “Puerto Ricans get the help they need and to show solidarity” in the wake of the island's recent earthquakes.

Puerto Rico Housing Department Secretary Luis Carlos Fernández Trinchet stated that Puerto Rico has received unequal disaster-relief restrictions from the federal government compared to other U.S jurisdictions. Federal funding agreements for the Commonwealth are paired with “[stricter terms and conditions](#)” than others.

FEMA approved [crisis counseling](#) assistance for six municipalities in Puerto Rico. Guánica, Guayanilla, Peñuelas, Ponce, Utuado and Yauco residents are now able to access supportive services during the disaster recovery process.

Tropical Storm Imelda & Hurricane Harvey

Texas

Dissatisfied homeowners developed a [Forgotten Survivors Caucus](#) in response to the slow distribution of federal disaster-relief funding after Hurricane Harvey. The Caucus aims to provide emotional support and empower lower- and moderate-income survivors to advocate for their needs.

The City of Houston has adopted a new holistic [resilience strategy](#) to mitigate the future effects of natural disasters in the area. The city aims to secure \$50 billion for the related mitigation projects by 2040.

A \$4.6 million drainage [project](#) has begun in Hidalgo County, TX, to reduce flooding and improve drainage capabilities in 12 *colonias*.

Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence

North Carolina

North Carolina recovery officials are instituting [higher standards](#) for homes flooded after 2016's Hurricane Michael. Seventy-five percent of the homes whose owners applied for federal assistance after the storm were not in federally designated flood zones.

California Wildfires

As California utility PG&E continues through bankruptcy proceedings, [survivors of wildfires](#) caused by PG&E equipment failures are challenging a \$13.5 billion court-approved settlement, saying that the tens of thousands of people who lost their homes deserve larger payments.

Hurricane Michael

Florida

Bay County FL's Disaster Case Management Program is helping hundreds of people [access assistance](#). The main concern is the lack of affordable housing for renters; the program is developing personalized recovery plans to help connect disaster survivors with resources.

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Chairman Raphael Bostic [visited](#) Panama City, FL, to learn about the city's recovery efforts. The City is confronting issues related to clearing titles, insurance, getting loans to those in need, economic and workforce development, and the lack of affordable housing, Chairman Bostic said.

HUD

HUD REAC Issues New "Get NSPIREd" Newsletter

HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) issued an inaugural newsletter "[Get NSPIREd](#)" on February 12. NSPIRE is an acronym for National Standards for Physical Inspection of Real Estate. The newsletter describes the new physical inspection model being tested on a voluntary, demonstration basis by public housing agencies (PHAs) and HUD-assisted multifamily property owners, both of which are currently subject to REAC's 20-year-old Uniform Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS). NSPIRE seeks to give priority to a home's health and safety over appearance (see *Memo*, [8/26/19](#)).

According to a [Federal Register notice](#) on August 21, 2019, HUD intends to inspect over the course of two years 4,500 properties that voluntarily adopt HUD's NSPIRE model. The NSPIRE model has three major components:

- Three types of inspections: 1) self-inspections by PHAs and owners and agents of private, HUD-assisted multifamily housing, 2) inspections conducted by contractors and/or federal inspectors, and 3) inspections conducted solely by federal inspectors. HUD has created a new acronym combining PHAs and HUD-assisted multifamily housing owners/agents – "POAs." HUD will inspect participating properties at least once during the demonstration using the NSPIRE standards.
- Three categories of physical deficiencies: 1) health and safety, 2) function and operability, and 3) condition and appearance. HUD states that ideally each category could result in emergency work orders, routine work orders, and other maintenance.

- Three inspectable areas: 1) inside (common areas and building systems), 2) outside (building site and building envelope), and 3) units (the interiors of individual homes).

HUD issued early versions of NSPIRE standards (see *Memo*, [9/9/19](#)), took comments, and issued changes to those standards in [Version 1-2](#). HUD will continue accepting feedback regarding Version 1-2 standards. NSPIRE also posted [lists of health and safety items](#) (see *Memo*, [9/16/19](#)).

HUD continues to seek POAs to voluntarily enlist some or all of their properties in the NSPIRE demonstration in order to reach a goal of 4,500 properties. As of early December, HUD staff reported that only about 1,000 properties were in the demonstration. The “[Get NSPIREd](#)” newsletter has a map showing how many public housing and multifamily housing units are engaged in each state. As of January 28, there were no units in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, North Dakota, Wyoming, Guam, or the Virgin Islands.

The newsletter falsely claims that HUD met with key resident stakeholders “throughout the development of NSPIRE.” In fact, residents were not invited to any of the listening sessions despite a [HUD media release](#) on February 20, 2019 indicating that the public and stakeholders would be invited. After NLIHC asked HUD how residents could be involved in the listening sessions, HUD provided information to NLIHC, but not broadly to the public. By that time, two of the four remaining listening sessions were fully booked (see *Memo*, [3/11/19](#)).

House Financial Services Committee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) sent a [letter to HUD Secretary Ben Carson](#) on November 18, 2019 urging HUD to better incorporate tenant perspectives in the NSPIRE demonstration (see *Memo*, [11/25/19](#)). Subsequent to receiving the letter and after HUD met with leaders of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT), REAC posted [two new features](#) on the NSPIRE website in mid-December, 2019, both in response to resident suggestions (see *Memo*, [12/16/19](#)).

First, HUD will test methods for including up to five additional units to inspect, identified in advance by a resident organization, beyond the units randomly selected by inspectors during REAC inspections. If a property is not represented by a resident organization, NSPIRE will use a risk model to select additional units. Second, HUD will explore how to design and conduct resident surveys and how to integrate survey findings into the NSPIRE demonstration. NAHT has been advocating for these two provisions, among others, for many years. HUD’s REAC inspection system used to include a resident-service and -satisfaction indicator (RASS) that was based on a resident survey. The RASS was dropped in 2011.

The inaugural edition of “Get NSPIREd” is at: <https://bit.ly/2PaRP10>

Sign up to receive NSPIRE information from HUD at: <https://bit.ly/2SHcJug>

The NSPIRE website is at: <https://bit.ly/2V9qvV3>

Information about public housing is on [page 4-25](#) of NLIHC’s *2019 Advocates’ Guide*.

Information about HUD-assisted multifamily housing is on [page 4-46](#) of NLIHC’s *2019 Advocates’ Guide*.

HUD Releases Housing Choice Voucher Data Dashboard

HUD released a [Housing Choice Voucher \(HCV\) Data Dashboard](#) on February 19 that provides information on public housing agencies’ (PHAs’) current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) budget and unit utilization, spending and leasing trends over time, reserve balances, and leasing potential. After a two-month delay from the time PHAs report the data to HUD, the dashboard will be updated monthly.

The dashboard allows users to filter by state to see voucher budget and unit utilization since 2014, total reserves, the number of units currently under lease, the number of units in the Annual Contributions Contract, and the average cost per unit. The dashboard also reports the total voucher budget authority, utilization, and reserve level (based on HUD-held reserves) for the top 20 PHAs in each state since 2014. Users can see average 12-month attrition rates and the number of vouchers ported into and out of a state. The dashboard tracks changes in per-unit costs over the last five years and reports the PHAs in each state with the largest cost increases and reductions.

The dashboard provides information about special-purpose vouchers at both the national and state level. Users can see the number of Mainstream vouchers (serving families with non-elderly persons who have disabilities) awarded to and leased by state. It provides similar information for Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers (serving families at risk of separation and youth exiting foster care programs who are at-risk of homelessness), and Veterans Supportive Housing vouchers (HUD-VASH).

The Housing Choice Voucher data dashboard is at: <https://bit.ly/38O7zSw>

More about Housing Choice Vouchers is on [page 4-1](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More about Mainstream vouchers is on [page 4-8](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More about Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers is on [page 4-8](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More about Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers is on [page 4-15](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More about Veterans Supportive Housing vouchers (HUD-VASH) is on [page 4-21](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

President Trump Intends to Nominate Dana Wade as Assistant Secretary for Housing

President Trump [announced](#) his intention to nominate Dana Wade as assistant secretary for housing and Federal Housing Administration (FHA) commissioner. Ms. Wade was previously the acting Federal Housing commissioner and assistant secretary for housing from July 2017 to June 2018. In this capacity, she implemented enhanced risk management and monitoring of the Federal Housing Agency's \$1.3 trillion portfolio. Ms. Wade also served as a program associate director for general government at the Office of Management and Budget from December 2018 to December 2019, where she led budget oversight for six executive branch agencies with a focus on financial services, including HUD and multiple independent agencies. She has also served as the deputy staff director for the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Development and the Republican deputy staff director for the Senate Committee on Appropriations under Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL).

Brian Montgomery, the current assistant secretary for housing/FHA commissioner, took on the role of HUD acting deputy secretary in the fall of 2019. He has not yet been confirmed for the role by the full Senate.

The announcement about Dana Wade is at: <https://bit.ly/2HLCKM1>

Research

Nonwhite Veterans Have Higher Rates of Housing Instability

An article in *Housing Policy Debate*, “[Housing Instability and Homeless Program Use Among Veterans: The Intersection of Race, Sex, and Homelessness](#),” looks at the variation in housing instability among veterans by race and sex. Comparing rates of reported housing instability and rates of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) program use, the authors find that nonwhite veterans have greater odds of reporting housing instability and greater odds of participating in VHA programs.

The authors examined responses to the Homelessness Screening Clinical Reminder (HSCR) survey administered to all veteran outpatients at VHA health care facilities. Between October 2012 and March 2016, there were 5,355,858 responses to the HSCR, and 147,771 respondents screened positive for housing instability. Respondents screened positive if they indicated that they had not been living in a stable home they own, rent, or stay in as part of a household in the past two months, or if they were concerned that they might not have stable housing in the next two months. The authors also collected information about veterans’ race, sex, age, marital status, VA Enrollment Priority Group as a proxy for income, exposure to combat, experience of military sexual trauma, mental health conditions, substance abuse disorders, and chronic medical conditions. Collecting this information allowed the authors to control for other variables when looking at the relationship between housing instability, race, and sex.

Among the 5.3 million veterans who responded to the HSCR, 76.1% were white men, 14.7% were Black men, 4.6% were white women, 2.2% were Black women, 1.6% were Asian/Pacific Islander men, 0.6% were American Indian/Alaska Native men, 0.2% were Asian/Pacific Islander women, and 0.1% were American Indian/Alaska Native women. White men were underrepresented among those reporting housing instability, as they made up 59% of that group, while all other race/sex combinations were overrepresented. For example, Black men made up 27.6% of those reporting housing instability, and Black women made up 4.1%.

Women generally and in each racial category had higher rates of housing instability than men. The women who responded to the HSCR screen, though, were different from the male respondents in several ways beyond their sex – for example, women veterans are younger. After the authors examined the 5.3 million responses to the HSCR, they built two models to control for variables such as age, marital status, exposure to combat, and mental health conditions. Controlling for these variables separates the effect that each has on the likelihood of experiencing housing instability from the effects that race or sex has, which allows the authors to take a closer look at the relationship between race and housing instability or sex and housing instability. Younger ages, being unmarried, having experienced military sexual trauma, and having a mental health diagnosis were all associated with higher odds of housing instability. When taking into account all of these other variables, the authors found that nonwhite veterans and veterans identifying as Hispanic had increased odds of housing instability. Perhaps surprisingly, they found that women had lower odds for screening positive for housing instability. Their research suggests that higher rates of housing instability among women are explained by other factors, like their younger age.

The authors also examined the proportion of veterans in each race/sex category who used a VHA homeless program within six months of screening positive for housing stability. The lowest rates of VHA homeless-program use were among veterans aged 65 years or older, across all race/sex categories. A greater proportion of Black men and women and American Indian/Alaska Native men with an indicator of depression, psychosis, suicide ideation, or substance abuse accessed VHA programs compared to white men and women. Asian/Pacific Islander men and women and American Indian/Alaska Native women with these indicators had lower rates of VHA homeless program use.

In discussing their findings, the authors emphasize that nonwhite veterans are disproportionately represented among veterans who screen positive for housing instability and that they have higher rates of VHA homeless program utilization. While this study does not examine the quality of care received, the authors infer that there is no evidence of disparities in accessing care that would disadvantage racial and ethnic minority veterans. The

authors caution that their study sample contains only veterans who accessed VHA outpatient care, so the results may not be generalized to the entire veteran population.

“Housing Instability and Homeless Program Use Among Veterans: The Intersection of Race, Sex, and Homelessness” is at: <https://bit.ly/37JAPsr>

Providers of Supportive Services for Veteran Families Face Unique Challenges in Rural Areas

An article in *Housing Policy Debate*, [“‘You Don’t See Them on the Streets of Your Town’: Challenges and Strategies for Serving Unstably Housed Veterans in Rural Areas.”](#) reports that rural homeless services providers face a unique set of problems in assisting unstably housed rural veterans. In interviews, rural providers reported challenges identifying homeless and insecurely housed veterans and providing services in rural areas.

The authors conducted qualitative interviews with 24 Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers serving rural areas. SSVF, a program of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) provides case management, temporary financial assistance, linkages to VA health care and benefits, and other services. SSVF providers were chosen because they are often community-based organizations with a long history of providing assistance in their areas. Interviewees represented providers that served exclusively rural areas during FY18. The authors interviewed six SSVF grantees from each of the four census regions. The interviews focused on the organization and structure of the SSVF provider, what homelessness typically looks like in that area, how the SSVF addresses veterans’ housing needs, and barriers to working in a rural setting.

The authors note that the VA has prioritized preventing and ending veteran homelessness since 2009. The HUD-VA Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH), which provides permanent supportive housing to veterans, has expanded from 10,000 vouchers in 2008 to approximately 90,000 vouchers in 2018. The SSVF program, started in 2012, provides a number of services to help rapidly rehouse veterans who are currently homeless. Despite these significant investments, interviewees noted that current interventions may not be appropriately calibrated to respond to the unique needs of veterans in rural areas.

One reported challenge was the difficulty of identifying unstably housed veterans in rural areas. Rural service areas are often large and sparsely populated, and SSVF staff may have to drive up to four hours to serve veterans within their geographic areas. Emergency shelters in rural areas are limited, which makes homeless veterans in rural areas more likely to double-up with others or stay in locations that are not designed for human habitation, such as in tents or abandoned buildings. In order to help identify unstably housed veterans, providers engaged in outreach to personnel at community-based health-care providers, post offices, law enforcement agencies, grocery stores, and public parks.

Respondents also reported that limited resources hindered their ability to provide services in rural areas. Many stated that there were not enough emergency shelters, HUD-VASH vouchers, and affordable, quality housing in their communities. A lack of transportation options for unstably housed rural veterans in many places made it difficult for providers to connect them to supportive services. More public transportation or transportation subsidies might be necessary for unstably housed veterans to get to jobs or medical appointments. Fewer employment opportunities in rural areas was also identified as a barrier to maintaining housing stability.

The interviewees described adopting a variety of strategies to address these needs. Several adopted flexible case-management models that involved providing transportation for veterans to get to appointments. Several reported relying on networks of churches to serve as short-term shelters. Most reported coordinating with other homeless assistance providers, public housing agencies, food and furniture banks, Veterans Service Organizations, VA Medical Centers, and private business to secure help for veterans.

The authors draw out several implications. First, they note the need for further research on how to effectively implement coordinated entry systems, which is a requirement for all Continuums of Care (CoCs), which may be more difficult for geographically dispersed rural CoCs. Further research on how programs can be tailored to fit a rural context may also be useful. They call for a set of best practices for homeless services provision in rural areas. Finally, they take the prevalence in these rural areas of unstably housed veterans who do not meet the official definition of homelessness (because they are doubled-up or living in substandard or makeshift housing) to be a reason to consider dedicating more resources to prevention services.

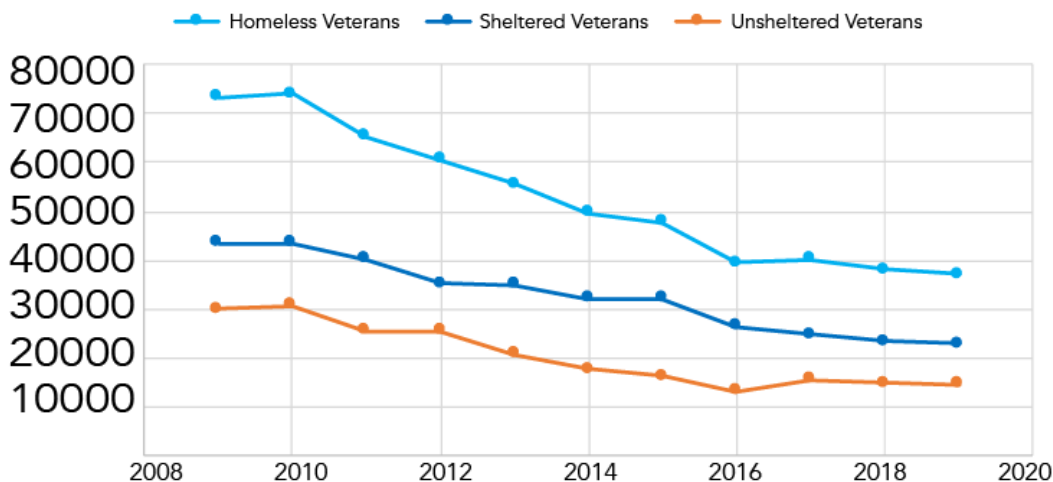
““You Don’t See Them on the Streets of Your Town’: Challenges and Strategies for Serving Unstably Housed Veterans in Rural Areas” is at: <https://bit.ly/2vNwOWA>

More information about the HUD-VASH program is on page [4-21](#) of NLIHC’s *2019 Advocates’ Guide*.

Fact of the Week

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Fell Dramatically Since 2009

Estimates of Homeless Veterans, 2009-2019



Source: HUD, Annual Homeless Assessment Report (2020).

Source: HUD, Annual Homeless Assessment Report (2020).

National Housing Week of Action

Register Today for *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action Planning Webinar, February 26

Advocates from around the country are beginning to plan how they will be involved in the fourth annual *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action taking place May 2 to May 12. To assist with planning

and carrying out an event in your community, NLIHC will provide a planning [webinar](#) on February 26 at 4:00 p.m. ET.

The webinar, “*Our Homes, Our Voices: Preparing for Week of Action*,” will discuss the types of events and logistics to consider, resources you can use, effective messaging tips, and ways to build turnout for an event. The webinar will also include advice and perspectives from organizers who led events during the 2019 Housing Week of Action.

Federal investments in proven affordable housing solutions benefit us all, but these investments have not kept pace with the need, and the Trump administration is again proposing big cuts. We must keep raising our voices to protect and expand vital affordable housing programs to ensure everyone has an affordable place to call home.

Register for the webinar at: <https://bit.ly/38mBam7>

Learn more about Week of Action and register your event at: www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org/

From the Field

Atlanta City Council Approves Measure to Prohibit Source-of-Income Discrimination

The Atlanta City Council passed [Measure 20-O-1155](#) on February 17, prohibiting landlords from rejecting people applying to rent a home based on the applicant’s source of income, including denying applicants who use federal housing vouchers. Atlanta is the first municipality in the state to prohibit landlord discrimination against applicants intending to use a housing voucher.

Council Members Antonio Brown and Amir R. Farokhi introduced the ordinance, which was approved by a vote of 13-2. Housing advocates celebrated the passage of the historic measure, which will increase access to affordable, accessible housing for low-income Atlanta residents. Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT), an NLIHC state partner, encouraged community members to attend the city council meeting on Monday to show support for the ordinance. “It’s unfortunate that there has been a stigma placed on people who have vouchers,” said Bambi Hayes-Brown, CEO of Georgia ACT. “The vast majority of people who have vouchers are working families, the disabled, and senior citizens.”

Source-of-income discrimination creates significant barriers to safe, accessible, affordable housing for low-income renters. Landlord discrimination against voucher households disproportionately impacts low-income seniors, people with disabilities, people of color, and families with children. Atlanta Housing (the public housing agency) reported that between July 2018 and July 2019, 1,055 Housing Choice Vouchers expired before families could find suitable housing. Most of the voucher households who did obtain housing were steered into low-opportunity areas that have limited access to transportation and low-performing schools.

Council Member Brown expressed that the source-of-income discrimination ban will increase access to equitable housing in Atlanta and considers the new ordinance a natural, common-sense extension of fair housing codes that protect renters based on race, gender, and age.

The City of Atlanta’s Department of Law proposed an amendment to prevent the ordinance from taking effect until Georgia passes a similar statewide ban, but after lengthy discussions with city attorneys, council members rejected that proposal. A spokesperson for Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms gave no comment when asked about the mayor’s position by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. The ordinance now heads to Mayor Bottoms for her

signature. She will likely sign the source-of-income discrimination ban because it was included in her housing policy priorities plan released in June of 2019.

In addition, the council passed [Resolution 20-R-3291](#) encouraging the Georgia General Assembly to pass statewide legislation prohibiting landlords from refusing to accept housing vouchers as rental income.

Measure 20-O-1155 is at: <https://bit.ly/3c17Bsy>

More about the ordinance is at: <https://bit.ly/2uknyZN>

More information on the Housing Choice Voucher program is on [page 4-1](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

Events

***Tenant Talk Live* Call/Webinar for Residents, February 27**

Tenant Talk Live—NLIHC's bimonthly call/webinar with resident leaders from across the country—provides opportunities for residents to **connect** with NLIHC and one another; to **share** best practices; and to **learn** how to be more involved in influencing federal housing policies and to lead in their communities. The next *Tenant Talk Live* session will take place on **Thursday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. ET** and will feature Angie Whitehurst, writer for [Street Sense Media](#), one of D.C.'s leading publications focusing on homelessness. Register [here](#).

Ms. Whitehurst will discuss how she has been able to network with local elected officials and other decision makers to produce actionable affordable housing and homelessness solutions. Staff from NLIHC will also provide key policy, regulatory, and program updates—from the administration's attacks on federal funding for housing programs and on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule to NLIHC's *Our Homes, Our Voices National Housing Week of Action* (May 2-12).

Past guest speakers on *Tenant Talk Live* have included Willie "J.R." Fleming, executive director of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign, who shared insights into how residents can use Section 3 to provide construction jobs and job training opportunities to residents in their communities; Ed Gramlich, NLIHC senior advisor, who provided updates on a proposed rule related to implementation of the [Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act \(HOTMA\)](#); and Nashid Shakir, project manager, Jurisdiction-Wide Resident Advisory Board (J-RAB), who provided an overview of [Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) from a resident's perspective.

NLIHC is committed to connecting and engaging with resident leaders in new, more robust ways. If you are a low-income resident and have a topic you would like to propose for peer-sharing or if you want to be a speaker on an upcoming call/webinar, please email us at: karbuckle@nlihc.org

To be notified about future calls/webinars, sign-up at: <https://bit.ly/2HHAKuK>

To join the February 27 call/webinar, register at: <https://bit.ly/39RNU4o>

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 16

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of February 16:

- “Bernie Sanders wants to spend \$70B to modernize public housing, Pete Buttigieg wants to regulate landlords — where the Democratic candidates stand on affordable housing,” *MarketWatch*, February 21 at: <https://tinyurl.com/tte6r5x>
- “Nevada presidential debate focuses on health care and campaign culture,” *Nevada Current*, February 20 at: <https://tinyurl.com/r7c4rdk>
- “Empower Missouri aims to reintroduce tax credit for low-income housing,” *KOMU.com*, February 20 at: <https://tinyurl.com/ukf4nlt>
- “Solving the Housing Crisis Will Require an Unlikely Coalition,” *The Atlantic*, February 19 at: <https://tinyurl.com/vb4v4tw>
- “White House Budget Proposal Cuts \$8.6 Billion from HUD,” *The Charleston Chronicle*, February 18 at: <https://tinyurl.com/twrah9z>
- “Atlanta to make all landlords accept housing vouchers,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, February 17 at: <https://tinyurl.com/shgtwf5>
- “5 big ideas for fixing global cities’ most daunting challenges,” *Fortune*, February 17 at: <https://tinyurl.com/usq448a>

NLIHC News

Where to Find Us – February 24

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel and other NLIHC staff will be speaking at the following events in the coming months:

- Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities’ Information Session and Overview of Voter Registration Drive, Philadelphia, PA, February 25
- [Community Development, Housing, and Homelessness Program Managers Training](#), Washington, DC, February 25
- [Housing Alliance of PA Legislative Briefing Webinar](#), February 26
- [Georgia ACT 2020 Housing Day at the Capitol](#), Atlanta, GA, February 26
- [Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless Legislative Action Day 2020](#), Boston, MA, February 27
- [2020 PHENND Conference: Housing](#), Media, PA, February 28
- [American Legion’s 60th Annual Washington Conference](#), Washington, DC, March 9
- [NYHC March Thought Leader Event](#), New York, NY, March 12
- Making Change Happen: Effective Advocacy for Affordable Housing, La Vista, NE, March 16
- [West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness](#), Davis, WV, April 1
- [Panel at George Mason University for Nonprofit Studies class](#), Fairfax, VA, April 2
- [YIMBY Town 2020](#), Portland, OR, April 3
- Humility Homes and Services 30 Years Celebration, Davenport, IA, April 18
- [Building Michigan Communities Conference](#), Lansing, MI, April 28
- Tulsa Mayor's Development Roundtable, Tulsa, OK, April 30

- [National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies Annual Conference](#), New York, NY, May 7
 - [Princeton Community Housing Annual Homes Build Opportunity Gala](#), Princeton, NJ, June 13
 - [HousingWorks RI Annual Factbook Lunch](#), Providence, RI, October 16
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Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317
Joseph Lindstrom, Director, Field Organizing, x222
Mayerline Louis-Juste, Communications Specialist, x201
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Tyra Reed, Policy Intern, x241
Sarah Saadian, Vice President, Public Policy, x228
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242
Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227
Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Specialist, x246
Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234
Brooke Schipporeit, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
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Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Coordinator, x230
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Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225