

**Volume 28, Issue 9**  
**March 6, 2023**

## **Housing Trust Fund**

- FHFA Announces \$354 Million in 2023 for National Housing Trust Fund

## **Homelessness and Housing First**

- Representatives Announce Creation of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness
- Join Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response's 3/18 Webinar on Reimagining Interim Housing

## **Budget and Appropriations**

- President Biden to Unveil FY24 Budget Request This Week
- Senate Appropriations Committee Begins Plotting Path toward FY24 Budget

## **Congress**

- Senate Banking Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Senate Finance Committee to Hold Hearing on Affordable Housing
- Housing Financial Services Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Oversight of COVID-19 Relief Programs

## **Publications**

- NLIHC Releases *Advocates' Guide 2023*

## **HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Homes**

- Recap of 2/27 National HoUsed Campaign Call

## **Housing Policy Forum**

- Virtual Registration Now Open for 2023 Housing Policy Forum
- HUD Sec. Marcia Fudge to Join Discussion with Tenant Leaders at Housing Policy Forum

- Countering the Criminalization of Homelessness: Breakout Session at Housing Policy Forum

## **Native American Housing**

- HUD Announces FY23 Indian Housing Block Grant Formula Allocations

## **HUD**

- NLIHC Joins Letter Urging Congress to Confirm David Uejio and Solomon Greene as HUD Assistant Secretaries
- NLIHC Provides Summary of AFFH Equity Plan Submission and HUD Review Procedures, Adds Content to Overview of Equity Plan

## **Disaster Housing Recovery**

- FEMA Extends Assistance Period for Hurricane Ida Survivors in Louisiana after Push by NLIHC-Led DHRC and Other Disaster Recovery Advocates

## **Opportunity Starts at Home**

- Study Shows Most Black Children Live in Neighborhoods Lacking Amenities Associated with Child Wellbeing

## **Research**

- Study Finds Nearly Three-Quarters of Municipalities Lack LIHTC Housing
- New Database Identifies State-Level Approaches to Catalyze Housing Production at the Local Level

## **Fact of the Week**

- Most Municipalities Have No LIHTC Housing

## **From the Field**

- Seattle and Vancouver Voters Approve Two Housing Ballot Measures in Special Elections

## **Events**

- Join Today's "Tenant Talk Live" Webinar on Holding Bad Landlords Accountable

## **Leadership Awards Ceremony**

- Representative Cori Bush, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, and John Parvensky to be Honored at 2023 Leadership Awards Ceremony

## **NLIHC in the News**

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 26

## **NLIHC News**

- Where to Find Us – March 6

## Housing Trust Fund

### FHFA Announces \$354 Million in 2023 for National Housing Trust Fund

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) [announced](#) on February 28 that the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and the Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) will receive a total of \$545 million for affordable housing from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) in 2023. Of this amount, the HTF will receive \$354 million.

“Ensuring adequate funding for the national Housing Trust Fund is one of NLIHC’s top priorities,” said NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel. “The funding allocated by the Enterprises for the HTF will help produce, preserve, and operate homes affordable to people with the lowest incomes, including families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others.”

Created through the “Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008” (HERA) and overseen by HUD’s Office of Affordable Housing Programs (OAHP) within the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), the HTF allocates funding annually to states to build, preserve, rehabilitate, and operate rental housing for extremely low-income households (ELI) – those with income less than 30% of the area median income (AMI) or with income less than the federal poverty line. In 2022, there was a national shortage of approximately 7 million rental homes affordable and available to people with the lowest incomes.

HERA stipulated that the initial dedicated source of revenue for the HTF and the CMF was to derive from an annual set-aside of 4.2 basis points (0.042%) for each dollar of the unpaid principal on the Enterprises’ new business purchases, which consist of single-family and multifamily mortgage loans purchased during the year, and single-family and multifamily mortgage loans underlying mortgage-backed securities issued during the year. The 4.2 basis point assessment is collected during the Enterprises’ calendar year (in this case, 2022) and then transferred to HUD to be allocated in the following calendar year (in this case, 2023).

Funds from the HTF are awarded as block grants to states and distributed by a statutory formula based on four factors that consider renter household needs only. Seventy-five percent of the value of the formula goes to two factors that reflect the needs of ELI renters. The other two factors relate to the renter needs of very low-income households – households with income between 31% and 50% of AMI. A state may choose to award up to 10% of its annual HTF allocation to homeowner activities, though to date no state has done so.

When it was established in 2008, the HTF was the first new housing resource since 1974 targeted to building, preserving, rehabilitating, and operating rental housing for extremely low-income people. Starting in 2000, NLIHC, its members, and other stakeholders advocated for the creation of the fund, and NLIHC and its members continue to advocate for increases to annual HTF funding. Since 2016, when the first \$174 million of HTF dollars were allocated to states, HTF allocations have grown from \$219 million (in 2017), \$267 million (in 2018), and \$248 million (in 2019) to \$323 million (in 2020), \$690 million (in 2021), and a record \$740 million in 2022. For 2023, [Fannie Mae’s 10-K filing](#) with the Securities and Exchange Commission indicates that the 2022 HTF assessment from Fannie Mae is \$186 million for 2023, while [Freddie Mac’s 10-K filing](#) indicates that its assessment is \$168 million for 2023. Fannie Mae’s 10-K filing states that

its significant drop in assessed funds for the HTF from 2022 is due to the decrease in its single-family business purchases compared to 2021. NLIHC assumes the dramatic drop in single-family business purchases is due to the Federal Reserve Board's decision to increase interest rates in 2022 to fight inflation.

The FHFA announcement is available at: <https://bit.ly/41AFj1O>

Read more about the HTF on [page 3-1](#) of NLIHC's *2023 Advocates' Guide* and on NLIHC's two HTF webpages, one providing [basic information](#) and the other providing [state-specific information](#).

HUD's HTF website is available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/htf>

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## **Homelessness and Housing First**

### **Representatives Announce Creation of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness**

Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), Cori Bush (D-MO), and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) [announced](#) the reestablishment of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness on February 28. The caucus will provide a dedicated forum for members of Congress to work toward the common goal of ending homelessness in the U.S. NLIHC strongly supports the creation of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, which will play a vital role in educating legislators and their staffs, securing additional resources for key programs, and identifying policy opportunities to address the crisis of homelessness.

The Congressional Caucus on Homelessness plans to analyze the complex factors contributing to homelessness and educate members on the federal programs that are key to serving people experiencing homelessness. The caucus will continue to advocate for funding for these programs and explore policies needed to secure affordable housing and voluntary support services for the 580,00 individuals experiencing homelessness on any given night in the U.S.

“Housing is vital to a full and meaningful participation in society, but too many people in Oregon and across our country lack a safe and stable place to call home,” said Rep. Bonamici. “I am grateful for the opportunity to reestablish the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness with my colleagues Reps. Barragán, Garcia, and Bush. The caucus will help members find common ground as we pursue humane, research-backed policies to address homelessness.”

“The United States is experiencing a national homelessness crisis,” said Rep. Barragán. “In Los Angeles County alone there are over 69,000 people experiencing homelessness. Addressing this serious issue requires collaboration, education, and advocacy to improve the lives of our unhoused community members. The Caucus will help to open dialogue and facilitate important conversations about the best ways to solve this crisis.”

“The need for housing is universal, yet over 500,000 people across the country experience being unhoused,” said Rep. Bush. “This is the result of policy failures, and Congress has a moral

responsibility to address the unhoused crisis. This caucus provides an important forum for leaders in Congress to cultivate ideas and encourage our fellow Members to support legislative solutions to continue to tackle the housing crisis and ultimately solve it once and for all.”

“It has always been one of my top priorities to ensure equitable opportunity for all Americans, regardless of background, financial condition, ability, or housing status,” said Rep. Garcia. “As a Member of the House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, I will dedicate my efforts to finding legislative solutions, advocating for critical funding, and keeping our nation’s most vulnerable people housed. We, as Co-Chairs, will fight for homeless individuals alongside our Caucus Members with the collective goal of eradicating this failure in our system, as we believe that housing is a human right.”

Read the press release for more information and a full list of caucus members:

<https://bit.ly/3JbY2cx>

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## **Join Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response’s 3/18 Webinar on Reimagining Interim Housing**

[Join](#) the [Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response](#) on Wednesday, March 8, from 3 to 4:30 pm ET for a webinar, “Reimagining Interim Housing: Transforming Our Approaches to Sheltering People.”

The guidance and recommendations of people with lived experience of homelessness, and the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, make clear that we must create and seize opportunities to transform our approaches to sheltering people experiencing homelessness. Throughout 2022, Framework partners hosted focus groups made up of those with lived experience of homelessness, interviewed people from around the country, and assessed gaps in existing tools and materials. In late 2022, the Framework released two new documents based on its findings:

- [“Reimagining Interim Housing: Stages and Action Areas for Transforming Approaches to Sheltering People Experiencing Homelessness”](#) provides recommended approaches to help communities renovate their approaches and programs, with a focus throughout on racial justice and equity and on following the guidance of people with lived expertise and people in direct service roles.
- [“Tools for Strengthening Current Interim Housing Programs and Services”](#) brings together documents, guidance, and tools that can be used by people and organizations to strengthen critical elements of interim housing programs.

Featuring Framework consultants Claudine Sipili, Rashema Melson, Shaundell Diaz, and Matthew Doherty, the webinar will explore ideas for how communities can both strengthen their current programs and services and work to transform their approach to sheltering people experiencing homelessness.

Register for “Reimagining Interim Housing: Transforming Our Approaches to Sheltering People” at: [bit.ly/3KxuDLh](https://bit.ly/3KxuDLh)

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## **Budget and Appropriations**

### **President Biden to Unveil FY24 Budget Request This Week**

President Biden is expected to unveil a topline summary of his fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget request on Thursday, March 9, with more details to follow during the week of March 13. NLIHC will share an in-depth analysis of the request once the full proposal is released.

The president’s budget request officially kicks off the legislative process to enact a spending bill. Once the president’s proposal is released, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are expected to hold hearings on spending priorities and draft their versions of spending bills.

House Republicans have called for deep budget cuts to domestic programs. Many Republicans have advocated for cutting funding in FY24 to spending levels from FY22 in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. However, Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy has also pledged not to cut defense spending, or funding for Medicare and Social Security, leaving non-defense discretionary spending – including funding for vital affordable housing and homelessness programs – squarely on the chopping block. A [recent analysis](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimates that capping spending at FY22 levels could result in an average cut of 24% across non-defense programs, depending on which programs are prioritized. House Republicans are expected to release a topline preview of proposed budget cuts in April.

### **Take Action!**

It is unacceptable to balance the federal budget by demanding cuts to programs that help the lowest-income households survive. There is a national shortage of approximately 7 million affordable, available homes for people with the lowest incomes, and only one in four households who qualify for federal housing assistance receives the help it needs. Without adequate funding for vital federal affordable housing and homeless assistance programs, households with the lowest incomes will continue to live precariously, only one missed paycheck or unexpected emergency away from housing instability, eviction, and, in the worst cases, homelessness.

- [Sign your organization on](#) to the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding’s (CHCDF) annual budget letter, calling on Congress to reject spending cuts and instead provide the highest possible allocation for HUD’s and USDA’s affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs in FY24.
- [Email your members of Congress today](#) and urge them to increase – not cut – resources for affordable housing and homelessness in FY24 and to support NLIHC’s top appropriations priorities:

- Full funding for the TBRA program to renew existing vouchers and to expand the program to an additional 200,000 households.
  - Full funding for public housing operations and repairs.
  - Full funding for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program.
  - \$100 million for legal assistance to prevent evictions.
  - \$3 billion for a permanent Emergency Rental Assistance program.
  - Increased funding for the competitive tribal housing grants, targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.
- [Check out NLIHC's advocacy toolkit](#), "Oppose Dramatic Cuts to Federal Investments in Affordable Housing," for talking points, sample social media messages, and more!
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## **Senate Appropriations Committee Begins Plotting Path toward FY24 Budget**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, led by Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME), held its first full committee meeting on March 2 to begin planning a path towards a fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget agreement. Appropriations season will officially kick off after President Joe Biden releases a topline summary of his FY24 budget request on March 9.

Committee members reasserted their determination to reach a bipartisan agreement on topline funding numbers and move the 12 appropriations bills through markup and, eventually, to the Senate floor. Both Chair Murray and Ranking Member Collins have also voiced their opposition to combining the 12 bills into one omnibus spending package, insisting instead on moving the bills through regular order.

This reassurance comes as House Republicans continue to threaten steep budget cuts in the FY24 budget in exchange for raising the nation's debt ceiling, including a proposal to cap FY24 spending at FY22 levels, which would result in an estimated \$130 billion in cuts from non-defense discretionary spending. According to a [report](#) from the Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC), such a proposal would result in an across-the-board funding decrease of between 12% and 30%, depending on how cuts are distributed. A [recent analysis](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimates that capping spending at FY22 levels could result in an average cut of 24% across non-defense programs, depending on which programs are prioritized.

In April, following the release of the President's budget request, U.S. House Committee on the Budget Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) is expected to release a budget resolution outlining House Republicans' proposed topline spending cuts. U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget Chair Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) has yet to determine whether the Senate will release a budget resolution, or whether the Senate will charge ahead with its appropriations work without one.

**Take Action!**



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Visit our [Take Action](#) page to learn about more ways you can get involved!

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## Congress

### **Senate Banking Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development will hold a [hearing](#), “The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness,” on March 8 at 2:30 pm ET. Witnesses will include Jeff Olivet, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Richard Cho, senior advisor for housing and services at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The hearing will be livestreamed at:

<https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings>

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### **Senate Finance Committee to Hold Hearing on Affordable Housing**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Finance will hold a [hearing](#), “Tax Policy’s Role in Increasing Affordable Housing Supply for Working Families,” on March 7 at 10 am ET. Witnesses will include Denise Scott, president of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC); Steve Walker, executive director of Washington State Housing Finance Commission; Sharon Wilson Géo, president of National Multifamily Housing Council; Mark A. Calabria, senior advisor with the Cato Institute; and Garrett Watson, senior policy analyst and modeling manager at Tax Foundation. The hearing will be livestreamed at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/>

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## **House Financial Services Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Oversight of COVID-19 Relief Programs**

The U.S. House Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a [hearing](#), “Holding the Biden Administration Accountable for Wasteful Spending and Regulatory Oversight,” on March 8 at 2 pm ET. The hearing will discuss the oversight and regulation of pandemic relief programs codified through the “CARES Act” and “American Rescue Plan Act.” The hearing will also examine the performance of the Federal Reserve System, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Securities and Exchange Commission as regulators of the financial services industry.

Witnesses will include Mark Bialek, inspector general for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Richard Delmar, deputy inspector general of the U.S. Department of the Treasury; and Rebecca Sharek, deputy inspector general for audits and evaluations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The hearing will be broadcast live at: <https://financialservices.house.gov/live/>

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## **Publications**

### **NLIHC Releases *Advocates’ Guide 2023***

NLIHC released on March 2 [Advocates’ Guide 2023: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing & Community Development Programs & Policies](#). Published annually, the *Advocates’ Guide* is a comprehensive resource for advocates and others involved in affordable housing and community development advocacy. The *Advocates’ Guide* comprises hundreds of pages of useful resources and practical know-how, written by leading experts in the affordable housing and community development field with a common purpose: to educate advocates and affordable housing providers of all kinds about the programs and policies that make housing affordable to low-income people across America.

For many years, the *Advocates’ Guide* has been the leading authoritative reference for advocates and affordable housing providers seeking a quick and convenient way to understand affordable housing programs and policies. *The Guide* includes sections on advocacy resources, rental housing programs for the lowest-income people, the national Housing Trust Fund, community

development resources, housing tools, special housing issues, and other topics.

This year's *Advocates' Guide* features new sections on COVID-19-era housing programs and on tenant protections and eviction prevention efforts, including chapters on just cause eviction, right to counsel for tenants, and eviction diversion. The *2023 Guide* also includes new chapters on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program and on community land trusts. The new edition also features the very latest information on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule and updates on a wide range of HUD regulations and housing-related legislation.

*Advocates' Guide 2023* is an essential resource for anyone involved in or concerned about affordable housing and community development. The *Guide* is designed answer any and all questions about federal housing policy, whether about how a HUD or USDA housing program operates, what resources and protections are included in recent COVID-19-relief packages, how the national Housing Trust Fund or Low-Income Housing Tax Credit work, or what kinds of activities CDBG and HOME can fund. An outstanding primer for people new to affordable housing and community development, the *Guide* also provides seasoned advocates with updates regarding changes in programs, the most recent funding information, and new legislative threats and opportunities.

*Advocates' Guide 2023: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing & Community Development Programs & Policies* is available [here](#).

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## **HoUSed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Homes**

### **Recap of 2/27 National HoUSed Campaign Call**

In the most recent (February 27) “HoUSed: Universal, Stable, Affordable Homes” campaign call, we discussed Medicaid “unwinding” and its implications for renters with low-incomes and unhoused people; shared a national sign-on statement against the criminalization of homelessness; highlighted research on evictions in the post-pandemic housing market; received updates from the field and Capitol Hill; and more.

Jennifer Sullivan, director of health coverage access at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), joined the call to discuss the potential impact of [Medicaid “unwinding”](#) for low-income renters and people who are unhoused. Since early 2020, Medicaid has instated a “continuous coverage” requirement to prevent states from disenrolling anyone from Medicaid, a policy that maintained healthcare coverage for millions of people during the pandemic. However, this policy ends on March 31, 2023, and states will have 12 months to review Medicaid eligibility for all enrollees and be allowed to begin terminating coverage starting April 1. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) estimates that millions of enrollees – primarily low-income households, immigrant households, and unhoused people – are at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage, despite remaining eligible, because of administrative barriers to confirming eligibility. Jennifer highlighted [resources available](#) to [service providers](#) and those at-risk of losing coverage to help explain the renewal process.

National Field Director of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Jerry Jones shared NAEH's [Statement of Values against the Criminalization of Homelessness](#), a national statement that organizations around the country are encouraged to endorse. The statement reaffirms endorsers' commitment to pursuing equitable, [housing-focused](#) approaches to ending homelessness that respect each person's dignity and autonomy. The statement also rebukes attempts being made all over the country to undermine best practices by enacting laws [criminalizing people](#) experiencing homelessness for engaging in activities necessary for survival in public spaces.

Andrew Haughwout, director of household and public policy research at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, shared findings from his paper, "[Eviction Expectations in the Post-Pandemic Housing Market](#)." Findings suggest that experiencing an eviction is negatively related to income – that is, households with lower incomes are more likely to experience eviction than higher-income households, and more likely to report knowing someone who experienced eviction than higher-income households. Moreover, households with lower incomes were more likely to anticipate an increase in the cost of rent over the coming year, and more likely to report expecting to be evicted in the next 12 months.

Vice President of Housing and Senior Program Officer at the United Way of Central Maryland Scott Gottbreht provided an update on Maryland's Emergency Rental Assistance program, including how his organization conducted a [need projection](#) to make the case for additional emergency rental assistance funding to lawmakers. Susan Jacob, program director of Housing Counseling Services, Inc., and Peter Tatian, senior fellow and research director at Urban Institute, discussed their work with the DC Eviction Prevention Co-Leaders Group and their recently released resource, "[A Collaborative Framework for Eviction Prevention in DC](#)." The resource aims to establish a cross-sector collaborative approach to preventing the eviction and displacement of D.C. tenants with low-incomes and to ensuring housing stability in the future.

Sarah Saadian, NLIHC's senior vice president of public policy and field organizing, closed the call with a policy update highlighting the urgent need for advocates to call and weigh in with their members of Congress on the necessity of increased federal funding for HUD's and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) affordable housing and homelessness programs. House Republicans, under the leadership of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), are calling on their colleagues in Congress to enact steep cuts to the federal budget in fiscal year (FY) 2024, including potentially capping FY24 spending at FY22 levels. Advocates should [email their members of Congress today](#) and demand they provide increased funding in FY24 for these vital programs and use NLIHC's [advocacy toolkit](#) for opposing budget cuts to essential federal investments in affordable housing.

National calls will take place every other week. Our next call will be on March 13 at 2:30 pm ET. Register for the call at: <https://bit.ly/3ub2sWM>

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## **Housing Policy Forum**

**Virtual Registration Now Open for NLIHC's 2023 Housing Policy Forum**

Virtual registration is now open for [NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum 2023: Onward to Housing Justice](#), taking place on March 21-23 at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. Those attending the 2023 Housing Policy Forum virtually will be able to access the Forum's plenary sessions, including two keynote addresses – one by renowned scholar and social activist Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and the other by acclaimed sociologist and author Matthew Desmond – as well as discussions with Congresswoman and Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), U.S. Department of the Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, and Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Sandra Thompson about the path forward for ensuring tenant protections and affordable housing for those most in need in America. *Please note: virtual attendees will be able to attend plenary sessions only; attendees will not be able to attend breakout sessions, workshops, book signings, or other non-plenary events.* [Learn more about the plenary sessions at the 2023 Forum by exploring the agenda](#), and then [register to attend the 2023 Housing Policy Forum virtually!](#)

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## **HUD Sec. Marcia Fudge to Join Discussion with Tenant Leaders at Housing Policy Forum**

HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge will participate in a discussion with members of NLIHC's Tenant Leader Cohort at our [Housing Policy Forum 2023: Onward to Housing Justice!](#) Secretary Fudge and members of the cohort will discuss the policy solutions needed to actualize HUD's mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. The chat is one of the many sessions scheduled for the 2023 Forum, which will take place on March 21-23 at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. [Learn more about the session with Secretary Fudge and the other panels and speakers at the 2023 Forum by exploring the agenda](#), and then [register to attend the 2023 Housing Policy Forum!](#)

The discussion with Secretary Fudge will take place on Wednesday, March 22, from 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm. Joining the Secretary will be NLIHC Board Members and Tenant Leader Cohort members Zella Knight, Loraine Brown, and Mindy Woods.

Together, the Secretary and the three Tenant Leaders will explore ways HUD can strengthen tenant protections to address [key policy goals](#) developed by the NLIHC Tenant Leader Cohort. These goals include:

- Addressing past and current inequalities by incorporating racial and disability equity in all aspects of policymaking.
- Rebalancing the power between landlords and tenants and holding landlords and institutions accountable.
- Ensuring tenant representation by having tenants present for every decision made about their homes and communities.
- Prioritizing housing that is deeply affordable and accessible for people with the lowest incomes and greatest needs.
- Increasing resources to help low-income people become homeowners and maintain financial stability.

In addition to the discussion with Secretary Fudge, the 2023 Forum will feature discussions with Congresswoman and Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus **Pramila Jayapal** (D-WA), U.S. Department of the Treasury Deputy Secretary **Wally Adeyemo**, and Federal Housing Finance Agency Director **Sandra Thompson** about the path forward for ensuring tenant protections and affordable housing for those most in need in America. The Forum will also feature two keynote addresses: one by renowned scholar and social activist **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, and the other by acclaimed sociologist and author **Matthew Desmond**, who will also celebrate the launch of his new book *Poverty, by America* at this year's Forum. [Register to attend NLIHC's 2023 Housing Policy Forum!](#)

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## **Countering the Criminalization of Homelessness: Breakout Session at Housing Policy Forum**

[NLIHC's Housing Policy Forum 2023: Onward to Housing Justice](#), taking place on March 21-23 at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C., will feature a wide range of breakout sessions, including a session on how to counter the criminalization of homelessness.

In communities across the country, misguided policymakers are responding to growing rates of homelessness by advancing dangerous rhetoric and harmful, dehumanizing measures that will make it even more difficult for people to exit homelessness. One of the clearest threats is the alarming rise in legislation that seeks to criminalize homelessness by jailing or fining individuals for sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go.

The breakout session, "Countering the Criminalization of Homelessness," will address state and local efforts to criminalize homelessness; explore how advocates, people with lived experience, and homeless service providers are pushing back against these stigmatizing and counterproductive bills; and examine the impact of criminalization on people experiencing homelessness.

The session will be held on Wednesday, March 22, from 3:45 to 5 pm, and will be moderated by NLIHC Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Field Organizing Sarah Saadian. The session will feature the following speakers:

- Carlton Martin, Pro Bono Director, National Homelessness Law Center
- Donald Whitehead Jr., Executive Director, National Coalition for the Homeless
- Lisa Glow, Chief Executive Officer, Central Arizona Shelter Services
- Marqueia Watson, Executive Director, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

In addition to breakout sessions like "Countering the Criminalization of Homelessness," the 2023 Forum will feature discussions with Congresswoman and Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), U.S. Department of the Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, and Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Sandra Thompson about the path forward for ensuring tenant protections and affordable housing for those most in need in America. The Forum will also feature two keynote addresses: one by renowned scholar and



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## **Native American Housing**

### **HUD Announces FY23 Indian Housing Block Grant Formula Allocations**

HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) announced Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) [final formula allocations](#) to Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) for fiscal year (FY) 2023. In a "[Dear Tribal Leader](#)" letter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs Heidi Frechette announced that the total IHBG appropriation for FY23 is \$787 million. Tribes and TDHEs must review their data on the [FY23 IHBG Allocation and Formula Data Sheets](#) and report any changes to the IHBG Formula Customer Service Center. Additionally, Census challenges to FY24 IHBG Needs data must be submitted no later than March 30, 2023, for consideration in relation to the FY24 IHBG formula allocation estimates.

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## **HUD**

### **NLIHC Joins Letter Urging Congress to Confirm David Uejio and Solomon Greene as HUD Assistant Secretaries**

NLIHC joined the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and other national, state, and local organizations in sending a letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Ranking Member Tim Scott (R-SC) urging the committee to move the nominations of David Uejio and Solomon Greene to a full floor vote immediately. President Biden nominated David Uejio to be HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and Solomon Greene to be HUD's Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

The letter cites NFHA's 2022 Fair Housing Trends Report, connecting the report's conclusions with the need for urgent action by HUD's policy, research, and fair housing arms. "HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) and Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (PD&R) are responsible for fully utilizing the tools our nation's civil rights statutes provide us to ensure fairness in the housing market," the letter states. "We believe that David Uejio and Solomon Greene understand how best to achieve equitable, accessible, and quality affordable housing in every neighborhood, and they are excellent leaders selected to manage this important work."

Read the full letter at: <https://bit.ly/3KTQnkw>

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## **NLIHC Provides Summary of AFFH Equity Plan Submission and HUD Review Procedures, Adds Content to Overview of Equity Plan**

NLIHC has prepared “[Preliminary Overview of AFFH Equity Plan Submission and HUD Review and Compliance Procedures](#),” the latest in a series of briefs providing initial overviews of the proposed affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) regulation. In addition, NLIHC has augmented its previous brief (see *Memo*, 2/21), “[Preliminary Overview of the AFFH Equity Plan](#),” adding two sections. One section outlines the requirement to incorporate the Equity Plan’s fair housing goals into a Consolidated Plan or Public Housing Agency Plan. The other section outlines provisions regarding revising an accepted Equity Plan (for example, following a disaster). Each brief includes suggestions for improvements while also voicing concerns about certain provisions. NLIHC will continue to produce briefs describing and analyzing other aspects of the proposed AFFH regulation.

The new brief, “[Preliminary Overview of AFFH Equity Plan Submission and HUD Review and Compliance Procedures](#),” outlines three elements of the proposed AFFH regulation. “Submission Requirements” presents a timeline indicating when “program participants” (local and state jurisdictions that must submit a Consolidated Plan and public housing agencies (PHAs) that must submit a PHA Plan) will be expected to submit their initial AFFH Equity Plans. HUD’s scheme is to require the largest program participants to submit the inaugural Equity Plans because HUD assumes they have the greatest capacity to engage in the new process. Depending on when a final AFFH rule is published and on the size of a program participant, it could be many years before most program participants will be required to submit an Equity Plan. In the meantime, program participants will continue to submit some form of fair housing plan. HUD is not prescribing the format of these interim fair housing plans: they can take the form of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), as was required between 1995 and 2015, or an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), as was established by the 2015 AFFH rule before being abruptly ended by the Trump administration, during which few program participants were required even to prepare an AFH.

“Review of Equity Plan” describes HUD’s process for reviewing submitted Equity Plans. As a part of a greatly improved transparency process, HUD will post an Equity Plan submitted by a program participant to a HUD-maintained website. The public will have 60 days to send comments directly to HUD about the submitted Equity Plan, and HUD will be required to consider public comments when reviewing an Equity Plan. HUD will have 100 days to decide whether to accept an Equity Plan. If HUD determines that there are shortcomings with an Equity Plan, it will notify a program participant and suggest what can be done to achieve acceptance within a reasonable period of time. If HUD does not accept a revised Equity Plan, the procedures for revising and resubmitting continue to apply until a program participant’s revised Equity Plan is ultimately accepted.

NLIHC’s augmented “[Preliminary Overview of the AFFH Equity Plan](#)” adds provisions regarding the requirement to “incorporate” an Equity Plan’s fair housing goals, strategies, and meaningful actions in a local or state jurisdiction’s long-term (five- or three-year) Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) or a public housing agency’s Five-PHA Plan, as well as in each of these long-term plans’ annual updates. The purpose is to ensure the program participants’ overall housing and community development policies, programs, and use of federal funds are consistent with



their obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. In addition, the augmented brief adds the proposed rule's provisions regarding when an accepted Equity Plan must be revised.

HUD will accept comments until April 10. NLIHC will offer sample comment letters that advocates can consider using.

Read “Preliminary Overview of AFFH Equity Plan Submission and HUD Review and Compliance Procedures” at: <https://bit.ly/3ZB2Spm>

Read the expanded “Preliminary Overview of the AFFH Equity Plan” at: <https://bit.ly/3ZhQzhP>

Read “Preliminary Overview of AFFH Community Engagement and Complaint Processes” at: <https://bit.ly/3EgIHWy>

Read NLIHC's “[Preliminary Highlights of Five Positive Overarching Features of the Proposed AFFH Rule](#),” first provided in *Memo*, [2/13](#).

Read NLIHC's “[Key Provisions of the 2023 Proposed AFFH Rule: Based on the Executive Summary and Background Sections of the Preamble](#),” first provided in *Memo*, [1/23](#).

More information about Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing is on [page 8-12](#) of NLIHC's newly released *2023 Advocates' Guide* and on NLIHC's [Racial Equity and Fair Housing website](#) of [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing webpages](#).

Find HUD's preview version of the proposed AFFH rule at: <https://bit.ly/3wWsRLH>

Find the *Federal Register* version of the proposed AFFH rule at: <https://bit.ly/3RIYfa1>

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## **Disaster Housing Recovery**

### **FEMA Extends Assistance Period for Hurricane Ida Survivors in Louisiana after Push by NLIHC-Led DHRC and Other Disaster Recovery Advocates**

FEMA quietly announced to stakeholders in Louisiana last month that it would stop accepting appeals and providing financial assistance for survivors of Hurricane Ida – 18 months after the storm impacted the state. The decision to terminate the assistance period was made despite more than 236,000 households in need remaining in limbo, with no decision having been made about their eligibility for assistance. In response, more than 60 non-profit organizations – including NLIHC and members of the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) – signed on to [letters](#) asking that the agency grant a deadline extension requested by the State of Louisiana, which would allow disaster-impacted households time to submit appeals and extend assistance for participants in FEMA-administered assistance programs. In a victory for advocates in Louisiana and around the country, the agency [responded](#) by granting the state's request for a three-month extension on March 2.

NLIHC leads the [DHRC](#) of more than 890 national, state, and local organizations, including many working directly with disaster-impacted communities and with first-hand experience recovering after disasters. The DHRC strives to ensure that federal disaster recovery efforts reach all the lowest-income and most marginalized survivors.

FEMA has a statutorily created deadline for the provision of assistance set at 18 months following the declaration of a disaster. However, the agency is provided the authority – and regularly agrees – to extend this period upon request by state governments. Because housing programs administered by FEMA, such as those overseeing the creation of THUs, often take many months to implement, disaster survivors typically only receive direct housing assistance for a short time before the eighteen-month deadline is reached. Similarly, the process for appealing FEMA denials of assistance commonly takes a significant amount of time due to the number of obstacles placed by FEMA on assistance. These obstacles disproportionately impact households with lower incomes, who are often the most in need of assistance following a disaster.

Because HUD-funded long-term disaster recovery programs often require applicants to have FEMA-verified losses above a certain threshold, a denial of assistance by FEMA can often preclude a household from receiving funds during the long-term recovery process, significantly impacting their ability to recover and increasing the danger of permanent displacement and homelessness.

In light of the significant impact on households with low incomes affected by the decision to prematurely end the assistance and appeals period, organizations such as NLIHC, the National Housing Law Project, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, the Disaster Justice Network, the Lowlander Center, SBP, and other local and national organizations penned letters to administration officials pushing for FEMA to grant Louisiana’s request for an extension. FEMA’s decision to do so is an example of how housing, homelessness, legal aid, faith-based, volunteer, and community-based organizations can utilize their capacities and advocacy to push emergency management agencies at the state and local levels to ensure that all individuals receive the assistance they need to fully recover following disasters.

Read FEMA’s press release about the decision at: <https://bit.ly/3SKrfib>

Read the advocacy letters at: <https://bit.ly/3IPtImF>

Find more information about the DHRC at: <https://bit.ly/2NOHusW>

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## **Opportunity Starts at Home**

### **Study Shows Most Black Children Live in Neighborhoods Lacking Amenities Associated with Child Wellbeing**

A [study](#) published in *Child Trends* assessing child wellbeing finds that 60% of Black children live in neighborhoods that lack amenities associated with healthy development, including

sidewalks or walking paths, recreational centers, parks or playgrounds, and libraries or bookmobiles. Of the four large geographical areas studied (the Western, Northeastern, Midwestern, and Southern regions), Black children in the South had the lowest reported access to neighborhood amenities. The study also finds that most Black children in neighborhoods with few amenities are members of families with lower incomes.

The study highlights the positive social, emotional, and physical outcomes associated with access to the four amenities under examination. Those outcomes range from higher rates of physical activity and mental health resilience to better internal self-regulation and improved academic achievement. The study makes the case that cross-sector initiatives should be considered to address children's well-being in a holistic way. Read an article about the study [here](#).

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## Research

### Study Finds Nearly Three-Quarters of Municipalities Lack LIHTC Housing

A new article published in *Housing Policy Debate*, "[The Geography of Absence: Cities, Towns, and Suburbs with No LIHTC Housing](#)," examines the differences in municipalities with and without Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) housing. According to the study, LIHTC housing is present in all central cities of large metropolitan areas, but almost three-quarters of other local jurisdictions lack any LIHTC housing. Municipalities that experienced population and multifamily housing stock growth between 2010 and 2019 are more likely to have LIHTC housing, but a majority (52%) still do not offer it. The authors find that municipalities that exclude LIHTC housing tend to be smaller, wealthier, and whiter compared to areas that include LIHTC housing.

The authors used HUD's LIHTC database to calculate the number of LIHTC properties and units within each U.S. municipality. They also utilized data from the American Community Survey (ACS) to evaluate the differences in demographic, socioeconomic, and housing-stock characteristics of municipalities with and without LIHTC properties between 2014 and 2019. Their analysis distinguishes between all municipalities and growing municipalities, which they define as municipalities that saw increases in population and multifamily housing units.

The authors find that 72% of all municipalities have no LIHTC housing. Growing municipalities in metropolitan areas are more likely to accommodate LIHTC housing, but 52% of such municipalities still lack any LIHTC housing. Higher rates of growing municipalities in micropolitan (56%) and nonmetropolitan (65%) areas exclude it. The authors find that the lack of LIHTC housing is widespread and pervasive throughout the country, even in states like New Jersey and California that require municipalities to provide affordable housing.

The authors find that municipalities that are smaller, wealthier, whiter, and have less rental housing are more likely to have no LIHTC housing. While only .9% of municipalities with populations of 100,000 or more exclude LIHTC housing, 19% of municipalities with a population between 25,000 and 49,999 exclude it and 83% of municipalities with populations of less than 5,000 exclude it. Municipalities that included LIHTC housing also had a higher number

of renters, with 40% of the housing stock as rental housing compared to 27% of their exclusionary counterparts on average. The municipalities with LIHTC housing also had higher population shares of people of color than jurisdictions without LIHTC housing (31% vs. 22%) and higher poverty rates (17% vs. 14%). The biggest discrepancies emerged when looking at the presence of public housing and other federally subsidized housing: while municipalities that included other federally subsidized housing programs had LIHTC housing 64% of the time, only 14% of those without federally subsidized housing included LIHTC housing.

The authors also analyzed factors predicting the absence of LIHTC housing. The most significant factor predicting the absence of LIHTC housing is whether a municipality is in a suburb in large metropolitan area, which increases the likelihood of exclusion by 19%. This factor, however, is not statistically significant for growing municipalities. Increases in total population are associated with a 9.6% decrease in the odds of LIHTC exclusion among all municipalities, and a 6.2% decrease in the odds among growing municipalities. While the total share of residents of color is not a significant predictor of LIHTC exclusion, increases in the share of residents of color are associated with a 1.1% increase in the odds of LIHTC exclusion among all municipalities and a 2% increase among growing municipalities.

These findings suggest that despite being the largest affordable housing program in the country, LIHTC has yet to enter many housing markets. The authors propose a few solutions to address this problem, including state-level mandates for municipalities to meet state-wide affordable housing needs and implementing regional housing choice voucher programs that facilitate access to municipalities lacking affordable housing options.

Read the report at: <https://bit.ly/3J0xTh2>

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## **New Database Identifies State-Level Approaches to Catalyze Housing Production at the Local Level**

The Urban Institute and Turner Center for Housing Innovation released a report outlining a new framework for evaluating how states are regulating municipal action in regard to housing production. The report, “[Incentivizing Housing Production: State Laws from across the Country to Encourage or Require Municipal Action](#),” analyzes over 140 “pro-housing” laws implemented at the state level throughout the country and categorizes the different approaches taken to advance housing production. The four regulatory tools identified by the authors are (1) requiring localities to adopt plans, (2) instituting state standards, (3) offering “carrots” to incentivize production, and (4) utilizing “sticks” as punitive measures when localities do not adhere to regulations.

To compile the database, the authors scanned existing research for mentions of legislation designed to increase housing production. They supplemented this with information found by using a legal search engine to identify legislation that was not cited in the literature they encountered. The resulting database identified 144 laws in 20 states, which the authors acknowledged is not a comprehensive list of all legislative attempts at promoting housing production. The authors then developed a typology to categorize each piece of legislation

according to its overall purpose, the policy levers that describe the type of intervention, and “escape hatches,” which are exceptions built into legislation that apply to municipalities under specific conditions.

The overall purpose of the law was broken down into two components: the functional goal and the target market segment. The functional goal referred to the intended outcomes of the legislation, which were categorized as one of the following: the general production of market-rate housing, supporting the development or preservation of affordable housing, advancing fair housing, and fostering environmental sustainability through planning and development. The market segment component related to the kind of housing promoted by the law – for example, emergency shelter, missing-middle developments, or accessory-dwelling units.

The authors identified four policy levers: plans, state standards, sticks, and carrots. Planning and state standards were the most popular. Approximately half of the identified laws required municipalities to plan for housing needs or expand existing planning requirements, while a similar number of laws created state standards that limited the control municipalities could exert over their land-use decisions, such as implementing parking minimum requirements. Roughly 30% of laws were characterized as using “carrots,” which offer rewards to municipalities for pro-housing actions through mechanisms like funding or the granting of flexibility in land-use policies. The least popular policy levers were the “sticks,” which refer to laws that penalize states for non-compliance with a regulation – for example, by imposing a fine or withholding funding.

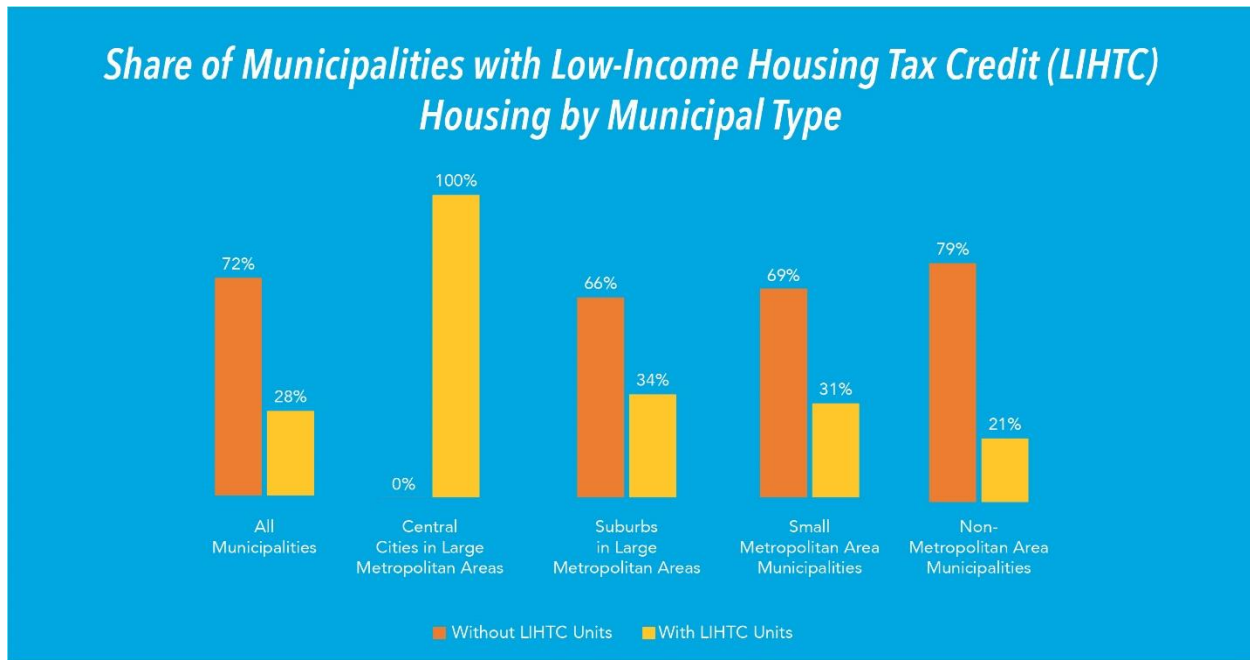
The authors conclude by calling for the expansion of the database so that all efforts to advance pro-housing legislation are documented. Beyond documenting the legislation, they advocate for further research to understand what strategies are effective, and in which housing markets they are effective, so that policymakers can utilize the database to better identify model legislation and best practices.

Read the paper at: <https://bit.ly/3ZoP554>

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## **Fact of the Week**

### **Most Municipalities Have No LIHTC Housing**



Source: Schwartz, A., McClure, K. (2023). The geography of absence: Cities, towns, and suburbs with no LIHTC housing. *Housing Policy Debate*. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10511482.2023.2171740>



Source: Schwartz, A., McClure, K. (2023). The geography of absence: Cities, towns, and suburbs with no LIHTC housing. *Housing Policy Debate*. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10511482.2023.2171740>.

## From the Field

### Seattle and Vancouver Voters Approve Two Housing Ballot Measures in Special Elections

Voters in Seattle and Vancouver, Washington, approved ballot measures in each municipality to expand affordable housing options in special elections held on February 14. [Seattle’s Initiative 135](#) (I-135) creates a new social housing developer to build, acquire, and manage publicly owned affordable homes for low- and moderate-income tenants. [Vancouver’s Proposition 3](#) replaces an expiring property tax levy that will be used to fund rental assistance, housing services, construction and preservation of affordable homes, and shelter beds.

The [House Our Neighbors coalition](#), which represents a diverse cross-section of labor, housing, climate, antipoverty, racial justice, and other civic organizations, led the campaign for I-135 in Seattle. [Originally formed](#) in opposition to a business-backed ballot initiative to increase encampment sweeps, the coalition began to push for the social housing proposal in early 2021. Although House Our Neighbors did not collect enough petition signatures to place the measure on the ballot for the November 2022 midterm elections, it succeeded in putting the initiative before voters in a special election held on February 14, 2023. I-135 was the only item on the



ballot in the special election. Despite limited funding and the challenges of mobilizing voters in a special election, House Our Neighbors led a successful grassroots campaign and garnered popular support via door-to-door canvassing, public events, and social media activations. The initiative passed with [57% of voters in favor](#).

“We are so excited to bring housing as a human right and a public good to Seattle,” said Tiffani McCoy, advocacy director at Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project. “We are also inspired that the movement for social housing is growing nationally. Folks are tired of waiting on the federal government or the private market to solve the housing crisis.”

I-135 creates a public development authority called the Seattle Social Housing Developer and commits the city to providing startup support for 18 months, at an estimated cost of \$750,000. The public developer will create homes for people earning between 0% and 120% of Area Median Income (AMI), and tenants will pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent. Each building will house a mix of extremely low-income, very low-income, low-income, and middle-income tenants, although the ballot initiative does not specify the precise mix in each building, and rents from middle-income tenants will cross-subsidize the rents of lower-income tenants. Homes developed and owned under I-135 will be kept permanently affordable. Whenever the city considers selling or giving public lands to another entity for non-public use, the city must prepare a feasibility study to assess whether public lands should be transferred to the public developer for social housing. I-135 also contains provisions to strengthen resident voice and autonomy. Seven of the board’s 13 members will be democratically elected social housing residents, and each building will form a governance council that participates in decision-making processes, receives a budget, and interfaces with the board.

The campaign for I-135 faced no formal opposition. Some housing and homelessness advocates, however, remained neutral or expressed skepticism that the social housing developer would be an effective vehicle to address Seattle’s affordable housing crisis. The Seattle metropolitan area faces a severe shortage of affordable homes among the lowest-income renters. According to NLIHC’s *Gap* report, there are [only 30 affordable and available homes](#) for every 100 extremely low-income renter households in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area. That number rises to 47, 89, and 98 homes, respectively, for every 100 very low-income, low-income, and median-income renter households. Because the shortage is most concentrated among extremely low-income renters, some housing and homelessness advocates argue that investments should be directed towards this population and should not serve middle-income people. Supporters of I-135, on the other hand, point to the advantages of mixed-income buildings, the importance of housing stability at all income levels, and the greater durability of social programs that serve middle-income people.

Other critics [shared concerns](#) that the Seattle Social Housing Developer will only replicate the work of existing agencies or will lead to competition for resources, since I-135 does not include a revenue stream. The initiative’s supporters argue that the social housing developer will put increased pressure on state and local government to dedicate resources to affordable housing and that new social housing will differ significantly from existing affordable housing, in part because of its provisions to empower residents. Once the developer’s board of directors has assembled, [it will select](#) a CEO and CFO who will begin to search for buildings to acquire and seek funding from the state legislature, local government, and philanthropic sources.

Vancouver's Proposition 3 enacts an affordable housing levy to replace an expiring levy that voters approved in 2016. The levy imposes an estimated tax of \$0.30 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and will raise approximately \$100 million over 10 years for the Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund. These resources will provide rental assistance and housing services for 2,500 households, help 150 households with homeownership, preserve or construct 2,400 affordable homes, and create or sustain 550 shelter beds. These resources are urgently needed, as the Vancouver metropolitan area faces a [deficit](#) of nearly 58,000 affordable homes for extremely low-income renters and nearly 78,000 affordable homes for very low-income renters.

“The Vancouver affordable housing levy has allowed us to leverage federal and state resources to build supportive housing for people exiting homelessness. We are thrilled that the community has renewed and expanded the levy and look forward to continuing to build these vital projects,” said Andy Silver, chief operating officer of the Vancouver Housing Authority.

The existing levy, which expires at the end of the year, authorized the city to collect \$6 million per year in property taxes from 2017 to 2023. This revenue has been used to produce or preserve more than 1,000 affordable homes, to provide rental assistance and housing services to more than 1,600 households, and to create or support more than 400 temporary shelter beds.

The [Bring Vancouver Home](#) coalition led the campaign for Proposition 3, and the campaign faced no organized opposition. The measure [passed](#) with 53.6% of voters' support.

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## Events

### **Join Today's “Tenant Talk Live” Webinar on Holding Bad Landlords Accountable**

NLIHC will host the next session of “Tenant Talk Live” – a webinar with and for renter and resident leaders – today, March 6, at 6 pm ET. The webinar will include a discussion with leaders from the Millenia Resistance Campaign – a group of [Millenia Companies](#) tenants, community leaders, legal aid experts, and other allies – who went directly to HUD with their demands for better living conditions. NLIHC staff and other national partners will also provide a brief update on nationwide efforts to advocate for tenant protections. Register for today's Tenant Talk Live webinar at: <https://bit.ly/361rmy2>

In today's webinar, NLIHC staff will be joined by Foluke Nunn, a community organizer with the Atlanta Economic Justice Program of the [American Friends Service Committee](#). Foluke provides support for various tenant associations, tenant campaigns, and home defense fights in metro Atlanta and is a member of the Millenia Resistance Campaign, which is advocating for changes in the living conditions of properties owned by [Millenia Companies](#). Millenia is one of the largest affordable housing providers in the U.S., with 30,000 units in 26 states. Yet the management company has gained a reputation for not addressing problems in its apartment complexes. In its effort to push the company to better maintain its properties, the Millenia Resistance Campaign worked closely with groups like the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) to compose and send to HUD a letter making eight [specific demands](#) about holding



Millenia accountable for its actions. The campaign also created a [petition](#) to involve more members of the general public in its advocacy efforts.

Attendees of the webinar will have the chance to learn more about the campaign and how to get involved in the movement for tenants' rights. Follow the campaign on Instagram ([@MillenniaResistance](#)) and Twitter ([@ResistMillenia](#)) to learn more about supporting its efforts.

Remember: Tenant Talk Live would not be possible without tenants like you! We strive to connect and engage with tenants and tenant leaders through our webinars. If you are a low-income tenant and have a topic you would like to propose for an upcoming Tenant Talk Live, or if you would like to participate as a speaker on an upcoming call or webinar, please email: [sbetancourt@nlihc.org](mailto:sbetancourt@nlihc.org)

Register for next week's Tenant Talk Live webinar at: [bit.ly/361rmy2](https://bit.ly/361rmy2)

Please note: Beginning in April, we will hold Tenant Talk Live webinars on the first and third Monday of every month at 6 pm ET. More information about topics and webinar dates is forthcoming.

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## Leadership Awards Ceremony

### **Representative Cori Bush, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, and John Parvensky to be Honored at 2023 Leadership Awards Ceremony!**

Every year, NLIHC honors individual leaders and organizations for their outstanding contributions to affordable housing at our Housing Leadership Awards Ceremony. This year, we are excited to present leadership awards to Representative Cori Bush (D-MO), John Parvensky, and Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico. These exceptional leaders will be recognized at NLIHC's 41st Annual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration on Wednesday, March 22, from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. Recognize these outstanding leaders by making a donation to NLIHC in their honor as an [individual](#) or [organization](#). To learn more about the awards and for event updates, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3TR14oN>

Representative Cori Bush (D-MO) will receive the 2023 Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award for leading a movement to guarantee housing for all. In her first term in Congress, she introduced legislation to end homelessness by 2025, led a demonstration on the steps of the U.S. Capitol that successfully called on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to extend the eviction moratorium, and introduced legislation to permanently implement an eviction moratorium throughout the pandemic. The Brooke award is named for Senator Edward Brooke (R-MA), who as a U.S. senator and later as chair of the NLIHC board of directors championed low-income housing.

John Parvensky will receive the 2023 Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award for his longstanding leadership in the fight for housing and health care justice and equity as an advocate, a supportive

housing developer, and a provider of health care for the homeless. As CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless for the past 37 years, he led the development of more than 2,000 supportive housing units. The Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award is named for NLIHC's founder, Cushing Niles Dolbeare, a pioneer of the affordable housing movement.

Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico will receive the 2023 Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award for its persistent efforts to ensure a just recovery – including access to safe and affordable housing – in the aftermath of numerous disasters. Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico is a non-profit organization that provides free legal education to groups and communities in the defense of fundamental rights – especially the right to housing. This award is named for former NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley, who led NLIHC for more than 17 years.

You can recognize these outstanding leaders by making a donation to NLIHC in their honor either as an [individual](#) or as an [organization](#). 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. Information about how to register to attend the Housing Leadership Awards Celebration is forthcoming.

To learn more about the awards and for event updates, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3TR14oN>

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## **NLIHC in the News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 26**

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of February 26:

- “Forecasting 2023: As Rates Rise, Even Cities Like Indianapolis Face Housing Affordability Issues” *Urban Land*, February 27 at: <http://bit.ly/3mjI877>
- “Strategic Planning for the Silver State: Economic Development and Utilities” *Nevada Business Magazine*, March 1 at: <http://bit.ly/3IIz0Au>
- “Senators Eye Housing Bills for Bipartisan Tax Policy Push” *Bloomberg Tax*, March 2 at: <http://bit.ly/3mnV0cm>
- “FALLING SHORT: Developers struggle to find financing to build affordable housing” *Baltimore Business Journal*, March 2 at: <https://bit.ly/3kGspyH>

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## **NLIHC News**

### **Where to Find Us – March 6**

- Arkansas Coalition of Housing and Neighborhood Growth for Empowerment, ACHANGE State of Affordable Housing – Virtual, March 9 (Gabby Ross)
- Texas Homeless Network, “[Advocacy 101: How to Engage your Elected Officials on Housing Solutions](#)” – Virtual, March 9 (Sidney Betancourt)
- [Empower Missouri’s Affordable Housing Call](#) – Virtual, March 10 (Gabby Ross)
- National Housing Conference, “[Solutions for Housing Communications](#)” – March 15, Washington, D.C. (Sarah Saadian)
- [A Wider Circle Affordable Housing Event](#) – Virtual, March 15 (Gabby Ross)
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York, [Private Capital Investment in Multifamily Affordable Housing](#) – March 27 (Andrew Aurand)
- [Housing California 2023 Conference](#), “Housing’s Next Chapter” – San Diego, March 27-29 (Sarah Saadian)
- New Jersey Housing Collaborative Workgroup – Virtual, March 29 (Lindsay Duvall)
- Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association, “Federal Forum on Affordable Housing” – Boston, April 4 (Sarah Saadian)
- South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, Annual Homeless Summit – Pierre, South Dakota, June 13-14 (Diane Yentel and Courtney Cooperman)

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Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225  
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