

Volume 27, Issue 16
April 25, 2022

Budget and Appropriations

- Join NLIHC and CHCDF Partners for a National Call-In Day on April 26 to Urge Congress to Make Significant Investments in Affordable Housing!

Opportunity Starts at Home

- OSAH Campaign Partners Sign Letter to Congress Urging a Major Expansion to Rental Assistance in Final FY23 Spending Bill

HUD

- HUD Releases Public Housing Dashboard
- HUD PIH Posts Section 3 Tracking and Reporting Guidance for PHAs

Leadership Awards Celebration

- NLIHC's Virtual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration Takes Place This Week on April 28! Register to Attend!

HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing

- NLIHC Releases *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*
- Join Today's National HoUsed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing!

Fair Housing

- NLIHC Joins Nearly 1,000 Organizations in Signing on to Public Charge Comment Letter

Our Homes, Our Votes

- Register for May 2 *Our Homes, Our Votes* Webinar on Legal Considerations for Nonprofits Carrying Out Voter and Candidate Engagement

Research

- Expanded Child Tax Credit Payments Increased Financial Security Most Significantly among Lower-Income Households

Fact of the Week

- No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable and Available Rental Housing for the Lowest-Income Renters

From the Field

- Illinois General Assembly Passes Source-of-Income Fair Housing Protections

Events

- Join Upcoming “Tenant Talk Live” Webinar for Renters and Resident Leaders: Organizing for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Holders

NLIHC Careers

- NLIHC Seeks Chief Operating Officer
- NLIHC Seeks Manager/Director of Field Organizing

NLIHC in the News

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of April 17

NLIHC News

- Where to Find Us – April 25, 2022

Budget and Appropriations

Join NLIHC and CHCDF Partners for a National Call-In Day on April 26 to Urge Congress to Make Significant Investments in Affordable Housing!

NLIHC and our partners at the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding ([CHCDF](#)) are hosting a National Call-In Day on April 26 during which advocates can urge Congress to make significant investments in affordable housing in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget and in any reconciliation package. Use NLIHC's [National Call-In Day script](#) to help develop your own talking points and urge Congress not to miss two critical opportunities to expand investments in affordable housing this year: during the FY23 appropriations process and in a budget reconciliation bill.

FY23 Appropriations

The President released his [FY23 budget request](#) in late March (see *Memo*, [4/4](#)), kicking off the FY23 appropriations process. Congressional leaders in the House and Senate must now draft their own versions of the spending bill, with the goal of finalizing an appropriations package before the new fiscal year begins on October 1.

Advocates can help ensure that affordable housing programs receive robust funding by contacting their members of Congress and urging them to support the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, including for NLIHC's top priorities:

- \$32.13 billion for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program to renew all existing contracts and expand housing vouchers to an additional 200,000 households.
- \$5.125 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund to preserve public housing, and \$5.06 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund.
- \$3.6 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- \$100 million for legal assistance to prevent evictions.
- \$300 million for the competitive tribal housing program, targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

CHCDF held a webinar on April 21 providing an overview of affordable housing programs for FY23. You can watch the recording here: <https://bit.ly/3EF2zAG>

Budget Reconciliation

The appropriations process is vital to ensuring continued and expanded funding for HUD's affordable housing programs. However, budget reconciliation – which allows the Senate to pass legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes, rather than the 60 votes typically required in the chamber – represents the best opportunity to secure the bold, large-scale investments in affordable housing needed to address the severe lack of deeply affordable rental homes.

While the “Build Back Better Act” has stalled in the Senate, President Biden and Congressional Democrats are working to revive negotiations to enact a significantly scaled-down version of the bill. It is vital that Congress include in any reconciliation package significant funding for targeted affordable housing investments, including the HoUSed campaign's [top priorities](#):

- \$25 billion to expand housing vouchers to more than [300,000 households](#).
- \$65 billion to preserve public housing for its 2 million residents.

- \$15 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund to build, preserve, and operate more than [150,000 units](#) of affordable, accessible homes for households with the lowest incomes.

Take Action

Your members of Congress need to hear from you about the vital importance of increased affordable housing funding, and what these investments would mean for your community!

- [Call your members' offices on April 26](#) and urge them to support funding for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs at the highest levels possible for FY23, and to provide significant funding for vouchers, public housing, and the national Housing Trust Fund in any reconciliation package! Use NLIHC's [National Call-In Day script](#) for talking points.
- [Sign your organization on to a letter](#) supporting the highest level of funding possible for housing resources in FY23.
- [Continue to weigh in with your members of Congress](#) about why investments in rental assistance, public housing, and the Housing Trust Fund should remain in any budget reconciliation package!

Opportunity Starts at Home

OSAH Campaign Partners Sign Letter to Congress Urging a Major Expansion to Rental Assistance in Final FY23 Spending Bill

The Opportunity Starts at Home campaign sent a [letter](#) to congressional appropriators on April 22 urging them to expand Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to an additional 200,000 households in their FY23 spending bills in accordance with President Biden's budget request. The letter's signatories include 17 leading national organizations from an array of sectors, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, Church World Service, Civil Rights Corps, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Rental assistance is a critically important tool for helping people with the lowest incomes afford decent, stable homes and avoid homelessness. Due to chronic under-funding and disinvestment, however, only one in four households eligible for a federal housing voucher will get the help it needs. The FY23 spending bill presents an opportunity to obtain a tremendous return on investment by expanding HCVs to an additional 200,000 households.

Read the campaign's letter [here](#).

HUD

HUD Releases Public Housing Dashboard

HUD recently released a [Public Housing Data Dashboard](#) providing information on the number of public housing units, occupancy rates, funding levels, household demographics, and utility usage in public housing. Users can filter the dashboard to view data for specific states, regions, public housing authorities (PHAs), and field offices. The dashboard also provides visualizations of public housing trends over time, such as the occupancy rate, which has decreased slightly over the last year.

The dashboard provides interactive visualizations, allowing users to compare states and national statistics. Filtering to view the state of Utah, for example, makes it clear that the state's public housing residents are

significantly older than residents nationally, with 48% of public housing residents in Utah being over the age of 62 compared to 35% nationally. A visualization showing the national public housing occupancy rate of 94.44% also adjusts when a user selects specific states. This adjustment reveals that states such as Oregon, Washington, and Idaho have higher-than-average occupancy rates (higher than 97%) while states like Kansas and Maryland have lower-than-average occupancy rates (lower than 90%).

Explore the dashboard at: <https://bit.ly/3OqvtJ1>

HUD PIH Posts Section 3 Tracking and Reporting Guidance for PHAs

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) posted [Notice PIH 2022-10](#) on April 18, providing guidance for public housing agencies (PHAs) regarding their obligation to track and report compliance with the Section 3 final rule published in the *Federal Register* on September 29, 2020 (see *Memo*, [10/5/20](#)). Although the Notice is oriented to PHAs, residents and advocates will benefit from learning about their PHA's Section 3 responsibilities and from the definitions of key terms and summaries of key provisions in the final Section 3 rule provided by the Notice.

The purpose of Section 3 of the "Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968" is to ensure that when HUD funds are used to assist housing and community development projects, "to the greatest extent feasible" preference for some of the jobs and other economic opportunities created go to low-income people, "particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing." Another Section 3 obligation involves supporting businesses owned or controlled by low-income people or businesses that hire them. PHAs and jurisdictions using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships program, and other HUD funds must comply with Section 3 and ensure that contractors and subcontractors comply.

The Notice clarifies the manner in which Section 3 applies to several PIH-related programs. For example, public housing "mixed-finance" development, whether fully or partially assisted with public housing funds, is subject to the same Section 3 obligations as housing developed solely with public housing funds.

PHAs must track and monitor the Section 3 compliance of Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) projects, phases, and activities that receive \$200,000 or more in CNI, CDBG, or HOME funds. CNI projects, phases, and activities that do not receive HUD funds are not subject to Section 3.

Public housing that converts to either Section 8 project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA) through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) is generally not subject to Section 3. The Notice, however, makes clear that pre-development work conducted before RAD conversion using pre-conversion public housing financial assistance is subject to Section 3. In addition, Section 3 applies to contractually obligated activities that take place after the date of RAD conversion. In addition, after the RAD closing (during RAD-related construction), a property is subject to Section 3 if it receives \$200,000 or more in CDBG or HOME funds for rehabilitation or other development assistance (e.g., sidewalks, water and sewer connections, parking lots, street repairs, etc.).

The 2020 Section 3 rule provided a transition period between its effective date of November 30, 2020, and the beginning of the first reporting period on July 1, 2021. First reports are due on August 29, 2022, for PHAs that have fiscal years ending on June 30, 2022. Section 3 reports are due 60 days after the end of each PHA's fiscal year.

In the past, PHAs submitted Section 3 compliance information through the SPEARS system, which will no longer be used. PIH is creating a new system called "S3R," which is still not available. If a PHA also receives

CDBG or HOME funds, it must use a different system to report Section 3 compliance related to the use of those funds, the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) for regular CDBG or HOME, or Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) if CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR) are used.

The Notice states that reporting will initially remain at the grant- or individual program-level (for PHAs that are not participating in the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration). However, PIH is considering PHA-level reporting (which NLIHC fears will prevent a nuanced assessment of a PHA's Section 3 compliance).

Commenting on the proposed Section 3 rule, NLIHC urged HUD to retain a complaint process similar to the process in the 1994 Interim Section 3 that preceded the 2020 final rule administered by HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). Unfortunately, in the final rule, HUD chose to have complaints sent to the relevant HUD program office – PIH in the case of public housing, and Community Planning and Development (CPD) in the case of CDBG and HOME. While program offices can effectively address program-related issues, these offices might not be as objective about, or as well-versed in, Section 3 policy as third-party offices such as FHEO. With the new Section 3 rule, HUD's Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) now oversees and administers Section 3.

Notice PIH 2022-10 reflects the final rule and states that complaints must be sent to the local HUD field office or directly to the relevant program office. When a complaint is received, staff in the appropriate field office will gather facts as well as the PHA's response and work with the PHA to address the complaint. In the case of a complaint regarding public housing, the field office staff must provide PIH's Section 3 Coordinator in the Office of Field Operations (OFO) with a copy of any complaints. OFO will then track complaints and their outcomes.

Read Notice PIH 2022-10 at: <https://bit.ly/3xHNVqS>

Find FPM's (rudimentary) Section 3 page at: <https://bit.ly/397zvWH>

HUD Exchange offers a more comprehensive Section 3 webpage at: <https://bit.ly/3L6S2R2> The page has a virtual [Section 3 Guidebook](#) and virtual [Section 3 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) that cannot be easily downloaded and photocopied for distribution at resident meetings.

Read more about Section 3 on [page 7-46](#) of NLIHC's *2022 Advocates' Guide* and on NLIHC's [public housing webpage](#).

Leadership Awards Celebration

NLIHC's Virtual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration Takes Place This Week on April 28! Register to Attend!

[Celebrate](#) the affordable housing leadership of **Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY)**, the **Congressional Progressive Caucus**, and **Ann O'Hara** at NLIHC's Virtual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration this Thursday, April 28, from 4 to 5 pm ET. The Celebration will honor these leaders for their outstanding contributions to ensuring affordable housing for those most in need. Register to attend at: <https://bit.ly/LEADERS22>. Donate to NLIHC in these leaders' honor as an [individual](#) or as an [organization](#).

2022 HOUSING LEADERSHIP AWARDS CELEBRATION

HONOREES



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**
EDWARD W. BROOKE HOUSING
LEADERSHIP AWARD



ANN O'HARA
CUSHING NILES DOLBEARE
LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD



**REPRESENTATIVE
RITCHIE TORRES (D-NY)**
SHEILA CROWLEY
HOUSING JUSTICE AWARD



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

Donate at: <https://bit.ly/LEADERS22>

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

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

Register to attend, donate, and learn more about the event at: <https://bit.ly/LEADERS22>

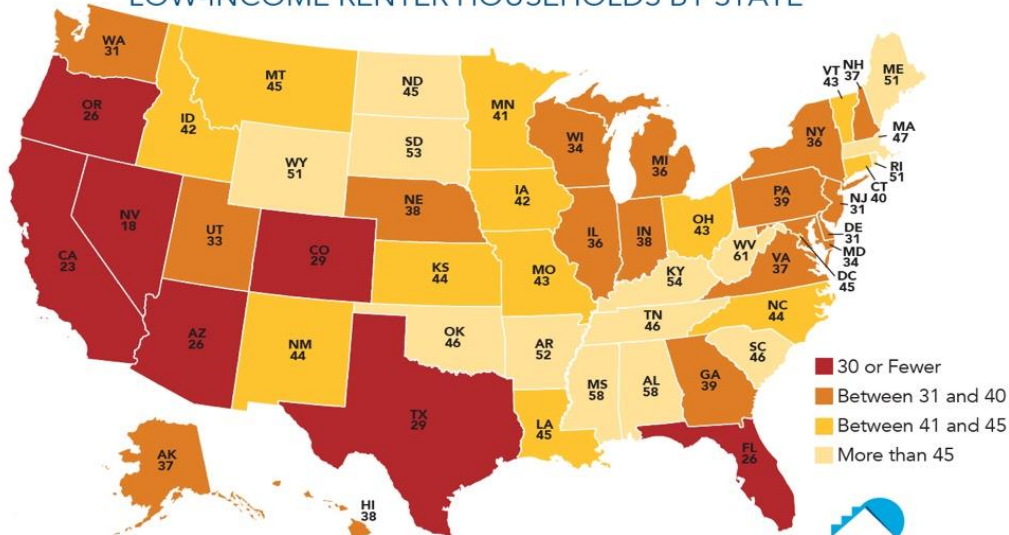
HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing

NLIHC Releases *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*

NLIHC released its annual report [*The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*](#), finding the lowest-income renters in the U.S. face a shortage of approximately 7 million affordable and available rental homes. Drawing on multiple data sources, the report documents how the pandemic has exacerbated the housing crisis for the lowest-income renters. The report examines both short- and long-term policy interventions needed to address the immediate housing impacts of the pandemic and the underlying shortage of affordable housing.

THE GAP

RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PER 100 EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE



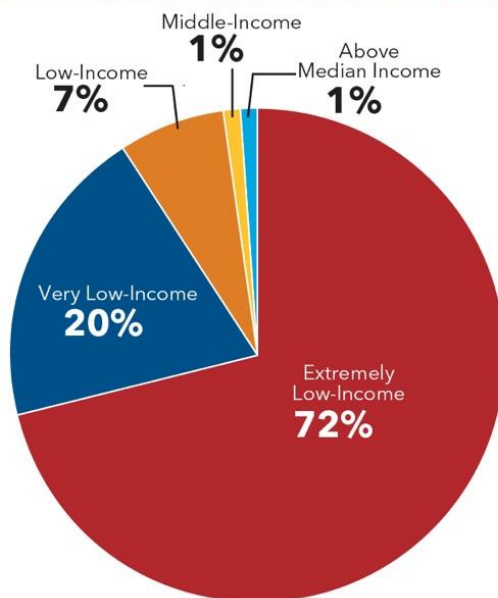
Note: Extremely low-income (ELI) renter households have incomes at or below the poverty level or 30% of the area median income. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS Data. ©2022 National Low Income Housing Coalition



Fewer than four affordable and available homes exist for every 10 extremely low-income renter households nationwide. As a result of this shortage of affordable homes, 71% of extremely low-income renter households are severely housing cost-burdened, spending more than half of their limited incomes on housing. They account for more than seven of every 10 severely housing cost-burdened renters in the U.S.

THE GAP

SEVERELY HOUSING COST-BURDENED RENTERS BY INCOME



AMI = Area Median Income. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS data. ©2022 National Low Income Housing Coalition

<https://nlihc.org/gap>



Every state and metropolitan area has a significant shortage of affordable rental housing for the lowest-income households. Statewide shortages range from just under two affordable and available rental homes for every 10 of the lowest-income renter households in Nevada to a little more than six in West Virginia. Across the 50 largest metropolitan areas, the shortage is least severe in Providence, Rhode Island, where there are five affordable and available rental homes for every 10 of the lowest-income renter households. The shortage is most severe in Las Vegas, Nevada, where there are fewer than two affordable and available rental homes for every ten of the lowest-income renter households.

The report also finds that systemic racism, both past and present, has left people of color disproportionately likely to be among the lowest-income renters facing a shortage of affordable housing. Twenty percent of Black households, 18% of AIAN households, 15% of Latino households, and 10% of Asian households are counted among the lowest-income renters, compared to only 6% of white non-Latino households. Black renters are especially likely to face eviction.

The report shows that these lowest-income renter households disproportionately suffered from the effects of lost income and housing insecurity during the pandemic. At one point – in January 2021 – nearly 8 million renters were behind on rent. The federal government took unprecedented actions to protect these renters. The government’s interventions, though, were temporary and limited in scope. Resources such as federal emergency rental assistance are now running out in many areas. Almost half of state programs funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) programs could run out of funding by the end of 2022. Longer-term federal investments in affordable housing are needed to combat the underlying shortage of affordable housing that exposed the lowest-income renters to housing instability in the first place.

The report argues that Congress must make sustained investments in key HUD and USDA Rural Housing programs to address the underlying systemic shortage of rental homes affordable to the lowest-income renters. These investments should include significant commitments to deeply income-targeted programs such as the national Housing Trust Fund, Housing Choice Vouchers, and public housing. The funding levels for these programs in the House-passed “Build Back Better Act” provide a minimum benchmark for any new reconciliation bill in Congress. As *The Gap* demonstrates, the housing crisis for the lowest-income renters will persist long after the pandemic without such investments.

Read the 2022 edition of *The Gap* and explore an accompanying interactive map at: www.nlihc.org/gap

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

[Join](#) today’s (April 25) national HoUsed campaign call from 2:30 to 4:00 pm ET. We will give updates from Capitol Hill on the federal budget, reconciliation, and the “Eviction Crisis Act,” which would create a permanent ERA program and provide other new tools to help keep renters stably housed during an unexpected economic crisis. NLIHC’s Dan Emmanuel will share findings from NLIHC’s recently released annual report [The Gap](#), which found a national shortage of 7 million affordable and available rental homes for households paid the lowest wages. The report also identifies systemic racial disparities in housing and calls for significant federal investments in proven solutions to housing poverty. In addition, we will hear the latest on NLIHC’s End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions (ERASE) project, receive updates from the field, and more.

Fair Housing

NLIHC Joins More Than 1,000 Organizations in Signing on to Public Charge Comment Letter

NLIHC signed on to a comment letter urging the Biden administration to act quickly to reform the “public charge rule” to ensure immigrant families can access critical safety net services without fear. The letter, signed by more than [1,000 state and local organizations nationwide](#), urges the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to finalize reforms to the rule, which has been part of federal immigration law for more than one hundred years. Advocates and local governments must submit any comments concerning the rule to the *Federal Register* by April 25.

In 2019, the Trump administration amended the public charge rule to include public housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, and Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) in the determination of whether a lawfully present immigrant was or might become a public charge to the government. The Biden administration dismissed the harmful 2019 rule amendment in March 2021, removing housing programs from the public charge determination. The administration’s newly proposed rule clarifies that programs such as Section 8 vouchers, disaster assistance, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), employment assistance, childcare, and programs for trafficking victims do not count as benefits considered under the public charge determination. Finalizing the newly proposed rule is an important step toward mitigating the damage of the 2019 rule amendment and would make permanent needed improvements to the public charge rule.

The [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) (PIF) campaign organized a sign-on comment letter to unite nonprofits around a public charge reform agenda without slowing down the regulatory process. (Further information about the effort can be found on the website of [Keep Families Together](#), a shared initiative of the National Housing Law Project.) The sign-on letter recognizes that the public charge test is “an antiquated policy reflecting centuries of racial and class bias” and urges the Biden administration to quickly finalize public charge rule reform to assure eligible immigrant families that they can use safety net programs without immigration concerns. The letter urges DHS to make specific improvements as well, including (1) ensuring that state and local programs such as universal basic income programs are not considered in public charge determinations; (2) clarifying that Medicaid is never considered in public charge determinations; and (3) exempting orphans, domestic violence survivors, victims of other crimes, and other vulnerable immigrants from public charge determinations.

View a copy of the public charge comment letter here: <https://bit.ly/3v3qqqt>

Find out which organizations in your state have signed on to the public charge comment letter here: <https://bit.ly/3OrmPtP>

Our Homes, Our Votes

Register for May 2 *Our Homes, Our Votes* Webinar on Legal Considerations for Nonprofits Carrying Out Voter and Candidate Engagement

Our Homes, Our Votes is NLIHC’s nonpartisan campaign to increase voter participation among low-income renters and to educate candidates about housing solutions. The *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2022* biweekly webinar series features experts with frontline election experience who will walk through every step of voter and candidate engagement and support housing organizations’ nonpartisan election efforts. [Join next week’s \(May 2\) webinar](#) to learn about legal considerations for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations as they plan their voter and candidate engagement work!

Nonprofit organizations, including housing justice nonprofits, can and should participate in nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement campaigns. To do so with confidence, organizations should be familiar with the laws that govern nonprofits’ election-related work. The next *Our Homes, Our Votes* webinar, “Legal Considerations for Nonprofit Organizations,” will address frequently asked questions, clear up misconceptions, and provide

resources for 501(c)(3) nonprofits as they get started on their campaigns. The webinar will take place on Monday, May 2, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm ET. Registration for the webinar can be found [here](#).

Tim Mooney, senior counsel with the Bolder Advocacy program of the Alliance for Justice, will provide a comprehensive training on the legal landscape for 501(c)3 nonprofits that are launching voter and candidate engagement activities. Gabby Ross, housing advocacy organizer at NLHC, will discuss considerations for organizations that receive federal funding.

To watch recordings from past webinars and preview the schedule of upcoming events, visit the [Our Homes, Our Votes website](#).

Research

Expanded Child Tax Credit Payments Increased Financial Security Most Significantly among Lower-Income Households

A Brookings Institute report, [“The Impacts of the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit on Family Employment, Nutrition, and Financial Well-Being.”](#) examines employment, financial security, and health outcomes of families before and after receiving the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC). The researchers found 79% of CTC-eligible households received the credit, and the most common uses for the CTC included regular expenses such as housing and utilities (70%) and essential items for children (58%). Eligible households were more likely than non-eligible households to experience improved financial security, including declines in the use of risky financial products and the improved ability to pay for emergency expenses. CTC-eligible households were also less likely to experience eviction during the payment period than non-eligible households.

The report details findings from a survey conducted immediately before the first CTC payment in July 2021 and following the last monthly payment six months later. The sampled population included both CTC-eligible households with dependent children and CTC-ineligible households without children under age 18. The groups were comparable on measures of employment status, educational achievement, home ownership, and geographic region.

The survey found that 79% of CTC-eligible households received the monthly credit. The most common uses for the tax credit were for recurring expenses like housing and utilities (70%), essential items for children (58%), food (56%), emergency savings (49%), and paying off debt (42%). CTC uses varied by household income and race and ethnicity. Seventy-nine percent of households earning less than \$24,999 and 75% of households earning between \$25,000 and \$49,999, for example, reported using the CTC on routine expenses such as housing, compared to 46% of households making over \$100,000. Families of color were also more likely to make investments in their children’s long-term educational expenses using the CTC payments. Thirty-four percent of Black households and 24% of Latino households reported using the CTC to start or grow a college fund, compared to 15% of white households.

CTC recipients reported decreased financial hardship due to their regular payments. Of households that experienced difficulty affording essential items due to inflation, 70% noted that CTC payments helped them navigate higher prices. CTC-eligible households were also less likely to be evicted compared to non-eligible households. Between the first and second survey rounds, 1.9% of CTC-eligible households were evicted compared to 2.9% of non-eligible households.

CTC payments were also found to significantly improve financial security. CTC-eligible households reported a decline in dependency on loans, pawn shops, and selling blood plasma and were more likely to stop using these

services during the CTC payment period compared to non-eligible households. CTC-eligible households were also able to better manage emergency expenses, with 12.4% reporting that they paid for an emergency expense using cash in lieu of taking on debt or selling something, compared to 8.2% of non-eligible households.

The report finds that many of the CTC’s impacts were most significant for lower-income households. The CTC also significantly improved the ability of Black, Latino, and other non-white households to make investments that could improve their long-term economic stability. Failing to continue the expanded CTC could jeopardize the short- and long-term positive outcomes experienced by low-income families and families of color.

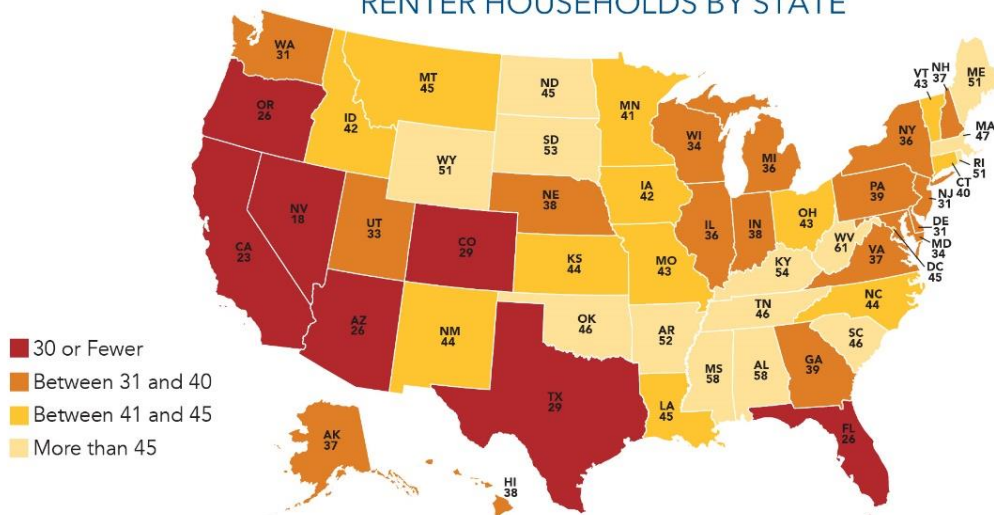
Read the article at: <https://brook.gs/37CrFDU>

Fact of the Week

No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable and Available Rental Housing for the Lowest-Income Renters

THE GAP

RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PER 100 EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE



Note: Extremely low-income (ELI) renter households have incomes at or below the poverty level or 30% of the area median income. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS Data. ©2022 National Low Income Housing Coalition



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS Data

From the Field

Illinois General Assembly Passes Source-of-Income Fair Housing Protections

After many efforts to pass statewide source-of-income fair housing protections in Illinois over the course of almost 20 years, [HB 2775](#) was passed by the Illinois General Assembly on April 7. The legislation amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to add source of income as a protected class and provides people seeking housing

with nonwage incomes the same legal protections against discrimination that are available based on race, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, and other factors. When the bill is signed, Illinois will become the 20th state (not including the District of Columbia) to have such a law on the books.

Over half of Illinois households rely on non-wage income. Examples of people in households with nonwage income who will benefit from passage of HB 2775 include:

- Families with Housing Choice Vouchers looking for a landlord to rent to them after what has often been years on a waiting list to secure a voucher.
- Veterans paying for their housing with veterans benefits or housing vouchers specifically set aside to assist veterans in need.
- Single mothers paying to house their families with child support and/or alimony payments.
- Seniors and people with disabilities paying for their housing with their social security funds.
- Persons using rental subsidies to flee domestic violence.

The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing, which comprises more than 130 organizational members, including [Housing Action Illinois](#), an NLIHC state partner, led the campaign that resulted in passage of the new legislation.

“Discrimination against Housing Choice Voucher holders solely because of how they pay for their housing is widespread in local housing markets throughout Illinois,” said Foluke Akanni, housing policy organizer for Housing Action Illinois. “This legislation will level the playing field for all Illinoisans with nonwage income to access a fuller range of housing options.”

Other core members of the coalition leading the advocacy campaign include Access Living, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, HOPE Fair Housing Center, Housing Choice Partners, Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL), Northside Community Resources, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, and Working Family Solidarity.

The chief co-sponsors of the bill were Representative LaShawn Ford and Senator Ram Villivalam. Both worked closely with advocates to negotiate with and overcome opposition from various groups representing rental property owners. Some groups that originally opposed the bill eventually supported HB 2775 due to amendments that focused the legislation on core source-of-income protections. Others continued to oppose HB 2775 up to its passage.

Sharon Norwood helped advocate for the legislation based on her own experience of source-of-income discrimination. “Having statewide source-of-income protections will help people avoid what happened to me. I had to give up my voucher, because I could not find a landlord to rent to me in the community I wanted my family to live in,” Norwood said. “Once I gave up my voucher, I did find a landlord who rented to me, but I was paying a lot more rent than I could afford because of it.”

The Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing is urging Illinois Governor Pritzker to sign HB 2775 into law as soon as possible. Once the bill is signed, the source-of-income protections will go into effect on January 1, 2023.

Find out more about the campaign at: <https://www.housingchoicepartners.org/soi-campaign>

Events

Join Upcoming “Tenant Talk Live” Webinar for Renters and Resident Leaders: Organizing for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Holders

NLIHC will host “Tenant Talk Live” – a webinar with and for renter and resident leaders – next Monday, May 2, at 6 pm ET. During the webinar, we will be joined by advocates who will discuss opportunities for organizing with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders. Register for the Tenant Talk Live webinar at:

<https://bit.ly/361rmy2>

[Housing Choice Vouchers \(HCVs\)](#) help people with the lowest incomes afford housing in the private housing market by paying landlords the difference between what a household can afford to pay for rent and the actual rent requested by the owner. The HCV program is HUD’s largest rental assistance program, serving [1.8 million households](#). Significant work needs still to be done to strengthen tenant organizing, especially for voucher holders. In the webinar, we will focus on strategies for organizing with voucher holders. Staff from the Office of Representative Andy Levin’s (D-MI) will join the webinar to provide attendees with the chance to give feedback on the “Tenants’ Right to Organize Act,” which is soon to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

NLIHC will also be joined in the webinar by Bridgett A. Simmons, staff attorney at the National Housing Law Project (NHLP); Darryn Mumphery, law and policy associate at the Poverty and Race Research Council (PRRAC); and Ben Gerstein, a legislative aide with Representative Andy Levin. We hope that you’ll join our panelists to learn more about how you can organize as a voucher holder and about future legislative opportunities for strengthening tenant organizing at the federal level.

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

Register for next Monday’s (May 2) Tenant Talk Live webinar at: bit.ly/361rmy2

Stay up to date on Tenant Talk Live events via our [Facebook group](#)

Join us for NLIHC’s 40th Annual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration:

<https://app.mobilecause.com/e/uSYuyg?vid=rhwo8>

NLIHC Careers

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of April 17

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of April 17:

- “Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Affordable Housing, But Were Afraid To Ask” *Forbes*, April 18 at: <https://bit.ly/3OylkdB>
- “Rents are rising everywhere. See how much prices are up in your area.” *Washington Post*, April 21 at: <https://wapo.st/3vvC0cU>

- “‘Just one paycheck away.’ Report finds 163,000 low-income Mass. families need affordable housing.” *Boston Globe*, April 21 at: <https://bit.ly/3OuFIw6>
- “As eviction filings in Hartford have doubled, advocates blame the end of rental assistance” *CT Public*, April 21 at: <https://bit.ly/3vxRwVE>

NLIHC News

Where to Find Us – April 25

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

- [National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies \(NALHFA\) 2022 Annual Conference](#) – New York, NY, April 25
- [University of Delaware Webinar](#) – Keynote Speaker, Virtual, April 27
- [Citizens’ Housing & Planning Association Federal Policy Forum](#) – Virtual, May 3
- [New Mexico Summit on Health Equity](#) – Plenary Speaker, Virtual, May 4
- [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, 19th Annual Training Institute](#), – Keynote Speaker, Hartford, CT, May 11
- [Wisconsin Collaborative for Affordable Housing, “A Home for Everyone Conference 2022”](#) – Milwaukee, WI, May 11-12
- [HousingWorks RI Get Housing Right Conference](#) – Virtual, May 12
- [St. Ambrose University School of Social Work 24th Annual Social Justice Conference](#) – Keynote Speaker, Davenport, IA, May 19
- [Princeton Community Housing Gala](#) – Virtual, July 21
- [Idaho Housing and Finance Association Annual Housing Conference](#) – Keynote Speaker, Boise, ID, August 22-23

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Rebecca Yae, Senior Research Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x256
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225