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Take Action

Submit Comments to Oppose HUD's Mixed-Status Immigrant Family Rule

The Trump administration has proposed a new rule that would prohibit “mixed-status” immigrant families from living in public and other subsidized housing, despite the fact that ineligible immigrants are already not allowed to benefit from federal housing subsidies. The rule would result in family separations and evictions, putting tens of thousands of people and children at increased risk of homelessness. [Learn more and submit comments in opposition here](#). The public has 60 days to comment on the rule.

[NLIHC](#) and the [National Housing Law Project](#) (NHLP) are leading the effort to oppose this harmful and cruel proposal and have developed advocacy tools for you to use to join us in opposition. Together, NLIHC and NHLP launched a new website, www.Keep-Families-Together.org, where you can find [fact sheets and other resources](#) (including talking points and social media images), [read the latest news](#), and [submit your own comments directly to HUD](#). We will continue to update this website throughout the comment period.

Submit comments at: <https://www.keep-families-together.org/comment>

Our Homes, Our Voices

Less than Two Weeks to National Housing Week of Action, May 30-June 5

Our Homes, Our Voices National Housing Week of Action, May 30-June 5, is less than two weeks away! Planning is underway in communities across the nation. Learn more about events and activities in a community near you at: www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org. If you have not yet registered your event with *Our Homes, Our Voices*, please do so today at www.ourhomes-ourvoices/current-events or email ourhomes@nlihc.org. Let us know how we can help.

Plan Your Event for Maximum Participation and Effectiveness

As you prepare for your event, consider these tips and resources:

1. Check out all the resources available on the *Our Homes, Our Voices* [Resources page](#), like shareable infographics with the Week of Action branding as well as data on the U.S. affordable housing shortage and recent public polling on the affordable housing crisis and its solutions.
2. Visit the [Preparing Your Events](#) page at www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org for tips and considerations on planning for various types of events.
3. Create a Facebook event page where you can invite community advocates, collect RSVPs, and connect with the [Our Homes, Our Voices Facebook group](#). Instructions on how to produce a Facebook event page are available [here](#).
4. Promote your event on Twitter and other social media. **Don't forget to use the hashtag #OurHomesOurVoices**, allowing NLIHC and others to see your event announcement and retweet or cross-post.
5. Find coalition partners in your community to co-sponsor the event and promote it within their networks. Consider co-sponsorships with non-traditional advocacy partners confronting housing affordability challenges in their work, like those working in education, healthcare, and labor rights.
6. Use the fillable event posters available on the [Resources page](#) that include the Week of Action branding and messaging customizable to include the details for your event.

New resources this week: [Media Toolkit for Week of Action events](#). Amplify the message of your event by engaging media in your community. The Media Toolkit provides templates for press releases, press advisories, op-ed articles, sample Tweets for tweetstorms, and much more.

If you have questions as you spread the word about your event or you would like additional materials, please contact NLIHC at: ourhomes@nlihc.org

Thank you for your leadership as we prepare for another exciting National Housing Week of Action!

Congress

Rep. Garcia Introduces Legislation to Block “Mixed-Status” Immigrant Family Rule; Los Angeles Congressional Delegation Demands Rule be Withdrawn

Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) introduced legislation ([HR 2763](#)) on May 16 to block HUD’s proposed rule that would prohibit “mixed-status” immigrant families from living in public and other subsidized housing. The bill was cosponsored by Representatives Lou Correa (D-CA), Veronica Escobar (D-TX), Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Chuy Garcia (D-IL), all lawmakers from states where the proposed rule will have the greatest impact. NLIHC, the National Housing Law Project, and Texas Housers have endorsed the bill.

“Secretary Carson has chosen politics over people with the end result of forcing US children to be separated from their families or risk homelessness,” Representative Garcia stated in a [press release](#) introducing the bill. “[T]his cruel and shameless proposal by Secretary Carson will significantly harm already impoverished children and pass on significant costs to taxpayers. That is why we are acting now to end this proposal before it can do real harm to our families and communities.”

“The Trump Administration continues to find new ways to harass and discriminate against immigrants and working families,” stated Congressman Jesús “Chuy” Garcia. “At a time when millions in our country struggle to find affordable housing, HUD’s proposal could harm U.S. citizens and immigrants who are entitled to the benefits of public or subsidized housing. The agency in charge of ending homelessness is being used to carryout Trump’s anti-immigrant policies to kick the most vulnerable among us to the curb.”

“The cruelty of Secretary Carson’s proposal is breathtaking, and the harm it would inflict on children, families and communities is severe,” NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel stated in the same press release. “Tens of thousands of deeply poor kids, mostly US citizens, could be evicted and made homeless by this proposal, and – by HUD’s own admission – there would be zero benefit to families on waiting lists. This proposal is another in a long line of attempts by the administration to instill fear in immigrants throughout the country. We will not stand for it.”

Members from the Los Angeles congressional delegation also sent a [letter to HUD Secretary Ben Carson](#) demanding the proposed rule be withdrawn, as it could lead to family separations and exacerbate homelessness in Los Angeles and the greater region. Their letter reads in part: “The collateral damage of this policy on U.S. citizen children is unconscionable. We disagree with the spirit of the proposed rule. Not only would this proposal significantly increase costs under an Administration that has continually proposed cuts to housing programs, but it is also an indication that your approach lacks the fundamental compassion that our government should employ when making decisions of this magnitude.”

Learn more about HR 2763 at: <https://bit.ly/2w71Mpq>.

Read the press release announcing the introduction of HR 2763 at: <https://bit.ly/2w1t54z>

Learn more about the proposed mixed-status rule and submit comments to HUD in opposition at: <https://www.keep-families-together.org/>

Rep. Turner Reintroduces Bill Imposing Work Requirements on Foster Youth in Need of Housing

Representative Mike Turner (R-OH) reintroduced on May 9 the “[Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act](#),” which would – for the first time ever – impose new burdens, including work, education, training, and self-sufficiency requirements, on individuals who rely on federal housing assistance. NLIHC opposes the bill and urges policymakers to withhold support for the legislation until these harmful provisions are removed.

While the bill aims to address the critical housing needs of youth aging out of the foster care system, NLIHC is deeply concerned that the “Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act” sets a troubling and unacceptable precedent. Federal housing programs help prevent homelessness and housing poverty in America. Requiring households to meet new eligibility requirements is counterproductive to this purpose.

Research shows that work requirements do not work and are often counterproductive. Youth exiting the foster-care system face significant barriers to employment. Imposing new burdens will take away the stable housing and services these young people often need to find and maintain work in the first place. In its current form, the bill will lead to more youth living without stable homes – not fewer.

When the bill was introduced in 2018, 27 national housing organizations sent a letter to Representative Turner opposing it as written and encouraging him to remove its harmful work, education, training, and self-sufficiency provisions.

Read letter signed by national organizations at: <https://bit.ly/2JBS1rf>

House Passes “Equality Act” to Expand LGBTQ Protections

The House of Representatives voted 236 to 173 to approve the “[Equality Act](#)” to expand civil rights protections to LGBTQ individuals by banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, education, employment, and other areas. NLIHC strongly supports the bill, which now heads to the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated he will not put the bill on the floor for a vote, and President Trump has expressed opposition to it as well, making passage of the bill this year unlikely.

The legislation was introduced by Representatives David Cicilline (D-RI) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in the House and Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Susan Collins (R-ME) in the Senate, along with 238 original House cosponsors and 45 original Senate cosponsors.

Many states do not have explicit state-wide LGBTQ non-discrimination protection laws. Approximately 50% of LGBTQ Americans live in those 30 states, leaving LGBTQ individuals at risk of being fired, denied housing, or refused service because of who they are or whom they love.

HUD

NLIHC Offers Sample Comment Letter on HUD’s Proposed Section 3 Rule

NLIHC has prepared a [sample comment letter](#) about HUD’s proposed Section 3 rule that organizations can adapt to their priorities. NLIHC urges residents and advocates to submit comments before the June 3 deadline.

The sample letter provides more than you may want to include in your own letter; just pare it back to suit your needs. The sample also has notes highlighted in yellow to give you context relating to some of the comments. (Be sure to delete the yellow highlighted text before sending your own letter.) To the extent you can, put your comment letter in your own words – HUD may discount comments that look mass-produced.

Some of the concepts referred to toward the end of the comment letter – e.g., “Section 3 worker,” “Section 3 business,” “Targeted Section 3 worker,” and “Benchmark” – may seem confusing. It might help you understand them better by reading NLIHC’s revised “Summary and Analysis: Proposed Section 3 Regulation” or “Public Housing Parts of the Proposed Section 3 Regulation” (both modified May 13).

NLIHC’s sample comment letter is [here](#).

Not sure how to submit a comment letter to www.regulations.gov? Here is a handy “[how-to](#).”

“Summary and Analysis: Proposed Section 3 Regulation” (Modified May 13, 2019) is [here](#).

“Public Housing Parts of the Proposed Section 3 Regulation” (Modified May 13, 2019) is [here](#).

NLIHC’s draft comment letter is [here](#).

An easy-to-read version of the proposed rule is [here](#).

HUD Secretary Carson to Testify before House Financial Services Committee, May 21

HUD Secretary Ben Carson will testify before the House Financial Services Committee during a [HUD oversight hearing](#) on Tuesday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. ET. The hearing will take place in 2128 Rayburn House Office Building and will be broadcast live.

The following bills will be discussed at the hearing:

- H.R. 1690, the “[Safe Housing for Families Act of 2019](#)” (Garcia - IL)
- H.R. 2763, prohibit HUD from implementing, administering, enforcing, or in any manner making effective the proposed rule entitled “[Amendments to Further Implement Provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980](#).” (Garcia - TX)
- The “[Fair Chance at Housing Act](#)” (no bill number yet assigned) (Ocasio-Cortez)

Learn more about the hearing at: <http://bit.ly/2WaL7jB>

Watch the live stream at: <https://bit.ly/2ZshusV>

Our Homes, Our Votes

NLIHC and Housing Action NH Raise the Issue of Affordable Housing in the Presidential Primaries

NLIHC state partner [Housing Action New Hampshire](#) (Housing Action NH) and NLIHC together launched the nonpartisan *Our Homes, Our Votes, Our New Hampshire* project on May 16. Through this initiative NLIHC and Housing Action NH will collaborate to elevate the affordable housing crisis and its solutions in New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Presidential candidates are already talking more about affordable housing on the campaign trail than at any time in recent memory—and voters are demanding they do. The goal of *Our Homes, Our Votes, Our New Hampshire* is to ensure *all* candidates for president put forward bold affordable housing solutions—and commit to advancing them. In the next few weeks, *Our Homes, Our Votes*—NLIHC’s nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement project—will release a tool kit and other supporting materials so that advocates in *all* states can play a role in raising the issue of affordable housing.

Read more about *Our Homes, Our Votes, Our New Hampshire* [here](#).

National Housing Trust Fund

HUD Announces National Housing Trust Fund 2019 Allocations

HUD formally [published](#) the 2019 national Housing Trust Fund allocations for the states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories on May 17. As previously reported, \$248 million is available (see *Memo*, [2/19](#)), an 8% decrease from the \$267 million available in 2018, but significantly greater than 2017’s \$219 million and 2016’s \$174 million.

NLIHC has gathered information from states about how they are using their inaugural 2016 HTF allocations. The states report that 1,918 homes are being made available for extremely low-income households (those with incomes less than the poverty level or 30% of the area median income) from the \$174 million allocated in 2016. Special needs populations are being served by most of the HTF-assisted projects: 45 projects for homeless people, 47 projects for people with disabilities, and 35 projects for elderly people. Twelve projects will serve veterans.

In September, NLIHC released [Getting Started](#), an interim report based on full reporting to NLIHC from 36 states and partial reporting from five states. In March, NLIHC prepared a [supplement](#) to *Getting Started* that reflects full reporting from all states. NLIHC continues to gather project-specific information from states regarding their 2017 awards.

More information about the HTF is at: <https://nlihc.org/issues/nhtf> and [on page 3-1](#) of NLIHC’s *2019 Advocates’ Guide*.

The *Federal Register* notice is at: <https://bit.ly/2VsaetT>

Disaster Housing Recovery

HUD Releases Block Grant Allocations for 2018 Disaster-Impacted States

HUD [released](#) on May 14 allocations of Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding for areas impacted by the 2018 disasters. These awards come from money Congress [appropriated](#) in early October 2018, shortly after Hurricane Florence and just before Hurricane Michael.

HUD will still need to publish guidelines in the *Federal Register* before states can write their action plans and access funding. These states—as well as those where disasters have occurred in 2019—will receive additional CDBG-DR funding through the disaster aid package Congress is currently working to finalize.

CDBG-DR is an important long-term recovery resource for low-income communities in disaster-impacted communities. Unless otherwise dictated by HUD, grantees must use 70% of the funds to benefit low- and moderate-income communities.

Below are the allocation amounts for each state:

STATE	ELIGIBLE DISASTER(S)	CDBG-DR ALLOCATION
California	Wildfires and High Winds 4407 & 4382	\$491,816,000
Florida	Hurricane Michael 4399	\$448,023,000
Georgia	Hurricane Michael 4400	\$34,884,000
Hawaii	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides 4365 Kilauea Volcanic Eruption & Earthquakes 4366	\$66,890,000
North Carolina	Hurricane Florence 4393	\$336,521,000
South Carolina	Hurricane Florence 4394	\$47,775,000
Texas	Severe Storms and Flooding 4377	\$46,400,000
TOTAL		\$1,472,309,000

Read HUD’s press release on the allocations at: <https://bit.ly/2HuMlwN>

Learn more about the CDBG-DR process in NLIHC’s *Advocates Guide*: <https://bit.ly/2Hr58dH>

Congress Introduces Bipartisan Bills to Release Disaster Mitigation Funds

A bipartisan group of senators including Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), John Cornyn (R-TX), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) introduced on May 7 the “[Bipartisan Disaster Recovery Funding Act](#)” (S. 1415). Nineteen representatives introduced a bipartisan bill ([H.R. 2761](#)) in the House on May 15. The bills require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to release within 60 days the guidelines for nearly \$16 billion in disaster mitigation funding.

The funding was appropriated through HUD’s Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in February 2018. Although HUD allocated the funds to nine states and two U.S. territories in April 2018, the agency has still not issued regulations for grantees’ action plans, prohibiting disaster-impacted areas from accessing the resources. The notice is currently [listed](#) as “pending” on the OMB website. During a hearing in April, HUD Secretary Ben Carson promised the funds would be released on May 1.

Read more about the Senate bill at: <https://bit.ly/2w3rtaE>

Read more about the House bill at: <https://bit.ly/2wewU6N>

Governors Urge President and Congress to Act on Disaster Aid Package

A bipartisan group of ten governors from North Carolina, Alabama, California, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Wisconsin sent a [letter](#) on May 7 to President Trump and congressional leadership urging them to immediately “finalize a robust, timely, and fair package of assistance” that meets the needs of Americans impacted by disasters “in the Caribbean, the Atlantic southeast, the Gulf Coast, California, the Midwest, and even . . . the Pacific islands.”

A robust disaster aid package has been delayed for months because of disagreements over including additional funding for Puerto Rico, money for border security, and other spending issues. The Senate seeks to pass a package before the end of May; the House passed a bill on May 10 that would provide over \$19 billion in assistance.

Read the governors’ letter at: <https://bit.ly/2W2clJa>

Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – May 20, 2019

The following is a review of additional disaster housing recovery developments since the last edition of *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in the previous *Memo*, see [5/13](#)).

2018 California Wildfires

NPR [reports](#) that at least 1,000 families are still searching for even temporary housing after the Camp Fire, although the number is most likely significantly higher. State and federal officials are working to build temporary FEMA trailer communities, but many survivors still in need of housing are not eligible for assistance.

The loss of housing from the Camp Fire [created](#) a crisis-level housing shortage in Butte County and beyond. The City of Chico has seen a population increase of over 20% since the fire, leaving 19,000 people without a real place to live.

Hurricane Michael

Florida

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is [donating](#) 50 FEMA trailers to Bay County to provide additional housing for survivors. Area officials have [said](#) the FEMA guidelines for providing trailers are too stringent, excluding families in need.

The Florida Housing Corporation [approved](#) funding for new rental developments that will provide more than 200 units of affordable housing in Bay, Gulf, Jackson, and Wakulla counties, all heavily impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Even [seven months after the storm](#), piles of debris remain a common presence in the areas impacted by Hurricane Michael. Volunteers continue to encounter people living in damaged homes without functioning electricity or plumbing. Small tent encampments are common. With the lack of federal assistance, local organizations and community members are doing their best to help others. Many survivors [feel](#) completely forgotten.

Hurricane Florence

North Carolina

The 2019 Rural Housing Recovery Fund, a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, will [receive](#) \$2.7 million in state housing infrastructure grants to develop affordable housing in eight storm-impacted counties.

2017 Disasters

FEMA will soon permanently [close](#) a trailer site in Sonoma County, CA that, at its peak, accommodated 120 trailers for survivors of the 2017 wildfires. FEMA will remove the remaining seven trailers and evict the tenants by July 10.

Research

Despite an Improving Economy, Little Improvement in Low-Income Families' Ability to Meet Basic Needs

A study by the Urban Institute, [Despite Labor Market Gains in 2018, There Were Only Modest Improvements in Families' Ability to Meet Basic Needs](#), finds that families saw little improvement over the past year in their ability to meet basic needs despite rising employment and real wage growth. The share of adults aged 18 to 64 who experienced a material hardship, defined as trouble paying for housing, utilities, food, or health care, in 2018 was 38.5%, statistically unchanged from 2017. Adults in low-income families whose incomes were less than 200% of the poverty level were more than twice as likely to have a material hardship than adults in higher-income families.

The report is based on the Urban Institute's Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey, a nationally representative survey of more than 7,500 adults between the ages of 18 and 64. The Urban Institute conducted the survey in 2017 and again in 2018.

Between 2017 and 2018, the share of adults with a material hardship did not statistically change (38.5% in 2018), while the share with multiple hardships declined from 23.6% to 22.3%. The share of adults with trouble affording their utility bills declined from 13% to 11.1%, and the share with problems paying their medical bills declined from 18% to 16.6%. The share of adults with trouble paying their rent or mortgage (9.3%), affording food (23.1%), or having an unmet need for medical care because of costs (17.8%) did not statistically change.

Low-income adults with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line were much more likely than adults in higher-income families to face a material hardship (61.1% vs. 28.3%), including food insecurity (43.6% vs. 14.1%), problems paying for their housing (16.7% vs. 5.9%), problems paying their utilities (20.5% vs. 6.9%), problems paying for medical bills (25.1% vs. 12.9%), and unmet medical care because of costs

(27.8% vs. 13.4%). Between 2017 and 2018, 3.3% of adults in low-income families were evicted or forced to move compared to less than 1% of adults in higher-income families.

Sixty-two percent of adults in low-income families reported that they or their spouse/partner were working at the time of the survey compared to 90.9% of adults in higher-income families. Notably, however, among adults in low-income families, rates of material hardship between adults with a working adult in the family and those without a working adult in the family were not statistically different (63.7% vs. 60.1%). Adults in low-income families were more likely than adults in higher-income families to face challenges beyond current employment status, including a sudden drop in income in the past year from job loss or involuntary reductions in work hours (21.8% vs. 9.8%), no confidence in their ability to cover an unexpected expense of at least \$400 (47.8% vs. 12.9%), having a household member with a disability (28.4% vs. 12.7%), spending more than 30% of their income on housing (53.5% vs. 18.1%), or not having insurance (31.9% vs. 10.4%).

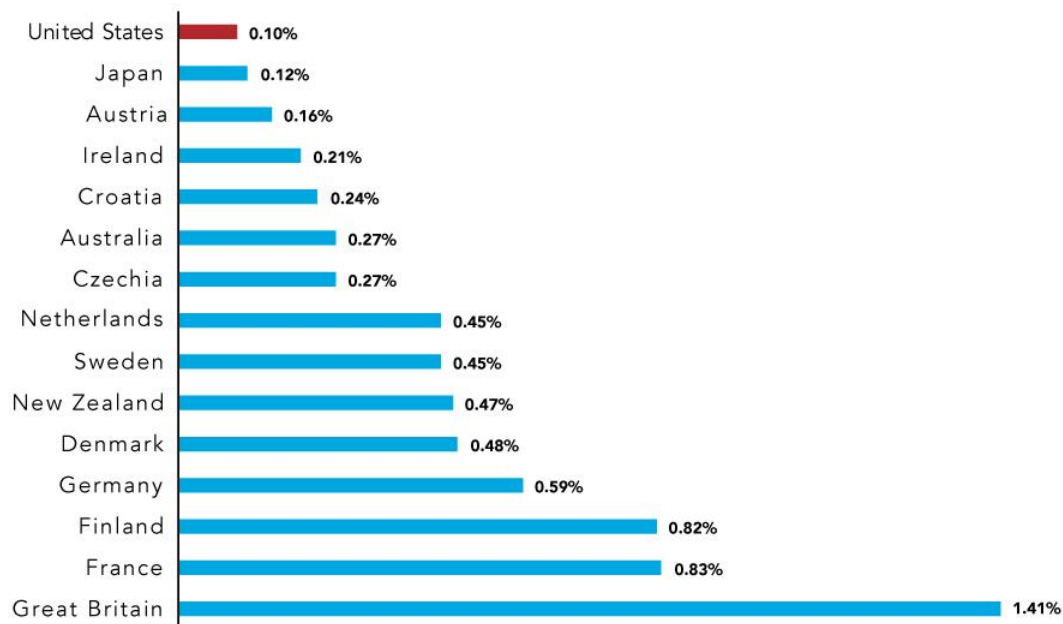
The authors note that existing safety net programs like Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and housing assistance fall short of enabling low-income families to meet their basic needs. Members of Congress and 2020 presidential candidates have recently been proposing to significantly expand the safety net. These proposals include greater investments in affordable housing programs, expansion of the earned income tax credit, universal child care, tax credits to reduce rental costs, and increasing health insurance coverage.

Despite Labor Market Gains in 2018, There Were Only Modest Improvements in Families' Ability to Meet Basic Needs is available at: <https://urbn.is/2JiTUtO>

Fact of the Week

U.S. Spends Far Less on Housing Assistance as a Percent of GDP than other Developed Countries

Housing Allowances as % of GDP Among Top 15-Spending OECD Nations (2015)



Source: OECD Affordable Housing Database, 2019

Opportunity Starts at Home

Campaign Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership Urging Housing Investments in Infrastructure Package

The multi-sector Steering Committee of the [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) campaign sent a [letter](#) on May 16 to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy urging them to include at least \$5 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and at least \$15 billion for public housing capital repairs in any potential infrastructure funding package.

The campaign's Steering Committee consists of leading national organizations from an array of sectors – education, health, anti-poverty, civil rights, anti-hunger, child welfare, faith, anti-homelessness, social work, municipal governance, criminal justice, and more. It is a landmark development that these organizations, each with its own concerns and perspectives, are joining forces to advocate for greater affordable housing investments through emerging legislative opportunities like the infrastructure package.

Policymakers from both sides of the aisle agree that a significant investment in infrastructure should be a top priority. To maximize impact, a broad infrastructure package should contain resources to construct and preserve affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes. Investing in affordable housing infrastructure will not only help vulnerable people better afford a place to live, but will also address substandard housing conditions, reduce other public costs, create job opportunities, promote economic mobility, and stimulate economic growth.

Read the letter [here](#).

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

From the Field

California Advocates Launch *investAHSC* Campaign for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Funded by Cap-and-Trade

California advocates launched *investAHSC* on May 7, a new campaign, coalition and website calling for sustained investments into the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. Established in 2014, the AHSC uses revenue from California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) which receives revenue from the state's cap-and-trade program. The *investAHSC* advisory committee includes NLIHC state partners California Housing Partnership, Housing California, and California Coalition for Rural Housing, as well as campaign leader Enterprise Community Partners (an NLIHC special member) and TransForm.

California's cap-and-trade program collects auction proceeds from major polluters and repurposes them to various efforts, including the development of affordable homes near jobs, commerce, and transit. Because automobile use is by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, the focus of housing production that reduces sprawl and long commutes is an excellent fit for the GGRF. The AHSC program stands as an

excellent example of multi-sector coalition success, with transit, housing and natural resources organizations coming together to advocate for investments in underserved communities. The *invest*AHSC campaign strives to educate advocates and policy makers about the impact the AHSC program is already making and to preserve this important funding source as other constituencies seek to access finite GGRF resources.

Despite still being a young program, AHSC has already had significant impact. A [recent report](#) from California Housing Partnership and Enterprise Community Partners analyzed its first three years of funding and found that AHSC allocated \$701 million to fund 77 location-efficient properties with more than 6,400 homes. These investments represent just 43% of all the AHSC proposals for transformative housing and transit projects – a clear indication that increased funding is warranted. The projects funded have been geographically diverse, covering 40 communities throughout the state. Ninety-three percent of AHSC investments benefit low-income communities, with most of the 6,443 affordable homes targeted to very low-income households living at or below 50% of area median incomes. Households renting in AHSC-supported homes will save an average of \$746 each month compared to those in market-rate apartments. AHSC-supported homes must remain affordable for 55 years.

The environmental benefits of AHSC investments are already being realized. According to the study by California Housing Partnership and Enterprise, AHSC-funded properties will reduce more than 1.6 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions over the course of their existence. A focus on location-efficient development will also reduce air pollution, as AHSC housing developments are expected to eliminate approximately 11,745 cars from California roads and reduce passenger-vehicle driving by an estimated 134 million miles. Additionally, 78% of AHSC investments are benefitting “disadvantaged communities,” defined by statute as including the 25% top-scoring areas for high pollution and low population as rated by CalEnviroScreen.

AHSC funds also promotes a healthy, safe, and accessible transportation infrastructure. AHSC funds have supported 86 miles of new or improved bike-lane infrastructure and 671 new or improved crosswalks. And AHSC has funded 58 new vans, buses or shuttles that, combined with the increased transit access offered by transit-oriented residential development, will boost public transit ridership by 41,000 people per day.

The *invest*AHSC campaign is [collecting stories](#) of residents benefitting from the program’s investments, putting a human face with the data to compellingly advocate for preserving AHSC funding. Story-collection goes beyond just residents of affordable housing, including individuals who have benefited from the expanded transit opportunities and increased economic development.

To demonstrate the broad support for AHSC funding, *invest*AHSC is [adding endorsements](#) from organizations and local governments throughout the state. The campaign is disseminating an [advocacy toolkit](#) with factsheets and talking points advocates can use with their state legislators.

“People vital to our communities – like child care providers, health home aides, and service workers – aren’t getting paid enough to keep up with skyrocketing rents. Thus, local planning must ensure homes for people earning lower incomes are built near jobs and reliable public transit, so they aren’t forced to make long commutes by car. AHSC is an innovative affordable strategy that promotes fairness, health, and equity, and improves the environment for all of us. It’s a solution all sectors and levels of government are getting behind,” said Lisa Hershey, executive director of Housing California.

For more information about *invest*AHSC contact Nur Kausar at Housing California at: nkausar@housingca.org

Event

New Orleans Hosts NeighborWorks Training Institute, August 19-23

New Orleans will host the next [NeighborWorks Training Institute \(NTI\)](#) August 19-23. Each NTI offers a wide array of courses for nonprofit professionals in community development, affordable housing, and nonprofit management. The NTI will also feature a special Wednesday symposium on the nexus between health and community development: [Closing the Life Expectancy Gap \(ML933\)](#). Register for the NTI online [here](#).

The NTI offers courses lasting from one to five days each in affordable housing development and financing; housing asset management; community engagement; community revitalization; community economic development; housing construction and rehabilitation; financial capability and homeownership education, coaching, and counseling; nonprofit management and leadership; Native American and rural community development; and single-family and small business lending.

Online registration is at: <https://bit.ly/1ATs8Ia>

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of May 12

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of May 12.

- “Senate approves \$15 minimum wage,” *Connecticut Post*, May 17 at: <http://bit.ly/2VAhgwN>
- “NH Primary Source: Statewide coalition to raise candidates’ awareness of affordable housing crisis,” *WMUR.com*, May 16 at: <http://bit.ly/2w27usM>
- “The U.S. has an affordable housing crisis. Here’s why,” *Curbed*, May 15 at: <http://bit.ly/2WP4eN7>
- “HUD Is Proposing a New Restriction on Housing Assistance. It Could Cost Thousands of Kids Their Homes,” *Pacific Standard*, May 15 at: <http://bit.ly/2YyA7dd>

NLIHC News

Where to Find Us – May 20

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

- American Bar Association Forum on Affordable Housing, Washington, DC, May 23
- [MARC/MAHRA Conference](#), Oxon Hill, MD, May 30
- National Alliance of HUD Tenants Conference, Alexandria, VA, June 9
- Supportive Housing Network of New York Conference, New York, NY, June 13
- [Mental Health America, Annual Conference: Dueling Diagnoses](#), Washington, DC, June 14
- [National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness](#), New York, NY, June 18
- RESULTS 2019 International Conference Plenary, Washington, DC, July 15
- [Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development Home for Everyone Conference](#), Eau Claire, WI, July 18-19
- [Utah Housing Coalition Conference](#), Park City, UT, August 27–28
- [Housing & Community Development Network of NJ Annual Conference](#), New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 18
- New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 24
- Rural Housing Summit, San Jose, CA, November 7

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