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Disaster Housing Recovery

More Than 60 Organizations Attend DHRC Convening to Create Roadmap for Reforming Broken Disaster Recovery System

NLIHC's Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) hosted a convening from June 12 to 14 in Washington, D.C. that brought together representatives from more than 60 organizations promoting disaster housing recovery and resilience. Participants shared best practices and lessons learned from past disaster housing advocacy efforts and provided insights that will help create a roadmap to better coordinate disaster housing recovery advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels, integrate new tactics and strategies into the DHRC's work, and ensure that the DHRC lifts up the experiences and expertise of disaster survivors. The event was made possible through support from the Walmart Foundation.

The convening began by grounding attendees in the stories and perspectives of disaster survivors and their important role in the disaster housing recovery movement. During a panel moderated by Julia Orduña of Texas Housers, Sade Hogue, Cheryl Henderson, Dana Jones, and Rita Robles of the Northeast Action Collective explained how their lived experience grounds their expertise in disaster housing recovery, and they discussed their critical work in Texas ensuring their communities have a seat at the table in disaster planning, response, and recovery.

Meghan Mertyris of NLIHC moderated a panel with Todd Holloway from the Center for Independence, Nayda Bobonis Cabrera from FURIA, Nicole Huguenin from Maui Rapid Response, and Rev. Gregory Manning from the Louisiana Just Recovery Network on efforts to integrate disaster survivors into ongoing advocacy. Two important themes emerged from the panel: if 'you're not at the table, you're on the menu' and 'there is nothing about us without us'.

Dr. Laura Olson of the Disaster Justice Network presented on emergency management operations, explaining that the field of emergency management was intentionally designed to remain stasis and that mechanisms were built into FEMA that impede advocates from bringing about policy changes. She challenged attendees to consider creating a new federal emergency management system.

Carlos Martín of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University moderated a panel with Natalie Maxwell of the National Housing Law Project, Maddie Sloan of Texas Appleseed, Maritere Padilla Rodriguez of the Hispanic Federation, and Brett Mattson of the National Association of Counties on the status of disaster housing recovery advocacy today. The panelists observed that advocates face political challenges when it comes to disaster housing recovery advocacy, with elections approaching and an extremely partisan political environment. At the same time, they shared their wisdom about how to take advantage of the moment to advance disaster housing recovery and resilience.

Throughout the convening, DHRC members engaged in deep discussions on ways to collect and document their successes and lessons learned in using media, legal, organizing, and research strategies to advance shared goals.

Jen Butler of NLIHC and Chrishelle Palay of the But Next Time Project and NLIHC's Board of Directors shared their expertise in uplifting directly impacted people's voices in the media and discussed how to actively shape the narrative around disaster housing recovery and resilience.

Hannah Perls of the Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program moderated a panel with Stephanie Duke from Disability Rights Texas, Alicia Edward from Legal Aid of North Carolina, and Leslee Matthews from Maui Rapid Response. These experts discussed how best to use the legal system to advance advocacy goals and the importance of working with organizers, advocates, members of the press, and researchers to ensure that legal wins impact directly impacted people on the ground.

Andrew Loeb Shoenig of the North Carolina Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network and Rural Prosperity and Investment, MDC Inc moderated a panel with Jordan Hocker of the Maui Housing Hui, Shari Myers of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, and Andreanecia Morris of HousingNOLA on organizing. The panelists highlighted the need to incorporate directly impacted people into all stages of advocacy and emphasized that trusting, genuine relationships based on shared self-interest form the basis of effective advocacy.

Andrew Rumbach of the Urban Institute moderated a panel with Nnenia Campbell of the William Averette Anderson Fund and the University of Colorado Boulder, Shannon Van Zandt of Texas A&M, and Chris Emrich of the University of Central Florida. The conversation focused on how researchers can work with, rather than merely conduct research on, directly impacted communities. The speakers agreed that all communities should adopt a bill of rights to which researchers must adhere if they are to work with them.

On the convening's final day, NLIHC Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Field Organizing Sarah Saadian moderated three conversations with representatives from HUD, the FEMA, and Congress. In the first conversation, Sarah was joined by Marion McFadden, principal deputy assistant secretary for Community Development and Planning at HUD, who highlighted the urgent need to permanently authorize the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, which provides flexible grants to help presidentially declared disaster areas rebuild affordable housing and other infrastructure in the wake of a disaster. The bipartisan, NLIHC-endorsed "[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#)" would permanently authorize the CDBG-DR program and make critical reforms to ensure resources reach disaster survivors with the greatest needs.

Sarah then led a discussion with FEMA administrators Frank Matranga, director of the Office of Individual Assistance, and Sherman Gillums, Jr., director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. Mr. Matranga and Mr. Gillums, Jr. shared updates attendees on FEMA programs and policies with attendees. Meanwhile, attendees implored FEMA to take their lead from grassroots and national advocacy organizations, who are uniquely positioned to understand the challenges directly impacted people are facing on the ground and help FEMA better achieve its mission. They also requested that FEMA provide grassroots organizations with a PDF copy of a newly updated application and guide that will be used by FEMA officials to screen disaster survivors requesting FEMA assistance.

Finally, Sarah moderated a conversation with congressional staff, including Lauren McClain, subcommittee director of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and Lauren Gros, professional staff member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Both panelists emphasized the importance of constituents connecting with their elected officials and making clear the need for policies and funding that facilitate equitable and efficient disaster housing recovery, explaining that constituent voices drive what issues are prioritized in Congress.

NLIHC is grateful to all those who joined us in D.C. to share their hard-earned knowledge with the DHRC, as well as our panelists, presenters, and speakers who shared their experience and expertise to guide the DHRC's work into a new era.

As a result of the convening, the DHRC is better positioned to build power and move policy solutions that advance disaster housing recovery and resilience in low-income and disinvested communities. The DHRC looks forward to sharing the knowledge generated during the convening through toolkits and other advocacy resources to support the work of disaster housing recovery advocates nationwide.

HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Homes

U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Resolution in Support of Continued Emergency Rental Assistance to Prevent Evictions with Unanimous, Bipartisan Support

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) adopted a [resolution](#), “In Support of Preventing Evictions and Homelessness Through Ongoing Resources for Emergency Rental Assistance,” with unanimous, bipartisan support on June 23. The resolution urges Congress to enact the bipartisan “[Eviction Crisis Act](#),” a policy priority for NLIHC’s [HoUsed](#) campaign and the Opportunity Starts at Home ([OSAH](#)) campaign.

Introduced in the previous Congress by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO), Todd Young (R-IN), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Rob Portman (R-OH, retired), the “Eviction Crisis Act” would create a permanent, federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) program to provide short-term financial assistance and housing stability services to households facing an unexpected financial crisis that puts them at risk of eviction and in the worst cases homelessness. NLIHC worked in partnership with the Mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investments to draft and introduce the resolution.

The resolution was introduced with sponsorship from a broad, bipartisan coalition of mayors, including:

- Aftab Pureval (Cincinnati, OH)
- Justin Bibb (Cleveland, OH)
- Angela Birney (Redmond, WA)
- London Breed (San Francisco, CA)
- Malik Evans (Rochester, NY)

- Todd Gloria (San Diego, CA)
- Martha Guerrero (West Sacramento, CA)
- Tishaura Jones (St. Louis, MO)
- Heidi Lueb (Tigard, OR)
- Lauren McLean (Boise, ID)
- Satya Rhodes-Conway (Madison, WI)
- Rex Richardson (Long Beach, CA)
- Regina Romero (Tucson, AZ)
- Andy Schor (Lansing, MI)
- Brett Smiley (Providence, RI)

In addition, the USCM enacted resolutions calling on Congress to advance other HoUSed campaign priorities, including:

- Enacting the “Ending Homelessness Act” (led by Mayor Bass, Los Angeles).
- Enacting the Housing Crisis Response Act” (led by Mayor Bass, Los Angeles).
- Support for Housing First to combat homelessness (led by Mayor Kapszukiewicz, Toledo, OH).
- Enacting the “Reforming Disaster Recovery Act” (led by Mayor Gloria, San Diego).

Read the resolution [here](#).

Join Poor People’s Campaign Rally in Washington, D.C., on June 29!

NLIHC urges partners and members of our network to [join](#) other advocates from across the country at the “Mass Poor People’s and Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington D.C. and to the Polls” on June 29 and help mobilize impacted poor and low-wage workers and their allies to attend.

The mass assembly and moral march will be led by the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. As an official mobilizing partner of the campaign, NLIHC is working to mobilize members of our network to join this effort. The gathering will take place on **Saturday, June 29, at 10 am ET, at 3rd & Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington D.C.**

Advocates from afar who want to be involved in the effort are encouraged to [stream the event online](#), engage with the Poor People’s Campaign social media content, and follow updates on the march and campaign via social media here:

Facebook: @anewppc

Twitter: @UniteThePoor

Instagram: @poorpeoplescampaign

Hashtags: #PoorPeoplesCampaign #MoralMarchOnWashington #DeathByPoverty
#3rdReconstructionAgenda #MoralMovement

The Poor People's Campaign was founded in 1967 by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who wanted to create a movement that fought for economic security and addressed poverty by focusing on the intersections of race and class. Fifty years after Dr. King's assassination, the unfinished work of the campaign was restarted by community leaders and advocates – including NLIHC – who are continuing the fight to unite low-income people of every race, color, creed, and sexuality.

[RSVP today](#) to join us on June 29 in the nation's capital for the “Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington D.C. & to the Polls”!

Homelessness and Housing First

Register for Tomorrow's (6/25) NLIHC, The Alliance, and CBPP Advancing Homelessness Solutions Webinar

NLIHC, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (The Alliance), and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) invite advocates nationwide to [register](#) for the third webinar in our series on advancing solutions to the homelessness crisis. The webinar, “All Hands on Deck: Mobilizing a Broader Network of Advocates,” will be held **tomorrow, June 25, from 2 to 3 pm ET**. We need all hands on deck to influence decision-makers in scaling evidence-based solutions instead of punitive policies at all levels of government. On the webinar, which will be moderated by Alliance CEO Ann Oliva, a diverse range of advocates will discuss innovative strategies to build bigger coalitions, engage persuadable lawmakers, and push back against harmful counter-narratives.

Last year, more than 13,400 people participated in our monthly Homelessness and Housing First [webinar series](#). Given the tremendous interest among stakeholders and the worsening homelessness and affordable housing crises, we decided to continue and expand the series to focus on the solutions to homelessness. On the webinars, we will share more about proven strategies to successfully end homelessness, best practices for state and local advocacy, and actions advocates can take to advance solutions.

Homelessness demands urgent action from all levels of government. We know what works to end homelessness: providing individuals with stable, accessible affordable housing and voluntary supportive services. We hope you will join us in building the political will and congressional support necessary to do so!

Please note that this webinar is not a training, and webinar attendees will not receive a certificate of completion.

Register for the webinar at: <https://tinyurl.com/2spa9f7b>

Budget and Appropriations

House Appropriators Expected to Release Draft FY25 Budget for HUD Programs This Week – Take Action!

The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) is expected to release its draft fiscal year (FY) 2025 spending bill for HUD programs this week, with a review of the proposal scheduled for June 27. The full House Appropriations Committee aims to consider the bill on July 10 and hold a vote on the House floor during the week of July 29, before Congress breaks for August recess.

The Committee approved along a party line vote last month topline spending allocations that would slash funding for THUD programs by 10% in the coming fiscal year (see *Memo*, [5/28](#)). While it is not clear how funding will be distributed between HUD and U.S. Department of Transportation programs, or how the Subcommittee will allocate funding to individual HUD programs, advocates expect the draft to propose drastic cuts to many HUD programs. NLIHC will provide an analysis of the House's FY25 draft bill after it is released.

Meanwhile, most Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittees are still waiting on their topline funding allocations, also known as "302(b)s." The Senate hopes to draft, release, and review its FY25 proposals in July. On June 14, the Senate's Committee on Armed Services voted 22-3 to advance a defense funding bill that would provide \$28 billion more than the spending limit allowed under the *Fiscal Responsibility Act* (FRA), the agreement reached last year to raise the federal debt ceiling in exchange for imposing caps on federal spending in FY24 and FY25. Senate Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-WA), are insisting that any increase to defense spending above the mandated caps must be paired with an equal increase to domestic spending.

"To increase funding for the Department of Defense, Congress would have to either repeal the spending caps, or reach a new budget agreement," said Majority Leader Schumer in a statement. "In that case, Democrats are committed to ensuring an equitable increase in our domestic investments alongside an increase in defense spending."

"Falling short means thousands of families will lose [rental] assistance, and may face eviction," said Chair Murray in a [speech](#) on the Senate floor. "I can't emphasize enough that, under the caps for nondefense, everything struggles to keep up with rising costs. Programs our kids, the future of our country, depend on, can't get by on once percent," she said, referring to the one percent increase in domestic spending afforded under the FRA.

Providing funding in FY25 over limits imposed by the FRA will be crucial to ensuring domestic programs – including HUD's vital affordable housing and homelessness programs – have sufficient funding in the coming year to continue operation. Funding for HUD's programs must increase every year to maintain the number of people and communities served. Cuts to programs like Housing Choice Vouchers, Public Housing, and Homelessness Assistance Grants also

reduce assistance to people who rely on these programs to keep a roof over their head, putting them at risk of housing insecurity, eviction, and, in the worst cases, homelessness.

Take Action: Tell Congress to Provide Significant Funding Increases for HUD in FY25

Your advocacy makes a difference! It is thanks to the hard work of advocates that in FY24 – at a time when [programs faced cuts of up 25%](#) – HUD received increased funding in the final spending bill.

Congress needs to keep hearing from you about the importance of affordable housing and homelessness programs! **NLIHC is calling on Congress to provide the highest possible funding for HUD’s affordable housing and homelessness programs in FY25, including significant funding for NLIHC’s top priorities:**

- Full funding to renew all existing contracts for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and expand assistance to 20,000 more households.
- \$6.2 billion for public housing operations and \$5.2 billion for public housing capital needs.
- \$4.7 billion for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program.
- \$100 million for the Eviction Prevention Grant Program.
- At least \$1.3 billion for Tribal housing programs, plus \$150 million for competitive funds targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

Advocates can continue to engage their members of Congress by:

- **Emailing or calling members’ offices** to tell them about the importance of affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources to you, your family, your community, or your work. You can [use NLIHC’s Take Action page](#) to look up your member offices or call/send an email directly!
- **Using social media to amplify messages** about the country’s affordable housing and homelessness crisis and the continued need for long-term solutions.
- **Sharing stories** of those directly impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Storytelling adds emotional weight to your message and can help lawmakers see how their policy decisions impact actual people. Learn about [how to tell compelling stories with this resource](#).

National, state, local, tribal, and territorial organizations can [also join over 2,300 organizations on CHCDF’s national letter](#) calling on Congress to support the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources in FY25.

Congress

House Financial Services Subcommittee Announces 6/26 Hearing on HUD and FHFA Oversight

The U.S. House Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance will hold a hearing, "Housing Oversight: Testimony of the HUD and Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Inspectors General," on June 26 at 10 am ET. Inspectors general are charged with performing independent audits, evaluations, investigations, and other oversight activities related to the programs and operations of their departments. Background information, a witness list, and a link to watch the hearing will soon be available [here](#).

HUD

HUD PIH Posts Guidance for Responding to Extreme Heat in Public Housing

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) posted [Notice PIH 2024-20](#) clarifying guidance on using public housing Operating Funds and Capital Funds relating to air conditioning when responding to extreme heat. On June 13, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Richard Monocchio also sent an [email](#) to public housing agency (PHA) directors highlighting provisions in the Notice and urging PHAs to "think broadly and comprehensively about how you can reduce the risks of extreme heat for all of your residents."

Operating Funds

Operating Funds may be used to pay for the cost of cooling public housing common areas.

In general, PIH does not allow Operating Funds to be used to cover in-unit air conditioning expenses. When a household pays for its own utilities, its PHA establishes a utility allowance to cover reasonable utility expenses. When utilities are provided by a PHA using a check-meter system, the PHA sets an allotment for allowable utility consumption for the unit. In check-meter situations, if a household chooses to use in-unit air conditioning and the household's air conditioning use exceeds the allotment, the PHA can add a surcharge. Surcharges are also imposed on households choosing to use air conditioning in public housing that does not have check-metered systems.

Individual Relief Policies and Use of Operating Funds

PHAs may adopt "individual relief" policies to grant residents relief from utility bills that are in excess of utility allowances or to grant relief from utility surcharges – upon request by residents. When a PHA approves a request for individual relief, it can set a higher utility allowance or decide not to assess a surcharge for excess use of specified PHA-furnished utilities. Regulations provide examples of reasonable grounds for granting individual relief, such as special needs of elderly, ill, or disabled residents. PHAs have discretion to develop policies to provide individual relief for other reasonable grounds, including factors beyond residents' control.

Severe or Extreme Heat as a Reasonable Ground for Individual Relief

As PDAS Monocchio's email emphasizes, with this Notice, PHAs may establish a policy stating that all residents have reasonable grounds to request relief due to severe or extreme heat (as defined by the PHA). However, because the regulations require a household to request relief, a

PHA cannot automatically grant individual relief for extreme heat to all residents. Rather than requiring every household to write an explanation of their request for individual relief in the context of extreme heat, the Notice allows PHAs to provide all households with a streamlined option for requesting relief, which could simply involve checking a box on a form.

The regulations require PHAs to provide notice to all residents about the availability of and criteria for granting individual relief. This information must be provided when a PHA notifies all residents about utility allowances, scheduled surcharges, and revisions. Newly admitted households must also be given this information.

The Notice states that PHAs may immediately begin to grant individual relief requests on the basis of extreme heat before providing a new utility allowance notice or before updating their Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) or lease. Also, PHAs may immediately announce their intention to approve all requests for individual relief due to extreme heat and provide residents with streamlined request forms.

Capital Funds

A PHA may use public housing Capital Funds to purchase and install air conditioning for public housing units, including bracing for window air conditioning units. Capital funds may also be used to purchase and install air conditioning for common areas (such as community rooms), especially to serve as cooling spaces for residents. Capital Funds may also be used to improve cooling efficiency by installing weatherization features, smart thermostats, upgraded electrical wiring, and renewable energy generation.

Read Notice PIH 2024-20 at: <https://tinyurl.com/5eup6u44>

Read PDAS Monocchio's email at: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxvvrxz>

Read HUD's "Extreme Heat Quick Guide" on HUD User at: <https://tinyurl.com/2t6n9aza>

HUD's Extreme Heat website is at: <https://tinyurl.com/ba9tw688>

Basic information about public housing is on [page 4-36](#) of NLIHC's *2024 Advocates' Guide*

Our Homes, Our Votes

Register for Upcoming *Our Homes, Our Votes* Webinar: Voting While Experiencing Homelessness

The [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2024 webinar series](#) provides resources, guidance, and inspiration for organizations and individuals seeking to launch or strengthen their own nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement initiatives. The next webinar in the series, "Voting While Experiencing Homelessness," will take place on Monday, July 1, at 2:30 pm ET. Register for the webinar [here](#).

People experiencing homelessness, service providers, and election officials often face uncertainty about the process of voter registration for those without a permanent address. This webinar will discuss how people experiencing homelessness can exercise their voting rights and overcome the obstacles to casting their ballots—and how organizations that work directly with people experiencing homelessness can empower them to do so. Panelists will discuss recommendations and resources that unhoused voters, shelters, and other agencies can employ to ensure that people without residential addresses can make their voices heard in the democratic process.

The panel will feature [Dr. Caitlin Krenn](#), whose research examines civic empowerment in shelter settings; Ashley Heidenrich, project coordinator at [Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness](#); and Ken Williamson, program and policy analyst at the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

The webinar dates and topics are listed below. All webinars will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 pm ET. For full descriptions of each session and archives of past webinars, visit: www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/webinars-2024

- Voting While Experiencing Homelessness (Monday, July 1)
- Transportation to the Polls (Monday, July 15)
- Housing Providers and Voter Engagement (Monday, July 29)
- Getting Candidates on the Record about Housing and Homelessness (Monday, August 19)
- Celebrating the Civic Holidays (Tuesday, September 3)
- Voter Education: The Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How (Monday, September 16)
- Voter Education: Combating Misinformation and Disinformation (Monday, September 30)
- Overcoming Voter Suppression (Monday, October 7)
- Countdown to Election Day: Getting Out the Vote! (Monday, October 21)
- Knowing Your Rights: Voter Protection on Election Day (Monday, November 4)
- A Look Ahead: Next Steps for Civic Engagement and Housing Justice (Monday, November 18)

For more information about the *Our Homes, Our Votes* campaign, visit: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/>

***Our Homes, Our Votes* Updates – June 24, 2024**

Tag: Our Homes, Our Votes **Keywords:** *Our Homes Our Votes, voting, elections, campaign, bipartisan, updates*

Order Bilingual *Our Homes, Our Votes* Swag on Shopify!

Celebrate voter participation with new *Our Homes, Our Votes* swag! Visit [Shopify](#) for an expanded collection of *Our Homes, Our Votes* apparel, accessories, stickers, buttons, and more. The collection includes brand-new [TurboVote](#) magnets, which direct voters to NLIHC's online

voter registration and information platform. All swag is available in both English and Spanish. Learn more [here](#). For bulk orders, please reach out to outreach@nlihc.org.

Become an *Our Homes, Our Votes* Affiliate!

Our Homes, Our Votes convenes a network of [affiliates](#), which are nonpartisan organizations that are committed to boosting voter turnout among low-income renters and elevating housing as an election issue. Advocacy organizations, direct service providers, resident councils and tenant associations, local governments, and other related organizations are welcome to become *Our Homes, Our Votes* affiliates.

Benefits of participating in the affiliates network include:

- Access to a listserv where NLIHC staff and campaign partners exchange ideas and announce opportunities related to nonpartisan voter engagement.
- Invitations to biweekly affiliates office hours – an agenda-free, drop-in, optional space where affiliates can workshop their nonpartisan election plans. Office hours take place every other Friday from 1 to 3 pm ET.
- Invitation to a post-election virtual gathering to debrief the election cycle and brainstorm next steps for nonpartisan civic engagement.
- Enhanced access to *Our Homes, Our Votes* tools and resources, including customized TurboVote referral links to track the impact of nonpartisan voter engagement activities.

To learn more about the affiliates network and apply to join, visit: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/affiliates>

Become a Civic Holidays Partner!

[Civic Holidays](#) are nonpartisan days of action that strengthen and celebrate our country's democracy. The four Civic Holidays – National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, and Election Hero Day – activate nonprofits, campuses, businesses, and other organizations to engage voters in their communities. Each holiday focuses on a different aspect of voter engagement: registration, education, mobilization, and celebration of voting. Nonpartisan organizations are invited to [partner](#) with the Civic Holidays. Partners will receive state-by-state FAQs and voter engagement guides, online voter tools, multilingual resources, swag, and other giveaways. Learn more and sign up to become a Civic Holidays partner [here](#).

Join the Civic Listening Corps to Combat Misinformation and Disinformation

Misinformation and disinformation pose dangers to our democracy. Harmful and misleading messages are often strategically targeted to reduce low-income communities' trust in political institutions. To build communities' capacity to respond to the threat of misinformation, the League of Women Voters and the Algorithmic Transparency Institute partnered to create the [Civic Listening Corps](#).

The Civic Listening Corps is a nonpartisan initiative to create a network of trained volunteers to monitor, critically evaluate, and report misinformation about topics including voting and

elections. Participants in the Civic Listening Corps gain the tools to develop community resilience to misinformation and develop organizational responses.

Learn more about the Civic Listening Corps: <https://www.civiclistering.org/what-is-clc>

Click [here](#) to sign up.

Upcoming Partner Webinars on Nonpartisan Civic Engagement

Disabled Voters Rising: Political Education and Training Series

New Disabled South, which aims to improve the lives of disabled people and build strong disability justice and rights movements in the South, and its advocacy arm New Disabled South Rising have launched “[Disabled Voters Rising: Political Education and Training Series](#).” The series offers webinars, trainings, and panels on disability policy and accessibility for voters, policymakers, campaigns, and voter contact organizers. Topics include “Disability and Democracy” and “Accessible Voter Outreach and Engagement.” Click [here](#) to view the schedule and sign up for a session.

Strategic Voter Outreach and Civic Engagement

The National Vote at Home Institute, Empower Project, Student Learn Students Vote, and VoteAmerica will host a webinar on voter outreach and strategies to boost turnout in 2024. The webinar will take place on Wednesday, June 26, at 2 pm ET. Register for the webinar [here](#).

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans: Organizing Candidate Forums

For the second installment of its “Changing the Narrative About Homelessness” 2024 webinar series, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) will host a webinar on organizing candidate forums. The webinar will cover nonpartisan strategies to elevate housing as an election issue and engage candidates on homelessness, including nonpartisan candidate forums. The webinar will take place on Wednesday, June 26, at 3 pm ET. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Partnership for Strong Communities: The Intersections of Affordable Housing and Civic Engagement

Partnership for Strong Communities, an NLIHC state partner, will host a webinar on the intersections of affordable housing and civic engagement on Wednesday, July 3, at 10 am ET. The webinar will explore the impact of voting and community engagement on the landscape of affordable housing, and why voter engagement matters for housing organizations. Register for the webinar [here](#).

State and Local Innovation

States Introduce Multiple Tenant Protections Bills This Legislative Session, Securing Several Wins for Renters Rights

TAG: State and Local Innovation
habitability, rent stabilization

Keywords: tenant protections, just cause, junk fees,

With state-level legislative sessions having ended or nearing their official end this month, lawmakers in states across the nation have signaled a clear commitment to introducing and advancing tenant protection legislation. Not only have lawmakers introduced legislation to strengthen tenants' rights, but state-level lawmakers have shown clear interest in moving to protect tenants against long-standing threats to housing stability, including a lack of affordable housing and rental costs that are too high for the lowest-income renters.

In 2024, states across the nation have introduced tenant protection legislation related to eviction record sealing and expungement protections; "just cause" eviction standards; laws that strengthen code enforcement procedures and habitability standards; laws that expand notice-period requirements for tenants facing eviction; laws that would create or expand landlord-tenant mediation programs; laws that clarify or prohibit harmful tenant screening requirements; right to counsel laws; rent stabilization laws; laws that limit "junk fees"; and even laws to repeal existing state-level preemptions on rent stabilization.

Tenant protections, passed in the form of laws and policies, are critical tools for preventing evictions and keeping renters stably housed. By passing laws to strengthen renters' rights, the presence of such laws can ensure that tenants can access safe and affordable housing with fewer barriers to entry – often perpetuated by source-of-income discrimination or inequitable tenant screening practices that can result in denials to tenants based on their status as public assistance voucher holders or their credit and rental histories. Such laws can also ensure that tenants are able to maintain their housing over the long term, free from unjust discrimination and harassment. During the pandemic, state and local jurisdictions were quick to recognize the crucial role tenant protections play in preventing evictions and ensuring housing stability for the most marginalized households.

As the pandemic led to wide-scale job losses for millions of families in the U.S., a staggering number of individuals fell behind on their rental payments as a result, leading to a nationwide renter arrears crisis in which [renters owed a combined total of as much as \\$57 billion in past-due rent in 2021](#). In addition to the federal eviction moratorium, which helped [prevent](#) evictions for as many as 1.36 million renter households across the country, other pandemic-specific eviction safe harbors – including landlord-tenant mediation programs, right to counsel policies, and laws that mandated a landlord or property owner could not evict a tenant while an emergency rental assistance application was pending – led to significant drops in eviction filings. In 2023, the Eviction Lab at Princeton University found that, in 31 of the cities it tracked, [eviction filings fell by more than half](#) compared to rates in preceding years, with cities such as Pittsburgh seeing an 81.2% decrease in eviction filings between March 15, 2020, and December 31, 2021.

However, given the present-day lack of federal tenant protections, state and local jurisdictions play a crucial role not only in ensuring that all renters benefit from basic renter safeguards but in rectifying the pronounced power imbalance that exists between landlords and renters – an imbalance that often leaves tenants at the will of their landlords. Since January 2021, NLIHC has [tracked](#) the passage of more than 332 tenant protections that have been passed at the state- and

local-levels, with over 40 states and 128 localities having passed new, permanent protections for tenants in a three-year span since the pandemic.

The following trends are evident in tenant protections passed this legislative session:

Eviction Record Sealing and Expungement Measures

Eviction record sealing and expungement laws are protections that seek to minimize the negative consequences of having an eviction filing present on a tenant's public record by making them inaccessible to landlords, property owners, and all third parties, including credit screening companies. Through eviction record sealing laws, a tenant's eviction record is hidden from public view, while eviction record expungement laws completely remove an eviction record from public view.

In 2024, nine states introduced legislation to create or expand eviction record sealing and/or expungement laws, including Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Utah, and Virginia. Idaho (passed through "[Senate Bill 1327](#)"), Maryland (passed through "[Senate Bill 19](#)"), and Virginia (passed through "[House Bill 73](#)") all passed protections for renters. Minnesota also passed mandatory expungement protections for tenants through "[SF 3492](#)," which will require a tenant's eviction record to be wiped clean if (1) the eviction case was dismissed; (2) both parties agree to the expungement; (3) the eviction case was ruled in favor of the tenant; or (4) three years have passed since the eviction was ordered against the tenant.

"Just Cause" Eviction Standards

Known also as "good cause" or "for cause" laws, "just cause" eviction protections limit the reasons or causes for which a landlord can evict a tenant or refuse to renew a tenant's lease when the tenant is not at fault or found to be in violation of any law. Instead, just cause eviction standards explicitly define the reasons for which a tenant can be evicted, including reasons such as non-payment of rent or another verifiable violation of the tenant's lease agreement.

Eight states introduced just cause eviction laws this legislative session: Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. Colorado secured just cause protections for renters, passing "[House Bill 1098](#)" this session to prohibit eviction proceedings without verifiable cause. Under Colorado's just cause law, a landlord or property owner can only evict a tenant for reasons such as a violation of the tenant's lease, nuisance, or for a "no-fault" reason such as demolition of the rental unit.

Laws Strengthening Code Enforcement Procedures and Habitability Standards

Under code enforcement and habitability laws, municipalities seek to increase the enforcement of and uphold administrative housing codes to ensure the safety and quality of residential dwelling units. By passing such laws, lawmakers mandate that landlords and property owners ensure that residences are fit for habitation and that essential services like electricity, running water, and functioning heating and cooling systems are present.

Four states introduced code enforcement or habitability laws this session: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, and Virginia. Colorado passed protections for tenants through "[Senate Bill 24-094](#),"

while Georgia led a historic campaign to enact “[House Bill 404](#),” a landmark piece of legislation that mandates that all residential units meet a minimum set of habitability standards for renters.

Laws Expanding Notice Period Requirements

Laws that expand notice period requirements aim to increase a tenant’s access to timely information and/or require landlords to provide information prior to filing an eviction, such as information related to notices to quit, intentions to file an eviction, availability of emergency rental assistance (if applicable), and other resources or information that could prevent eviction.

Five states – Arizona, Florida, Hawai’i, Illinois, Virginia, and Washington – introduced such legislation, with Virginia passing “[House Bill 86](#)” to require landlords and property owners to give tenants advance notice of how much they owe in eviction cases.

Laws Creating or Expanding Landlord Tenant Mediation Programs

Landlord-tenant mediation programs, often offered as a service for tenants facing the threat of eviction, help resolve landlord-tenant disputes before an eviction filing or judgement is levied against a tenant.

Four states – Florida, Hawai’i, Maryland, and Virginia – introduced such legislation this year, though none of the four states secured passage of the legislation.

Laws Clarifying or Prohibiting Harmful Tenant Screening Practices

Tenant screening practices, which often include checks into a tenant’s background, rental history, or credit history, can lead to barriers preventing tenants from being able to secure safe, stable, and affordable housing of their choosing. When such laws are passed, states and local governments enact prohibitions on the information that could potentially result in the denial of housing, including the presence of a past eviction filing.

In 2024, three states – Hawai’i, Illinois, and Virginia – introduced such laws, but none of the three states secured the passage of the legislation.

Right to Counsel Laws

Right to counsel laws guarantee that tenants who are facing eviction will have legal representation in court. Right to counsel policies are an important tool used to rectify the power imbalance between landlords and tenants in eviction court. According to the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, in eviction cases nationwide, 83% of landlords have representation in court while only 4% of tenants do.

In 2024, six states – Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, and South Carolina – all introduced right to counsel laws. Nebraska’s law (passed through “[Legislative Bill 840](#)”) was the only state to secure such protections but only for tenants residing in public housing. Moreover, Nebraska’s right to counsel law only applies to cities that have a population of at least 400,000 residents.

Laws Repealing Existing Preemptions

Preemption laws shift the power to enact laws from the lower levels of government to a higher level of government, typically from a locality to a state. In the case of tenant protection laws, preemptions remove the authority of lower levels of government to pass, enact, or preside over issues related to landlords and tenants and grant the power to the state.

This session, Massachusetts and Minnesota both introduced legislation that would repeal existing preemptions on rent stabilization, allowing localities within the state to enact rent stabilization measures. Both states failed to pass the legislation.

Rent Stabilization Laws

Rent stabilizations laws or policies prohibit a landlord or property owner from increasing a tenant's rent by a certain amount each year to prevent excessive rent hikes that price a tenant out of their housing. When such laws are implemented, they regulate both the speed and amount by which rent can be increased.

This legislative session, both Massachusetts and Washington introduced legislation to cap rental limits across the state, though neither piece of legislation was passed. Washington's "[House Bill 2114](#)," a statewide effort to repeal the state's ban on rent control and enact rent stabilization protections, was widely supported by tenant advocates and members of other housing-justice focused organizations, including NLIHC state partner Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. The bill, which would have prohibited a landlord from increasing a tenant's rent by more than 7% in a year, passed through the House but ultimately died in the Senate. As of 2024, there are only three states – California, Oregon, and the District of Columbia – to have enacted statewide rent stabilization measures.

Laws Limiting “Junk Fees”

“Junk fees” are rental fees that exacerbate the rental housing unaffordability crisis by requiring tenants to pay additional costs on top of their base rental payments. Laws or policies that seek to place caps on the amount of money that a landlord or property owner can charge renters over the course of a tenant's lease term crack down on “junk fees.” During a tenant's lease term, these laws seek to increase transparency in the rental housing market by uncovering any hidden, surprise, or arbitrary rental fees, including convenience fees, processing fees, administrative fees, excessive late fees, security deposit fees, and utility fees. Junk fee legislation has grown in popularity in recent years, with the White House releasing a [brief](#) in 2023 that exposed the harmful nature of rising rental costs.

In 2024, six states introduced legislation to cap rental fees: Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Virginia, Washington, and Rhode Island. Rhode Island passed legislation ("[House Bill 7647](#)") to limit convenience fees, strengthening a prior bill passed in 2023 that would place caps on rental application fees. Under Rhode Island's law, a landlord is required to list all mandatory fees when advertising the rental property, including disclosing all mandatory fees in a tenant's lease agreement. For landlords who do not disclose any required fees, a tenant may recover any of the undisclosed fees paid. Minnesota also advanced legislation to establish protections against junk

fees. Under “[SF 3492](#),” a landlord or property owner is prohibited from charging a fee for a tenant’s service animal as well as late fees for nonpayment of rent.

Summary Table of State Tenant Protections Introduced and/or Passed in the 2024 Legislative Session

Protection	Introduced	Passed
Eviction Record Sealing and Expungement	9	4
“Just Cause” Eviction Standards	8	1
Strengthen the Code Enforcement Procedures and Habitability Standards	4	2
Expand Notice Period Requirements	5	1
Create or Expand Landlord Tenant Mediation Programs	4	0
Clarify or Prohibit Harmful Tenant Screening Practices	3	0
Right to Counsel	6	1
Repeal Existing Preemptions	2	0
Rent Stabilization	2	0
Limit “Junk Fees”	6	2

State Preemption Bills

Finally, as states continue to show interest in passing tenant protections and strengthening renters’ rights, some have also introduced legislation to take away those rights. Several bills seeking to create preemptions, which are laws that remove the power of localities to enact tenant protections laws and reserve this right solely to the state, have been successfully passed in 2024.

Following the lead of Florida and Texas, which passed sweeping tenant protections preemption bills in 2023, Kentucky, Idaho, and Missouri all passed preemption bills this year.

Passed through “[House Bill 18](#),” Kentucky enacted a source-of-income preemption bill that would allow landlords to discriminate against tenants based on their lawful and verifiable income source. Such laws would disproportionately impact Section 8 Voucher Holders, as landlords would not be required to accept vouchers from tenants, leaving tenants to face barriers in finding housing due to their status. Idaho passed a similar bill this year through “[House Bill 545](#).”

In Missouri, lawmakers passed a preemption bill (“[House Bill 2062](#)”) that would prohibit localities from enacting eviction moratoriums, making this a power granted solely to the state.

Recognizing the critical role that tenant protections play in keeping renters stably housed, NLIHC launched the “[State and Local Innovation](#)” (SLI) project in April 2024 to support states and localities in advancing, implementing, and enforcing state and local tenant protections. In addition to working to strengthen tenants’ rights, the State and Local Innovation project is committed to supporting municipalities in creating and sustaining emergency rental assistance programs, preventing the criminalization of homelessness, and supporting the advancement of other housing innovations that seek to keep eviction rates down and prevent homelessness.

For more information on the tenant protections that NLIHC tracks, please visit: <https://nlihc.org/tenant-protections>

For more information on NLIHC’s SLI project, please visit: <https://nlihc.org/state-and-local-innovation>

If you are aware of a tenant protection that has been implemented in your state or locality that is not in the State and Local Tenant Protection Database, please contact SLI project coordinator Nada Hussein at nhussein@nlihc.org.

Opportunity Starts at Home

National Network to End Domestic Violence Joins OSAH Steering Committee

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) announced on June 20 that it will join NLIHC’s [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) (OSAH) multi-sector affordable housing campaign Steering Committee. As a Steering Committee member, NNEDV will engage its network of advocates to advance more robust and equitable federal housing policies for people with the lowest incomes.

“Many domestic violence survivors are forced to flee their homes to escape dangerous and life-threatening violence and are evicted at much higher rates from affordable housing,” said Dr. Wendy B. Mahoney, NNEDV interim president and CEO. “Survivors face higher rates of eviction and housing discrimination due to their survivor status, being blamed for actions of the harm-doer, and historical racial and family size discrimination in housing. A well-documented

lack of safe, affordable housing options leaves many survivors, and particularly survivors of color, without a choice but to survive outside or live in unstable and violent housing situations.”

NNEDV is the latest addition to the OSAH campaign’s Steering Committee, which now totals 20 members. Chaired by NLIHC, the Steering Committee also includes the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Catholic Charities USA, Children’s HealthWatch, Catholic Charities USA, Children’s Defense Fund, Community Catalyst, Food Research and Action Center, JustLeadershipUSA, NAACP, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Social Workers, National Education Association, National League of Cities, National LGBTQ Task Force, National Women’s Law Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, and UnidosUS.

NNEDV provides training and assistance to coalitions against domestic violence in all 56 states and territories. Formed in 1990, NNEDV works to make domestic violence a national priority; change the way society responds to domestic violence; and strengthen domestic violence advocacy at every level.

Read the news release [here](#).

OSAH Joins Multi-Sector Briefing on Strategies for Ending Green Gentrification and Creating Healthy and Resilient Homes for All

Tag: Opportunity Starts at Home *Keywords: Opportunity Starts at Home, multi-sector, green gentrification, Natural Resources Defense Council, NRDC, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, PSR-LA, Struggle for Miami’s Affordable and Sustainable Housing, SMASH*

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) hosted a virtual briefing in collaboration with NLIHC’s Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles ([PSR-LA](#)), and Struggle for Miami’s Affordable and Sustainable Housing ([SMASH](#)) on June 12. The event focused on the pressing issue of green gentrification and its impact on displacement across various geographic areas and climate zones.

The briefing featured experts who shared their insights about the intersections of health, environment, and housing outcomes resulting from green gentrification and highlighted the ways partnerships across different sectors foster effective solutions. The event followed another discussion among the partners, during which findings from a new report, *Healthy, Climate-Resilient Homes for All: Centering Housing Justice and Health Equity in Building Decarbonization*, were shared. The report underscores the critical role of housing policies in promoting environmental justice and health equity and emphasizes the urgent need for federal policymakers to tackle the nation’s affordable housing crisis.

Panelists at the briefing included:

- Dr. Sabrina Johnson (Natural Resources Defense Council)
- Edgar Barraza (Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles)

- Trenise Bryant (Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing)
- Chris Selig (People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights)
- Grecia Orozco (Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment)
- Chantelle Wilkinson (OSAH)

During the discussion, the panelists not only shared the multi-sector impacts of green gentrification but also uplifted the experiences of frontline, historically underrepresented communities of color and systems-impacted individuals. The conversation emphasized the necessity of implementing climate and housing solutions at local, state, and federal levels.

Watch a recording of the discussion [here](#). (Use passcode 0sjf5*)

Now Available: Updated Fact Sheet on LGBTQIA+ Equity and Housing

Tag: Opportunity Starts at Home *Keywords: Opportunity Starts at Home, OSAH, multi-sector, LGBTQIA+, fact sheet, National LGBTQ Taskforce, National Women's Law Center*

NLIHC's Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign released an updated multi-sector [fact sheet](#) addressing the barriers faced by LGBTQIA+ people in accessing affordable housing. Research increasingly shows that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a critical driver of positive outcomes in many areas of life but is less often accessible to members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The new fact sheet was developed with the help of leading LGBTQIA+ advocacy sector OSAH partners, including the National LGBTQ Taskforce and the National Women's Law Center.

In total, the OSAH campaign has posted 16 multi-sector fact sheets to its website. Each fact sheet compiles landmark research to help policymakers, opinion leaders, and the public understand the deep connections between housing and other national priorities, from healthcare to education and economic growth. Advocates are encouraged to download these fact sheets to help them reach out to potential allies in other fields to make the case for cross-sector collaboration. To broaden the movement for housing justice, we must ensure allies in other sectors fully appreciate the extent to which housing influences their own priorities and goals.

See the full list of fact sheets [here](#).

Research

Joint Center for Housing Studies Releases Latest *State of the Nation's Housing* Report

The Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University released the latest version of its

annual report, [*The State of the Nation's Housing 2024*](#). The report combines analyses of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Freddie Mac, the National Association of Realtors, RealPage, and other sources to provide a comprehensive snapshot of the country's housing supply and demand. The analyses reveal that, although the annual rate of growth in rent prices slowed in early 2024, rents are still increasing in three out of every five markets and remain well above pre-pandemic levels. As of March 2024, rents in professionally managed units had increased by 26% since early 2020. The median asking rent for newly constructed apartments was \$1,710 at the end of 2023, up \$270 from 2014.

Additionally, the report highlights how housing costs comprise a larger proportion of renters' incomes than ever before as rents continue to rise far faster than wages. In inflation-adjusted terms, median rents have increased 21% since 2001 while median renter household incomes have only increased by 2%. In 2022, half of all renters – a record 22.4 million renters – were cost burdened, spending 30% or more of household income on housing and utilities. Over 12 million of these renters were severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of household income on housing and utilities. While renter households across all income levels have been affected by rising housing cost burden, cost burdens are most prevalent among renters with the lowest incomes. Among households with annual incomes less than \$30,000, 83% of renters were cost-burdened and 65% were severely cost-burdened. On average, cost-burdened renters earning under \$30,000 have just \$170 remaining to cover all other basic needs after paying housing costs each month.

Low-income renters face additional threats to their housing security due to a limited and rapidly shrinking supply of affordable rental housing. According to the report, between 2012 and 2022, the rental housing market lost 2.1 million low-cost units with rents under \$600. During this period, nearly 42 states lost more than 10% of their low-cost rental units. An additional 4 million units with rents between \$600 and \$999 were lost over the same period, resulting in an overall reduction of 6.1 million units with rents below \$1,000.

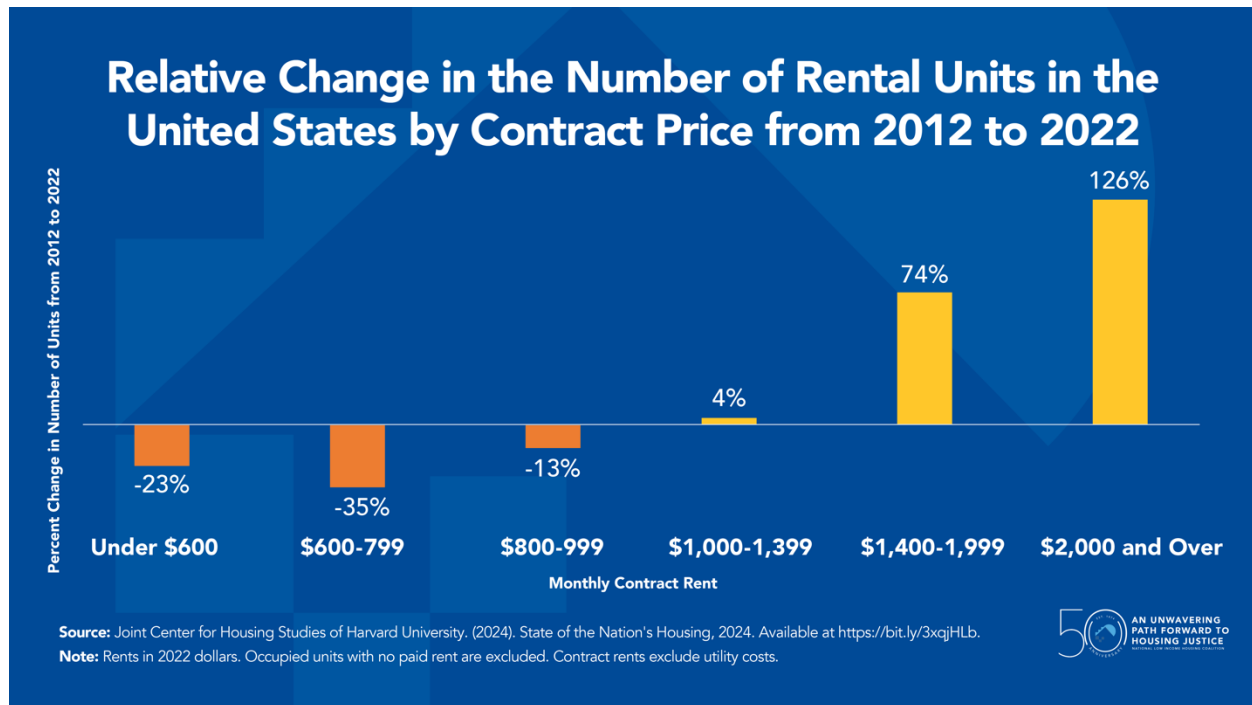
Conversely, the report finds that the supply of higher-cost rental units increased between 2012 and 2022. The number of units with rents between \$1,000 and \$1,900 grew by 4.7 million, and those with rents above \$2,000 increased by 4.1 million. The authors explain that the growth in rental housing supply is due in large part to the construction of 3.1 large multifamily properties with 20 or more units over the decade, which had median asking rents of \$1,300 in 2022. Meanwhile, small multifamily properties with two to four units, which had median rents of \$980 in 2022, increased by only 14,000 over the same time period.

While the authors support the use of regulatory zoning reforms and more cost-efficient construction strategies, such as manufactured housing and accessory dwelling units, to help increase both the supply and diversity of rental housing options, they emphasize that simply reducing construction costs will fail to serve the nation's lowest-income renters. They call for policymakers at all levels of government to strengthen the housing safety net by increasing rental housing subsidies and preserving the existing public housing stock. Additionally, the authors call for continued efforts to address increasing rates of homelessness nationwide through initiatives targeting the underlying causes of homelessness and the failures of the shelter system.

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

Fact of the Week

Rental Units Available for Less Than \$600 Decreased by 23% between 2012 and 2022, while Units Available for More Than \$2,000 Increased by 126%



Notes: Rents in 2022 dollars. Occupied units with no paid rent are excluded. Contract rents exclude utility costs.

Source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (2024). *State of the Nation's Housing, 2024*. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3xqjHLb>.

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of June 16

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of June 16:

- “U.S. home prices have far outpaced paychecks. See what it looks like where you live” *National Public Radio*, June 20, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mt5jedkz>
- “How the homeless population has changed since 2007” *Helena Independent Record*, June 18, at <https://tinyurl.com/2s4xma7f>

- “Americans are traveling further to get to work as ‘super-commutes’ rise” *The Hill*, June 17, at: <https://tinyurl.com/4fc5uj6s>
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NLIHC News

NLIHC Welcomes Sara Manandhar as IDEAS Intern

NLIHC is delighted to welcome Sara Manandhar (*she/her*) as a Summer 2024 IDEAS intern! Sara is a senior at American University, where she is pursuing a BA in communications, legal institutions, economics, and government (CLEG), with a minor in race, politics, and justice. Sara previously interned with the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project, where she helped connect immigrant victims of interpersonal violence with accessible legal and social services. Sara also recently interned for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09), in which role she studied the important impact of the Affordable Connectivity Program on the employment, education, and health of low-income New Yorkers. Sara’s interest in joining NLIHC stems from her experiences witnessing the significant disparities faced by communities of color in attempting to access affordable housing. Through her work, Sara hopes to gain the skills to become a more educated and effective advocate for marginalized communities nationwide.

NLIHC Welcomes Doyita Biswas as IDEAS Intern

NLIHC is pleased to welcome Doyita Biswas as a Summer 2024 IDEAS intern! Doyita is a rising senior at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, where she is completing a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in international politics. Before joining NLIHC, Doyita worked as an English as a Second Language instructor at English Pour Tout Le Monde, a refugee relief organization. She also worked as a legal assistant at the Fort Bend Public Defender’s Office with indigent clients with intellectual disabilities and mental illness. In this role, she witnessed the effects of systemic injustice on marginalized communities and developed a passion for social justice initiatives. She is excited to join the NHILC team so that she can learn how to be an effective and intersectional advocate for housing justice. We are thrilled to have Doyita on board!

Where to Find Us – June 24

- HUD Disaster Recovery & Risk Reduction Knowledge Collaborative – Washington, D.C., June 26 (Andrew Aurand and Dan Emmanuel)
- [The Intersection of Affordable Housing and Civic Engagement](#) – Virtual, Courtney Cooperman (July 3)
- [NAEH 2024 National Conference on Ending Homelessness](#) – Washington, D.C., July 8-9 (Tia Turner)
- A Home for Everyone Conference – Madison, WI, July 17 and 18 (Diane Yentel)

- [THN 2024 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness](#) – Houston, TX, September 11 (Tia Turner)
 - Rainbow 16th Annual Awards Banquet – Scottsdale, AZ, October 17 (Diane Yentel)
 - Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York annual conference – Poughkeepsie, NY, October 22 (Lindsay Duvall)
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Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225
Carly Zhou, Research Intern