



**Volume 22, Issue 29**  
**July 31, 2017**

***Memo to Members & Partners will take a short hiatus on August 7 and return on August 14, 2017.***

## **In This Issue:**

### **Take Action**

- Urge Congress to Lift Spending Caps That Threaten Housing Funding

### **Our Homes, Our Voices Week of Action**

- Dozens of Members of Congress Join National Housing Week of Action, Calling for Increased Investments in Affordable Housing
- Advocates Carry Out More Than 60 Local “*Our Homes, Our Voices*” Events and Activities throughout the Country, Launch Voter Registration Drive

### **United for Homes**

- Study Finds Mortgage Interest Deduction Does Not Increase Homeownership, but Induces Homebuyers to Buy More Expensive Homes and Increase Debt

### **Administration**

- Executive Order Establishes Infrastructure Advisory Council

### **Congress**

- Senate Rejects Latest ACA Repeal Measures
- Democrats Unveil “A Better Deal” Agenda

### **Budget and Appropriations**

- Senate Appropriations Committee Approves FY18 Housing Spending Bill

### **Research**

- Households Struggle Financially Despite Economic Upturn

### **Fact of the Week**

- Racial and Ethnic Minorities Have Much Higher Poverty and Lower Homeownership Rates than Whites

### **From the Field**

- Atlanta Passes Homeless Opportunity Bond

### **Other NLIHC News**

- NLIHC Seeks Interns for Fall Semester
- Shop Amazon Smile to Help End Homelessness and Housing Poverty!
- Where to Find Us – July 31

**NLIHC in the News**

## **Take Action**

### **Urge Congress to Lift Spending Caps That Threaten Housing Funding**

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted to approve its FY18 spending bill for affordable housing and community development programs. While the bill significantly increases funding over the President's budget request and the House funding bill and provides a modest increase over FY17, NLIHC and other advocates are concerned that it may still not cover the full extent of inflationary costs, putting tens of thousands of vouchers at risk.

It is imperative that Congress reach a budget deal to lift the tight Budget Control Act spending caps and to fully fund affordable housing programs to ensure that no housing vouchers are lost. This spending bill sets the stage for a bi-partisan budget deal, but housing advocates must continue to weigh in with their members of Congress.

Please sign a letter from advocates urging Congress to lift the spending caps and ensure affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs receive the highest allocation of discretionary funds possible.

Sign your organization on today at: <http://bit.ly/2jnY5Ee>

To view the letter previously sent to members of Congress in April, visit: <http://bit.ly/2v4DM7u>

## **Our Homes, Our Voices Week of Action**

### **Dozens of Members of Congress Join National Housing Week of Action, Calling for Increased Investments in Affordable Housing**

Members of Congress – representing districts and states across the country – participated in the “Our Homes, Our Voices” National Housing Week of Action activities, calling for increased investments in affordable housing.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Representatives Joyce Beatty (D-OH), Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Charlie Crist (D-FL), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), David Price (D-NC), Tim Ryan (D-OH), and Mark Takano (D-CA) spoke powerfully on the need to expand access to affordable housing at an “Our Homes, Our Voices” Capitol Hill rally organized by the Campaign for Housing and Community Development on July 26. Mr. Price told those gathered that the low budget caps that have limited federal investments in affordable housing are arbitrary and artificial constraints that must be dismantled. Ms. Beatty called for advocates to register themselves and others to vote. “You have to have a call to action to get people registered to vote. Just like our voices need to be heard, our vote needs to be heard,” Ms. Beatty said. The day before the rally, Ms. Beatty cited the National Housing Week of Action when she spoke on the House floor to demand that Congress address the lack of affordable housing nationwide.

A number of members of Congress reaffirmed their commitment to addressing housing poverty and homelessness through legislative resolutions introduced as part of the “Our Homes, Our Voices” week of action. Representative Lee introduced a resolution with Representatives Beatty, Al Green (D-TX), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), and Maxine Waters (D-CA) to declare that housing is a human right, and Representative Alma Adams (D-NC) reintroduced a resolution calling on Congress to end homelessness. A bipartisan resolution ([H. Res. 475](#)) was introduced by Congressmen Bruce Poliquin (R-ME) and Denny Heck (D-WA) to designate September, 2017 a “National Month for Renters.”

Over 40 members of Congress joined advocates and struggling renters in a twitterstorm following the rally, helping to make #OurHomesOurVoices trend nationally for hours. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Al Franken

(D-MN), and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representatives Julia Brownley (D-CA), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Keith Ellison (D-MN), Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Ruben Kihuen (D-NV), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and Adam Smith (D-WA) were among many sending out more than 1,000 tweets in support of the campaign.

## **Advocates Carry Out More Than 60 Local “Our Homes, Our Voices” Events and Activities throughout the Country, Launch Voter Registration Drive**

Advocates in 28 states and the District of Columbia hosted more than 60 local “Our Homes, Our Voices” Week of Action events during the week of July 22-29, uniting in a collective call for increased investments in affordable homes and drawing the attention of elected officials and media nationwide. Affordable housing supporters sent letters, made calls to Congress, hosted rallies, conducted tours of developments, and educated their communities and elected officials about the importance of federal funding for decent, accessible, and affordable homes. Thousands participated in a “#OurHomesOurVoices” twitterstorm on July 27, causing the campaign to trend on Twitter nationally, and made calls for the National Call-In Day on July 28. On July 29, the campaign launched “Our Homes, Our Votes,” a nonpartisan campaign to increase voter registration, education, and mobilization among low income renters and affordable housing advocates around the country.

The “Our Homes, Our Voices” Week of Action featured advocates engaging their local communities in the national effort to preserve and expand federal funding to make homes affordable and communities strong. Advocates in Albuquerque, Austin, Baltimore, Hartford, Lansing, Memphis, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC hosted rallies and press conferences, drawing hundreds of advocates and dozens of media outlets to their events. In other communities, groups hosted tours and site visits of rental homes and community centers built with funding from federal programs. In a number of communities, organizations hosted letter-writing campaigns and delivered the letters in person to Congressional members’ local offices. Other groups organized call-in days, social media campaigns, sleep-outs, teach-ins, and movie screenings, among other activities. Today, the Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association of Massachusetts will host the final “Our Homes, Our Voices” event, drawing hundreds to a rally in downtown Boston with the mayor and other elected officials. “Our Homes, Our Voices” events and activities have been diverse in type, but all united in calling for increased federal investments in affordable homes and strong communities. See the full event list, recent news coverage, and event photos [online](#).

Mobilizing thousands across the country, the National Week of Action built upon the week’s collective energy and momentum with the launch of an “Our Homes, Our Votes” campaign, a nonpartisan voter registration, education, and mobilization effort with advocates and low income residents throughout the country. As former U.S. Representative Walter H. Judd (R-MN) once said, "People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote - a very different thing."

All who care about ending housing poverty and homelessness in America are urged to join the “Our Homes, Our Votes” campaign. Find resources on the campaign webpage and plan your voter registration drive today!

## **United for Homes**

### **Study Finds Mortgage Interest Deduction Does Not Increase Homeownership, but Induces Homebuyers to Buy More Expensive Homes and Increase Debt**

A study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, *Do People Respond to the Mortgage Interest Deduction? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Denmark*, indicates that the mortgage interest deduction fails to promote homeownership, but induces homeowners to buy larger, more expensive homes and incur greater debt.

The study examines the impact of a 1987 reform of Denmark's mortgage interest deduction. Denmark has three tax brackets. The reform sharply reduced the mortgage interest deduction's benefit for households in the top tax bracket, reduced the benefit to a lesser extent for the middle tax bracket, and raised it slightly for the bottom tax bracket. Matching income tax records to housing records for households within each bracket, the authors analyzed how the reform affected homeownership, home size and value, and interest payments on debt.

The study found that the reform had no discernable effect on whether households chose to own or rent. The reform, however, generally caused households whose mortgage tax benefits were reduced by the reform to purchase smaller homes of lesser value afterwards. Compared to the bottom two tax brackets, the reform also led top-bracket households to significantly reduce interest payments. The authors assume this resulted from households taking on smaller mortgages, since mortgages are the most significant source of homeowner interest payments.

The study concludes that the mortgage interest deduction does not increased homeownership and any broader societal benefits associated with homeownership cannot be attributed to the deduction. Furthermore, the mortgage interest deduction appears to cause homeowners to purchase larger, more expensive homes, which the authors suggest leads to an overinvestment in housing and excessive homeowner debt.

*Do People Respond to the Mortgage Interest Deduction? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Denmark* is available at: <http://bit.ly/2utatZP>

## **Administration**

### **Executive Order Establishes Infrastructure Advisory Council**

President Donald Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13805 on July 19 establishing a 15-member Advisory Council on Infrastructure. Members, to be appointed by the president, will represent various sectors, including real estate, construction, and regional and local economic development. The Council will make recommendations regarding federal funding, support, and delivery of infrastructure projects in several sectors, such as transportation, renewable energy, water resources, and "other such sectors as determined by the Council." Affordable housing is not explicitly listed.

The EO declares that it shall be the policy of the executive branch to advance infrastructure projects that improve the quality of life, strengthen economic growth, and create high-quality jobs. The creation of affordable housing meets all of those policy goals. NLIHC will continue advocating for including affordable housing as infrastructure, and will work to have affordable housing represented on the Council and included in funding recommendations.

EO 13805 is at: <http://bit.ly/2vWPOHU>

## **Congress**

### **Senate Rejects Latest ACA Repeal Measures**

After a historically-close procedural vote to allow debate on legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Senate failed to pass any of the several legislative proposals repealing the healthcare law. The final proposal, known as a "skinny" repeal, was voted down in the early morning of July 28 by all Democratic senators and three Republicans - Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and John McCain (R-AZ). According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the measure would have left 16 million more people uninsured by 2026 and increased premiums in the individual market by 20% compared to current law each year between 2018 and 2026.

The Senate's failure to pass any of the repeal measures is a victory for low income households, including homeless individuals receiving supportive services through Medicaid. Congressional Republicans may still pursue further efforts to repeal the ACA in the near future and may need to work with Democrats on bipartisan legislation to stabilize the insurance markets.

## **Democrats Unveil “A Better Deal” Agenda**

Congressional Democrats, led by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), unveiled a new economic policy agenda called “A Better Deal” on July 24. “American families deserve a better deal, so this country works for everyone again,” said Mr. Schumer. “Not just elites, not just the special interests. Today, Democrats start presenting that better deal to the American people.” The Democratic leaders were joined at the event by Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Mark Warner (D-VA), and Representatives Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), David Cicilline (D-RI), and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY).

The Democratic members of Congress at the event described the agenda's three overarching goals: increase Americans' incomes, reduce the cost of everyday expenses, and provide workers the tools they need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Speakers mentioned a range of policy ideas, including paid family leave, stronger enforcement of anti-trust laws, and tax credits to encourage businesses to hire and train workers for unfilled jobs. Mr. Schumer indicated that the Democratic Party will be introducing additional initiatives in the coming weeks.

The same day, Representative Joyce Beatty (D-OH) highlighted the connection between housing affordability and the need for “a better deal” from the floor of the House. “Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today in support of National Housing Week of Action and to stand up for a better deal for hardworking Americans. Access to affordable housing directly impacts the ability of Americans to have a better job, better wages, and a better future... Due to cuts in federal rental assistance, only one in four people eligible for it actually are receiving it. Our constituents deserve a better deal.”

Watch a video of the “A Better Deal” press event at: <http://bit.ly/2eQkbSb>

Watch a video of Ms. Beatty's remarks at: <http://bit.ly/2uBs82X>

## **Budget and Appropriations**

### **Senate Appropriations Committee Approves FY18 Housing Spending Bill**

Despite the difficult budget climate on Capitol Hill, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a FY18 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill that increases funding for affordable housing and community development programs. The Committee voted to approve the bill by a vote of 31 to 0. The bill now heads to the Senate floor. For more details, see NLIHC's updated [budget chart](#).

The Senate bill rejects President Donald Trump's proposed budget, which would have enacted the deepest cuts to HUD programs since the Reagan administration. The funding levels in the bill are a direct result of strong advocacy by residents and affordable housing organizations throughout the country and the efforts of Congressional champions of affordable housing led by Subcommittee Chairwoman Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI).

Unlike the House of Representatives, which set overall spending limits for domestic programs at \$3 billion below the already tight Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps, the Senate agreed to write their spending bills at FY17 levels, which exceed the BCA caps. This approach allowed the Senate Appropriations Committee to allocate \$8 billion in additional funding. Overall, the THUD spending bill provides \$2.41 billion above FY17

enacted levels and \$3.6 billion more than the House version. HUD programs received \$1.4 billion more than the current year.

Ms. Collins stated that the bill provides enough funding to continue housing assistance for all individuals currently served by federal housing programs at HUD and, in many cases, provides modest increases. “The bill protects all existing rental assistance for Section 8, public housing, elderly, and disabled housing programs,” Collins said. “In light of the affordable housing crisis afflicting so many parts of our nation, the committee continues to recognize that without this vital assistance, the most vulnerable families would be at risk of becoming homeless.”

NLIHC and other advocates are concerned, however, that despite the increase in funding, the bill may still not cover the full extent of inflationary costs, putting tens of thousands of vouchers at risk. It is imperative that Congress reach a budget deal to lift the spending caps and to fully fund affordable housing programs to ensure that no housing vouchers are lost. This spending bill sets the stage for a bi-partisan budget deal, but housing advocates must continue to weigh in with their members of Congress.

### **Rent Policy Changes**

Like the House version, the Senate bill rejects the rent policy changes proposed by the Trump administration that would have given HUD the authority to increase the financial burden on current and future tenants. The Trump administration had proposed providing the HUD secretary with the authority to: increase a tenant’s rent contributions from the currently standard of 30% of their adjusted income to 35% of their gross income; increase the minimum monthly rent for tenants to \$50, beginning with a tenant’s first annual or interim authorization; prohibit tenants from receiving utility reimbursements used to cover the cost of heat and water; and freeze annual rent adjustments for properties receiving housing assistance.

NLIHC and others are encouraged that the House and Senate bills reject these changes and will continue to monitor closely any efforts to impose punitive measures that would jeopardize family stability and increase the financial burdens tenants face.

### **National Housing Trust Fund**

Both the House and Senate bills reject the president's proposal to eliminate the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), the first new federal housing resource in decades that is exclusively targeted to serve people with the lowest incomes. Protecting the HTF in these bills represents a significant victory for housing advocates, including NLIHC, that urge Congress to increase funding to the HTF through other legislative measures, includes housing finance reform, tax reform, an infrastructure spending package, and others. If the HTF had been eliminated through the appropriations process, it would have become far more difficult for advocates and Congressional champions to expand this much-needed resource.

### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

Unlike the budgets proposed by President Trump and the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate bill provides a significant increase in funding for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs). The president’s budget would have led to more than 250,000 of the lowest income people losing their housing vouchers, putting them at immediate risk of eviction and, in worst cases, homelessness. The House bill also proposed significant cuts that could have resulted in more than 140,000 vouchers being lost.

Overall, the Senate bill provides \$1 billion in additional funding for HCVs above FY17, which Ms. Collins states is sufficient to renew all existing vouchers. NLIHC, CBPP and other advocates will continue to call for a higher allocation for HCVs in any final spending bill to ensure that no vouchers are lost due to inflation.

The Senate bill also provides \$40 million for new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and \$20 million to support new Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, while increasing funding for new vouchers targeted to people with disabilities to help them secure an affordable home in an integrated setting.

### **Project Based Rental Housing**

The bill provides \$11.51 billion to renew all project-based rental assistance contracts for calendar year 2018, an increase of \$691 million from the FY17 funding level.

### **Public Housing**

Both the public housing operating and capital funds receive modest increases. The operating fund allocation rose from \$4.4 billion in FY17 to \$4.5 billion, and the capital fund allocation increased to \$1.95 billion. The bill also permanently extends the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) by eliminating the program's sunset date and lifts the cap on housing units eligible for conversion.

### **Homelessness**

The Committee increased funding for homeless assistance programs to \$2.46 billion from \$2.38 billion in FY17. Additionally, the bill targets \$55 million to address youth homelessness and waives the requirement that youth 24 years old or under provide third-party documentation to receive housing and supportive services within the Continuums of Care. The bill also provides \$25 million for rapid rehousing assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

### **Other Housing Programs**

The Senate bill provides \$573 million to the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program - enough to renew all contracts - and increases funding for the Section 811 Housing for People with Disabilities program by \$1 million to \$147 million. The bill also includes legislative language allowing Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) properties to convert under RAD.

The bill would level-fund the HOME Investments Partnerships program at \$950 million and the Community Development Block Grant program at \$3 billion. It also temporarily lifts the 24-month funding commitment deadline under the HOME program. Because of the additional requirements on project selection, underwriting standards, and developer capacity under the HOME program, many communities have struggled to meet the two-year commitment deadline, which led to funding being recaptured by HUD. The new language removes this barrier while keeping in place other, more meaningful deadlines.

While most programs received flat funding or modest increases, three programs would see a reduction in funding: the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program, which is cut to \$330 million or \$26 million less than FY17 levels; Choice Neighborhoods grants, which are cut from \$138 million in FY 17 to \$50 million in FY18; and Housing Counseling, down from \$55 million in FY17 to \$47 million in FY18.

### **Fair Housing**

The bill flat-funds HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and includes language previously offered by Senator Collins to prohibit HUD from directing local and state governments to make specific changes to its zoning laws to comply with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule or with the AFFH assessment tool. This language represents a compromise with more conservative members of Congress, who in the past have advocated to prohibit HUD from implementing its AFFH rule and assessment tool altogether.

## **Healthy Homes**

The bill provides \$160 million to the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes' grants, a \$15 million increase over FY17, to address lead-based paint hazards in affordable housing.

The bill also takes steps to address the physical conditions of HUD-assisted housing to ensure residents are living in decent and safe homes. It requires HUD to take action against property owners receiving rental subsidies that do not maintain safe properties. The language authorizes the HUD secretary to replace a property's management agent with one approved by HUD, impose civil monetary penalties, change HUD's contract with the property owner until problems are resolved, transfer the property or contract to a new owner, and relocate tenants, among other actions.

## **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness**

The Senate bill funds the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) at \$3.6 million. It also eliminates the USICH sunset date, which would have required the agency to cease operations on October 1, 2018. President Trump's proposal and the House bill would have eliminated USICH.

## **Amendments**

Mr. Reed offered an amendment to provide additional funding for infrastructure investments, including \$1.5 billion for public housing, \$1.27 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships program, \$230 million for HUD-VASH, and \$200 million for lead abatement programs. The amendment was voted down along party lines due to BCA funding limitations.

## **Research**

### **Households Struggle Financially Despite Economic Upturn**

Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) released its 2017 Scorecard on financial well-being, *On Track or Left Behind: Findings from the 2017 Prosperity Now Scorecard*. While unemployment declined in 2016 to 4.9% and the poverty rate declined to 13.8%, long-term financial security remains out of reach for many households. One in four jobs in the U.S. is in a low-wage occupation in which the median wage pays less than the poverty threshold for a family of four, meaning wages do not cover basic needs. In addition, one in five U.S. households have significant income volatility from month to month. Forty-three percent of adults with income volatility attribute it to irregular work schedules and 16% to periods of unemployment.

Low incomes and income volatility result in limited savings for many American households. Forty-four percent of households did not save anything for emergencies in the past year. Nearly 37% of households live in "liquid asset poverty," meaning they do not have sufficient savings to replace their income at the poverty level for three months if they lose work. The lack of savings is most severe for the lowest income households and racial and ethnic minorities. Seventy-two percent of the poorest 20% of households live in "liquid asset poverty." Sixty-one percent of Hispanic households and 57% of African-American households live in "liquid asset poverty," compared to 28% of white households.

Homeownership remains difficult to attain for many households. The homeownership rate of 63% remained flat from 2015. Renter households are not transitioning to ownership, which is partly due to increasing home prices. Between 2015 and 2016, the median home value increased by 7.3%, but median income increased by only 3.9%.

The report also highlights racial and ethnic inequalities. Median net worth is \$127,200 for white households and \$109,120 for Asian households, but only \$12,550 for Hispanic households and \$9,250 for black households.

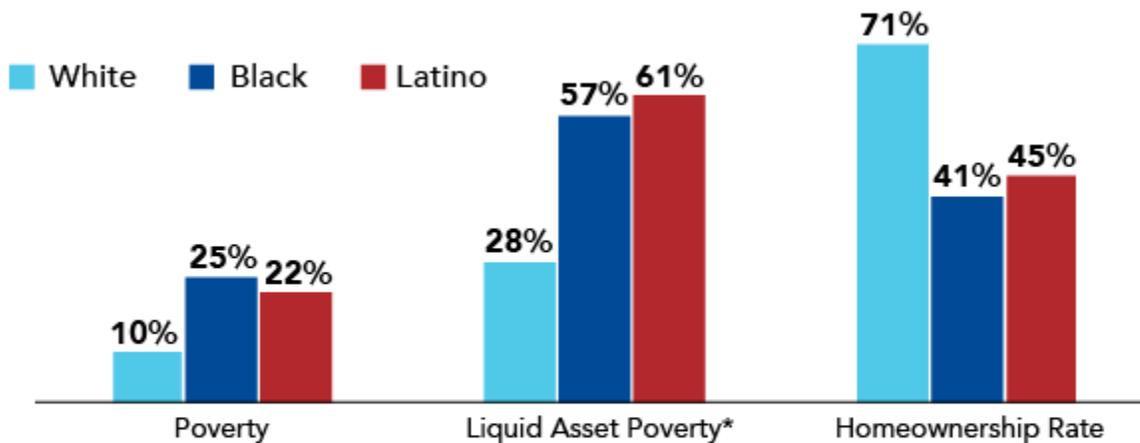
Part of this wealth inequality is related to homeownership. Seventy-one percent of white households are homeowners, compared to 58% of Asian households, 45% of Hispanic households, and 41% of black households.

The 2017 *Prosperity Now Scorecard* includes data for states, counties, and selected cities, as well as policy recommendations. It is available at: <http://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/>

## Fact of The Week

### Racial and Ethnic Minorities Have Much Higher Poverty and Lower Homeownership Rates than Whites

#### Poverty and Homeownership by Race & Ethnicity



\*Households without sufficient savings to replace their income at the poverty level for three months.

Source: Prosperity Now (2017).

Source: Prosperity Now. (2017). Prosperity Now Scorecard. Retrieved from: <http://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/>

## From the Field

### Atlanta Passes Homeless Opportunity Bond

The Atlanta City Council unanimously approved an ordinance on July 18 to address homelessness over the next three years. Invest Atlanta, the city’s economic development authority, will issue a \$26 million Homeless Opportunity Bond in an effort to make homelessness “rare, brief, and non-recurring.” This legislation culminates four years of work by the United Way of Greater Atlanta, Partners for Homes, and the City of Atlanta. The bond will finance activities targeted to homeless families and youth, chronically homeless individuals, and families at risk of homelessness.

The City Council approved an initial bond of \$26 million with agreements from local non-profits to augment the city’s investment. The United Way of Greater Atlanta committed \$26 million in matching donations, and

Invest Atlanta will leverage \$66 million in public resources to be used in conjunction with the bond, raising the total public-private partnership investment to more than \$115 million.

The United Way and the City of Atlanta aim to end veteran homelessness by 2017, chronic homelessness by 2019, and youth homelessness by 2020, and the bond, together with the additional funds, are essential in meeting this goal. Together, the City of Atlanta and its partners plan to place 500 chronically homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing, secure permanent housing for 300 homeless families, and prevent 100 families from entering homelessness. They will also create 264 new emergency shelter beds and 254 new housing interventions for homeless youth by 2020.

In the last four years, the City of Atlanta has made strides in tackling homelessness. HUD reports that since 2013, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals in Atlanta decreased by 52%, chronically homeless individuals by 61%, and homeless veterans by 62%. The lack of affordable housing, however, leaves many at risk of homelessness. According to NLIHC's 2017 [\*Out of Reach\*](#) report, Georgia renters must earn \$14.25 per hour in order to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment and \$16.79 per hour for a two-bedroom apartment. In the Atlanta metro area, these numbers are even higher: renters must earn \$16.50 to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment and \$19.04 for a two-bedroom apartment. The minimum wage in Georgia is \$7.25 and the average renter wage is \$15.61; both fall short of what renters need to keep rent and utilities under 30% of household income. The new Homeless Opportunity Bond is a significant investment towards providing housing for the thousands of Atlanta residents experiencing homelessness. Chronic housing poverty – extremely low income renters paying so much for their housing that they cannot afford other necessities - puts thousands more at risk of homelessness.

## Other NLIHC News

### NLIHC Seeks Interns for Fall Semester

NLIHC is still accepting applications for internship positions for the fall 2017 semester. Interns are highly valued and fully integrated into our staff work. We seek students passionate about social justice issues with excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

The available positions are:

- **Research Intern.** Assists in ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects, writes weekly articles on current research for NLIHC's weekly *Memo to Members* newsletter, attends briefings, and responds to research inquiries. Quantitative skills and experience with SPSS a plus.
- **Communications/Media/Graphic Design Intern.** Prepares and distributes press materials, assists with media research and outreach for publication releases, works on social media projects, maintains a media database, and tracks press hits. Also assists with sending out e-communications; designing collateral print material such as brochures, flyers, and factsheets; and updating content on the NLIHC website. Graphic design and Adobe Creative Cloud (Illustrator, InDesign, and/or Photoshop) experience needed. Please provide 3 design samples and/or link to online portfolio in addition to a writing sample.

Fall interns are expected to work 25 hours a week beginning in August or September and finishing up in December. A modest stipend is provided. A cover letter, resume, and writing sample are required for consideration. In your cover letter, please specify the position(s) for which you applying and that you are interested in the fall 2017 internship.

Interested students should send their materials to: Paul Kealey, chief operating officer, National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 via email to [pkealey@nlihc.org](mailto:pkealey@nlihc.org).

## **Shop Amazon Smile to Help End Homelessness and Housing Poverty!**

[Amazon Smile](#) is a simple and automatic way for you to support NLIHC and our mission to ensure that the lowest income households in America have access to affordable and decent homes. With every Amazon Smile purchase, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to NLIHC at no additional cost to you!

Click [here](#) to support NLIHC's work while shopping.

Thank you for your support!

## **Where to Find Us – July 31**

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

- [NeighborWorks Training Institute](#) in Philadelphia, PA, August 14-16
- The United Native American Housing Association [Summer Meeting](#) in Polson, MT on August 21
- [Kansas Housing Conference](#) in Wichita, KS on August 23
- The [Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Event](#) in Newburgh, NY on September 14
- [New York Association on Independent Living statewide conference](#) in Troy, NY, September 18-19
- [Tennessee Housing Development Agency Conference](#) in Nashville, TN on September 21
- The Housing Washington 2017 ["24th Annual Affordable Housing Conference"](#) in Spokane, WA, October 2-4
- [Empower Missouri](#) annual conference in St. Louis, MO, October 5-6
- [Grounded Solutions Intersections 2017](#) in Oakland, CA, October 9-12
- [NALCAB's 2017 National Conference](#) in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on October 11
- [Ohio Housing Conference](#), Columbus, OH on November 7
- [ReFrame Association Conference: Home, Health, and Hope](#) in Kingsport, TN on November 9
- [Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama 2017 Housing Works! Conference](#) in Orange Beach, Alabama, November 15-17
- Yale University event in New Haven, CT on November 28

## **NLIHC in the News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of July 23**

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of July 23:

- "America Has a Stunning Housing Shortage — Here's Why," *OZY*, July 25 at: <http://bit.ly/2v4J9DW>
- "Mayors agree, Congress should invest in affordable housing," *The Hill - Blogs*, July 24 at: <http://bit.ly/2v7iztg>
- "We can solve South Florida's affordable housing crisis," *Miami Herald*, July 23 at: <http://hrlld.us/2vSt2WQ>
- "Affordable housing activists protest Trump's housing budget cuts during "Week of Action"," *KXAN.com*, July 23 at: <http://bit.ly/2v8WUBY>

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Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314  
Sarah Jemison, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244  
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Miriam Keller, Policy Intern, x241  
Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222  
Lisa Marlow, Communications Specialist, x239  
Sarah Mickelson, Director of Public Policy, x228  
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242  
Lindsey Otto, Communications/Graphic Design Intern, x250  
Katherine Randall, Research Intern, x249  
James Saucedo, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233  
Christina Sin, Development Coordinator, x234  
Elayne Weiss, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, x243  
Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247  
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x228