



Volume 24, Issue 29

August 5, 2019

In This Issue:

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020

- Take Action! 2020 Presidential Candidates Address Affordable Housing in the Debates; Much More Is Needed
- NLIHC Holds ‘*Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020*’ Webinar for Advocates
- ‘*Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa*’ Partners with Habitat for Humanity on ‘Women Build’ Events

HUD

- HUD Proposes Major Changes to Fair Housing Disparate Impact Rule; Join Efforts to #DefendCivilRights
- HUD Initiates Tenant Protection Voucher Program for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Congress

- House Committee to Hold Field Hearing on the Homelessness Crisis in Los Angeles

Disaster Housing Recovery

- Trump Administration Plans to Put New Restrictions on Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery Funds
- Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – August 5, 2019

Take Action

- Engage Your Members of Congress During August Recess

Research

- Survey of Home Builders Highlights Barriers to Building Affordable Homes

Fact of the Week

- Percent of People Who Think Housing Affordability is a Serious Problem Has Grown Dramatically Throughout the U.S.

Opportunity Starts at Home

- New Jersey’s Capitol Hill Day Features ‘*Opportunity Starts at Home*’

From the Field

- New Jersey Governor Makes Historic Investment in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Resource

- Department of Education Releases Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles

NLIHC in the News

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of July 28

NLIHC News

- NLIHC Welcomes Mia Wilson as Communications Specialist
- NLIHC Welcomes Dan Threet as Research Analyst
- NLIHC Seeks Communications/Media/Graphic Design and Research Interns
- Where to Find Us – August 5

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020

Take Action! 2020 Presidential Candidates Address Affordable Housing in the Debates; Much More Is Needed

During last week's second round of Democratic debates, several presidential candidates [talked about affordable housing solutions](#) for the first time *ever* in a presidential debate. Eleven presidential candidates have released major plans or other proposals to address the housing crisis, with most of the plans centering on the needs of the lowest-income renters and people experiencing homelessness, and more are coming soon. The candidates are [talking](#) about their housing plans on the campaign trail – in [town halls](#), [forums](#), [coffees](#) and beyond. A full fifteen months before election day, **housing policy is part of the presidential campaigns as never before.**

Let's keep it going!

Add your organization to a [national letter](#) urging ABC, Univision, and the moderators of the next debate to ask the candidates about the most important issue impacting our economic wellbeing, health, educational success, and so much more – **affordable homes.**

The housing crisis is an issue of paramount importance to voters. According to a recent national public opinion [poll](#) commissioned by NLIHC's [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) campaign, 60% of people in America say housing affordability is a serious problem where they live, and 61% report having to make sacrifices because they were struggling with housing costs. Eighty-three percent say elected officials are not paying enough attention to the need for more affordable housing, nearly 8 in 10 people in America say the president should “take major action” to make housing more affordable for low-income families.

We need to hear all presidential candidates share what they will do to make homes affordable to the tens of millions who are struggling to keep roofs over their heads or who have no homes at all. [Sign the letter to debate moderators today!](#)

For more information about how affordable homes are built with ballots, visit: [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020](#). Be sure to follow us on Twitter: @OurHomesVotes and Facebook: @OHOV2020 and use #OurHomesOurVotes2020 in your posts.

NLIHC Holds ‘Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020’ Webinar for Advocates

NLIHC conducted a [webinar](#) for affordable housing advocates on July 31 about engaging voters and candidates in the upcoming elections on the issue of affordable housing as part of its nonpartisan *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* project.

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel opened the webinar with context about why it is so important to engage candidates on affordable housing and to involve low-income renters in voting — and explained how this is our moment for big change. NLIHC partners Elissa Margolin, director of Housing New Hampshire and lead for [Our Homes, Our Votes, Our New Hampshire](#), and Lauren Johnson, policy and communications coordinator at Polk County Housing Trust Fund and lead for [Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa](#), talked about their efforts to engage the 2020 presidential candidates in their early primary states and shared their observations on what is working to mobilize voters around affordable housing.

The webinar provided concrete tips for how you can be engaged in nonpartisan voter and candidate activities, how to access and use resources developed by NLIHC and others, and how to get started. This is a unique moment in the affordable housing movement: constituents are demanding candidates develop and share their solutions, and presidential aspirants are responding like never before. There is much to be done before election day. Get involved, because affordable homes are built with ballots!

View the webinar at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6k29edp>

Additional resources are at: www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org

‘Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa’ Partners with Habitat for Humanity on ‘Women Build’ Events

NLIHC’s partner on [Our Homes, Our Votes 2020](#) the Polk Country Housing Trust Fund and our [Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa](#) project partnered with Habitat for Humanity on two “Women Build” events on July 31 and August 3, during which volunteers helped rehab a home in Des Moines, IA. The staff of several 2020 presidential candidates, including those of Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, and Kamala Harris, participated and saw firsthand the importance of safe, accessible, and affordable housing. While initially planned as a single-day event, the build was so popular the organizers added a second day.

Candidates and their staff are increasingly looking for volunteer opportunities as ways to connect with communities. Staffers from Mayor Pete Buttigieg’s campaign spent their “National Day of Service” at the YMCA Supportive Housing Campus in Des Moines serving meals to residents and sorting clothes and other items in their pantry.

To learn more about *Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa* and volunteer opportunities and other engagements with presidential candidates, be sure to check out NLIHC’s July 31 [webinar](#) on *Our Homes, Our Votes 2020* (see related article in this *Memo to Members and Partners*) or visit: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/iowa>

HUD

HUD Proposes Major Changes to Fair Housing Disparate Impact Rule; Join Efforts to #DefendCivilRights

HUD is proposing drastic changes to the fair housing Disparate Impact rule that would make it far more difficult for people experiencing various forms of discrimination to challenge the practices of businesses, governments, and other large entities. As proposed, the current three-part “burden-shifting” standard to show disparate impact would be radically changed to a five-component set of tests placing virtually all the burden on people who are in “protected classes” as defined by the Fair Housing Act – people of color, women, immigrants, families with children, people with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and people of faith. NLIHC opposes these proposed changes and will work with our fair housing and civil rights partners to defend civil rights.

The [proposed changes to the rule](#) were cleared by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on July 19 (see *Memo*, [7/29](#)). Copies were sent to the authorizing congressional committees on Monday, July 29 for a 15-day review period. The proposed rule has not yet been published in the *Federal Register*.

In a statement on the proposed rule, NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel said, “These changes are designed to make it much more difficult, if not impossible, for communities of color to challenge discriminatory effects in housing. With this harmful proposal, the Trump administration continues its pattern of attempts to weaken and disrupt the federal government’s responsibility to uphold its fair housing obligations under the law.”

Background

For more than 40 years, HUD and the courts have interpreted the Fair Housing Act to prohibit housing policies or practices that have a discriminatory effect even if there was no apparent intent to discriminate. There are 13 U.S. Courts of Appeals, 11 of which have heard disparate impact cases, and all have upheld disparate impact and applied a burden-shifting standard. Because there were minor variations in how the courts and HUD applied the concept of discriminatory effects over the years, a proposed rule in 2011 offered a standard for comment, culminating in a final Disparate Impact rule on February 15, 2013. That final regulation established uniform standards for determining when a housing policy or practice with a discriminatory effect violates the Fair Housing Act. It is the February 15, 2013 final rule that HUD is now proposing to drastically overhaul.

The three-step burden-shifting standard in the current rule is very simple:

1. The plaintiff (the party alleging disparate impact) has the burden of proving that a policy or practice caused or predictably will cause a discriminatory effect.
2. If the plaintiff satisfies that burden of proof, the burden shifts to the defendant (the business, government, or other entity) to prove that the challenged policy or practice is necessary to achieve one or more of the defendant's substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interests.
3. If the defendant satisfies the above burden of proof, then the burden shifts again to the plaintiff to prove that the defendant's substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interests could be served by another policy or practice that has a less discriminatory effect.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of disparate impact as a legal tool to establish liability under the Fair Housing Act on June 25, 2015 in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities (ICP)*. The current HUD administration issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 2018 (see *Memo*, [6/25/18](#)). HUD acknowledged then that the Supreme Court upheld the use of disparate impact theory, but HUD asserts that the Court “did not directly rule upon it [the 2013 disparate impact rule].” Advocates and attorneys agree, however, that the Court implicitly endorsed the rule by not questioning it or challenging it.

Key Features of the Proposed Changes

NLIHC has prepared a preliminary summary of key features of the proposed rule. NLIHC has also prepared a [side-by-side comparison](#) of a key section (§100.500) of the current rule and HUD's proposed changes to it.

NLIHC is joining with our fair housing and civil rights partners to [Defend Civil Rights](#) and defeat the proposed disparate-impact rule changes that would allow covert discriminatory practices. The Defend Civil Rights campaign is led by the National Fair Housing Alliance, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Poverty and Race Research Action Council, ACLU, and Center for Responsible Lending “united by our belief in equality and fairness, our desire to educate the public on important civil rights protections, and our commitment to #DefendCivilRights from those looking to weaken them.”

The proposed rule is at: <https://bit.ly/2yxRy2F>

NLIHC's Preliminary Summary of Key Features is at: <https://bit.ly/2MALi2r>

NLIHC's Side-by-Side of §100.500 is at: <https://bit.ly/2yzdevq>

Learn more about the Defend Civil Rights campaign at: <https://www.defendcivilrights.org/>

A media statement by Diane Yentel, NLIHC president and CEO, is at: <https://bit.ly/2OBUw18>

More about disparate impact is on [page 7-8](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

HUD Initiates Tenant Protection Voucher Program for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) issued Notice PIH 2019-20 announcing the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. Depending on voucher availability, HUD will provide Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) to public housing agencies (PHAs) for youth aging out of foster care. The youth must be eligible under the Family Unification Program (FUP), at least 18 years of age but not more than 24 years of age, who have left foster care or will leave within 90 days, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Only PHAs not currently participating in FUP may apply.

Congress appropriates specific funding for Housing Choice Vouchers set aside for TPVs each year. In general, TPVs may be provided to low-income residents of project-based HUD-assisted housing when there is a change in the status of their assisted housing that will cause residents to lose their homes (for example, public housing demolition) or render their homes unaffordable (for example, when a property owner "opts-out" of a Section 8 contract). Only \$85 million is available for all possible TPV uses in FY19, the same amount available in FY18 but down from \$130 million during FY14-16.

The FY19 appropriation act allows funds appropriated for TPVs to be used for FUP. Notice PIH 2019-20 states that there is \$20 million in FY19 appropriated for FUP Special Purpose Vouchers (SPVs) and that, in the competition for those funds, only 5% of those assisted are youth while the balance serves families. HUD is therefore launching the Foster Youth to Independence initiative and introducing FYI TPVs distinct from the \$20 million appropriated for the FUP SPVs.

Notice PIH 2019-20 states that HUD will monitor demand for TPVs for all categories eligible to access the \$85 million TPV account and award FYI TPVs on a rolling basis depending on the availability of the amount appropriated for TPVs. Because HUD is intent on "repositioning" at least 105,000 units of public housing by September 30, the close of FY19 (see *Memo*, [11/19/18](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/docs/111918memo.pdf)), the demand for TPVs could be high as PHAs apply for them after obtaining HUD approval to demolish public housing or to convert public housing to vouchers.

PHAs applying for the FYI TPVs must partner with a public child welfare agency (PCWA) that will identify FUP-eligible youth as well as review referrals from PHAs and Continuums of Care. The PCWA must have a priority system to determine which youth to recommend for an FYI TPV. The PCWA must also provide services for at least 36 months, but youth will not be required to participate in any of the available services as a condition of receiving the FYI TPV.

Notice PIH 2019-20 is at: <https://bit.ly/2ysHo3a>

A HUD media release is at: <https://bit.ly/30YNowX>

More information about Tenant Protection Vouchers is on [page 4-11](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

More information about the Family Unification Program is on [page 4-15](#) of NLIHC's *2019 Advocates' Guide*.

Congress

House Committee to Hold Field Hearing on the Homelessness Crisis in Los Angeles

The House Committee on Financial Services will hold a field hearing, "Examining the Homelessness Crisis in Los Angeles," on August 14 at 10:00 a.m. PT (1:00 p.m. ET) in Los Angeles, CA. Find information on witnesses and location at: <https://tinyurl.com/y28ham2s>

Disaster Housing Recovery

Trump Administration Plans to Put New Restrictions on Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery Funds

The Trump administration is planning to [place additional restrictions](#) on badly needed disaster recovery mitigation funds for Puerto Rico. The details of the restrictions are unknown, and it is unclear when the island will receive the \$8.3 billion in disaster mitigation funding signed into law more than 18 months ago. Because the Trump administration had withheld the congressionally approved disaster recovery funding for Puerto Rico, Congress recently enacted legislation directing HUD to release the mitigation funds by September 6.

The move to implement additional restrictions comes on the heels of the resignation of Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló, spurred in large part by allegations of his administration's corruption and misuse of recovery funds. Some policymakers are now calling for increased federal control over how disaster recovery dollars are spent on the island. Puerto Ricans have called such a move anti-democratic and colonial.

The NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) of more than 800 organizations issued a [statement](#) on behalf of its Puerto Rico Working Group calling for greater democratization of the recovery process. NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel said in the statement: "Exclusive federal control over Puerto Rican finances and disaster recovery funding is the wrong approach and would only exacerbate the inadequate recovery strategy that has left thousands of Puerto Ricans still living in damaged homes almost two years after Hurricanes Maria and Irma."

Read about the additional restrictions at: <https://wapo.st/2MAWegD>, <https://on.wsj.com/2Yo277P> and <https://nyti.ms/2Kk5KTT>

Read the DHRC press statement at: <https://bit.ly/2MjyAoN>

Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – August 5, 2019

The following is a review of additional disaster housing recovery developments since the last edition of *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in the previous *Memo*, see [7/29](#)).

Federal Action

In an [op-ed in *The Hill*](#), FEMA Deputy Administrator for Resiliency Daniel Kaniewski called for low-income families without access to banks or savings to practice "financial resiliency" and have insurance, bank accounts, and substantial amounts of cash in their homes because FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) program was never meant to pay for their entire recovery.

[Members of Congress](#) are pushing for updated flood maps, flood insurance reforms, and expanded disaster relief programs to fight the effects of climate change.

A "[2019 Research Report](#)" by [Climate Central and Zillow](#) found that housing development in flood-risk zones over the past 10 years has surpassed that of development in safe locations for several states. In some states, like Connecticut, development has been up to three times faster.

According to the "2019 Global Report on Displacement," almost [10% of all disaster-related displacements](#) in 2018 occurred in the United States. This rise was spurred by multiple disasters and the nation's growing increasing housing affordability crisis.

California Wildfires

While home recovery in middle- and upper-class neighborhoods of Redding, CA, is close to halfway done, [recovery for dwellings](#) in Shasta County for mobile homes and garages lags behind.

Direct Relief conducted a [study](#) that found “social vulnerability factors,” such as income, age, housing situation, vehicle ownership, and disability, can help to predict how devastated a community will be after a disaster and how successfully it will be able to rebuild.

2018 Hawaii Eruption

On the Big Island of Hawaii, experts are warning that recovery from the 2018 volcano eruption could take as long as [five years](#) while the state fights for a greater share of disaster recovery dollars.

Hurricane Michael

Florida

The Florida Housing Coalition, a Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) member and NLIHC state partner, [released a report](#) detailing both federal and state-level reforms needed to improve the disaster recovery process in Florida. The recommendations ranged from the creation of a statewide disaster recovery authority to the passage of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act, a bill supported by the DHRC.

Hurricane Florence

North Carolina

North Carolina has spent only 6% of the funds awarded for Hurricane Matthew recovery. Now, the owners of multiple homes damaged by both Hurricanes Matthew and Florence in Spring Lake are relying solely on [the volunteer work](#) of neighbors to rebuild.

A recently passed state law has [shifted some recovery funding](#) from a Winston-Salem-based contractor to contractors in four seaside towns damaged by Hurricane Florence. Town officials had wondered why a contractor from another part of the state received the contract over local firms.

2017 Disasters

Hurricane Irma: US Virgin Islands Delegate Stacey Plaskett [called](#) for FEMA to allow multiple recovery projects on the islands to move forward. Those projects have been on hold pending the release of FEMA guidance.

Hurricane Harvey: An investigation by ICF Incorporated issued in June found that \$1.7 million have been spent on Houston recovery when, as of June, only four people had received aid. [This month, the numbers are only slightly higher:](#) Ten people have completed or are pending construction, three are in loan closing, and nine have a pending environmental approval.

Take Action

Engage Your Members of Congress During August Recess

It is critical for advocates to engage directly with policymakers to urge them to take action to address the issues of housing affordability and homelessness – and there is no better time to do so than during the congressional recess when senators and representatives are back in their home states and districts. The Senate is on recess from August 5 to September 9, and the House went on recess on July 29.

To help you in these efforts, NLIHC created an [advocacy toolkit](#) with key information about areas where advocates can help influence important issues before Congress. The toolkit includes a list of three urgent priorities, as well as legislation NLIHC supports.

We hope you will use the upcoming congressional recess to urge your members of Congress to take action, cosponsor bills, and champion affordable housing solutions for the lowest-income people.

The advocacy toolkit is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3o3xp8q>

Research

Survey of Home Builders Highlights Barriers to Building Affordable Homes

The Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies published a report, [A Home Builder Perspective on Housing Affordability and Construction Innovation](#), that finds both single-family and multifamily home builders identify labor and building-material costs and availability to be the largest obstacles to building affordable housing. Seventy percent of builders find housing affordability issues to be a serious concern across the nation, and 75% find they are a serious concern in their market area. Findings are based on 290 usable responses from the HIVE Home Builder Survey distributed to home builders.

Single family builders faced an average cost increase of 17% over the past two years, while multifamily builders reported an increase of 19%. Labor is identified as the largest barrier to building affordable homes, with 82% of single-family builders and 86% of multifamily builders rating the cost and availability of labor as “high importance” to the cost of homes built. The greatest concern on the cost and availability of labor is in the West, with 87% of respondents rating it as important, compared to 81% in the Midwest, 76% in the South, and 64% in the Northeast. Rising building material costs has also played a role in high home costs, especially lumber and plywood, which 76% and 70% of builders rated as important to the price of homes. The cost and availability of building materials was identified as more important to building costs in the South and West.

Survey results also demonstrate that regulatory barriers add to the cost of a home, especially in metro areas. Seventy percent of single-family home builders and 75% of multifamily builders rate the permitting/development approval process as a top concern. Sixty-six percent of single-family builders and 83% of multifamily builders rate land/use zoning as important. Environmental regulations are also a concern for 51% of single-family builders and 67% of multifamily builders.

There has been little change in home-building construction methods in the last forty years, but results suggest that change is slowly coming. Sixty percent of single-family builders and 69% of multifamily builders say there has been no, little, or moderate change to home building construction methods in the last 40 years. Eighty-five percent of single-family builders and 82% of multifamily builders indicated they “stick-build” homes, the traditional building method, during 2017. Forty-six percent of builders indicated, however, that they would increase their use of innovative construction methods such as factory-built/modular, pre-cut, open wall panels and closed wall panels over the next 2-5 years. Multifamily builders seem more likely to increase their use of

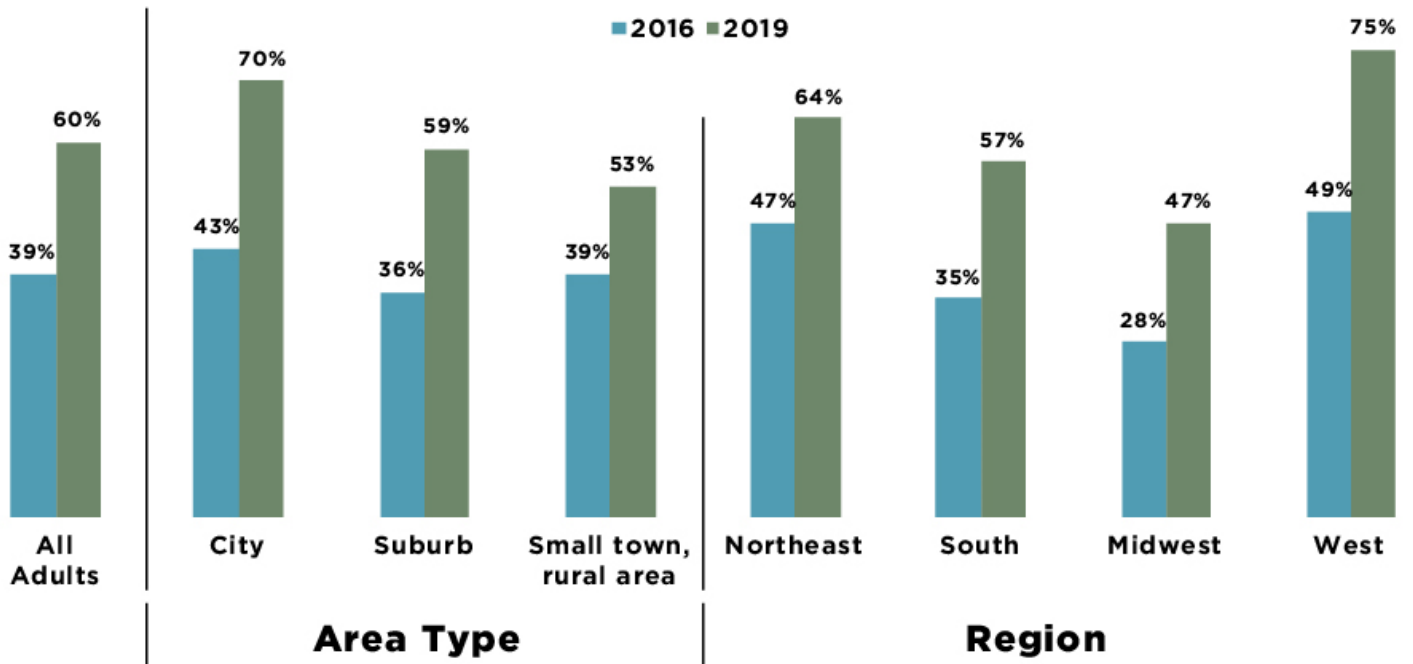
innovative methods than single-family builders. Respondents report they believe there will be an increase in factory-built/modular housing in the coming years.

The full report can be read at: <https://bit.ly/2GNKnb0>

Fact of the Week

Percent of People Who Think Housing Affordability is a Serious Problem Has Grown Dramatically Throughout the U.S.

Adults Who Think Housing Affordability is a Serious Problem, 2016 and 2019



Source: NLIHC's *Opportunity Starts at Home* Public Opinion Polling on Housing Affordability conducted by Hart Research, March 28, 2019.

Source: NLIHC's *Opportunity Starts at Home* Public Opinion Polling on Housing Affordability conducted by Hart Research, March 28, 2019.

Opportunity Starts at Home

New Jersey's Capitol Hill Day Features 'Opportunity Starts at Home'

Monarch Housing Associates, with the support of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (the Network), an NLIHC state partner, and 35 other partner organizations, held its annual Congressional Reception in Washington, DC, on July 24 under the banner of *Opportunity Starts at Home*. Through its partnership with the [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) multi-sectoral affordable homes campaign, the Network is diversifying its housing coalition to include other sectors and engaging its federal delegation around the campaign's [policy priorities](#). The event was attended by over 300 individuals. Speakers included those with lived experience of homelessness and representatives from the campaign's national Steering Committee organizations such as the National Education Association.

The speakers urged Congress to enact bold solutions to solve the nation's housing affordability crisis. Several members of New Jersey's congressional delegation also addressed the crowd and spoke to the importance of decent, accessible, affordable homes, including Senator Robert Menendez (D) and Representatives Andy Kim (D), William Pascrell (D), Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D), Mikie Sherrill (D) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D). Staff representing the offices of Senator Cory Booker (D) and Representative Frank Pallone (D) also made an appearance.



See more information on the event [here](#). Watch the individual speakers [here](#).

From the Field

New Jersey Governor Makes a Historic Investment in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed the state budget on July 1, including a historic investment in the state's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). For the first time in nearly a decade, the funds intended for creating safe, decent, accessible and affordable homes will be spent as intended - making New Jersey a place everyone can afford to call home. The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (the Network), an NLIHC state partner, worked tirelessly with legislative leaders and champions to increase investments in affordable housing in communities throughout New Jersey.

New Jersey's housing resources have remained stagnant for the past decade while the need for more affordable homes has grown significantly. According to NLIHC's [Out of Reach 2019](#) report, New Jersey is the fifth most

expensive state in the nation for rental housing. To afford a two-bedroom apartment at \$1,500 a month, a family must earn \$60,000 a year. As rental costs keep increasing, fewer low-wage earners can afford a decent place to live.

Three years ago, the Network launched the *Build a Thriving NJ* campaign to address the state's housing shortfall. As part of this campaign, advocates encouraged legislators to put funds intended for the AHTF *into* the Trust Fund. Year after year, the dollars were diverted to fill budget holes, forcing community developers to do what they could to meet the needs of communities with few resources. Advocates were undeterred, making phone calls, writing e-mails to lawmakers, conducting legislative visits, and conducting a Legislative Day, and they ultimately succeeded.

More than 150 housing advocates and community developers roamed the halls of the Trenton State House and conducted meetings with their elected officials as part of the Network's Annual Legislative Day in June to ensure New Jersey legislators committed to fully funding the AHTF in the FY20 state budget.

Assembly Members Jamel C. Holley (LD-20), Mila M. Jasey (LD-27), Britnee N. Timberlake (LD-34), Valerie Vainieri Huttle (LD-37), Assembly Housing Committee Chair Benjie E. Wimberley (LD-35) and Senators Nellie Pou (LD-35) and Dawn Marie Addiego (LD-8) were among those who committed to fully fund the AHTF during the event.

The legislature and governor adhered to their promise of keeping more than \$50 million in real estate transfer fees in the AHTF for FY20. The \$50 million will lead to the creation and rehabilitation of homes desperately needed for the lowest-income people. The increased investment for affordable homes is a start to addressing the state's housing inequities.

"We are thrilled that Governor Murphy is fulfilling his commitment to fully fund the state's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), ending a decade of diverting these funds," said Staci Berger, executive director of the Network. "Last year, the Real Estate Transfer Fee raised nearly \$60 million for this fund. Public investments like this have helped non-profit community developers contribute \$500 million annually to New Jersey's economy by creating jobs, affordable homes, and generating tax revenue. Putting the state's housing trust fund to work will build a thriving New Jersey."

For more information about the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and its 2019 legislative efforts, contact Arnold Cohen, senior policy advisor, at: acohen@hcdnnj.org or 609-393-3752 ext. 1600.

Resource

The U.S. Department of Education released its Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles for 2019. In 2016-2017, more than 1.3 million children under six years old, or one in 18 young children, experienced homelessness. The state profiles provide the number of children under age six experiencing homelessness, the percentage of those children served by federal early childhood education programs like Head Start or programs funded by McKinney-Vento subgrants, and two risk factors for homelessness, including the percentage of families experiencing a housing-cost burden.

Profiles are available for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The resource can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2GyQSi6>

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of July 28

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of July 28:

- “‘A national problem’: U.S. housing affordability is out of whack with minimum wage,” *Yahoo! Finance*, August 2 at: <https://tinyurl.com/y559ltxk>
- “Many families ‘one paycheck away from being homeless’,” *The Mercury News*, August 2 at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxdahttn>
- “HUD Delays Disaster Preparation Money for Puerto Rico,” *The New York Times*, August 2 at: <https://nyti.ms/2Kk5KTT>
- “Puerto Rico’s Outgoing Governor Installs His Successor,” *The Wall Street Journal*, August 2, at <https://on.wsj.com/2Yo277P>
- “Trump claims Baltimore is ‘disgusting.’ What has he proposed to help cities?,” *Curbed*, July 30 at: <https://tinyurl.com/y68pjk38>
- “The high cost of housing emerges as a presidential campaign issue,” *The Boston Globe*, July 29 at: <https://tinyurl.com/y26q7547>

NLIHC News

NLIHC Welcomes Mia Wilson as Communications Specialist

NLIHC is pleased to welcome Mia Wilson as its newest communications specialist.

Mia is responsible for supporting NLIHC’s nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement project, *Our Homes, Our Votes 2020*. In addition to working on this project, Mia assists with other communications efforts such as compiling and publishing NLIHC’s weekly e-newsletter *Memo to Members and Partners* and assisting with media outreach, response, and tracking. As a member of the communications team, Mia will report to Vice President for Field and Communications Renee Willis.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Mia is a graduate of Howard University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Communications. Prior to joining NLIHC, Mia worked for a strategic communications organization focused on advancing faith in the public square as a powerful force for justice. In this role, Mia was responsible for managing the organization’s website and social media accounts, building relationships with local and national media, and providing general communications support. Before that, Mia worked for WJLA/ABC 7 News as a production assistant. Mia also held an internship with NBC News and served as a congressional intern.

Please join us in welcoming Mia to the NLIHC team.

NLIHC Welcomes Dan Threet as Research Analyst

NLIHC is pleased to welcome Dan Threet as its newest research analyst.

Dan will work with the research team to document and analyze the housing needs of extremely low-income renters. He will lead NLIHC’s Rental Housing Programs Database project, which will identify and analyze how states and cities use their own resources in responding to the affordable housing crisis for renters with low incomes. He will also assist with NLIHC’s research on disaster recovery.

Dan is a recent graduate of Georgetown University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy. His research in that field centered on political philosophy, distributive justice, and the demands of social equality. He comes to NLIHC by way of the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellowship, which places recent humanities and social science PhDs in public-service organizations. Dan has an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Houston, an M.A. in English from Pennsylvania State University, and a B.A. in Philosophy and English from the College of Charleston.

Please join us in welcoming Dan to the NLIHC team.

NLIHC Seeks Communications/Media/Graphic Design and Research Interns

NLIHC is accepting applications for our fall internship positions: one for communications/media/graphic design and one for research. 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, to work from late August/early September until mid-December.

The available positions are:

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; revises collateral print material such as brochures, flyers, and factsheets; and updates content on the NLIHC website. Some graphic design experience is highly desired.

Research Intern. Assists in ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects, writes weekly articles on current research for the *Memo to Members and Partners* e-newsletter, attends briefings, and responds to research inquiries. Quantitative skills and experience with SPSS a plus.

Fall interns are expected to work 25 hours a week. NLIHC provides modest stipends.

A cover letter, resume, and writing sample are required for consideration. In your cover letter, please specify the position(s)/semester for which you are applying. Applicants for the communications/media/graphic design internship should also submit examples of your graphic-design work.

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

Where to Find Us – August 5

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

- Independence Social Service Summit, Independence, MO, August 16
- [NeighborWorks Training Institute](#), New Orleans, LA, August 19
- [Utah Housing Coalition Conference](#), Park City, UT, August 27–28
- [2019 National Community Action Partnership Annual Convention](#), Chicago, IL, August 29
- [National Home and Community Based Services Conference](#) National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, Baltimore, MD, August 29
- [Housing Iowa Conference](#), Cedar Rapids, IA, September 4

- [National Association of Latino Elected Officials National Policy Institute on Emergency Response and Management](#), Long Beach, CA, September 13
- [Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California's 40th Annual Housing Conference](#), San Francisco, CA, September 20
- National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing Convening, New Orleans, LA, September 25-26
- [Housing & Community Development Network of NJ Annual Conference](#), New Brunswick, NJ, October 18
- New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 24
- [Housing Action Illinois 2019 Housing Matters! Conference](#), Bloomington, IL, October 24-25
- Rural Housing Summit, San Jose, CA, November 7

NLIHC Staff

Sonya Acosta, Policy Analyst, x231
 Kyle Arbuckle, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x227
 Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245
 Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244
 Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226
 Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316
 Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314
 Kim Johnson, Housing Policy Analyst, x243
 kenia jimenez, Policy Intern, x241
 Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232
 Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317
 Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222
 Lisa Marlow, Communications Coordinator, x239
 Sarah Mickelson, Senior Director of Public Policy, x228
 Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242
 Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227
 Catherine Porter, Research Intern, x249
 Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Specialist, x246
 Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234
 Brooke Schipporeit, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
 Nayasia Thomas, Graphic Design Intern, GDintern@nlihc.org
 Dan Threet, Research Analyst, x202
 Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Coordinator, x230
 Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247
 Mia Wilson, Communications Specialist, x201
 Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225