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Budget and Appropriations

Federal Government Stays Open after Congress Reaches Agreement on Continuing Resolution – Take Action!

This weekend, Congress passed, and President Biden signed, a short-term continuing resolution (CR) that continues to fund the federal government through November 17. The bill also includes \$16 billion for disaster relief. The short-term CR prevents the government shutdown that was otherwise expected. The CR maintains the previously appropriated year's level of funding for federal programs for 45 days, giving lawmakers more time to reach an agreement on full-year appropriations bills. Lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have spent weeks crafting, putting forward, and ultimately rejecting CR proposals. Senate leaders released a CR on September 26 that would have extended federal funding to November 17 and provided additional assistance for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund, as well as additional aid to Ukraine. However, some Republican senators held up swift passage of the bill in the chamber, ultimately delaying the vote until September 30.

Meanwhile, in the House, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) capitulated to the demands of far-right members of his caucus, bringing forward a CR on September 29 that would extend government funding for just 31 days, in exchange for an almost 30% cut to already appropriated funds for most non-defense programs – including those administered by HUD. It is not clear what, if any, practical impact such a proposal would have on HUD programs. However, with a fractured caucus and united opposition from Democrats in the chamber, Speaker McCarthy could not muster enough votes to move the proposal forward. Ultimately, Speaker McCarthy brought a “clean” CR to the House floor for a vote. Some Republicans joined Democrats in supporting the clean CR, ensuring enough votes for passage.

Take Action!

Now, the House will continue to bring individual spending bills to the House floor for consideration and vote, including the appropriations bill that funds essential programs at HUD. Because the cost of housing and development rises every year, [it is crucial](#) that HUD's affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs receive increased annual appropriations just to maintain the current number of people and communities served.

Without additional funding, people who rely on HUD's programs for safe, stable housing will be in danger of losing their assistance. Together, we can – and have – [achieved historic protections and resources](#) for renters with the lowest incomes, and together we can continue to fight the ongoing threat of cuts to HUD's vital affordable housing and homelessness resources. Advocates can use NLIHC's [Legislative Action Center](#) to call or email their members of Congress and urge them to pass a clean CR and to expand – not cut – funding for HUD's vital affordable housing and homelessness programs in the FY24 budget.

Keep making your voice heard and tell Congress that it cannot balance the federal budget at the expense of people with the lowest incomes! Advocates can take action TODAY in the following ways:

- [Contact your senators and representatives](#) to urge them to expand – not cut – investments in affordable, accessible homes through the FY24 spending bill, including by:
 - **Providing the Senate’s proposed funding for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Project-Based Rental Assistance programs.** While both the House and Senate provided increased funding for these vital programs, it is unlikely that the House’s proposed funding levels would be sufficient to renew all existing contracts. The Senate bill provides funding not only sufficient to renew existing voucher contracts, but to expand vouchers to an additional 4,000 households.
 - **Ensuring full funding for public housing operations and repairs.** Both the House and Senate bill proposed funding cuts to the Public Housing Capital Fund, despite an over \$70 billion capital needs backlog in the public housing portfolio. While the Senate bill provided increased funding for Public Housing Operations – which the House bill cut – it is crucial that these programs receive increased funding in FY24 just to maintain the current level of services.
 - **Allocating the Senate’s proposed funding for Homeless Assistance Grants.** HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program provides vital funding to respond to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
 - **Protecting funding for legal assistance to prevent evictions in the Senate bill.** The Senate maintains \$20 million in funding for a new grant program for legal assistance to prevent evictions, which the House proposal eliminated.
 - **Appropriating the House’s proposed funding for Native housing.** While both the House and Senate bills would provide increased funding for native housing programs, the House spending bill would provide a more than 40% increase from FY23 to the Native American Housing Block Grant program – a significant investment towards addressing the housing crisis on tribal lands.
- Join over 2,100 organizations by signing on to a [national letter](#) from the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding ([CHCDF](#)), calling on Congress to oppose budget cuts and instead to support the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources in FY24.

Want to Support NLIHC’s Work? Become a Member!

One way to support NLIHC and this work is by becoming an NLIHC member. NLIHC membership is open to individuals, organizations, corporations, and government agencies, and annual membership dues are suggested amounts, meaning you can join at any amount that works for you.

You can join easily online at nlihc.org/membership – or contact outreach@nlihc.org with any questions.

Our Homes, Our Votes

National Voter Education Week Begins Today (10/2)

Our Homes, Our Votes is NLIHC's nonpartisan campaign to boost voter turnout among low-income renters and educate candidates about housing solutions. NLIHC and *Our Homes, Our Votes* are proud partners of [National Voter Education Week](#), a nonpartisan voter education campaign that equips voters with the tools and information they need to cast their ballots with confidence. National Voter Education Week begins today (October 2) and will run through Friday, October 6. Each day of the week focuses on a different step that voters can take to prepare to cast their ballots.

Monday, October 2: Register to vote or check your voter registration status. NLIHC encourages all housing advocates to use the brand-new [Our Homes, Our Votes Action Center](#) to register or check their voter registration status. It's especially important to check and update your voter registration if you have recently moved or changed your name.

Tuesday, October 3: Request your mail-in ballot if you are eligible. Once you are registered to vote, click the "Voter information" tab in the [Our Homes, Our Votes Action Center](#) to find information about mail-in voting options in your community.

Wednesday, October 4: Make a plan to vote. Transportation is one of the most common barriers that prevents eligible voters from casting their ballots. If you need a ride to the polls, there may be a nonpartisan civic organization in your community that is able to provide one. Rideshare2Vote AWARE, an *Our Homes, Our Votes* affiliate, is a nonpartisan organization that provides barrier-free rides to the polls in 13 states and is rapidly expanding. Visit the website at rideshare2voteaware.org or call 888-858-3421 to request a ride. If you already have transportation to the polls, consider volunteering with Rideshare2Vote AWARE and supporting other voters in your community! Click [here](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Another aspect of making a plan to vote is ensuring that you have the voter ID that your state law requires. Visit www.voteriders.org/ to learn about your state's voter ID requirements and get help with obtaining your ID.

Thursday, October 5: Research your ballot. While state and local elections typically get far less media coverage than federal elections, their outcomes can have a major impact on housing policy decisions in your community. Click the "Candidates" tab in the [Our Homes, Our Votes Action Center](#) to learn more about the people running for office where you live.

You may also want to research any local ballot measures that ask voters to weigh in directly on policy decisions. To learn more about housing-related ballot measures, [register for the upcoming Our Homes, Our Votes webinar series](#), "Housing Is Built with Ballots," that will take place on October 12 and 26.

Friday, October 6: Mobilize your community! Research shows that personal outreach is one of the best ways to increase voter registration and turnout rates. Pass along voter registration and education resources to your friends and family, and post on social media to uplift the importance of civic engagement. You can use sample social media content from the [Our Homes, Our Votes website](#) or from [National Voter Education Week's shareable content hub](#). Use the hashtags #VoteReady, #NationalVoterEducationWeek, and #OurHomesOurVotes and be sure to tag @OurHomesVotes.

For more information about National Voter Education Week, visit:
<https://votereducationweek.org/>

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

Questions? Reach out to ourhomes@nlihc.org

Register for Upcoming *Our Homes, Our Votes* Webinar Series: Housing Is Built with Ballots!

Housing was a winning issue at the ballot box in the 2022 midterm elections. Voters overwhelmingly supported ballot measures to strengthen local tenant protections, dedicate resources to housing and homelessness programs, and facilitate affordable housing development. The momentum has continued in 2023, as voters across the country have approved a number of new housing resources in local elections. Join NLIHC's *Our Homes, Our Votes* campaign for a [two-part webinar series](#) on Thursday, October 12, and Thursday, October 26, to learn more from the people who made these ballot measure victories possible.

The first webinar, "Housing is Built with Ballots: A Year of Ballot Measure Victories in Review," will take place on Thursday, October 12, at 2:30 pm ET. The webinar will provide an overview of housing policy wins achieved at the ballot box in recent elections. A follow-up webinar will be held on Thursday, October 26, at 2:30 pm ET, and will delve deeper into effective organizing tactics for ballot measure campaigns. [Click here](#) to register for the webinars!

The first webinar (Thursday, 10/12) will feature:

- Abram Diaz, policy director, Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California
- Michael Daly, founder, East End YIMBY
- Tiffani McCoy, advocacy director, Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (Seattle, Washington)
- Zach Martinez, legal counsel, Gary Community Ventures (Colorado)

The second webinar (Thursday, 10/26) will feature:

- Angelina Cornejo, campaign strategy coordinator, East Bay Housing Organizations
- Emily Martiniuk, resident leader, Residents United Network-Los Angeles
- Madeleine Hammerlund, housing campaign organizer, Our Future Starts at Home (Minnesota)

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

Public Charge Rule

House Votes to Include Amendment Defunding “Public Charge” Implementation in Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives passed on September 27 the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act” ([H.R.4367](#)). The bill includes an amendment introduced by Representative Andy Biggs (R-AZ) that would defund implementation of the Biden administration’s “public charge” rule. Because the amendment ([H.Amdt.406](#) to H.R.4367) was passed in the full House by a voice vote, there is no record of which members supported its passage. Fortunately for immigrant access advocates, the amendment is not likely to become law, as the U.S. Senate will likely not take up H.R.4367.

The Biden administration’s “public charge” rule replaced a Trump administration policy according to which green card applications from lawfully present immigrants were threatened if the applicants made use of Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing, or other vital social safety net services. Advocates opposed Representative Biggs’ amendment, which was introduced to halt the implementation of the common-sense Biden administration rule and reignite the fear and confusion experienced by many immigrant families as a result of the Trump administration public charge rule. The Biggs public charge amendment is part of an agenda to cut families’ access to Medicaid, SNAP, and other public programs, despite families’ eligibility and need for such programs. A 2021 poll [found](#) that nearly half (46%) of people in immigrant families who needed help or health care during the pandemic did not seek it because of concerns related to immigrant status. The Biden administration rule, which was finalized in 2022, creates a much clearer framework, restoring the historic definition of “public charge” and making clear which benefits count toward the test. The rule did not expand eligibility for public benefits to any new households, however. When the Biden administration’s proposed rule was announced in 2022, NLIHC joined [over 1,000 organizations](#) urging the speedy finalization of the public charge rule.

Read more about housing access for immigrant households on [page 6-63](#) of NLIHC’s [2023 Advocates’ Guide](#).

Rural Housing

Senators Smith (D-MN) and Rounds (R-SD) Reintroduce “Rural Housing Service Reform Act” with Revisions, Additional Cosponsors

Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) reintroduced the “Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2023” ([S.2790](#)) in the U.S. Senate. The bill, which was reintroduced with revisions and six new bipartisan cosponsors, would aim to improve the housing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Housing Service (RHS) through several reforms, including decoupling rental assistance from maturing mortgages, permanently establishing the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration (MPR), improving USDA’s Section 542 voucher program to better serve voucher

holders, permanently establishing the Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Relending pilot program, and improving staff training and capacity within RHS. NLIHC provided feedback on and endorsed the updated legislation.

The “Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2023” was the result of work by Senator Smith and Senator Rounds that was conducted while the two senators served as chair and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate’s Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development. “This legislation is the direct result of bipartisan hearings and conversations with stakeholders who helped identify ways we can make federal rural housing programs work better for people struggling to find a safe, affordable place to live,” [said](#) Senator Smith in a statement. The bill’s new cosponsors – each a member of the Senate’s Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs – are Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY and Ranking Member of the Senate Banking and Housing Subcommittee) and Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Steve Daines (R-MT), and John Fetterman (D-PA).

Compared to the previously introduced version of the bill (see [Memo, 5/8](#)), the updated text includes a sunset provision regarding the authorization to address staffing and technology issues and requests a report from the Government Accountability Office to assess staffing and technology needs at the Rural Housing Service. NLIHC worked with Enterprise, the National Housing Law Project, the Council for Affordable and Rural Housing, the Housing Assistance Council, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to offer feedback and recommendations for the updated bill.

Read Senator Smith’s press release and see a list of endorsers at: <https://tinyurl.com/yeyr6hkm>

Read the bill text and see its cosponsors at: <https://tinyurl.com/3wr2tdup>

Emergency Rental Assistance

Application Period for New Los Angeles Emergency Rental Assistance Program Will Close Today (10/2)

The City of Los Angeles launched in August a new emergency rental assistance (ERA) program for households with past due rental arrears. The [United to House Los Angeles \(ULA\) Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) will assist low-income tenants who have faced hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of homelessness with up to six months of rental assistance payments to be paid directly to landlords or property owners. The application period, which opened on September 19, will close at 6 pm PST today (October 2).

The creation of Los Angeles’s new ERA program follows the [expiration](#) of city-wide pandemic-related regulations and protections that were in place to mitigate the threat of a wave of evictions and homelessness brought on by financial hardship caused by the pandemic. When the city’s regulations went into effect more than three years ago, renters who were at 80% of the county’s area median income (AMI) were able to defer their rental payments to remain stably housed amid the ongoing public health crisis. However, on March 31, 2023 – the date the city’s

pandemic-era protections were lifted – Los Angeles [mandated](#) that all past due rents accrued between March 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, would need to be paid back by tenants by August 1, 2023, in order to avoid the threat of eviction being levied against them. For tenants with unpaid rental payments that accrued between October 2021 and February 2023, those rental payments will need to be paid in full by February 1, 2024.

Now that more than two months without protections in place for renters who missed rental payments early in the pandemic have passed, the effects are already noticeable. Prior to the expiration of the city’s pandemic-era protections, more than 200,000 renter households in the Los Angeles area were [behind](#) on their rental payments, resulting in more than half a billion dollars in unpaid rents. When protections were lifted, eviction filings began occurring in rapid succession. Between January and June 2023, Los Angeles County saw the highest number of evictions filed in the first half of the year since 2016, with more than 23,000 eviction filings [filed](#) against tenants. With such high rates of eviction cases being filed, the city is now [reported](#) as on the brink of an eviction crisis.

Since the start of the year, lawmakers, alongside tenant advocates, community leaders, and members of other justice-based housing organizations, have been working to divert the impending threat of an eviction crisis. In the first half of 2023, tenant organizers advocated for the passage of a [“just cause” eviction law](#) that would prohibit landlords and property owners from evicting a tenant without good cause, such as for nonpayment of rent, violations to the lease agreement, and prohibited criminal activity. In August 2023, the Los Angeles City Council [approved](#) a measure to create the United to House Los Angeles (ULA) Emergency Rental Assistance Program, offering short-term relief for tenants.

Under the new program, tenants can apply online, by phone, or in person at one of the city’s 15 designated locations to receive support in paying back their past due rent. As noted, the program will only assist tenants with up to six months of back-owed rent, and tenants must be considered low-income or extremely low-income to be eligible to apply, meaning a tenant’s income cannot exceed more than 80% of the regional AMI limits for the city (equivalent to \$70,650 for a one-person household). For individuals to be considered extremely low-income, they must not be making over 30% AMI, which is equivalent to \$26,500 for a one-person household. Currently, individuals who accrued past due rent between the March 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, will be prioritized for assistance.

The ULA Emergency Rental Assistance Program will be funded through [“Measure ULA,”](#) otherwise known as the “mansion tax.” The measure passed in November 2021 with 57% support and will impose a 4% tax on properties that are sold for over \$5 million, as well as a 5.5% tax on properties that are sold for over \$10 million. So far, the measure has raised more than \$38 million in revenue for the city, with city officials estimating that the tax could raise up to \$670 million. In August 2023, the Los Angeles City Council voted to expend \$150 million of the measure’s revenue, with \$18.4 million going towards the ULA Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The city’s councilmembers also voted to allocate \$23 million to a new right-to-counsel program, \$5.5 million to tenant outreach and education, and \$11.2 million to a tenant harassment protection program, which will inform tenants about their rights regarding a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance that was passed in August 2021.

While the program is only currently assisting tenants, rental assistance applications for landlords or property owners with fewer than 12 units will open on October 23, 2023.

To learn more about the City of Los Angeles's ULA Emergency Rental Assistance Program, including whether you are eligible to apply, visit the city's website [here](#).

Opportunity Starts at Home

OSAH Campaign Partner ZERO TO THREE Releases *State of Babies Yearbook: 2023*

Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign partner ZERO TO THREE has released its [State of Babies Yearbook: 2023](#). Providing a blueprint for a comprehensive infant and toddler policy agenda, the *Yearbook* identifies five areas requiring urgent federal action: maternal health, infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), childcare, housing, and economic security. The *Yearbook*, which was released alongside an accompanying website, is designed to bridge the gap between science and policy by bringing together national and state-by-state data on the well-being of babies and families in the U.S. The resource explores disparities and inequities by examining data related to race and ethnicity, income, and geography and augments its findings with real-time RAPID Survey Project data collected during the pandemic.

Among other things, the *Yearbook* demonstrates the threat of crowded housing and unsafe neighborhoods for babies, while also discussing recent challenges to affordable housing, the links between poverty and housing challenges, and the connections between housing and the child welfare system. The *Yearbook* also identifies a series of solutions supported by the OSAH campaign for addressing the urgent needs of infants, toddlers, and families at the federal level.

“A safe, stable, affordable home provides more than just shelter; it is the emotional and social center of family life,” reads the *Yearbook*. “The security and quality of a baby’s earliest relationships and experiences, which their surroundings can acutely affect, molds young children’s brain architecture. When babies have the security and predictability of safe places, they are better able to sleep, eat, crawl, play and develop bonds with caregivers. When this central family place becomes unstable, overcrowded, unaffordable or threatened by unsafe neighborhood conditions, babies’ rapid brain development is put at risk, leaving them susceptible to long-term developmental and health problems.”

Read the *Yearbook* [here](#).

Research

Source-of-Income Protections Can Positively Impact Public Housing

A study published in *Housing Studies*, "[The Spillover Effects of Source-of-Income Anti-Discrimination Laws on Public Housing](#)," examines the potential effects of source-of-income (SOI) protections on enrollment in public housing programs. SOI protections, which prevent landlords from discriminating against housing choice voucher (HCV) holders, are intended to improve voucher success rates and mobility. Yet improved success rates and mobility in the voucher program may have unintended consequences regarding who enrolls in the public housing program. The study examines whether SOI protections can improve voucher outcomes as intended without further concentrating poverty and racial segregation in public housing. The study finds that while SOI protections do reduce the concentration of poverty in public housing, their impacts on racial segregation are unclear.

To analyze the potential impacts of SOI protections, the author compared the tenant composition of voucher and public housing programs at public housing agencies (PHAs) following the implementation of state and local SOI protections. More specifically, the author examined potential impacts on income, race, single parent status, occupancy rates, and new move-ins. The author also analyzed the potential effects of waiting list times on the relationship between SOI protections and tenant composition in public housing.

The study finds that following the enactment of SOI laws, the number of poor and extremely poor households in public housing was reduced by up to 1.5 and 4.4 percentage points, respectively. The study also finds corresponding increases in poor and extremely poor households in voucher programs, as well as a reduction in new entries to public housing. These findings suggest SOI protections improve voucher utilization for some of the poorest households and help expand their housing options beyond the public housing program.

The study's findings regarding impacts on racial composition within public housing are inconclusive. In localities seeing shorter waiting times after the enactment of SOI laws, the study finds a 2.4 percentage point increase in the share of Black households residing in public housing. This finding suggests Black households might have been crowded out of the voucher program and into public housing by increased competition for vouchers. The same pattern, however, was not seen for PHAs with longer waiting times, and the share of Black households with vouchers increased overall following implementation of SOI protections. Further research is needed to fully understand the possible impacts of SOI protections on segregation in public housing.

There has been an ongoing transition from project-based to tenant-based housing assistance over the past several decades. Much of this transition has been conducted in the name of poverty de-concentration and desegregation. While limited in scope, this study provides a first look at whether a crucial policy for tenant-based assistance, namely SOI protections, might unintentionally lead to further poverty concentration or segregation in public housing, a key project-based assistance program. The study concludes that SOI laws are an effective tool with which localities can expand and improve voucher programs without exacerbating extreme poverty in existing public housing projects. Further research, however, is needed to understand potential impacts on racial segregation in public housing.

Read the article at: <https://bit.ly/467T3Th>

From the Field

St. Louis Enacts Right to Counsel, Becoming Second City in Missouri to Pass RTC Ordinance

The City of St. Louis, Missouri, enacted in July a new ordinance that will create a city-wide program guaranteeing the civil right to counsel (RTC) for tenants facing the threat of eviction. St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones signed the ordinance, [“Board Bill 59,”](#) shortly after its enactment. The program, which is set to begin on July 1, 2024, is the second RTC program to be established by a locality in Missouri: Kansas City established its own RTC program in 2021.

Using \$685,000 in federal COVID-19 funds from the “American Rescue Plan Act,” the city’s RTC program will distribute funds to [several](#) legal aid service providers across the city to serve ZIP codes with the highest rates of eviction. Additionally, the newly enacted RTC program will create a tenant legal services position housed within the St. Louis Department of Human Services that will oversee the program’s implementation. Board Bill 59 also requires landlords to provide tenants with information regarding the availability of the program. With the passage of the new ordinance, St. Louis becomes the twenty-second jurisdiction to have implemented right-to-counsel policies nationwide and the second RTC ordinance to have been passed in Missouri. As of September 2023, 7 cities, four states, and one county guarantee access to legal representation to tenants in eviction cases.

As noted, St. Louis’s implementation of the RTC program makes the city the second locality in Missouri to ensure access to legal representation for tenants, with both programs having been passed since the start of the pandemic. In 2021, tenants, community advocates, and other housing policy leaders across the city [rallied](#) for the implementation of an eviction RTC program in Kansas City, Missouri, a city with disproportionately high eviction rates. According to Princeton University’s Eviction Lab, in 2016, both Kansas City and St. Louis, were ranked as two of the cities with the highest eviction filing rates for renter households in the nation. In the same year, the number of evictions filed in Kansas City totaled 3,776, with an average of 10 households being evicted every day, while in St. Louis, 3,183 eviction cases were filed, amounting to an average of nine households evicted per day.

“Evictions are one of the more visible symptoms of the compounding issues plaguing housing as we know it today, most glaringly the housing affordability crisis and the dismal state of tenant rights and protections currently afforded to renters in Missouri and across the country,” [said Vee Sanchez, affordable housing policy manager at Empower Missouri.](#) “Evictions have and continue to be a major contributor of homelessness within our communities.”

In addition to high eviction rates in Kansas City and St. Louis, tenants have historically had unequal access to legal representation in court and in consequence have often had no defense against the threat of eviction. Data provided by the City of Kansas City suggests that only 3% of tenants had access to legal representation in court prior to the start of the pandemic, while 85% of landlords and property owners had such access – numbers that were on par with the national average, according to [data](#) from the [National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel](#). Worse yet, of the eviction cases filed in Jackson County (the county seat of Kansas City) in the 10-year period between 2006 and 2016, 99% of cases [resulted](#) in rulings being awarded in favor of the

landlord. In St. Louis, moreover, a study conducted in 2012 found similar findings, including that for all eviction cases tried in St. Louis that year, only two cases were decided in favor of the tenant, while 4,934 cases were decided in favor of the landlord.

Kansas City's RTC program, created by "[Ordinance 211067](#)," provided tenants with an immediate safeguard from the threat of eviction, and the program has [already shown success](#) for tenants in its first full year of implementation. The RTC program, which has no eligibility requirements needed for tenants and which will cover all tenants facing eviction regardless of income, has helped assist 1,326 tenants who utilized the program's services to avoid an eviction (or 86% of participants in total). Indeed, since the passage of "[Ordinance 211067](#)," the city's RTC program has seen an increase in voluntary dismissals and settlements in favor of the tenant, with more than 900 dismissals granted.

The program has been especially helpful to the most marginalized and lowest-income renter households in the city. Since the start of the program, 73% of tenants who have been represented by the city's RTC program have been Black, while 67% of the tenants who have been represented by Kansas City's right-to-counsel program have been women. Additionally, 83% of individuals who have utilized the program's services were extremely low-income renters.

"Thanks to the robust organizing and advocacy efforts from Kansas City's Right to Counsel Coalition, including KC Tenants and Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom, Tenants Right to Counsel was secured in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2022," said Sanchez. "In 2023, a coalition of organizations in St. Louis, including Action STL, STL Homes for All and Arch City Defenders, was able to pass a right to counsel, which is scheduled to roll out in 2024. These hard-won protections will play a critical role in helping to safeguard tenants' rights and their ability to stay housed as eviction rates reach and surpass pre-pandemic eviction rates."

Find more information on Kansas City's RTC program [here](#).

Find more information on St. Louis's RTC program and ordinance [here](#).

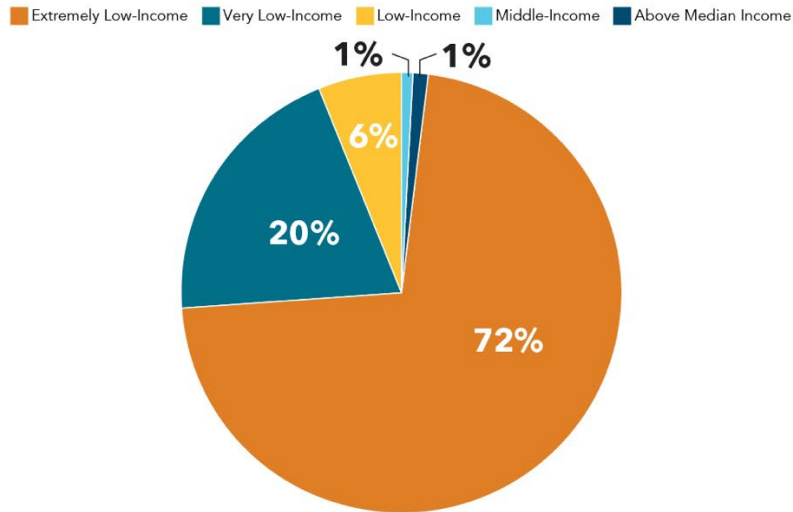
Fact of the Week

Extremely Low-Income Renters Make Up Majority of Severely Cost-Burdened Renters



EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTERS MAKE UP MAJORITY OF SEVERELY COST-BURDENED RENTERS

SEVERELY COST-BURDENED RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME GROUP, 2021



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2021 ACS PUMS data.

<https://nlihc.org/gap>



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2021 ACS PUMS data

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of September 24

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of September 24:

- “Climate change is destroying public housing and displacing women of color” *Verite*, September 28 at: <https://tinyurl.com/2bfxuu2j>
- “President Biden, officials and housing groups warn of impending shutdown’s impacts” *Yahoo Finance*, September 26 at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfetw72>
- “Why a government shutdown is complex for state and local governments” *Route Fifty*, September 25 at: <https://tinyurl.com/3tb4um93>

NLIHC Careers

NLIHC Seeks Housing Campaign Coordinator

NLIHC seeks a housing campaign coordinator to join our Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign. The housing campaign coordinator will work closely with the OSAH campaign

director to build and maintain a cooperative, productive coalition structure, including by coordinating closely with the OSAH campaign's core partners, the campaign Steering Committee, and a larger network of cooperating organizations.

Background:

Opportunity Starts at Home is a dynamic, long-term, multi-sector campaign that has built a movement of multi-sector partners to ensure that the nation's historically marginalized households and those with the lowest incomes live in safe, accessible, affordable homes in neighborhoods that are free from discrimination and where everyone has equitable opportunities to thrive. NLIHC, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Children's HealthWatch launched the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign in 2018 to solve the nation's housing crisis. The goals of the campaign are to advance federal policy solutions that:

- Expand rental assistance for every income-eligible household.
- Expand the stock of housing affordable to households with the lowest incomes.
- Stabilize households by providing emergency assistance to avert housing instability and homelessness.

The campaign is advised by a Steering Committee of leading multi-sector organizations and mobilizes a broader coalition of multi-sector partners through the campaign's Roundtable. The campaign also supports state partners that parallel the work of the national campaign by building state-level multisector coalitions and leveraging those partnerships to advance federal housing policies.

Job Description:

The OSAH housing campaign coordinator will:

- Support the Campaign Director in building and maintaining a cooperative, productive coalition structure, including close coordination with the Campaign's core partners, the Campaign Steering Committee, and a larger network of cooperating organizations on the campaign's big table of partner organizations, the campaign's Roundtable.
- Support the Campaign director in carrying out all aspects of the Campaign plan, including helping to develop and implement effective communications, outreach and advocacy plans.
- Support the Campaign director in advancing the campaign's policy agenda in Congress by working closely with coalition partners and NLIHC's broader policy team.
- Working closely with the NLIHC field team, provide and administer grants to state partners and ensure effective partner grants management: ensure grantees are carrying out the terms of their grants and are effectively and appropriately using the grants provided to achieve intended outcomes.
- Ensure that state-based coalitions in grant-receiving states have the materials, tools, and other supports needed to function as effectively as possible.
- Organize webinars and other training and technical assistance for key coalition members engaged in the campaign in all states.

- In partnership with NLIHC’s field team, stay in close contact with key organizational leaders in grant-receiving and other states to ensure that the Campaign and state efforts are best synchronized.
- Review plans and reports about state coalition efforts in grant-receiving states to determine ongoing effectiveness.
- Develop and implement a plan to ensure that state and local leaders are effectively engaged with and apprised of Campaign-related developments.
- Contribute to ongoing fundraising efforts to ensure sustainable funding for the campaign through existing and new funding opportunities.
- Contribute to periodic reports to the Campaign’s partners, Steering Committee members, donors, and relevant others about the Campaign’s progress; and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor’s degree (master’s degree preferred). Relevant life experience may be substituted for years of education.
- A minimum of two to three years previous experience working in, coordinating, or leading multi-faceted projects, national initiatives, or campaigns. Exceptional candidates with fewer years of such experience may be considered.
- A demonstrated, clear commitment to the alleviation of poverty (affordable housing experience a plus).
- Experience successfully building partnerships among organizations.
- Demonstrated excellence in organizational skills.
- Excellent communications skills, both orally and in writing.
- An ability to work in a diverse, fast-paced environment.
- Experience in grant management and in reporting to donors a plus.

Compensation and Benefits:

An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time position located in Washington, D.C.

Job Application Process:

Candidates for this position should **send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples** to: Lakesha Dawson, Director of Operations, NLIHC, 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 at ldawson@nlihc.org. The cover letter should describe the candidate’s interest in, and relevant experiences for, the position, and should include salary requirements and the names and contact information for at least three people serving as candidate references. (NLIHC will not contact references before consulting with the candidate.)

NLIHC News

Where to Find Us – October 2

- [San Diego Housing Federation 2023 Affordable Housing & Community Development Conference](#) – San Diego, CA, October 3 (Kim Johnson)
- [Housing Washington](#) – Tacoma, WA, October 5 (Brooke Schipporeit)
- [Nevada Housing Conference](#) – Las Vegas, NV, October 11 (Brooke Schipporeit)
- Refugee Council USA Policy Center, Housing Discussion – Virtual, October 11 (Sarah Saadian)
- Arkansas Coalition of Housing & Neighborhood Growth for Empowerment (ACHANGE) Convening – Virtual, October 13 (Kayla Laywell)
- Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region Advocacy Committee Meeting – Virtual, October 20 (Courtney Cooperman)
- [Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing](#) – Los Angeles, CA, November 1 (Sarah Saadian)
- Congressional Progressive Caucus Hill Briefing on Homelessness – Virtual, November 2 (Diane Yentel)
- Sinergia NY Housing Advocacy Program – Virtual, November 8 (Lindsay Duvall)
- [Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency](#) Conference – Hershey, PA, December 7 (Sarah Saadian)

NLIHC Staff

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Meredith Abel, Research Intern

Andrew Aurand, Senior Vice President for Research, x245

Sidney Betancourt, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x200

Victoria Bourret, ERASE Senior Project Coordinator x244

Jen Butler, Vice President of Media Relations and Communications, x239

Alayna Calabro, Senior Policy Analyst, x252

Matthew Clarke, Writer/Editor, x207

Courtney Cooperman, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x263

Lindsay Duvall, Senior Organizer for Housing Advocacy, x206

Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316

Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314

Sarah Gallagher, Senior Director, ERASE Project, x220

Jordan Goldstein, Communications/Graphic Design Intern

Yingxue Snow Guo, Communications Intern

Danita Humphries, Senior Executive Assistant, x226

Nada Hussein, ERASE Project Coordinator, x264

Kim Johnson, Public Policy Manager, x243

Kayla Laywell, Housing Policy Analyst, x231

Mayerline Louis-Juste, Senior Communications Specialist, x201

Steve Moore Sanchez, Development Coordinator, x209

Khara Norris, Senior Director of Administration, x242

Noah Patton, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, x227

Mackenzie Pish, Research Analyst

Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Manager, x246

Benja Reilly, Development Specialist, x234
Gabrielle Ross, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x208
Sarah Saadian, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Field Organizing, x228
Brooke Schipporeit, Manager of Field Organizing x233
Sophie Siebach-Glover, Research Analyst, x205
Lauren Steimle, Web/Graphic Design Specialist, x246
Chantelle Wilkinson, OSAH Campaign Director, x230
Renee Willis, Senior Vice President for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, x247
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225