NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Memo TO Members

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National Housing Trust Fund
Washington Post Editorial Calls for MID Reform

On November 29, the *Washington Post* published an editorial calling for reform of the mortgage interest deduction (MID). Titled "Fixing the Most Expensive Tax Deduction," the editorial described the MID as "one of the most expensive tax breaks" in the tax code and "a significant cause of after-tax income inequality." The editorial cites NLIHC's new report, *A Rare Occurrence: The Geography and Race of Mortgages Over $500,000*. Lowering the portion of a mortgage to which the MID could be claimed to the first $500,000 of mortgage principle rather than the current $1 million could be done "without affecting the vast majority of homeowners," the *Post* editorial states.

The editorial uses NLIHC data that shows that lowering the MID cap would save $95 billion over 10 years and that both lowering the cap and replacing the MID with a 15% nonrefundable credit would save $213 billion. NLIHC would invest the savings in more affordable rental housing for extremely low-income households.

Noting that the 5% of mortgages over $500,000 are concentrated in high cost areas in Democratic strongholds, the editorial states that reforming the mortgage interest deduction "could be the stuff of a bipartisan movement. . . . For Democrats, it's an opportunity to practice what they preach on income equality; for Republicans, a chance to show flexibility on raising revenue without harming their constituents."

Read the full *Washington Post* editorial at: http://wapo.st/1IiGqZ4

Read NLIHC's report, *A Rare Occurrence: The Geography and Race of Mortgages Over $500,000* at http://nlihc.org/research/rare-occurrence

"Dear Colleague" Letter Seeks Cosponsors for "Common Sense Housing Investment Act"

In response to the *Washington Post*'s November 30 editorial calling for mortgage interest deduction reform, Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) has circulated a new "Dear Colleague" letter asking Members of the House of Representatives to cosponsor his "Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2015" (H.R. 1662). The bill would modify the MID and invest the savings into affordable rental housing for people with low incomes.

Mr. Ellison writes, "As the *Post* noted, our nation provides way more generous benefits to the wealthiest homeowners while providing inadequate rental housing assistance to low-income families. In fact, the average family earning more than $200,000 a year receives four times the federal housing benefits received by the average family who earns under $20,000 annually. Meanwhile, our rental housing crisis continues to worsen. Nearly half of all renters pay more than 30% of their income for housing and nearly all extremely low-income households pay more than half."

H.R. 1662 contains the essential elements of the NLIHC-led United for Homes (UFH) campaign. The UFH campaign would reduce the portion of a mortgage eligible for a tax break from the current $1 million to $500,000 and convert the deduction to a 15% non-refundable tax credit. Phased in over five years, these changes would create an additional $213 billion in revenue over ten years without adding to the federal deficit. The UFH campaign calls for investing these savings into the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) for affordable housing. The proposed changes would also expand mortgage interest tax benefits to millions more low and moderate income homeowners who do not currently benefit from the MID, most of whom have incomes below $100,000.

Mr. Ellison also submitted a letter to the editor of the Washington Post in response to the November 30 editorial. The letter was published on December 3. In the letter, Mr. Ellison said "our nation provides generous benefits to the wealthiest homeowners while providing inadequate rental housing assistance to low-income families who need help the most."

Funding the NHTF with revenue raised by modifying the MID is one of NLIHC's top policy priorities. NLIHC calls on advocates to urge their Representatives to cosponsor the Ellison bill.

Read Mr. Ellison's "Dear Colleague" letter at http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Keith-Ellison_Dear-Colleague-Washington-Post.pdf

Read Mr. Ellison's letter to the editor of the *Washington Post* at http://wapo.st/1lbrAcJ.

More than 2,200 national, state, and local organizations and elected officials have endorsed the United for Homes campaign. To join the campaign, go to www.unitedforhomes.org.

More information about mortgage interest reform is at http://nlihc.org/unitedforhomes/proposal and on page 3-19 of NLIHC's 2015 Advocates' Guide at http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Sec3.04_MID-Reform_2015.pdf.

Federal Budget

Will Congress Meet December 11 Deadline to Pass FY16 Spending Bill?

The U.S Senate and House of Representatives are still trying to negotiate a final FY16 omnibus appropriations bill, but controversial policy riders remain the sticking point. After seeing an omnibus proposal from her Republican colleagues on December 2, House Appropriations Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY) referred to the document as a "Tea Party wish list" and lambasted the inclusion of contentious policy riders.

The federal government is running on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on December 11. An FY16 omnibus spending bill was expected to be unveiled by December 7, but it now appears that a short term CR will be needed to prevent a government shutdown. The White House has indicated that President Barack Obama would sign a short term CR.

Negotiations have been underway since Congress reached a deal in mid-November to raise the sequester spending caps, providing $33 billion in additional funding for nondefense discretionary programs, 6.9% more than would have been available if the caps were not raised (see *Memo*, 11/23).

In an early demonstration of what appropriators might do with additional funding for HUD programs, the Senate considered a revised appropriations bill during the week of November 16. That bill would have increased funding for HUD's housing and community development programs by 3.9%, far short of an equitable share of the 6.9% increase provided by the raising of the sequester caps. The bill did not move to a vote because of disagreements over a refugee-related amendment.

While grateful that the Senate bill increased funding for the HOME program, the steering committee of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, including NLIHC, sent appropriators a November 24 letter expressing concern that additional accounts were not increased.

"Additional funding would enable Congress to achieve important goals, like reducing homelessness and helping more seniors and people with disabilities to afford housing, preserving more public and assisted affordable housing for the future, and helping more children grow up in more vibrant communities. It would also enable Congress to restore funding for lead hazard abatement and restore more Housing Choice Vouchers that were lost due to sequestration," the steering committee wrote.

Read the Campaign for Housing and Community Development's letter at:
http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/THUD_post-BBA_CHCDF.pdf

Congress

Four Housing Bills Pass in Highway Bill

Four housing bills were included in a sprawling highway bill passed by the House and Senate on December 3 and sent to President Barack Obama for his signature. The housing bills, each of which passed the House as stand-alone measures earlier this year, were added to the highway bill as amendments from House Financial Services Chair Jeb Hensarling (R-TX).

Chair Hensarling's original amendment to the highway bill included five housing-related bills (see *Memo*, 11/9). All but one, the "Homes for Heroes Act of 2015" (H.R. 251), sponsored by Representative Al Green (D-TX), was included in the final conference report agreed to by the House and Senate.

The following bills were included in the final highway bill:

- The "Tenant Income Verification Relief Act of 2015" (H.R. 233), sponsored by Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), permits HUD to allow public and assisted housing administrators to verify income once every three years instead of annually for low income tenants that have fixed incomes, such as income derived from Social Security payments.

- The "Housing Assistance Efficiency Act" (H.R. 1047), sponsored by Representative Scott Peters (D-CA), amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to allow private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program.

- The "Preservation Enhancement and Savings Opportunity Act of 2015" (H.R. 2482), sponsored by Representative Erik Paulsen (R-MN), amends the Low Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990 (LIHPRHA) to permit owners (including nonprofits) of multifamily developments subsidized by HUD through Section 8 rental assistance programs, supportive housing for the elderly, or supportive housing for people with disabilities to access income derived from such developments provided that the owners adhere to HUD's affordability and compliance standards.

- The "Private Investment in Housing Act" (H.R. 2997), sponsored by Representative Dennis Ross (R-FL), authorizes the HUD Secretary to establish a demonstration program under which the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based energy- and water-saving agreements with appropriate entities for up to 12 years.

The President is expected to sign the bill.

House Committee Set to Mark Up "Housing Opportunity through Modernization Act"

The House Committee on Financial Services will mark up H.R. 3700, the "Housing Opportunity through Modernization Act of 2015," on December 8. The bill includes reforms to voucher inspections, treatment of high-income households in public housing, project-based vouchers, the Family Unification Program, and other housing programs (see *Memo*, 10/13).

The bill was introduced by House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance Chair Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) on October 7. The Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill on October 21. The bill has ten bipartisan cosponsors.

The Committee will mark up six other non-housing bills during the same session, as well as a resolution to establish a task force to investigate terrorism financing.

The December 8 mark-up is scheduled for 2pm ET in room 2128 of the Rayburn House office building. The mark-up will also be webcast via http://financialservices.house.gov/.

HUD

HUD Publishes Final Rule on Definition of "Chronic Homelessness"

HUD issued a final rule on December 4 on the definition of "chronically homeless" used in the Continuum of Care Program and in the Consolidated Plan. There are three key changes to the interim rule published on July 31, 2012.

With these changes, HUD intends to align the period of time of those experiencing occasional homelessness with that of those experiencing continuous homelessness by adding the text requiring a break in homelessness to be at least seven consecutive nights and by excluding from a break in homelessness stays in institutional care facilities shorter than 90 days if an individual or family was homeless prior to entering the facility.

The final definition is presented here with the new or revised text in bold and with the prior interim rule text in brackets.

Chronically homeless means:

1. **A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9))**, who:
   [An individual who can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability]
   i. Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
   ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least **12 months** [one year] or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years,[where each homeless occasion was at least 15 days] **as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility;**
2. An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or
3. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

The final rule is at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-04/pdf/2015-30473.pdf

Changes Made to Definition of "Tuition" for Determining Section 8 Income Eligibility

HUD has amended the definition of "tuition" to be used when determining income eligibility for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Project-based Section 8, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation programs. The new tuition definition includes "other required fees and charges." This change may provide some relief for Section 8-assisted residents who attend institutions of higher learning that charge significant fees in addition to basic tuition.

As explained in two identical Notices, H 2015-12 from the Office of Multifamily Housing Programs and PIH 2015-21 from the Office of Public and Indian Housing, the FY12 Appropriations Act requires a Multifamily owner or management agent (O/A) or public housing agency (PHA) to consider as income for calculating Section 8 eligibility any financial assistance in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges from private sources or an institution of higher education. This stipulation does not apply to Section 8 applicants or program participants over the age of 23 who have dependent children.

Until the new Notices were published, HUD used the various meanings of the term "tuition" used by different institutions of higher education attended by residents. The Notices note that many institutions of higher education are moving away from a traditional tuition-only structure to a tuition-plus-fee structure. Examples of fees that might be included are laboratory fees, student activity fees, student association fees, and student service fees. To promote consistency and standardization, HUD is now aligning its definition of tuition with that used by the Department of Education, which includes required fees that represent all fixed charges applied to a large proportion of all students, amounts that a "typical" student is charged.

The Notices clarify that under other HUD programs, such as Public Housing, the full amount of financial assistance continues to be excluded from the calculation of annual income.

Notices H 2015-12 is at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=15-12hsgn.pdf

Notice PIH 2015-21 is at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=PIH-2015-21.pdf

HUD Proposed Rule Would Strengthen Gender Identity Protections

On November 20, HUD released a proposed rule that would allow transgender people or those who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth to access HUD-supported programs, benefits, services and accommodations in accordance with their gender identity.

HUD developed the "Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs Rule (Gender Identity Rule)" after the agency reviewed and monitored the implementation of its 2012 Equal Access Rule. That rule ensures that housing assisted or insured by HUD is open to all eligible individuals and families without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

During its review of the Equal Access Rule, homeless service providers reported to HUD that many transgender shelter-seekers would rather sleep on the street than stay in a shelter designated for their assigned sex at birth. HUD's new rule would require recipients and sub-recipients of resources from HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, as well as owners, operators, and managers of HUD-funded shelters, buildings, and facilities with shared sleeping quarters or shared bathrooms, to accommodate transgender individuals according to their gender identity.

The new rule also eliminates the Equal Access Rule's prohibition on inquiries related to sexual orientation or gender identity, but maintains the prohibition against discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Prior to this change, there was only a limited exception for inquiring about the sex of an individual to determine the eligibility for housing provided in temporary emergency shelters with shared sleeping areas or bathrooms, or to determine the number of bedrooms a household might need. After reviewing this policy, HUD determined that such a prohibition "may hinder a provider from making an appropriate placement decision for fear of violating the rule."

In addition, the proposed rule would amend the definition of gender identity to clarify the difference between actual and perceived gender identity. A person's actual gender identify may differ from others' perceptions of the individual's gender.

"A person seeking shelter is already in a very vulnerable situation, and they deserve to be treated with dignity when they request our assistance," said HUD Secretary Julian Castro. "This rule takes us one step closer to full acceptance of transgender men and women, and will ensure they receive the proper services that respect their identity."

The deadline for submitting comments on the proposed rule is January 19, 2016.

Read the proposed rule here: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/20/2015-29342/equal-access-in-accordance-with-an-individuals-gender-identity-in-community-planning-and-development

Read the HUD press release here:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUDNo_15-150

HUD Uses Small Area Fair Market Rents to Determine 2016 Difficult Development Areas

On November 24, HUD published in the *Federal Register* its annual list of Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) and Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), which are used in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. For the first time, HUD used Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs) to establish the 2016 DDAs. SAFMRs are calculated for ZIP codes or portions of ZIP codes. LIHTC properties developed in DDAs or QCTs receive a 30% "basis boost," enhancing the equity in a project.

Each year HUD designates areas as DDAs and QCTs. DDAs are defined as areas with high construction, land, and utility costs relative to the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI). QCTs are census tracts where at least 50% of the households have incomes less than 60% of AMGI or where the poverty rate is at least 25%.

Another new feature of the DDAs in 2016 is the use of "HUD Metro FMR Areas" (HMFAs). The new HMFAs are modified Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) that account for substantial differences in rents within Fair Market Rent (FMR) areas under definitions used in prior years.

The effective date for using the new DDAs and QCTs will be July 1, 2016 rather than January 1, 2016. HUD is also extending from 365 days to 730 days the period for which the 2016 DDAs and QCTs remain in effect for projects located in areas that subsequently lose their DDA or QCT designations but for which applications are submitted in 2016.

The November 24 *Federal Register* notice is at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-24/pdf/2015-29953.pdf. The 2016 lists of DDAs and QCTs are at http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html

More information about the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program is on page 5-32 of NLIHC's 2015 *Advocates' Guide*, http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Sec5.10_LIHTC_2015.pdf

From The Field

Pennsylvania Advocates Win Big Victory for State Housing Trust Fund

Housing advocates in Pennsylvania have much to celebrate after securing an ongoing source of revenue for their state housing trust fund. On November 4, Governor Tom Wolf (D) signed legislation to create Act 58, an expansion of the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Act (PHARE), otherwise known as the Pennsylvania Housing Trust Fund. The new revenue will allow PHARE to support housing efforts in all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. This was a long-fought campaign spearheaded by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (the Housing Alliance), an NLIHC State Coalition Partner.

Under Act 58, PHARE is to receive a portion of the future growth in realty transfer tax revenues, capped at $25 million. Because Act 58 only allocates future revenue growth and does not increase the tax, the legislation garnered bipartisan support in the Republican controlled General Assembly. Legislators commended PHARE for being well run, locally-driven, accountable and transparent, with the impacts of its investments clearly visible in their communities. The combined vote in both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly was 242 to 1.

PHARE is administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), and it is designed to support a wide range of housing activities. PHARE funding is used to increase housing development and rehabilitation as well as to support homeless services and rent assistance programs. Thirty percent of all PHARE funding must be used to benefit households living below 50% of area median income. PHARE was created by Act 105 in 2010, though no ongoing source of funding was designated at that time.

In 2012 Pennsylvania established Marcellus Shale drilling impact fees as a source of revenue to address various local infrastructure costs associated with the shale drilling boom. A minimum of $5 million of these impact fees are directed to PHARE annually, although only the 37 counties with shale wells are allowed to benefit. Under Act 58 all 67 counties in Pennsylvania will be eligible to receive PHARE funding for housing programs.

Even though the funding to-date has been limited ($34 million over four years), PHARE's impact has been significant. According to the PHFA, 4,107 households will eventually benefit from PHARE awards made since 2012 through the development of 717 new rental homes, the rehabilitation and repair of 1,207 rental and owner-occupied homes, and the provision of rental or utility assistance to 2,119 households. Estimates are that the $34.6 million of funding to PHARE to date has leveraged an additional $221 million of other investments.

The campaign for a permanent and more flexible revenue source for PHARE involved numerous stakeholders throughout the state. The 175 endorsers of the State Housing Trust Fund campaign included a broad array of religious, disability, mental health, and domestic violence organizations, the housing and homelessness community, and a number of county and local governments. The effort involved extensive lobbying and mobilization of advocates throughout the state to ensure local legislators heard from their constituents

"Working in a divisive and partisan time in history can be demoralizing, but this victory shows us that with the right blend of revenue source, values-driven advocacy, statewide grassroots advocacy and a great program that demonstrates results, it can be done. We found that there is consensus around addressing homelessness, lack of affordable housing and blight on both sides of the aisle and in diverse communities across the state" said Liz Hersh, Executive Director of the Housing Alliance. "In these times, being truly bipartisan is a radical act. Turns out, we are radicals and we won!"

For more information about Pennsylvania State Housing Trust Fund campaign efforts, contact Cindy Daley, Policy Director for the Housing Alliance, at cindy@housingalliancepa.org.

Research

“Raise the Wage Act” Would Increase Wages for 35 Million American Workers

A report by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that raising the federal minimum wage to $12 per hour by 2020 would increase the wages of 35.1 million workers. The “Raise the Wage Act of 2015” (S. 1511) was introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) in April 2015. A companion bill (H.R. 2150) was introduced by Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA). The bills would raise the federal minimum wage incrementally to $12 per hour by 2020.

The study estimates that 57.4% of workers who would benefit work full-time, 30.0% work between 20 and 34 hours per week, and 12.6% work less than 20 hours per week. The average age of affected workers is 36. Just 10.7% of workers who would benefit from the minimum wage increase are teenagers; 22.7% are between the ages of 20 and 24; 29.9% are between the ages of 25 and 39; 21.4% are between the ages of 40 to 54; and 15.3% are age 55 and older.

Other characteristics of those benefitting from raising the minimum wage to $12 per hour include:

- 50% of workers who would benefit have annual family income of less than $40,000.
- 55.9% of workers who would benefit are women.
- 37.8% of Hispanic, 34.7% of black, and 21% of white workers would benefit.
- 39.6% of single working mothers would benefit.
- 28.0% of single working fathers would benefit.

The minimum wage has been raised through legislation only nine times since its inception in 1938, and it has not been indexed to inflation or median wage increases. Raising the minimum wage to $12 per hour by 2020 is intended to restore the purchasing power it has lost since it was last raised in 2009. The real value of the $7.25 minimum wage in 2014 was 10% less than its value in 2009 and 24% less than its peak real value in 1968.

After increasing the federal minimum wage to $12 by 2020, S. 1511 and H.R. 2150 would index the minimum wage to the median wage so that it would increase automatically in subsequent years.

Raising the Minimum Wage to $12 by 2020 Would Lift Wages for 35 Million American Workers is available at http://bit.ly/1LOBlTj.

The “Raise the Wage Act” is available at https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1150

New American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2010-2014 five-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates on December 3. The ACS is an annual nationwide survey of approximately 3.5 million households that provides information on the social, demographic, housing, and economic characteristics of the U.S population. The ACS five-year estimates are available down to the census tract level.

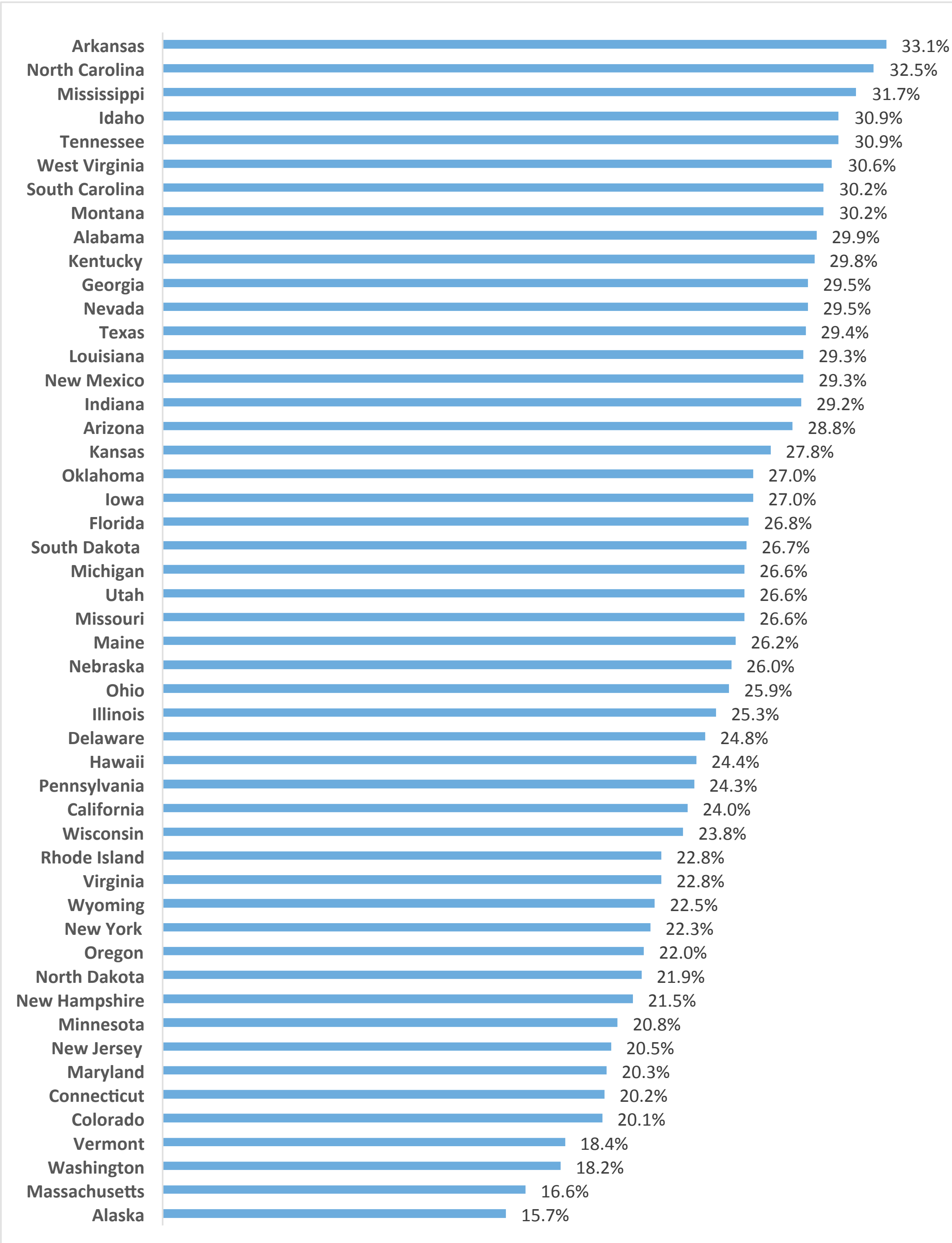
The Census Bureau maintains a website that provides narrative profiles derived from the ACS 5-year estimates for selected geographic areas. The profiles cover 15 different topic areas, including income and housing cost burdens. The data are presented in text and graphs. Click here to visit the narrative profile website: http://1.usa.gov/1QhQEKx

The full range of ACS 5-year estimates is available at American Factfinder: http://factfinder.census.gov/.

Additional guidance for ACS data users is available at http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html

Fact of The Week

Percent of Workforce by State That Would Benefit from $12 Federal Minimum Wage



Source: Economic Policy Institute (2015). *Raising the minimum wage to $12 by 2020 would lift wages for 35 million American workers.* Washington, DC: Author.

Resources

Design Challenge: Home Today, Home Tomorrow

AARP, AARP Foundation, Home Matters® and Wells Fargo Housing Foundation announced on December 4 a new nationwide design challenge entitled "Re-defining Home: Home Today, Home Tomorrow." The competition seeks replicable housing designs to meet the housing needs of millions of Americans throughout the entirety of their lives.

The goal of the design challenge is to incorporate universal design elements to build an attractive, adaptable, and affordable home of the future that promotes aesthetically and functionally appealing designs for better living. New affordable standards in housing design are sought that serve residents well throughout their various life stages: From entering the workforce, getting married, having a family, and sending children to college, to becoming a grandparent, pursuing new passions, careers and hobbies, and enjoying retirement.

Monetary awards will be made to three winning entries. The first-place winning design will be incorporated into an actual home and publically unveiled to provide an experiential learning opportunity for the general public. Competition submissions will be open in January, 2016.

Learn more about the design challenge at: http://bit.ly/1jg5R1t

Events

Nonprofit VOTE Webinar on Engaging New Voters

Nonprofit VOTE will hold an hour-long webinar on Thursday, December 10 at 2pm ET to discuss their new report entitled *Engaging New Voters: The Impact of Nonprofit Voter Outreach on Client and Community Turnout*. Utilizing data collected during the 2014 election cycle, the report analyzes the voter engagement efforts of 129 nonprofits across 9 states.

Nonprofit VOTE's Executive Director Brian Miller, Director of Research Julian Johannesen, and National Field Director Lindsey Hodel will present the findings of the report and discuss implications for the 2016 elections.

Read the report at: http://www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2015/12/engaging-new-voters.pdf

Register for the webinar at: https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=c5dpm3mnqmlu

NLIHC News

December 11 Deadline for Applications for NLIHC President and CEO Position

The Search Committee of the NLIHC Board of Directors has set December 11 as the deadline for applications from candidates for the position of NLIHC President and Chief Executive Officer. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing samples. The cover letter must address the candidate's experience and qualifications. Send materials to execsearch@nonprofithr.com or mail or fax to Nonprofit HR, Attn: NLIHC-CEO Search, 1400 I Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005, Fax: 202.785.2064. Electronic submissions are highly preferred. Application deadline is December 11, 2015. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply immediately.

Please visit http://nlihc.org/about/opportunities for more details.

Register Today for NLIHC's 2016 Housing Forum with Special Session for Low Income Residents

Register today for NLIHC's 2016 Policy Forum: *Overcoming Housing Poverty, Achieving Housing Justice.* The Forum will take place in Washington D.C. on **April 3-5, 2016**. This is NLIHC's annual policy event that brings together housing and homeless advocates and policy analysts from across the nation to discuss the challenges of ending housing poverty and homelessness. This year's Forum will offer a special session for low income residents on Sunday, April 3. A limited number of hotel scholarships for low income residents are available.

Confirmed speakers for the Forum include:

- **Barney Frank**, Former U.S. Congressman, Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, author of *Frank. A Life in Politics from the Great Society to Same-Sex Marriage;*
- **Kathryn Edin**, co-author of *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America;*
- **Marybeth Shinn**, lead researcher on the *Family Options Study: Short-Term Impacts of Housing and Service Interventions for Homeless Families; and*
- **Emily Badger**, Washington Post reporter in affordable housing and urban policy.

Special Session for Low Income Residents: This year's Forum will feature a special 4-hour session for low income residents to address issues of greatest concern to residents of public and assisted housing on Sunday, April 3 from 9 am to 1 pm. If you are a low income resident planning to attend the Forum, please plan on arriving on Saturday night, April 2 to take advantage of this session!

Special Hotel Scholarships Available: A limited number of shared-lodging hotel scholarships (covering 3-4 nights at the Washington Court Hotel) are available for NLIHC low income members who are self-paying on a first-come, first serve basis. Contact Renee Willis 202-662-1530 x247 or rwillis@nlich.org.

For more information about the Forum, go to http://nlihc.org/events/forum

Registration for the Forum is available at: http://nlihc.org/events/forum/registration

NLIHC is Looking for Interns

NLIHC is accepting resumes for winter/spring 2016 internship positions. 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:

Policy Intern. Tracks new legislation, attends and summarizes Congressional hearings for *Memo to Members*, participates in visits to Congressional offices, develops materials for use in lobbying the House and Senate to achieve NLIHC's policy agenda, and updates the NLIHC Congressional database.

Organizing Intern. Assists with grassroots organizing efforts for the United for Homes campaign and other legislative efforts. Assists with membership recruitment/retention efforts and internal database upkeep.

Communications/Media Intern. Prepares and distributes press materials, assists with media research and outreach for publication releases, and works on social media projects. Maintains the media database and tracks press hits.

These positions begin in January and run until May and are at least 30 hours a week. Two semester placements are possible. NLIHC provides modest stipends.

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 a winter/spring 2016 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.

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