

**Volume 23, Issue 47**  
**December 10, 2018**

**In This Issue:**

**Housing Organizing Awards**

- Deadline to Submit Nominations for 2019 Housing Organizing Award is Quickly Approaching

**Budget and Appropriations**

- Congress Passes Stop-Gap Spending Bill to Fund Federal Government until December 21

**Take Action**

- Deadline to Comment in Opposition to Proposed ‘Public Charge’ Rule is Today, December 10!

**2019 NLIHC Housing Policy Forum**

- NLIHC 2019 Housing Policy Forum to Explore Creative Ways to Get Your Story Out
- Honor 2019 Housing Leadership Awardees Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Pinky Clifford, and Dr. Mitchell Katz!

**Opportunity Starts at Home**

- Affordable Housing Task Force Legislation Up to 16 Cosponsors in Senate

**Disaster Housing Recovery**

- Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – December 10, 2018

**Research**

- Study Finds Discrimination against Same-Sex Couples in Rental Housing Market
- Most U.S. Counties Have Same or Worse Poverty Rates than a Decade Ago

**Fact of the Week**

- U.S. Counties Have Vast Disparities in Poverty Rates

**From the Field**

- Pennsylvania Governor Wolf Signs Domestic Violence Relocation Bill into Law

## **Event**

- Cleveland Welcomes NeighborWorks Training Institute, February 18-22

## **NLIHC in the News**

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of December 2

## **NLIHC News**

- NLIHC Seeks Housing Advocacy Organizer
- Shop for the Holidays on Amazon Smile, and Amazon Will Donate to NLIHC at No Cost to You!
- NLIHC Seeks Research and Field Interns for Winter/Spring 2019 Semester
- Where to Find Us – December 10

## Housing Organizing Awards

### Deadline to Submit Nominations for 2019 Housing Organizing Award is Quickly Approaching

NLIHC is accepting nominations for the 2019 Annual Housing Organizing Awards until January 11, 2019. The awards recognize outstanding achievement during 2018 in statewide, regional, citywide, neighborhood, and/or resident organizing that furthers NLIHC's mission of ensuring the lowest income people have decent affordable homes. One award recognizes statewide or regional achievements, and one award recognizes citywide or neighborhood achievements. Special consideration will be given to nominations that incorporate tenant- or resident-centered organizing. Learn more and make nominations at: <https://bit.ly/2PrcUc7>

The awards will be presented at the NLIHC 2019 Housing Policy Forum, held March 27-29, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. NLIHC will provide two representatives of each honored organization a complimentary Forum registration, 2-3 nights of hotel accommodations, and transportation to Washington, D.C. to accept the award.

**Nominations for the awards are due by 5:00 pm ET on Friday, January 11, 2019.**

To be eligible, nominated organizations must be current NLIHC members. Organizations may self-nominate. NLIHC board members and award committee members may not nominate an organization with which they are employed or affiliated. An Organizing Awards Committee composed of NLIHC board members and previous award winners will determine this year's honorees.

More information on submitting nominations can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2PrcUc7>

Questions? Please reach out to Joseph Lindstrom at: [jlindstrom@nlihc.org](mailto:jlindstrom@nlihc.org)

---

## Budget and Appropriations

### Congress Passes Stop-Gap Spending Bill to Fund Federal Government until December 21

Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a two-week stopgap funding measure on December 7. The House and Senate both passed the measure, known as a continuing resolution (CR), by a unanimous vote. The CR will keep the government funded until December 21. Congress has failed to enact several federal spending bills for FY19, including those that fund affordable housing and community development programs. The main issue preventing lawmakers from reaching a year-long spending deal is President Donald Trump's insistence that any agreement includes \$5 billion for a southern border wall, which Democrats strongly oppose.

Lawmakers have floated the idea of a year-long CR through September 30, 2019 instead of passing the remaining full-year spending bills that have largely been negotiated and agreed to. A CR carries forward funding levels from the previous year.

A year-long CR would cause thousands of families to lose access to stable housing. For FY19, HUD needs approximately \$1.3 billion and USDA needs at least \$10 million more than FY18 funding to maintain current program levels and renew existing housing assistance contracts. A year-long CR at FY18 levels would result in deep cuts to critical housing programs that could cause thousands of families and children to lose access to stable housing, putting them at increased risk of homelessness.

A year-long CR would also put other vital investments in affordable housing at risk. Both the House and Senate proposed bills for HUD that would increase resources to help provide affordable, stable, and accessible housing for more seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and people experiencing homelessness.

Call your lawmakers to urge them to enact clean, full-year FY19 spending bills for HUD and USDA.

Find your elected officials at: <https://bit.ly/2rr1AkV>

A December 3 Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) webinar on the current status and outlook for FY19 and FY20 funding for affordable housing and community development programs can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2BWXRPH>

---

## Take Action

### Deadline to Comment in Opposition to Proposed ‘Public Charge’ Rule is Today, December 10!

The deadline for commenting in opposition to the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS’s) proposed rule to add to the “public charge” definition the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, and Public Housing programs, as well as other non-housing programs, is today, December 10. NLIHC strongly opposes the proposed rule because of the harm it would do to immigrant families and our communities. NLIHC encourages advocates to submit short comments through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or through the [easy-to-use portal](#) developed by the Protecting Immigrant Families campaign. More than 140,000 comments have already been submitted to-date! Read NLIHC’s comments to DHS [here](#).

**Background:** DHS proposes changes to the criteria used to determine whether someone is a “public charge” – i.e., someone likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence. Under the proposed rule, public charge status would weigh heavily in determining whether noncitizens seeking admission to the U.S., noncitizens applying for lawful permanent resident status (green card), or those seeking an extension of or changes to their non-immigrant status are subject to a review to determine whether they are, or might become, a public charge. If the official determines that the individual is likely to become a public charge, the person’s application may be denied.

In addition to the housing programs mentioned, the administration would add the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps), Medicaid, and parts of Medicare to the public charge definition. The proposed test would also take into consideration the applicants’ age, health status, and English proficiency. If the rule is implemented, an applicant for a visa or green card would, for the first time, be judged by whether they need—or might need in the future—support for safe and stable housing, food assistance, and health care.

**Resources:** The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) offer a template comment letter for housing advocates and housing providers. To access the template, please email Arianna Cook-Thajudeen at: [acooktha@nhlp.org](mailto:acooktha@nhlp.org). You can also use NLIHC’s [comments](#) as a template. NLIHC urges housing advocates to modify these [templates](#) to submit comments tailored to your community.

View an NHLP a webinar, “Trump Administration's Proposed ‘Public Charge’ Rule: What Housing and Homelessness Advocates Should Know” and other materials at: <https://bit.ly/2zNUhFB>

Other public charge and housing resources, including fact sheets and talking points, are available [here](#).

The Protecting Immigrant Families campaign portal is at: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/>

---

## 2019 NLIHC Housing Policy Forum

### NLIHC 2019 Housing Policy Forum to Explore Creative Ways to Get Your Story Out

NLIHC's [2019 Housing Policy Forum: \*Seizing the Moment for Bold Solutions\*](http://www.nlihcforum.org/) taking place in Washington, DC, March 27-29, 2019 will explore creative ways affordable housing advocates can get their stories out. The U.S. affordable housing crisis received national media attention in news outlets like *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, and many others in 2018, and a number of policy-makers, including possible 2020 presidential candidates, have responded with bold new proposals. How can we leverage this new national attention on affordable housing, keeping it fresh and top-of-mind and breaking through to new audiences? The forum will explore creative ways to build public and policy maker awareness by engaging investigative reporting and using visual media like short documentaries. Experts will share ways to pitch and produce stories that go beyond the printed page and tips on getting the right storytellers to share the right stories. Register to attend the forum today at: <http://www.nlihcforum.org/>

The overall focus of the 2019 Policy Forum will be seizing this unique moment in America to achieve bold solutions to homelessness and housing poverty. The Forum will provide an array of opportunities to engage with elected officials and with affordable housing advocates, thought-leaders, policy experts, researchers, housing providers, low-income residents, and congressional staff to advance real solutions.

Invited and confirmed Forum speakers include Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA), Todd Young (R-IN), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Matthew Desmond, author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*.



**Sen. Kamala Harris**  
(D-CA) (Invited)



**Sen Todd Young**  
(R-IN) (Confirmed)



**Sen. Elizabeth Warren**  
(D-MA) (Invited)



**Dr. Matthew Desmond**  
Author of *Evicted* (Confirmed)

Forum topics include:

- The state of affordable housing in 2019, recent successes and challenges, and emerging opportunities
- The state of play related to affordable housing on Capitol Hill following the 2018 mid-terms
- Achieving greater racial equity in housing
- The growing *Opportunity Starts at Home* multi-sector affordable housing movement
- The U.S. eviction epidemic and its solutions
- New opportunities for achieving significant new investments in the national Housing Trust Fund
- Best practices in non-partisan voter engagement and ways to get candidates for public office to make affordable housing a priority in their campaigns
- Working with and making housing an issue with the media
- The future of public housing
- Achieving development without displacement
- The keys to state, local, and resident-led organizing
- Ensuring equitable housing recovery in the wake of recent and future disasters
- Tribal and rural affordable housing needs and solutions

- The latest trends in affordable housing research
- Low-income resident leadership
- And more

A limited number of shared-lodging hotel scholarships will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis to low-income residents who are NLIHC members and who pay their own Forum registration fee. Scholarships will be awarded to ensure a broad geographic distribution. A special session for low-income residents will be held on the morning of March 19. Apply for a scholarship online at: <http://www.nlihcforum.org/venue> or download a fillable PDF at: <https://bit.ly/2pZvn1i>

Learn more about the Forum and register today at: <http://www.nlihcforum.org/>

## **Honor 2019 Housing Leadership Awardees Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Pinky Clifford, and Dr. Mitchell Katz!**

Join NLIHC in recognizing the 2019 Housing Leadership Awards honorees **Representative Emanuel Cleaver** (D-MO); **Emma “Pinky” Clifford**, executive director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing and NLIHC board member; and **Dr. Mitchell Katz**, president and CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals. These exceptional leaders will be recognized at NLIHC’s **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing Leadership Awards Reception** on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. [Learn more and contribute in honor of these leaders today!](#)

The first award is named for Senator Brooke (R-MA), who championed low-income housing as a U.S. Senator and later as chair of the NLIHC board of directors. **Representative Cleaver** will receive the 2019 Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award for his years of leadership in Congress, unwavering commitment to addressing the needs of the lowest income people in the U.S., and steadfast support for federal affordable housing and homelessness programs.

The Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award, named for NLIHC’s founder Cushing Niles Dolbeare, who has been called the “godmother” of the affordable housing movement, will be bestowed to **Emma “Pinky” Clifford** for her many years of leadership and dedication on behalf of Native Americans and her tireless work to secure decent, safe, and affordable homes for the lowest income people living on Pine Ridge Reservation.

The Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award is named after former NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley, who led NLIHC for more than 17 years. **Dr. Mitchell Katz** will receive the Crowley Award for elevating public and policy-maker awareness about the connections between health, housing, and homelessness and for implementing bold solutions to meet the need for affordable housing for the lowest income people.

Make a donation to NLIHC in their honor today! There are three ways to contribute:

- [Donate Online as an Individual](#)
- [Donate Online as an Organization](#)
- [Download the Pledge Form and Submit Via Email](#)

Your contribution will help NLIHC achieve socially just public policy to ensure the lowest income people in America have decent, affordable homes.

The 2019 Leadership Awards Reception will be held on the second evening of NLIHC’s 2019 Housing Policy Forum: *Seizing the Moment for Bold Solutions* taking place March 27-29, 2019. Register for the Forum and/or Leadership Awards Reception at: <https://bit.ly/2SzJcjW>

---

## Opportunity Starts at Home

### Affordable Housing Task Force Legislation Up to 16 Cosponsors in Senate

The “[Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis Act](#)” (S.3231) has 16 bipartisan cosponsors (at the time this *Memo* went to publication), indicating significant momentum in the Senate to create an affordable housing task force to deeply study the nation’s crisis and to articulate robust solutions, as called for by the bill. The [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) multi-sector affordable housing campaign has called on Congress to support the legislation. To-date, campaign advocates have sent 412 letters to various Senate offices urging support.

In July, Senators Todd Young (R-IN), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Angus King (I-ME), along with Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Doug Jones (D-AL), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Chris Coons (D-DE), introduced the bill. Since then, additional cosponsors include: John Kennedy (R-LA), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Joni Ernst (R-IA). This group of bipartisan cosponsors embodies significant geographic and ideological diversity and demonstrates a growing recognition of the need for action on both sides of the aisle.

Please help keep the momentum going by [sending this pre-formatted letter to your senators](#) and by spreading the word to your networks.

Also, in case you missed it last week, you can check out the [latest podcast](#) with the bill’s lead sponsor, Senator Young, who talks about this legislation and why it is an important step forward.

Please follow the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign on all social media platforms: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

---

## Disaster Housing Recovery

### Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – December 10, 2018

The following is a review of housing recovery developments related to the 2017 and 2018 disasters since the last edition of *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in the previous *Memo*, see [12/3](#)). NLIHC also posts this information at our [On the Home Front](#) blog.

#### General

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the READI (Readying Elders and Americans with Disabilities Inclusively) for Disasters Act ([S.3679](#)) on November 29. This proposal creates a network of centers to provide research, training, and technical assistance to increase involvement and support for people with disabilities and older adults during disaster relief and recovery.

#### 2018 Disasters

##### California Wildfires

###### *Federal*

Survivors in Butte County may now apply for the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, which provides FEMA funding for hotel rooms. The agency published a [fact sheet](#) with information on eligibility for TSA.

FEMA issued a [public notice](#) regarding activities involving flood plains and historic properties.

### *Local Perspectives and Resources*

A *New York Times* [article](#) tells of the already large pre-disaster homeless population in Butte County, north of Sacramento. The local government had declared in October that the number of people experiencing homelessness a “crisis” in need of state assistance. After the Camp Fire destroyed the homes of 14,000 families, a new group of homeless people are competing for the same scarce resources that eluded so many of those without homes before the fire.

## **Hurricane Michael**

Florida

### *Federal*

The [deadline](#) for survivors of Hurricane Michael in Florida to register with FEMA, the first step in obtaining any federal recovery assistance, is December 10. FEMA encourages all impacted residents to register with FEMA regardless of their insurance-coverage status. Federal recovery assistance may cover some damages that insurance does not.

FEMA published [information](#) about Small Business Administration Low-Interest Disaster Loans. According to a FEMA news release, “the SBA loan application is the key to opening the door to other types of assistance. So, if you submit an SBA loan application but are not offered a loan, you may be considered for other FEMA grants.”

### *Local Perspectives and Resources*

More than half the public housing stock in Panama City was destroyed by Hurricane Michael. On December 4, the Housing Authority asked the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for \$20 million in public funds to rebuild Massalina Memorial Homes under [a plan](#) endorsed by the Panama City Commission, which pledged a \$354,000 loan contingent on the government award.

## **Hurricane Florence**

North Carolina

### *Federal*

The [deadline](#) for renters, homeowners, and business owners in North Carolina who sustained property damage or loss caused by Hurricane Florence to apply for assistance is Thursday, December 13.

FEMA published a [fact sheet](#) outlining how the agency determines if a structure is “substantially damaged.”

### *State and Local*

Following a meeting with North Carolina’s congressional delegation, Governor Cooper [requested](#) an additional \$6.3 billion in federal funding to help the state and communities recover from the devastation of Hurricane Florence. Governor Cooper also requested policy changes to streamline the process for administering



Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds and to ensure the equitable treatment of survivors of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

## 2017 Disasters

### Federal Response

FEMA has [extended](#) the deadline for families impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas that are still residing in federally temporary housing units (trailers and manufactured units) to apply for assistance. The deadline is now August 25, 2019. A [press release](#) from Texas General Land Office (GLO) states that more than 60% of survivors remaining in THUs are low-income households.

Certain survivors of Hurricane Harvey who are living in FEMA temporary housing units (THUs) will be offered the [opportunity to purchase](#) their current unit. To qualify, the survivor must lack a permanent housing solution “through no fault of their own.” A [press release](#) from Texas GLO provides additional information.

### State Action

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) [announced](#) the application for the Homeowner Assistance Program is now available. Potential applicants can [apply online](#) or in-person at a regional Homeowner Assistance Program office.

### Local Perspectives and Resources

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s (DEO) Rebuild Florida [mobile bus](#) has begun making the rounds in communities hit by Hurricane Irma last year. Using the CDBG-DR resources allocated by HUD, the mobile unit is part of a long-term recovery effort to repair and rebuild homes that were significantly damaged or destroyed, with priority funding going to people with disabilities and families with elders or children.

A Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) partner organization in San Juan, PR, Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Caño Martin Peña, was awarded \$1 million from The Rockefeller Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. The [Communities Thrive Challenge](#) grant recognizes the Puerto Rico community land trust’s demonstrated success and potential for future impact. Designed by residents who have been historically disenfranchised, the informal settlements in the heart of San Juan have legalized the relationship between more than 2,000 families and the land on which their homes stand and helped relocate over 700 families into safe, affordable housing – most within their neighborhoods. See this [video](#) to learn more about the model.

---

## Research

### Study Finds Discrimination against Same-Sex Couples in Rental Housing Market

A study by David Schwegman published in *Housing Policy Debate*, “[Rental Market Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples: Evidence From a Pairwise-Matched Email Correspondence Test](#),” examines housing discrimination against same-sex couples. Same-sex male couples, especially non-white same-sex male couples, were less likely to receive a response to inquiries about rental units advertised on Craigslist.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are not protected classes under the Fair Housing Act of 1968 or under state housing laws in 28 states. In order to assess discrimination against same-sex couples seeking rental housing, Mr. Schwegman tested 6,490 randomly selected property owners in 94 cities who posted advertisements for rental units on Craigslist.org. Property owners were sent two test emails inquiring about their

listing: one email signaled that the inquiring couple was same-sex and the other signaled the couple was heterosexual. Race and ethnicity were assigned randomly to the hypothetical couples.

Same-sex male couples were 4.6 percentage points less likely to receive an active response than heterosexual couples, while same-sex female couples were not treated differently than heterosexual couples. Black and Hispanic same-sex male couples were 5.6 and 5.2 percentage points less likely to receive a response from a property owner compared with their same-race heterosexual counterparts. White male couples were approximately 4 percentage points less likely to receive a response compared with white heterosexual couples.

State anti-discrimination laws correlated with less discrimination against same-sex black male couples, but not for other same-sex couples. Same-sex black male couples in areas with state housing protections were 2.7 percentage points more likely to receive a response than same-sex black male couples in areas without state housing protections.

Same-sex black male couples in jurisdictions with local housing protections, however, were 2.6 percentage points less likely to receive a response than same-sex black male couples in jurisdictions without such protections. Mr. Schwegman suggests this result could reflect that localities with high levels of discrimination against same-sex couples and other minorities adopt local anti-discrimination ordinances. Regardless, the findings suggest that the local non-discrimination ordinances do not have an impact on such discrimination.

To measure subtler forms of discrimination, Mr. Schwegman examined the language of property owners' responses to apartment-seekers. Property owners did not respond differentially to same-sex white or Hispanic couples compared to heterosexual couples. When responding to same-sex black couples, however, property owners were 2.4 percentage points less likely to describe the unit or the unit's neighborhood positively or to use polite language compared with responses to heterosexual black couples. Black couples, regardless of sexual orientation, were almost 30 percentage points more likely to be asked about their eviction histories than white couples.

The results of the study suggest that antidiscrimination laws should be adopted at the state level to ensure marginalized groups are not discriminated against. Mr. Schwegman argues that the ineffectiveness of local laws may come from the fact that property owners are unconcerned with the consequences of discriminating against same-sex couples if their state does not prohibit this behavior or if there is insufficient enforcement. Congress should also include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under federal antidiscrimination legislation.

*Rental Market Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples: Evidence From a Pairwise-Matched Email Correspondence Test* is available at: <https://bit.ly/2AVpzLg>

---

## **Most U.S. Counties Have Same or Worse Poverty Rates than a Decade Ago**

The U.S. Census Bureau released [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: 2017](#) on December 3. These data provide annual estimates of income and poverty for all U.S. counties and school districts. The Estimates show that U.S. counties have vast disparities of poverty rates, and most have the same or worse poverty rates than they did ten years ago. The Census Bureau provides an interactive map and data access options so users can further explore the Bureau's findings.

The poverty rate for U.S. counties ranges from 3.0% to 56.7%. Between 2016 and 2017, the poverty rate decreased in 6.5% of counties (205) and increased in 1.7% of counties (52). Comparing 2017 to 2007, 7.5% of counties (237) have had increases in their poverty rates and 3.2% (100) have had decreases. Meanwhile, 89.3% of counties (2,804) have had no statistically significant change in their poverty rates from ten years ago.

Median household incomes by U.S. county range from \$22,679 to \$136,191. Since 2007, the year before the Great Recession, median household incomes have increased in 11.2% of counties (352) and declined in 7.5% (237). More than eighty-one percent of counties had no statistically significant change in median household incomes from 2007.

*Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: 2017* is available at: <https://bit.ly/2RvauHi>

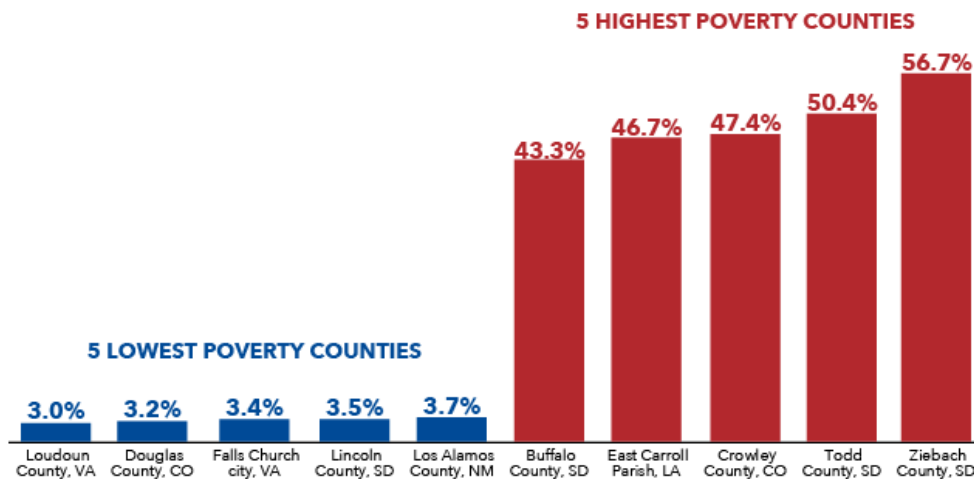
An interactive map of poverty rates, median incomes, and other data access options are available at: <https://bit.ly/2DWm5LE>

---

## Fact of the Week

### U.S. Counties Have Vast Disparities in Poverty Rates

#### U.S. Counties with the Lowest and Highest Poverty Rates, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 2017.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for 2017.

---

## From the Field

### Pennsylvania Governor Wolf Signs Domestic Violence Relocation Bill into Law

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed the bipartisan “[Domestic Violence in Public Housing Emergency Relocation Act](#)” (S.B. 919) on November 13, accompanied by the bill co-sponsors, Senators Art Haywood (D), Camera Bartolotta (R), and Judy Schwank (D). The legislation provides housing protections to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and allows them to seek relocation assistance from public housing authorities.

The legislation was developed with contributions by the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance, an NLIHC state partner, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

Sixty Pennsylvania community centers providing services in the Commonwealth assisted nearly 90,000 survivors of domestic and sexual violence last year. Survivors are often put in situations where they must choose between staying with an abuser or risking homelessness. The [National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty](#) reports that one in every four homeless women is a survivor of domestic or sexual violence. Governor Wolf urged legislators this year to find a way to enhance the protection of survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Pennsylvania.

While public housing authorities must already comply with the federal Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA), the intent of the new state legislation is to codify at the state-level the assistance to which victims of domestic and sexual violence are entitled. The law ensures the protections stay in place regardless of what may happen federally. This law is the last among a larger package of domestic violence bills that the Pennsylvania legislature has passed with bipartisan support.

“Protecting survivors of domestic and sexual abuse residing in public housing is an important part of fulfilling our mission to ensure every Pennsylvanian has a safe, decent home within reach,” said Phyllis Chamberlain, executive director of the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. “We were proud to partner with Senators Haywood, Bartolotta, and Schwank to activate our members throughout the Commonwealth to advocate for passage of S.B. 919.”

For more information, contact Michelle Feldman, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania policy director, at: [michelle@housingalliancepa.org](mailto:michelle@housingalliancepa.org) or 215-576-7044.

---

## **Event**

### **Cleveland Welcomes NeighborWorks Training Institute, February 18-22**

NeighborWorks America will bring its next [Training Institute \(NTI\)](#) to Cleveland, February 18-22, 2019. In addition to professional affordable housing and community development courses lasting from one-to-five days each, the NTI will feature a one-day symposium, “[Removing Barriers to Sustainable Housing Affordability \(ML932\)](#),” on February 20.

The NTI offers more than 100 course offerings in affordable housing development and financing; housing asset management; community engagement; community revitalization; community economic development; housing construction and rehabilitation; financial capability and homeownership education, coaching, and counseling; nonprofit management and leadership; Native American and rural community development; and single-family and small business lending.

Read more about the NTI at: <https://bit.ly/2KZNEVP>

Register for the NTI at: <https://bit.ly/1ATs8Ia>

---

## **NLIHC in the News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of December 2**

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of December 2.

- “The legacy of Elm City’s affordable housing task force remains unclear,” *Yale Daily News*, December 7 at: <https://bit.ly/2Ps46yy>
  - “Put affordable housing back on the agenda | Opinion,” *Florida Today*, December 5 at: <https://bit.ly/2QgSrrI>
  - “Bill Proposed To Get More Homes Built In California,” *CBS Sacramento*, December 4 at: <https://cbsloc.al/2SyepPg>
  - “Waters likely to raise affordable housing’s profile in GSE debate,” *American Banker*, December 3 at: <https://bit.ly/2Elt9m7>
  - “Pregnant and homeless,” *Bowling Green Daily News*, December 1 at: <https://bit.ly/2BYscNZ>
- 

## NLIHC News

### NLIHC Seeks Housing Advocacy Organizer

NLIHC seeks a well-qualified and talented housing advocacy organizer. As a member of the NLIHC field team, the housing advocacy organizer mobilizes NLIHC members and partners on federal policy advocacy based on NLIHC’s approved policy agenda, assists in the design and implementation of campaign field strategies, and conducts outreach activities in specific states. The organizer will spend significant time developing and retaining NLIHC membership, increasing endorsements for NLIHC campaigns, and mobilizing members and state coalition partners on “calls to action” and other organizing efforts in support of providing decent, accessible, affordable homes to people with the lowest incomes.

The position requires strong written and oral communication skills, strong project management experience, and excellent electronic technology skills, including proficiency in the Microsoft Office suite, database management, and social media use; some familiarity with customer relationship management systems like Salesforce would be a plus. Priority consideration will be given to candidates with organizing experience mobilizing a community or constituent base at a national, state, or local level. Some knowledge of federal housing policy would be a plus. A bachelor’s degree is required. The position is based in Washington, DC. Some travel is required.

An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

Interested candidates should email a cover letter with salary requirements, a resume, and two writing samples to Renee Willis, vice president for field and communications, National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 at: [rwillis@nlihc.org](mailto:rwillis@nlihc.org)

---

### Shop for the Holidays on Amazon Smile, and Amazon Will Donate to NLIHC at No Cost to You!

When you shop for the holidays on [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will make a contribution to NLIHC on your behalf at no cost to you, supporting NLIHC’s work to end homelessness and housing poverty in America. Just begin typing “National Low Income Housing Coalition” as your preferred charity and select it when it appears. With every Amazon Smile purchase, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to NLIHC! Click [here](#) to support NLIHC’s work while shopping. Thank you for your support!

---

## NLIHC Seeks Research and Field Interns for Winter/Spring 2019 Semester

NLIHC is accepting applications for internship positions for the winter/spring 2019 semester. Interns are highly valued and fully integrated into our staff work. We seek students passionate about social justice issues with excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

The available positions are:

- **Research Intern.** Assists in ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects, writes weekly articles on current research for NLIHC's weekly *Memo to Members and Partners* newsletter, attends briefings, and responds to research inquiries. Quantitative skills and experience with SPSS a plus.
- **Field Intern.** Assists the NLIHC Field team in creating email campaigns focused on important federal policies, writing blogs, managing our database of membership records, mobilizing the field for the legislative efforts, and reaching out to new and existing members.

Interns are expected to work 25 hours a week beginning in January and finishing up in May. A modest stipend is provided. A cover letter, resume, and writing sample are required for consideration. In your cover letter, please specify the position(s) for which you are applying and that you are interested in the winter/spring 2019 semester.

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

---

## Where to Find Us – December 10

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

- [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing Summit](#), Rapid City, SD, December 12–15
- [Solutions for Individual Homeless Adults: A National Conference](#), National Alliance to End Homelessness, San Diego, CA, February 21–22, 2019
- [HousingWorks Austin Annual Summit](#), Austin, TX, on March 1, 2019
- Arkansas Fair Housing Commission 2019 Annual Fair Housing/Fair Lending Conference, Little Rock, AR, on April 19, 2019
- [Building Michigan Communities Conference](#), Lansing, MI, April 29-May 1, 2019

---

## NLIHC Staff

Sonya Acosta, Policy Analyst, x231  
Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245  
Anissa Balderas, Field Intern, x252  
Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244  
Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226  
Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316  
Ellen Errico, Creative Services Manager, x246  
Justin Godard, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233  
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314

Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232  
Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317  
Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222  
Lisa Marlow, Communications Specialist, x239  
Sarah Mickelson, Senior Director of Public Policy, x228  
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242  
Dina Pinsky, Research Intern, x249  
Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234  
Lauren Ricci, Policy Intern, x241  
Debra Susie, Disaster Housing Recovery Coordinator, x227  
Elayne Weiss, Senior Policy Analyst, x243  
Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Coordinator, x230  
Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247  
Gloria Yang, Communications & Graphic Design Intern, x250  
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225