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HoUSed Campaign

Senate “Build Back Better Act” Negotiations Continue; Call Your Senators Today

President Biden and congressional leaders are working to complete “Build Back Better Act” negotiations in the Senate, with the goal of enacting the bill before Congress adjourns for the end of the year. While the House passed the bill on November 19 (see *Memo, 11/22*), momentum has stalled in the Senate as President Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) work to secure the vote of every Democratic senator.

Congressional leaders are using a process known as “budget reconciliation” to enact the Build Back Better Act, which allows Congress to pass a bill with a simple majority of 51 votes in the Senate, rather than the 60 votes typically required to pass legislation in the chamber. Centrist Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) have not yet publicly agreed to vote for the legislation, and there remains disagreement over the size and scope of the package.

The bill includes an historic \$150 billion investment in affordable housing and community development, including significant funding for the HoUSed campaign’s [top priorities](#):

- \$25 billion to expand housing vouchers to more than 300,000 households. See how many vouchers your state would receive [here](#)
- \$65 billion to preserve public housing for its 2.5 million residents
- \$15 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve over 150,000 affordable, accessible homes for households with the lowest incomes. See NLIHC’s breakdown of how much each state would receive through the Housing Trust Fund [here](#).

Congress needs to hear from you about why investments in housing vouchers, public housing, and the Housing Trust Fund are critical to your community.

Take Action

Please [email and call your senators today](#) and urge them to support the Build Back Better Act and its historic investments in affordable housing, including rental assistance, public housing, and the Housing Trust Fund.

Join December 17 Day of Action to Urge Senators to Pass the #BuildBackBetter Act!

Join NLIHC, the Coalition on Human Needs, and other advocates across the nation for a Digital Day of Action on Friday, December 17 to urge your senators to pass the “[Build Back Better Act](#)” and its [unprecedented investments](#) in rental assistance, public housing, and the Housing Trust Fund! The Senate could vote on the bill as soon as the week of December 20, but congressional leaders must first secure the support of every single Democratic senator. We encourage all advocates to participate by [emailing and calling your senators](#) and posting on social media using the hashtag #BuildBackBetterAct. NLIHC’s HoUSed [#BuildBackBetter Advocacy Toolkit](#) includes talking points, sample op-eds, and social media messages that advocates can use.

Join Today’s National HoUSed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing

Join today’s (December 13) national HoUSed campaign call from 2:30-4 pm ET. We will discuss the latest developments on the “Build Back Better Act” and ongoing advocacy needed to ensure the bill makes it across the finish line. Deborah Thrope and Natalie Maxwell from the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) will join

to share the results of NHLP’s recent survey of legal aid attorneys’ experiences with COVID-related evictions. Charlie Harak and Anna Kowanko from the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) will discuss their new report on utility arrears in Massachusetts. We will get updates on NLIHC’s ERASE project; discuss “Build Back Better” advocacy tools to help engage members of Congress; receive updates from the field; and more.

Register for the call at: <https://tinyurl.com/ru73qan>

Recording Available of December 6 National HoUSed Call

On our most recent (December 6) national call on “HoUSed: Universal, Stable, and Affordable Housing,” we were joined by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), who discussed how the “Build Back Better Act” would address the nation’s housing crisis. “As of right now we have secured more than \$150 billion dollars investments in housing,” said Senator Murray. “It’s not everything we wanted when we started this process, but it will still deliver the largest federal investment in affordable housing in our history. It’s an important start, and we will keep fighting for more.” Senator Murray stressed the need for continued advocacy.

NLIHC’s Sarah Saadian provided updates on continued negotiations and a potential timeline for enacting the Build Back Better Act. She encouraged attendees to keep up their advocacy through emails, calls, and attending town hall meetings with their elected officials to keep pressuring members of Congress to enact the bill. Sarah also provided an update on the outlook for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process. Congress enacted a continuing resolution (CR) on December 2 to maintain funding for federal programs through February 18, 2022 (see *Memo*, [12/6](#)), and there is concern that Republicans will push for a full-year CR instead of enacting an FY2022 budget.

Eric Tars, legal director at the National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC), reviewed findings from NHLC’s new report, [Housing Not Handcuffs 2021: State Law Supplement](#), which documents state laws criminalizing homelessness (see *Memo*, [12/6](#)). According to the report, 48 states have at least one law criminalizing homelessness, and some states have as many as six. Eric stressed how these laws pose a barrier to people experiencing homelessness accessing housing, employment, and other resources, and suggested that funds used to enforce criminalization laws could instead be used to invest in affordable housing and other solutions to address and prevent homelessness.

NLIHC’s Research Analyst Emma Foley discussed Treasury’s October report on emergency rental assistance (ERA) distribution. According to the report, October was the first month in which overall ERA spending decreased since the program began. We received field updates from Tara Rollins and Sherri Wittwer of the Utah Housing Coalition, and Adrienne Bush from the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky.

NLIHC hosts national calls every week. Our next call will be today, December 13, at 2:30 pm ET. Register for the call at: <https://tinyurl.com/ru73qan>

Watch a recording of the December 6 call at: <https://bit.ly/3lH89dt>

View presentation slides at: <https://bit.ly/3oB0peY>

Emergency Rental Assistance

NLIHC Updates Emergency Rental Assistance Spending Tracker to Include Second Round of ERA Funds

NLIHC updated the [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) Dashboard](#) “Spending Tracker” to include spending progress for both the first and second rounds of ERA. ERA1 includes \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance appropriated as a part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, while ERA2 includes an additional \$21.55 billion appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act in March of this year. The dashboard’s accompanying [ERA Spending Tracking](#) spreadsheet provides additional details on spending progress for each state and programs with dashboards.

The updated Dashboard shows how much ERA1 and ERA2 programs have approved and paid to households based on information from the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s monthly and quarterly reports, publicly available data from program dashboards, data from communications with program administrators and advocates, and news articles. Based on NLIHC’s tracking, 54.2% of ERA1 funds and 11.4% of ERA2 funds have been approved or paid to households as of December 6, 2021. The spending tracker is updated weekly to provide the most up-to-date snapshot of ERA spending progress.

The tracker links to the ERA Spending Tracking spreadsheet, which includes additional disaggregated spending data. This includes ERA1 and ERA2 spending progress for each state, as well as spending progress for programs with data dashboards. Several states have already paid or approved a large portion of their ERA2 funds, including New York, New Jersey, and Texas which have paid or approved 86%, 72%, and 51% of their ERA2 allocations, respectively. Thirty-one states have not yet spent any of their ERA2 allocations, including Nebraska and Arkansas, which have yet to request ERA2 funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

If you have any questions, or if you know of any dashboards not on NLIHC’s list, email us at: research@nlihc.org

NLIHC Sends Letter to Treasury Department, Calls for Data Transparency on Emergency Rental Assistance

On behalf of NLIHC, the NLIHC End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions (ERASE) cohort, and the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition, NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel sent a [letter](#) on December 8 to U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urging the department to release demographic and other key applicant data for each grantee distributing [emergency rental assistance](#) (ERA). The letter also calls on Treasury encourage local data-sharing between ERA program administrators and advocates.

Advocates in communities across the country are struggling to obtain program data, particularly information that would allow a greater analysis of the demographics of those being served by ERA programs, relationships between ERA and eviction patterns, neighborhood racial characteristics, and program elements. Timely access to this information is critical to identifying necessary mid-course corrections, ensuring greater racial equity, preventing evictions, and improving program delivery.

The letter urges Treasury to commit to releasing all quarterly ERA program data disaggregated by grantee, including all data elements broken down by demographics. All data metrics reported quarterly should be released at the grantee-level for more granular program-level analysis. While the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 requires Treasury to collect and report quarterly data on the distribution of ERA, the agency has only released partial quarterly data. Not releasing complete quarterly reports hampers advocates’ efforts to identify needed improvements, ensure proper oversight, evaluate potential racial disparities in the distribution of funds, and address barriers as they arise.

The letter also calls on Treasury to release participant-level data for statistical research purposes, as required by the statute. These data can be used to evaluate whether program elements, such as self-attestation or direct-to-tenant assistance, correlate with overall ERA distribution and funds distributed to high-need communities.

Researchers, advocates, and policymakers can use this analysis to understand gaps in program design and identify best practices.

Without timely access to public data released by Treasury, state and local advocacy groups must look to data from ERA program administrators—data which is often inaccessible. The letter recommends Treasury encourage grantees to form data-sharing agreements with local advocacy groups to ensure advocates have the information needed to hold ERA programs accountable and improve the distribution of aid.

Read the letter at: <https://bit.ly/3EKyNJR>

Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness

Extreme Tornado Outbreak Devastates Portions of Midwest and Tennessee Valley

Extreme weather conditions overnight December 10-11 spawned over 30 tornados in the “quad-state” area of Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri, including one powerful tornado that remained on the ground for over 240 miles. That twister, dubbed the “quad-state tornado,” formed over northeast Arkansas and struck numerous towns in Kentucky. Although rescue operations are currently ongoing, the death toll from the storm is [at least fifty](#) in Kentucky alone. Nearly 90,000 homes and businesses remained without power across western Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee on the morning of December 13.

The “quad-state” tornado is likely to be the deadliest tornado in the history of Kentucky, with the towns of Princeton, Dawson Springs, Mayfield, and parts of Bowling Green suffering extreme damage to residential homes and businesses. In Mayfield, an economically distressed town in western Kentucky, the tornado destroyed a candle factory and killed some workers inside – many of whom were incarcerated individuals contracted out by the state to work there. That same tornado destroyed an Amazon distribution center elsewhere in the region. As search and rescue operations continue, anxiety about the prospects of disaster recovery are already starting: “You have a lot of elderly here, and you have a lot of government housing, and there is just not a lot of people with money here,” Tammy Coble, a resident of Dawson Springs, told the [Washington Post](#). “These people don’t have money to just go hire somebody to come do repairing to all of their homes. They are going to have to wait for government or insurance companies, and that is going to take a long time.”

The NLIHC-led [Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition](#) – a group of over 850 local, state, and national organizations working to ensure that all disaster survivors receive the assistance they need to fully recovery – will push for assistance to victims of these storms and continue its advocacy for [much-needed reforms](#) to ensure that disaster recovery assistance reaches all disaster survivors, including those with low incomes, those experiencing homelessness, and those living with disabilities.

Sign up to join the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition here: <https://bit.ly/3dOr0ic>

View the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition’s priorities for HUD, FEMA, and Congress here: <https://bit.ly/3oQj5b2>

FEMA Releases 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, Prioritizes Equity

FEMA released its [2022-2026 strategic plan](#) on December 9, describing the agency’s vision and goals for the coming years. The plan was developed with input from FEMA employees and external partners like state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and is updated every four years. Thanks to the work of advocates such as the

members of the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition – a group of over 850 local, state, and national organizations working to ensure that all disaster survivors receive the assistance they need to fully recover – the document emphasizes the need for equity in FEMA programs and calls for greater participation by disaster survivors in how FEMA programs operate and are measured.

Until recently, FEMA has resisted efforts to reform its programs to be more equitable. That stance shifted over the past year after the agency released [substantial reforms](#) to its individuals and households program. The strategic plan indicates that FEMA will continue to work on these issues. The first goal in the plan is for FEMA to “Instill Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management.” This section includes objectives to “Remove Barriers to FEMA Programs Through a People First Approach” and “Achieve Equitable Outcomes for Those We Serve.”

The document references the lack of coordination between federal agencies responding to disasters and the complicated process to apply for assistance, a point often raised by disaster survivors and their advocates. The plan directs the agency to increase the number of applicants “satisfied” with the simplicity of its programs and to reduce gaps in service between federal recovery programs.

Read the *2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan* at: <https://bit.ly/3ydGDcu>

NLIHC Testifies before U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on Disaster Response in Puerto Rico

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel testified at a hearing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to discuss the federal government’s response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. The hearing, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, included members of the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition, including Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, Hispanic Federation, and Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia. Additional panelists included former Mayor of San Juan Carmen Yulin Cruz Soto, and representatives from Taller Salud, Centro de Periodismo Investigativo, Centro PR, Liga Ciudades PR, Center for a New Economy, and la Comisión de Derechos Civiles de Puerto Rico.

In her testimony, Diane highlighted how the failed response to Hurricane Maria exemplified how America’s disaster recovery system exacerbates the struggles faced by low-income households, rather than assisting them. Focusing on FEMA and HUD’s response to the housing needs created by the hurricane, Diane highlighted the failures of the FEMA Transitional Shelter Assistance hotel-stay program, which was ended prematurely by the Trump administration.

Diane highlighted the role that FEMA title requirements played in preventing over 77,000 Puerto Rican disaster survivors from accessing assistance and called for applicants from Hurricane Maria and other disasters to have their assistance applications rereviewed. “The Biden administration recently made long overdue changes to this process, but more action is needed,” Diane said. “FEMA must now allow survivors in Puerto Rico and across the nation who were previously denied by FEMA the opportunity to reopen their cases to access the assistance to which they are entitled.”

Read NLIHC’s written testimony at: <https://bit.ly/33ld4KM>

View a recording of the hearing at: <https://bit.ly/3pNINMg>

Coronavirus Updates – December 13, 2021

National Updates

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD announced on December 7 more than [\\$52 million](#) in Indian Community Block Grant - American Rescue Plan (ICDBG-ARP) grants to 49 Tribal communities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. View a breakdown of the awards by recipient [here](#).

HUD announced on December 2 it will make an additional [\\$5.7 million](#) in American Rescue Plan funding available to help HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program agencies combat housing discrimination related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for the funding are due by December 30, 2021.

HUD [launched](#) the HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan [Ask A Question \(AAQ\) help desk](#) to respond to questions from Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) as they prepare, develop, and submit their HOME-ARP allocation plans.

HUD's Office of Affordable Housing Programs is hosting a [webinar series](#) to assist communities in planning for their allocation of HOME-ARP funding. The next [webinar](#), which will be held on December 15, 2021, 1:30-3 pm ET, will review non-congregate shelter (NCS) planning considerations through case studies to assist HOME Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) who are interested in using HOME-ARP to create NCS for their community.

[Register today!](#)

Upcoming Events

The Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response is hosting a [webinar](#) on December 9 at 3 pm ET to address youth and family homelessness. Building on the recently released report, [Immediate and Flexible Crisis Options for Children and Families](#), the webinar will explore resources available to support expanded crisis options paired with strong housing exits that can be replicated, adapted, and scaled to meet communities' needs and ensure that no child sleeps outside. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Advocacy and Research

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) [surveyed](#) 119 legal aid and civil rights attorneys in 41 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico to see how tenants have fared after the federal eviction moratorium ended on August 26, 2021. The survey found courts and landlords continue to evict families, despite legal protections and billions of dollars in aid to landlords. Read NHLP's [press release](#) and the [survey](#).

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) [surveyed Continuums of Care](#), which are working with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to distribute HUD's Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), to learn about how they are implementing EHV's. Read the brief [here](#).

Reporting

[CNN](#) reports the U.S. Department of Treasury will begin reallocating emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds among state and local grantees to ensure ERA goes where it is needed and is being distributed efficiently. The article cites [NLIHC's statement and analysis](#) of the latest ERA spending data and links to [NLIHC's ERA database](#).

The [Hill](#) discusses findings from a new [report](#) released by researchers from UCLA, along with a coalition of researchers who study homelessness. The report found nearly 1,500 people experiencing homelessness died on the streets of Los Angeles during the pandemic. Researchers suspect that their findings are an underestimate given the limits of publicly available data.

State and Local News

Arizona

[Eviction filings are increasing](#) across Arizona but remain below pre-pandemic levels as agencies improve the distribution of emergency rental assistance.

California

A Butte County program providing non-congregate shelter for people experiencing homelessness ended earlier than planned, leading to the evictions of 36 people occupying 26 rooms at a Chico motel. Five of the parties were unable to find shelter within the 15-day eviction notice period and were provided tents. The Butte County program contracted with United Way to run the program, which was expected to operate through January 2022. According to United Way, the program ended abruptly because it ran out of funds. NLIHC notes that [FEMA is fully covering the costs](#) of eligible non-congregate sheltering through April 1, 2022.

A 172-unit housing site in Pittsburg will be among the [first Project Homekey sites](#) to open. Contra Costa County Supervisors used a \$21.5 million Homekey grant to purchase and renovate a motel that was used for non-congregate shelter through Project Roomkey. The interim housing facility will provide on-site healthcare, housing navigation, and case management services.

Facing eviction and harassment from their landlords, [California tenants](#) are fighting to remain housed. A growing number of California cities are working to ban landlords from using aggressive practices to force out their tenants.

Colorado

[Neighbor to Neighbor](#), a nonprofit housing service provider in Larimer County, has prevented over 6,000 evictions, helped over 400 households with rental housing move-in costs, and provided utility assistance to over 600 households during the pandemic. The program will now distribute a portion of Colorado's allocation of the federal Homeowner Assistance Fund.

Connecticut

The [New Haven Independent](#) reports a Connecticut housing court judge rejected a landlord's attempt to evict a tenant instead of accepting state emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds. State Superior Court Judge John Cirello ruled that a property owner who has applied to Connecticut's ERA program cannot simply change their mind after that application has been approved by the state.

Delaware

The [Delaware Housing Authority](#) says it is working to streamline the state's emergency rental assistance (ERA) program to speed the distribution of aid as evictions rise across the state.

Florida

[ABC Action News](#) posted the program improvement plan the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) was required to submit to the Treasury Department. As of November 15, Florida's rent relief program had paid out 42% of the total funds allocated by Treasury.

Georgia

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) reports evictions across Georgia are increasing as the state's distribution of emergency rental assistance (ERA) lags behind 38 states and D.C. in the amount disbursed. In the three months since the federal eviction moratorium ended, evictions in Georgia have averaged about 10,000 each month.

According to the [Savannah Morning News](#), over 2,000 evictions have been filed in Chatham County since the federal eviction moratorium ended on August 27. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, all 14 renters who received eviction notices owed less than \$3,000.

Illinois

Housing advocates and renters are struggling to stay ahead of a growing tide of evictions in [Springfield, Illinois](#). Evictions in Sangamon County have been on the rise since Illinois' eviction moratorium expired two months ago.

Iowa

[The Gazette](#) reports more than 1,000 Linn County households have received emergency rental assistance (ERA) through the county program, which has distributed about two-thirds of its ERA allocation. As of December 7, Iowa's statewide ERA program had distributed just about \$25 million of the total \$195 million in ERA1 funding allocated to the state – less than 13%. The Iowa Finance Authority is seeking to transfer \$30 million to Polk County's ERA program.

Kentucky

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates [192,000 Kentuckians](#), or about 22% of the population, are behind on rent. Kentucky Legal Aid has seen a 30% increase in clients during the pandemic. Legal aid advocates report an increase in evictions and homelessness in McCracken County, which has the biggest eviction docket in the state.

Maryland

The [Washington Post](#) reports two of Maryland's largest counties – Montgomery and Prince George's – will stop accepting emergency rental assistance (ERA) applications this month amid dwindling funds. [Montgomery County](#), which as of last month had distributed nearly 75% of its \$31.4 million federal allocation and 81% of the additional \$28.1 million it received from the state, will stop accepting ERA applications on December 31. Prince George's County, which had distributed about 80% of its \$27.2 million federal allocation as of early November, will not accept new applications after December 15.

Montana

According to [Montana Public Radio](#), hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to Montana's eight reservations through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act will help build affordable housing on the reservations. NLIHC Vice President of Public Policy Sarah Saadian explains that while it is difficult to get firm data on housing needs in tribal areas, the numbers that exist indicate Native Americans have some of the worse housing needs in the U.S.

As much as [\\$175 million](#) of Montana's federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) allocation remains unused and may be reallocated by the federal government. Governor Greg Gianforte's administration is requesting flexibility to spend unused ERA funds to address affordable housing issues more broadly. Montana has disbursed \$23 million for rent and utility assistance and allocated \$14 million for housing stability services. The state is working on a contract with Montana Legal Services Association to expand an eviction prevention and diversion program.

Nebraska

[Eviction filings in Lancaster County](#) have doubled over the last six months. In November, 210 eviction hearings were filed in the county – a 106% increase from June when the federal eviction moratorium was still in effect.

New Mexico

New Mexico is one of the last states with a statewide eviction moratorium still in effect, but it is set to expire in January. Housing advocates are anticipating a flood of evictions and an [increase in homelessness](#) this winter when the eviction moratorium ends. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness says it has been harder to track the number of unhoused individuals during the pandemic.

North Carolina

[Fayetteville](#) has obligated nearly \$12.5 million in emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds, with almost \$10 million disbursed to help more than 2,000 households. Nearly 5,000 rental assistance applications are pending review, and residents have expressed concerns to city officials about the slow pace of distribution and the lack of communication from the program to tenants and landlords.

Oregon

Ahead of Oregon's special legislative session on December 13 to address tenant protections, [Oregon housing advocates](#) have been urging lawmakers to take action to prevent evictions. Oregon State Representatives Kayse Jama and Julie Fahey have developed a plan to keep renters housed by extending the eviction safe harbor period and providing an additional \$200 million in state funding for tenants and landlords.

Pennsylvania

[Spotlight PA](#) examines the uneven distribution of federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds in Pennsylvania. While some rural counties received more money than they can spend, more populated counties do not have enough funds to meet the demand. Lawmakers could use some of the \$5 billion in federal relief funds they set aside for future budgets to cover the shortfall in ERA. House Democrats proposed earmarking an additional \$250 million for rent relief, but Republican leadership has not expressed interest in using that money to bolster rental assistance.

Texas

The [Houston Chronicle](#) editorial board argues Montgomery County Commissioners should not have voted to return \$7 million in unspent emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds to the federal government when there remains a significant need for ERA in the county.

Utah

According to the [Salt Lake Tribune](#), the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS), which administers the state's federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) program, will stop contracting with housing advocacy organizations to process ERA applications. Under the new plan, which will begin next year, the state will stop funding renter advocacy groups but will continue paying landlords \$150 for each application they submit on behalf of their tenants. Since Utah disbursed just 39% of its ERA allocation by the fall deadline, the state was required to submit a Program Improvement Plan to the Treasury Department. DWS declined to release a copy of its plan to the Utah Investigative Journal Project.

Washington

[The Reflector](#) reports Community Mediation Services, a Clark County agency that provides landlord-tenant mediation, is seeing an influx of new cases after Washington State's COVID-19 eviction protections ended on November 1. Legislation signed during the 2021 legislative session ([Senate Bill 5160](#)) established an Eviction Resolution Program that requires landlords and tenants to participate in mediation through a Dispute Resolution Center. The agency has increased staffing to handle the "tsunami" of new mediation cases.

Guidance

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- [Emergency Housing Vouchers \(EHV\) Frequently Asked Questions, Version 7 \[Word Document\]](#) – November 29, 2021
- [Emergency Housing Vouchers for USDA Rural Development Properties: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [HUD HOME-ARP Program: Frequently Asked Questions](#) – November 29, 2021
- [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Vaccine Planning and Distribution](#) – December 2021
- [New Resources for DCTA Recipients and Smaller Distressed Communities](#) – December 7, 2021

Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – December 13, 2021

The Senate Banking Committee will hold a [hearing](#) on Wednesday, December 15 on permanently authorizing HUD’s Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR), the only source of federal long-term disaster recovery funding and the centerpiece of the DHRC-supported “[Reforming Disaster Recovery Act](#)” (S.2471/H.R. 4707).

[Congress needs to hear from you!](#) To enact the legislation, Congress will need the support of Senate Republicans, particularly those on the Senate Banking Committee. If you have a Republican Senator, please [call them today](#) and urge them to cosponsor this important bill.

FEMA

FEMA requested authority from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to collect broad demographic information on individuals who apply for federal disaster assistance, including applicants’ race and ethnicity. FEMA is [accepting written comments and recommendations](#) for the proposed information collection through December 17, 2021.

FEMA has not previously collected information on race and ethnicity, precluding advocates from evaluating, identifying, and addressing discriminatory practices within the agency’s disaster assistance programs. NLIHC has continued to urge FEMA to collect comprehensive demographic data and make it publicly available, including through a [comment letter](#) submitted this July in response to FEMA’s [request for information](#) on the extent to which the agency’s programs and policies perpetuate systemic inequities.

FEMA’s decision to seek authority to [collect information](#) about the race and ethnicity of disaster aid applicants comes as the agency faces pressure to address inequities in its distribution of disaster relief and mitigation resources to individuals and communities. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) is [investigating possible discrimination](#) in FEMA’s response to hurricanes that devastated Puerto Rico and Texas in 2017. NLIHC’s Diane Yentel testified at the [USCCR’s hearing](#) on December 10 to discuss the civil rights implications of the federal response and impact of Hurricane María in Puerto Rico.

FEMA extended the public comment period on its [proposed changes](#) to the National Flood Insurance Program’s minimum floodplain management standards. Comments must be submitted by January 27, 2022.

Hurricanes

The [New York Times](#) examines how the United States’ federal disaster housing policy repeatedly fails to provide temporary housing to disaster survivors. Three months after Hurricane Ida, Louisiana residents are still waiting on FEMA disaster assistance. Just 126 households of the 4,465 deemed eligible for FEMA direct housing assistance have moved into units.

According to [NPR](#), the 2021 Atlantic season was the third most active year in history. While recovery efforts are ongoing, the 2021 Atlantic season will likely be one of the most expensive in history. Hurricane Ida

accounts for more than \$60 billion in damages, making it one of the five most costly U.S. hurricanes on record since 1980, according to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

On the 100th day of Hurricane Ida recovery (12/7), St. Charles Parish President Matt Jewell announced that [temporary housing remains an issue](#). There are about 155 trailers occupied by residents in the parish's group site, but many residents are still living in mold-infested homes, vehicles, and other poor living conditions. Jewell commented that while he understands residents are frustrated with the pace of receiving trailers, the program is moving faster than FEMA's direct housing assistance program.

FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) is now available for [Orange County residents](#) who suffered losses due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Orange County was not initially approved for FEMA IA but appeals to reverse the decision by Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) and others were successful.

Wildfires

Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) announced on December 2 that FEMA will provide more than [\\$2.4 million](#) to the Oregon Department of Human Services to reimburse the costs of providing non-congregate shelter to residents who lost their homes or were displaced during the 2020 wildfires. The grant will cover the costs of operating 89 shelters for disaster survivors in 22 cities.

Winter Storms

As winter approaches and Texas' electrical grid remains vulnerable, the [Texas Tribune](#) reports cities face gaps in key aspects of disaster preparation, including ensuring that the most marginalized residents have the information they need to survive a winter disaster.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Advocates Send Letter to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Requesting Spanish-Language Access to Online Complaint System

NLIHC, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, the National Consumer Law Center, and over 40 other civil rights organizations sent a letter to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Rohit Chopra urging the agency to provide a Spanish-language version of its online consumer complaint system, which is currently only available in English. The system, which allows individuals to report instances of misconduct by mortgage and loan providers, is used by the CFPB to pursue unscrupulous lenders, including those that violate civil rights law. Without full access to the complaint system, instances of misconduct or abuse against low English proficiency (LEP) individuals will continue to be underreported. Although the CFPB operates a phone line that offers translated assistance, LEP individuals and their communities face difficulties in accessing the system.

LEP individuals have historically experienced discrimination in accessing the funds needed to purchase homes. This has prevented generations of Latinos and other immigrant communities from accessing the positive benefits of generational wealth that homeownership brings. For Puerto Ricans, accessing the online complaint system is even more important given a lack of enforcement by local agencies against unscrupulous lenders, leaving the CFPB as the only body willing to act on the subject.

“By quickly implementing these measures, we hope that the CFPB can continue to be a model of effective and equitable consumer interaction and serve as an example for lenders as they seek to increase the accessibility of their products and services,” the letter states. “By ensuring that Latinx and other LEP communities can fully access the same complaint reporting options as their counterparts who are proficient in English, the Bureau can

provide these households with a better chance to avail themselves of our nation’s consumer protection and fair lending laws and to address some of the significant abuses they face.”

Read the letter at: <https://bit.ly/3pJ3N6U>

Opportunity Starts at Home

Campaign Releases Issue Brief and Interview on Veteran Advocates as Housing Advocates

The *Opportunity Starts at Home* multi-sector affordable homes campaign released a new [issue brief](#) and [interview](#) on the affordable housing needs for veterans. The issue brief and interview further make the case that veteran advocates are housing advocates. Veterans need access to good affordable housing so that they can thrive in the very neighborhoods they swore to defend. The brief explores the statistics on veteran homelessness, the history of policies addressing veteran homelessness, and the need for better policy solutions to reduce veteran homelessness.

The campaign also released an interview on veteran homelessness with Claudia Solari, senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Dr. Solari and her colleagues recently published two [reports](#) related to veteran homelessness. The interview examines difficulties in accessing quality data on veteran homelessness, efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness, and policy solutions to reduce veteran homelessness.

Read the issue brief [here](#).

Read the interview [here](#).

Follow the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign on social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Be sure to [sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to get the latest updates about the campaign, including new multi-sector partners, [calls to action](#), events, and [research](#).

Research

Chicago Case Study Examines How Small-Scale Landlords Responded to COVID-19

A new study from the American Bar Foundation, “[The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Rental Property Management: Insights from a Chicago Case Study](#),” examines small-scale landlords’ business practices and how their approaches to property management changed during the pandemic. Through in-depth interviews, the study assessed whether COVID-19 potentially threatened the sustainability of small rental properties (SRP), which make up a large share of the country’s naturally occurring affordable housing. The researchers found that while most landlords continued using accommodating approaches to property management during the pandemic, nearly one-fifth of those interviewed indicated they would adopt fewer flexible approaches as a result of financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. These approaches included raising rent, instituting fees, and adopting more formal tenant-screening criteria.

The researchers conducted 69 interviews with Chicago landlords owning six or fewer rental units. The interviews took place over three time periods: pre-COVID (2018/2019), early COVID (2020), and late COVID (2021). The study found that most landlords interviewed implemented at least one flexible management

approach, such as not charging fees, raising rents, or conducting extensive tenant screening. Additionally, 65% of landlords' units were rented below fair market rent.

Motivations for adopting a flexible management approach varied. Eighty-seven percent of landlords were owner-occupants and living in the same building as their tenants. This led landlords to form more personal relationships with tenants. Some landlords felt that it was more financially advantageous to keep their rent low and maintain a positive relationship with their tenant rather than risk frequent turnover. Several landlords experienced financial hardship themselves during the pandemic and expressed that they adopted flexibilities because they could not afford to evict a tenant, even if the tenant was not paying in full.

When asked how the pandemic affected their management style, eighty percent of landlords indicated that they planned to continue implementing flexible management approaches. The other 20%, however, indicated that they either already started implementing more rigid management approaches or intended to do so in the future. These practices included requesting first and last month's rent at move-in, instituting move-in fees, and conducting more stringent tenant screening, such as requiring a specific income-to-rent ratio. Ninety percent of landlords who planned to modify management practices indicated they experienced income loss during the pandemic and that increased rigidity is intended to protect them from future shortfalls due to non-payment of rent.

To address income loss due to rent non-payment, five of the landlords interviewed applied for emergency rental assistance (ERA) and found the process to be relatively straightforward. Others who did not apply, however, were frustrated by the lack of transparency and consistent guidance, citing confusion around when programs would open and how much funding they could receive. The authors point to the need for permanent programs to assist small rental property landlords during times of economic hardship. For example, landlords who participated in the Housing Choice Voucher program were relatively unaffected financially during the pandemic, improving their perceptions of the program.

Read the report at: <https://bit.ly/3rRaPJw>

Research Finds Unpredictable Work Schedules Increase Material Hardship

An article published in *Social Forces*, "[Hard Times: Routine Schedule Unpredictability and Material Hardship among Service Sector Workers](#)," examines the association between unpredictability in work schedules and household material hardship. The authors, Daniel Schneider and Kristen Harknett, found that workers who experience schedule unpredictability are more likely to experience hunger and housing, medical, and utility hardships.

Schneider and Harknett used survey data collected between 2017 and 2019 from a cross-sectional sample of 37,263 hourly workers employed at 127 of the largest U.S. retail or food service companies. Work schedule unpredictability was measured by self-reported sources of schedule stability or instability such as advanced notice for schedules, on-call shifts, last minute shift cancellations and timing changes, and volatile work hours. The authors compared these data on work schedule unpredictability to workers' self-reported experiences with hunger, housing, medical, and utility hardships.

The analysis found retail and food service workers experience significant sources of unpredictability in their work schedules. Fifteen percent of workers reported less than 72 hours advance notice of their schedules and a similar share reported 3-6 days of notice. About 35% of workers reported at least 2 weeks of advance notice of their work schedules. Twenty-five percent of workers reported having on-call shifts, 15% reported cancelled shifts within the last month, and about 70% reported shift timing changes. Overall, 20% of workers benefitted

from schedules with no sources of unpredictability and 37% reported just one source. Forty percent of workers reported two to three sources of unpredictability and just 3% reported four sources.

Controlling for other factors, Schneider and Harknett found a positive correlation between schedule unpredictability and increased instances of material hardships. Approximately half of workers who indicated no sources of unpredictability in their schedules reported some form of material hardship compared to 70% among workers who reported three sources of unpredictability and 75% among workers who reported four sources of unpredictability. Twelve percent of workers indicating no sources of unpredictability in their schedules reported housing hardships compared to 28% of workers who had four sources of unpredictability in their schedules. Eighteen percent of workers with predictable schedules had medical hardships compared to 42% of workers with four sources of unpredictability. The share of workers with utility hardships rose from 24% to 44% between those with predictable schedules and those with the most unpredictable schedules.

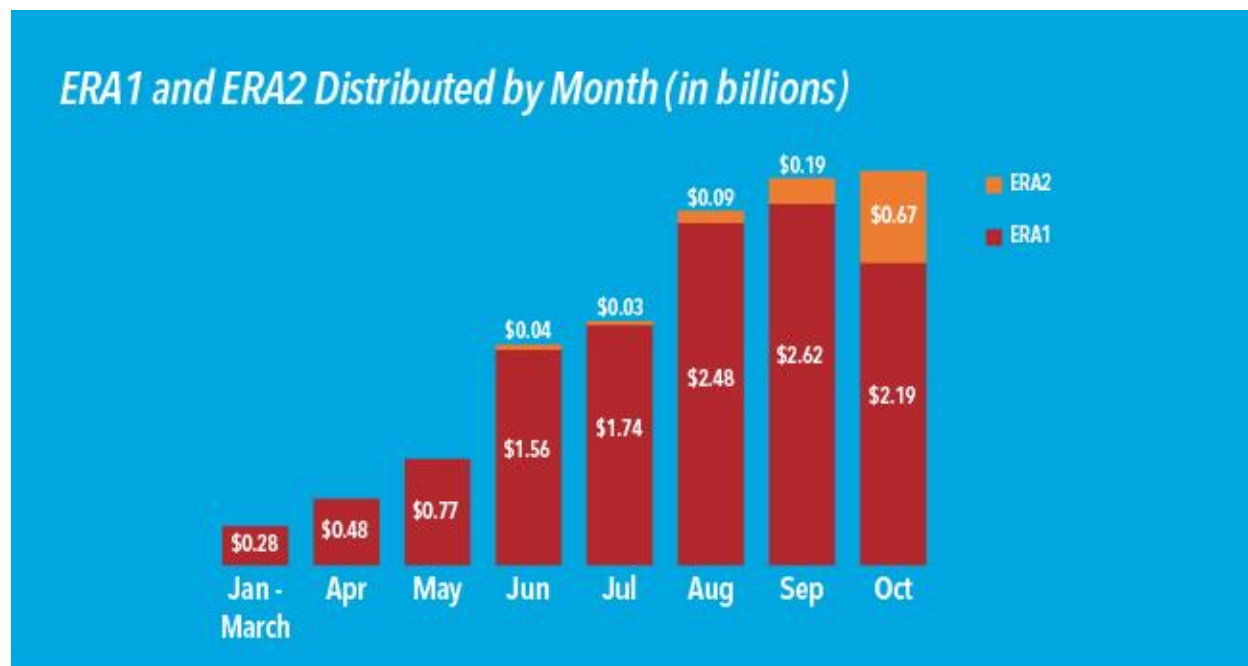
Workers with unpredictable schedules struggled the most with hunger: while 23% of workers with predictable schedules reported struggling with hunger, 40% of workers with three sources of unpredictability reported the same. Half of workers with four sources of unpredictability in their work schedules struggled with hunger.

The findings suggest a worker's earnings and living conditions are tied not only to wages but also schedules. The authors highlight that, to date, wages have received far more attention in policy proposals and research than the temporal dimension of low-wage work. Seven cities or states have passed "secure scheduling" legislation designed to make work schedules more stable and predictable. The authors call for further research into the effectiveness of these solutions to the precarity of low-wage work.

Read the article at: <https://bit.ly/3DSgz8d>

Fact of the Week

ERA2 Spending Accelerated, ERA1 Spending Dropped in October



Source: Emergency Rental Assistance Program Monthly Compliance Report: October 1-31, 2021, U.S. Department of the Treasury
 Note: ERA2 spending data for April through June is reported under June



Source: Emergency Rental Assistance Program Monthly Compliance Report: October 1-31, 2021, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Note: ERA2 spending data for April through June are reported under June

NLIHC Housing Policy Forum 2022

NLIHC Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022 to Explore Achieving Renter Protections, March 22-23

[NLIHC's Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2022: Achieving Housing Justice](#), taking place March 22-23, 2022 (12:30-5:30 pm ET on March 22 and 1-5:30 pm ET on March 23), will feature an in-depth session on the federal, state, and local renter protections needed to ensure long-term housing stability and to address the power imbalance between renters and landlords that puts renters at risk of housing instability, harassment, and homelessness. The session will provide an overview of current tenant protections, the impact inadequate protections can have on low-income tenants, and the advocacy needed. A panel of experts will discuss federal policies protecting against discrimination, wrongful eviction, harassment, or other violations of tenants' rights. The panel will address how to advance tenant protections at the local level and how to achieve right-to-counsel laws locally and federally.

The forum will also feature keynote speakers and panels on: Racial Equity and Housing Justice featuring MacArthur "Genius" photographer LaToya Ruby Frazier; the HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing – Progress To-Date and Road Ahead; Capitol Hill Insiders Panel; Ending Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions; Expanding the Multi-Sector Affordable Housing Movement; Best Practices in Organizing; and Discussions with Members of Congress and Senior Administration Officials.

Forum attendees will have the opportunity to network with other attendees, and NLIHC will provide a selection of interactive sessions with NLIHC experts on Our Homes, Our Votes 2022: Non-partisan Voter and Candidate

Engagement; disaster housing recovery; effective media/social media strategies and practices; and anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

[Register today](#) for the **March 22-23, 2022, Virtual Housing Policy Forum!**

Organizing Awards

Nominate an Organization or Campaign for NLIHC's 2022 Organizing Awards!

NLIHC encourages affordable housing advocates to submit applications or nominations for the 2022 Annual Organizing Awards. Two awards will be granted for organizations or campaigns that organized to successfully expand funding for affordable housing development, strengthen renters' rights, combat homelessness, mobilize tenants, or achieve other victories that support the lowest-income households. Submit nominations [here](#).

The NLIHC Organizing Awards recognize outstanding 2021 achievements in statewide, regional, citywide, neighborhood, and/or resident organizing that further NLIHC's mission of achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. Special consideration will be given to nominations that incorporate tenant- or resident-centered organizing and leadership. The awards will be featured at the NLIHC [2022 Virtual Housing Policy Forum](#), which will be held on March 22-23, 2022.

An Organizing Awards Committee composed of NLIHC board members and previous award winners will determine this year's honorees. NLIHC will provide two representatives of each honored group complimentary Forum registrations and one hotel room for the next in-person Policy Forum, as funding allows. Organizing award winners will also be featured at the 2022 Virtual Policy Forum, which provides an opportunity to share their recent victories with attendees from across the country. To get a sense of the types of achievements honored with this award, please review our [list of past winners](#).

To be eligible, nominated organizations must be current NLIHC members. Organizations can easily [become members online](#). Applicants may self-nominate. NLIHC board members and Award Committee members may not nominate an organization with which they are employed or affiliated.

Nominations are due by 5 pm ET on Friday, December 17, 2021.

For questions, please reach out to Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, at: ccooperman@nlihc.org

Events

Attend NLIHC New Member Orientation on January 13

NLIHC will host an orientation for new NLIHC organizational and individual members on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 3 pm ET. While the event is geared towards new members and new staff at NLIHC member organizations, all members are welcome to attend. [Registration for the webinar is now open](#).

The orientation will cover the mission and history of NLIHC, benefits and opportunities of NLIHC membership, current NLIHC campaigns, and ongoing ways to engage with our work. We will discuss NLIHC's research publications and other resources to support your advocacy. Attendees will have the chance to ask

questions of NLIHC’s housing advocacy organizers and to connect with other members from across the country.

If you are not already an NLIHC member and would like to join, please visit [this page](#) for more information or email: outreach@nlihc.org

NLIHC News

Help Us Help Those Most in Need This Holiday Season

NLIHC has never wavered in our dedication to achieving housing justice in America. We are a trusted voice and fierce advocate for those most in need among policy makers on both sides of the aisle. In 2021, we leveraged our high-quality research, policy analysis and advocacy, communications, and mobilization of our broad network to have a strong, ongoing impact on members of Congress and the administration, directly influencing many policy initiatives. Decision makers have relied on NLIHC for our advice and guidance, often incorporating our specific policy recommendations into their solutions. The bold housing and homelessness resources and protections enacted in response to the pandemic have been historic, as have the administration’s and Congress’s proposals for long-term affordable housing solutions for those most in need – in all cases strongly influenced by NLIHC. This holiday season, [help NLIHC](#) continue to speak up for those without access to quality, accessible and affordable homes. Or give the gift of [connection and/or financial support](#) to NLIHC’s state and local partners in your area doing critical on-the-ground work.

Together, we can, and we will, end homelessness and housing poverty. Visit www.nlihc.org/donate to donate to NLIHC. Thank you for your support and your advocacy!

Nominate an NLIHC Board Member Today!

NLIHC member and partners are encouraged to submit nominations (or self-nominate!) to fill upcoming vacancies on the NLIHC board of directors. Nominees for board membership must be current dues-paying NLIHC members or be employed by a current dues-paying NLIHC member organization. Send a brief biographical description or resume and a statement of interest to NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel at dyentel@nlihc.org by close of business on December 31.

NLIHC’s board consists of six low-income persons (defined as individuals with incomes less than 50% of their area median income), six representatives of allied national organizations, six representatives of [NLIHC state partners](#), and up to seven unrestricted or at-large NLIHC members. NLIHC is seeking nominations for the following positions: one representative from an [NLIHC state partner organization](#), one representative from a national NLIHC member organization, and one at-large NLIHC member representative. The new board members will assume their duties in March 2022.

At least 90% of NLIHC board members must be people with low incomes or individuals who are or have been engaged directly in working on meeting the housing needs of low-income people. In selecting board members, NLIHC strives to achieve a broad diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and geography, including representation from both urban and rural communities. We seek to have as many different states represented as possible.

Board members are elected for 3-year terms and can serve up to three terms. The board meets in person twice a year in Washington, DC (when not prohibited from meeting in person by the pandemic)—once in conjunction

with our annual forum in the spring and once in the fall. The board also meets by conference call in the summer. Attendance at board meetings is required, with exceptions for illness or emergencies. Generally, new board members are elected by existing board members at the annual board meeting held in the spring. All board members serve on at least one standing committee of the board and all board members are members of the NLIHC Policy Advisory Committee. Committees meet by conference call. All new board members must attend an orientation soon after their election.

NLIHC subsidizes travel and lodging expenses of low-income board members to attend board meetings. All others are expected to cover their own travel and lodging expenses, unless doing so would prevent an otherwise qualified person from serving on the board. In addition to paying NLIHC membership dues, all board members are asked to make financial contributions to NLIHC at the level they are able. We strive for 100% board giving.

The best way to be considered for board membership is to get involved in the activities of NLIHC, particularly by serving on the Policy Advisory Committee and attending NLIHC's annual Virtual Policy Forum in the spring. The NLIHC Nominating Committee will review the level of a potential board member's involvement in his or her own community or state/national housing advocacy activities and accountability to a constituent base.

To make a nomination or self-nominate, send the required materials (statement of interest and bio or resume) to Diane Yentel at dyentel@nlihc.org by December 31.

NLIHC Careers

NLIHC Seeks Development Specialist

NLIHC seeks a development specialist who will have primary responsibility for a portfolio of development/fundraising activities for the Coalition. The activities, along with secondary activities supporting the development coordinator, will ensure the Coalition secures the necessary resources to support its mission of advancing socially just public policy to ensure the lowest-income people in America have decent, accessible, and affordable homes. The individual will also support NLIHC with other key operational and event-management needs. The specialist will report to the NLIHC development coordinator.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate/manage reports, proposals, relationship management, and research/prospect development for all corporate foundations
- Track progress on current grants and reports due, as well as other requirements for each corporate funder, and draft reports and proposals. Coordinate calls and meetings with current and new corporate funders
- Coordinate/manage NLIHC's end-of-year fundraising campaign, including Giving Tuesday and holiday appeal – drafting language (postcards, emails, etc.), creating outreach list, mailing them out, etc.
- Handle inquiries about individual giving, particularly end-of-year requests to contribute stocks or other donations, and cultivate individual donors as needed
- Collaborate closely with the operations manager and development coordinator on all event coordination for the Annual Housing Policy Forum
- Work with development coordinator to create and maintain registration pages for the Housing Policy Forum.
- Enter registrations for complimentary Housing Policy Forum attendees where necessary (special members, event sponsors, AG authors, VIP/invitees, etc.)
- Coordinate/manage NLIHC special members renewals, invoicing, provision of benefits, procurement of ads and complimentary event registrations, and efforts to recruit additional special members

- Track progress on special member benefits (ads needed for the annual Leadership Awards Celebration, publications to be mailed, etc.)
- Monitor incoming data to Salesforce for any irregularities
- Ensure all grant agreement and follow-up information for corporate foundations is up-to-date and accurate in Salesforce database
- Coordinate with contracted agency (currently Cogency Global) on state charitable registrations, ensuring annual registrations for all states in which registrations are required
- Work with the development coordinator to produce list of previous year donors and their giving levels for *Annual Report*
- Provide the development coordinator with corporate and individual donor summaries for the fund development report presented to the board twice annually
- Monitor NLIHC's various webpages that recognize donors for any missing corporate logos, ensure updates are made
- Maintain files of copies of all acknowledgment/grant letters
- Assist in the coordination of other events and activities for which fundraising is involved, such as NLIHC's anniversary events

Organizational/Operations Support

- Support COO with various operations activities
- Attend all meetings of the NLIHC Board of Directors and Board committees, as needed. Participate in staff meetings, retreats, trainings, and all Coalition events
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS: To receive serious consideration for this position, an applicant should have the following attributes and background:

- Bachelor's degree
- Strong commitment to the alleviation of poverty and social justice (affordable housing knowledge/experience a plus)
- Demonstrated strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Excellent communications skills, both orally and in writing
- Experience successfully building and maintaining professional partnerships and relationships
- Experience in funder/donor research and cultivation, proposal- and report-writing, and fundraising appeals strongly preferred
- Experience in event coordination
- Experience using Salesforce a plus
- Ability to work in a diverse, fast-paced environment

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, DC, though candidates residing outside the DC area may be considered and telework is being implemented during the pandemic.

JOB APPLICATION PROCESS: Send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to: Bairy Diakite, Operations Manager, NLIHC, 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 at bdiakite@nlihc.org. The cover letter should describe the candidate's interest in and relevant experiences for the position and include salary requirements and the names and contact information for at least three people serving as candidate references (two of whom should be current or former supervisors). (NLIHC will not contact references before consulting with the candidate.)

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of December 5

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of December 5:

- “With rental assistance funds largely spent, Austin-area advocates say more help needed,” *Yahoo News*, December 6 at: <https://yhoo.it/31KqyPL>
- “10 things you didn't know are in the Democrats' Build Back Better bill,” *CNN*, December 8 at: <https://cnn.it/31PkUTI>
- “Who gets help after a hurricane or flood? FEMA will start tracking it by race,” *Grist*, December 10 at: <https://bit.ly/3rPUa94>

NLIHC Staff

Xavier Arriaga, Policy Analyst, x231
Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245
Sidney Betancourt, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x200
Jordan Brown, Research Intern
Victoria Bourret, Senior Organizer for Housing Advocacy, x244
Jen Butler, Senior Director, Media Relations and Communications, x239
Alayna Calabro, Policy Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x252
Josephine Clarke, Senior Executive Assistant, x226
Courtney Cooperman, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x263
Bairy Diakite, Operations Manager, x254
Emma Foley, Research Analyst, x249
Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314
Sarah Gallagher, Senior Project Director, ERASE, x220
Sydnee Graves, Field Intern
Patrick Hanrahan, Graphic Design/Communications Intern
Kim Johnson, Housing Policy Analyst, x243
Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232
Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317
Joseph Lindstrom, Director, Field Organizing, x222
Mayerline Louis-Juste, Communications Specialist, x201
Khara Norris, Senior Director of Administration, x242
Neetu Nair, Research Analyst, x291
Brenna Olson, Policy Intern
Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227
Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Specialist, x246
Betty Ramirez, Research Analyst, x202
Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234
Sarah Saadian, Vice President, Public Policy, x228
Brooke Schipporeit, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
Sophie Siebach-Glover, Research Specialist, x205

Seulgi Smith, Graphic Design/Communications Intern
Lauren Steimle, Web/Graphic Design Specialist, x246
Jade Vasquez, ERASE Project Coordinator, x264
Maya Ward-Caldwell, Fund Development Intern
Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Manager, x230
Renee Willis, SVP for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, x247
Rebecca Yae, Senior Research Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x256
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225