



Memo To Members & Partners

A weekly newsletter from the National Low Income Housing Coalition

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Budget and Appropriations

Congress Returns from Spring Recess to Begin Drafting FY27 Spending Bills

By Kim Johnson, NLIHC Senior Director of Policy and Alayna Calabro, NLIHC Senior Policy Analyst

Keywords: Budget and Appropriations, THUD, HUD, FY27

Members of Congress will return to their offices in Washington, D.C. this week after a two-week spring recess. With the release of the Trump administration’s fiscal year (FY) 2027 [spending request](#) (see *Memo*, 4/6), members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will begin drafting their spending bills for the upcoming fiscal year. Appropriators are charged with drafting 12 annual spending bills for federal programs—including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill that funds HUD’s vital affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs—before October 1, the beginning of the new federal fiscal year.

Appropriators will also meet with members of the Trump administration in a series of congressional hearings on the president’s FY27 budget request, during which cabinet secretaries will be asked about the rationale and justification behind the administration’s spending proposals. Hearings will begin this week in the House, but the budget hearing for HUD Secretary Scott Turner has yet to be scheduled. The House THUD Appropriations Subcommittee is expected to hold a review of their draft FY27 spending bill—known as a “markup”—on May 21, with a full committee markup potentially scheduled for June 4. While these dates may change as the House’s schedule is finalized, the House’s FY27 THUD spending bill will need to be released in advance of the subcommittee markup. The Senate has yet to release a potential markup schedule.

Proposal in the Administration’s VA Budget Request for “National Center for Warrior Independence”

In addition to the significant cuts and policy changes to HUD’s affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs proposed in the Trump administration’s FY27 HUD spending bill, the administration includes a proposal in its FY27 budget request for the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) to fund the construction of a “National Center for Warrior Independence” in Los Angeles, CA. According to a [May 2025 Executive Order](#) calling for its creation, the center would “work to restore self-sufficiency and the warrior ethos among homeless veterans through any guidance, requirements, or services needed to ensure that homeless veterans can access housing, receive substance abuse or addiction treatment, and return to productive work and community engagement.”

VA homelessness assistance programs, including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) programs, have been considered the gold standard for homelessness programs both domestically and abroad. These programs, which emphasize access to low-barrier, permanent housing with voluntary supportive services, have been instrumental in reducing veteran homelessness by 50% over the past decade. As planned, the “National Center for Warrior Independence” would move away from this successful model and towards shorter-term housing and mandated services proven to be less effective at ending homelessness and helping people obtain long-term stability.

Take Action: Tell Congress to Provide the Highest Possible Funding for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Programs in FY27!

NLIHC is calling on Congress to once again reject funding cuts and harmful policy changes proposed in the White House’s budget request, and instead provide the highest possible funding for HUD’s affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs, including for NLIHC’s top priorities:

- Full funding to renew all existing Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) contracts, including ensuring continued assistance for Emergency Housing Voucher holders.
- At least \$5.1 billion for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Increased funding for public housing operations and capital needs to help maintain and efficiently operate public housing.
- Increased investments in programs that support the construction and preservation of deeply affordable, accessible housing, including full funding for all Section 811 PRA and PRAC renewals, at least \$424 million for new Section 811 PRA contracts, and full funding to renew all existing contracts under the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program.
- At least \$15 million for HUD’s Eviction Prevention Grant Program (EPGP) to provide communities grants to establish right to counsel and other programs that help people avoid eviction and remain housed.
- At least maintained funding of \$1.1 billion for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program and increasing funding to \$150 million for the IHBG-Competitive program.

Advocates can take action today by:

- **Emailing or calling members’ offices** to tell them about the importance of affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources to you, your family, your community, or your work. You can use [NLIHC’s Take Action page](#) to look up your member offices or call/send an email directly!
- **Sharing stories of those directly impacted** by homelessness and housing instability. Storytelling adds emotional weight to your message and can help lawmakers see how their policy decisions impact actual people. [Learn about how to tell compelling stories with this resource.](#)

Visit [NLIHC's Advocacy Hub](#) for more information and resources that can help you take action and help protect the affordable housing programs people rely on.

HUD

Proposed HUD Rules Would Jeopardize Housing Assistance; Comment Periods Ending Soon - Take Action!

By NLIHC Policy Team

Keywords: mixed status, housing assistance, HUD, verification, immigrant, work requirements, time limits, eviction

Since February, HUD has published several proposed regulatory changes that would have harmful impacts on HUD tenants. Each of these proposals is currently open for public comment, with comment periods ending over the next few weeks:

- HUD's [proposed mixed-status rule](#), which would require families with mixed immigration statuses (mixed-status families) in certain HUD programs to choose between remaining together and losing their housing assistance;
- HUD's [proposal](#) to repeal the requirement that PHAs and project-based rental assistance (PBRA) owners provide households with at least a 30-day termination notice prior to filing an eviction action for nonpayment of rent (30-Day Notice Proposal); and
- HUD's [proposed rule](#) that would allow public housing agencies (PHAs) and HUD-assisted owners to adopt work requirements and time limits on assistance.

Mixed-Status Proposed Rule – Comment Deadline April 21

HUD has published [proposed changes](#) that would require families with mixed immigration statuses (mixed-status families) in certain HUD programs to choose between remaining together and losing their housing. In 2025, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) [estimated](#) that nearly 80,000 people, including 37,000 children, could lose their rental assistance if such changes are enacted.

NLIHC supports the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) and Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Coalition's [Keep Families Together campaign](#) to mobilize opposition to the proposal and urges advocates to [submit comments](#) opposing the rule by April 21 at 11:59 pm ET!

NLIHC has joined an organizational [sign-on comment letter](#) from PIF and urges housing organizations to cosign in support of housing for immigrant families by April 20 at 5:00 pm ET!

Take action on the Mixed-Status Proposed Rule:

1. **Submit your own comment letter** urging HUD to withdraw the proposed rule. Comments are due April 21 at 11:59 pm ET!

- a. Organizations can use this [comment template](#), tailored to your unique perspective, to elaborate on the harms of the proposal.
 - b. Individuals, including housing advocates and tenant unions, can use [prompts](#) from the *Keep Families Together* webpage.
2. **Join PIF’s organizational [sign-on comment letter](#)** by April 20 at 5:00 pm ET!
 3. **Host your own comment party** or share the proposal in your regular meetings! NLIHC staff are ready and available to help advocates learn more about the proposal and support your comments. Reach out to outreach@nlihc.org to learn more!

30-Day Notice Proposal – Comment Deadline April 27

In February 2026, HUD issued “[Revocation of the 30-Day Notification Requirement Prior to Termination of Lease for Nonpayment of Rent](#).” If these changes are finalized, certain tenants in HUD-assisted housing would have less time to catch up on rent to avoid eviction. HUD would also no longer require PHAs and PBRA owners to provide information such as itemized lists of rent owed. HUD’s proposal would remove additional HUD protections, such as a prohibition on evicting tenants for nonpayment if they caught up on rent during the 30-day notice period.

Although HUD recently announced it [has postponed](#) when these changes would go into effect, the rulemaking is still moving forward. Comments opposing this proposal are crucial.

Take action on the 30-Day Notice Proposal by:

1. **Submitting [your own comment](#)**, urging HUD to withdraw the proposed rule. The comment deadline is April 27 at 11:59 pm ET. NHLP has created templates for tenants and organizations. Please reach out to Hannah Adams, hadams@nhlp.org, for more information.
2. Learning more about how this proposal will harm HUD tenants. NLIHC staff are ready and available to help advocates learn more about the proposal and support your comments. Reach out to outreach@nlihc.org to learn more!

Work Requirements and Time Limits Proposed Rule – Comment Deadline May 1

On March 2, HUD [proposed](#) allowing public housing agencies (PHAs) and HUD-assisted owners to impose work requirements and time limits on assisted families. A recent CBPP [analysis](#) found that a two-year time limit on assistance would result in an estimated 3.3 million people losing their rental assistance, including 1.7 million children.

HUD’s [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#), “Establishing Flexibility for Implementation of Work Requirements and Term Limits,” would allow “well-performing” PHAs and PBRA owners to adopt work requirements for “work-eligible” adults of up to 40 hours per week. “Work-eligible” adults are defined in the NPRM as individuals ages 18 to 61 who are not people with disabilities, pregnant, or enrolled in higher education. The “work-eligible” definition also excludes primary caretakers for: a person with a disability, a child under six, or a person who is temporarily incapacitated.

The NPRM would also allow for time limits on assistance after two years for “non-elderly, non-disabled families.” The definitions of “elderly family” and “disabled family” in current HUD regulations are written in a way that, under HUD’s proposal, individual household members who are elderly or who have disabilities could be impacted by a time limit if the household itself is considered “non-elderly” and “non-disabled.”

The NPRM would apply to the following programs: public housing, Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), Project-Based Vouchers (PBV), and PBRA.

Take action on the Work Requirements and Time Limits Proposed Rule by:

1. **Submitting [your own comment](#)**, urging HUD to withdraw the proposed rule. The comment deadline is May 1 at 11:59 pm ET. Use [NLIHC’s comment template](#) to draft a comment that reflects your perspective.
2. **Learning more about the harms of time limits and work requirements:**
 - a. NHLP—jointly with NLIHC, the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Justice in Aging, and Southern Poverty Law Center—published a resource titled, [“Work Requirements and Time Limits in Rental Assistance Programs Will Worsen Housing Instability.”](#) This document outlines the ways in which imposing work requirements and time limits in HUD programs is counterproductive.
 - b. NLIHC, NHLP, and CLASP have also synthesized CBPP data and NLIHC data to [create fact sheets for each state and the District of Columbia](#). These fact sheets are posted online as a single, searchable PDF. Consider using this information to inform your comments.
 - c. NHLP has released a [legal analysis of the proposed rule](#). This analysis includes “a summary of HUD’s lack of legal authority to promulgate the rule, and the substantive drafting errors that appear in the rule (such as where there are discrepancies between the policies stated in the preamble and the proposed regulatory text).” NHLP’s analysis also includes a detailed comparison chart outlining how the proposal would apply across programs covered by the NPRM.
 - d. Justice in Aging has published [“HUD’s Proposal on Work Requirements and Time Limits Would Take Away Housing Assistance From Older Adults.”](#)
 - e. CLASP’s [compilation of resources](#), including template letters.

HUD Publishes Notice Removing Fair Housing Guidance Documents

By NLIHC Policy Team

Keywords: guidance, fair housing, civil rights, withdrawal, HUD, housing providers

HUD officially withdrew eight Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) guidance documents, published in a Federal Register [notice](#) on April 6. While the withdrawal took effect in September 2025, the notice emphasizes the documents’ removal from active use and HUD efforts to update trainings and handbooks referencing the guidance, stating that the content of the eight documents fails to either 1) be “statutorily prescribed,” 2) “consistent with the relevant

statue or regulation,” or 3) “decreases compliance burdens”. These guidance documents were, albeit, non-binding, but [acted as](#) benchmarks for housing providers and advocates to use.

The eight withdrawn guidance documents include:

1. Guidance on Application of the Fair Housing Act to the Advertising of Housing, Credit, and Other Real Estate-Related Transactions through Digital Platforms
2. FHEO 2020-01: Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act
3. FHEO Memorandum on Source of Income Testing Activities under the Fair Housing Assistance Program
4. FHEO Notice 2013-01: Service Animals and Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-funded Programs
5. FHEO Statement on the Fair Housing Act and Special Purpose Credit Programs
6. Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons
7. Implementation of [Executive Order 13988](#) on the Enforcement of the Fair Housing Act
8. Implementation of OGC Guidance on Application of Fair Housing Act Standards to the Use of Criminal Records

In September 2025, HUD issued a [memo](#), “Notice of the Withdrawal of FHEO Guidance Documents,” outlining much of the same reasoning as the notice. Both draw from Executive Orders [14192](#) and [14219](#), noting that “equal treatment under the law is a bedrock principle of the United States that guarantees equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome.” The withdrawal is situated within a larger movement to dismantle fair housing and civil rights protections (see [Memo, 9/29/2025](#)). The withdrawn guidance documents were not arbitrarily issued, and have provided meaningful guidance for housing providers, tenants, and advocates to exercise their civil and fair housing rights.

The withdrawal of this guidance creates heightened uncertainty. For example, HUD, in the April 6 notice, encourages “parties whose prior conduct may have been violative of the Fair Housing Act, while in conformance with the previous guidance and during the period in which that guidance was in effect, to take immediate actions to address any such potential violation.”

Read the notice [here](#).

See the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ [overview](#) for more information on the withdrawn guidance.

HUD Regulatory Impact Analysis: Proposed Mixed-Status Rule Would Result in Fewer Families Served; PHAs May Resort to Leaving Units Vacant, Delaying Vouchers

By NLIHC Policy Team

Keywords: RIA, HUD, mixed status, costs, benefits, prorated assistance, verification, documentation, citizens, non-citizens, citizenship, immigration status, PHA

When HUD published its proposed [mixed-status rule](#), the agency also published an accompanying [Regulatory Impact Analysis](#) (RIA). The RIA provides important insight into the anticipated costs and harms to HUD tenants if the proposed rule is implemented. According to HUD’s RIA, for example, the proposed rule (if implemented) would result in fewer vouchers and rental assistance available for low-income families, as well as less funding available for maintenance of public housing units. In fact, HUD acknowledges that public housing agencies (PHAs) may resort to allowing some public housing units to sit vacant to address the costs imposed by HUD’s proposal.

The RIA’s discussion also undercuts the argument that this rulemaking is needed to expand housing opportunities. For example, HUD asserts that the need for the proposed rule comes from ensuring that “only U.S. citizens or nationals and eligible noncitizens . . . have access to HUD financial assistance,” where current policy “permits prorated assistance of unlimited duration” without determining the immigration status of individuals. Yet, individuals with ineligible immigration status are not permitted to receive rental assistance under Section 214 of the “Housing and Community Development Act of 1980.” Furthermore, individuals who do receive rental assistance must contend eligible immigration status, and as detailed below, implementing the proposed rule would lead to increased costs per household and fewer families served overall.

NLIHC and immigration advocates urge housing advocates to comment in opposition to the proposed mixed-status rule using resources provided by the [Keep Families Together campaign](#) by April 21 at 11:59 pm ET; organizations can also [sign a comment letter](#) from the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition by April 20 at 5:00 pm ET.

Read more background about the proposed rule [here](#).

Regulatory Impact Analysis Reveals Significant Costs to Housing Providers, Families

While the RIA asserts benefits, HUD’s analysis reveals the stark realities of implementation of the proposed rule by describing how:

- **The average replacement households—fully eligible households on waiting lists for HUD-funded housing assistance—would require a higher amount of assistance than the average outgoing mixed status family.** Moreover, the replacement household would receive a full subsidy rather than a prorated amount. HUD estimates that it would take, on average, \$4,900 more per person to subsidize a replacement household.
- **Due to increased costs per household, HUD will be able to serve fewer people in the impacted programs.** Without funding beyond the amount of assistance lost from mixed status households, HUD’s analysis states, “[t]he immediate effect would be a reduction in the number of households and eligible persons assisted.”
- **HUD acknowledges that the proposed rule could force housing providers to reduce their services to the community and raise the possibility of PHAs leaving units vacant.** The RIA notes that PHAs may need to respond by “offering fewer” Housing

Choice Vouchers to tenants “or delaying issuing vouchers.” PHAs may also choose to lower payment standards or use reserves. Regarding public housing, HUD states, “A PHA cannot eliminate or downsize the number of existing Public Housing units as easily as Housing Choice Vouchers. Instead, a PHA could leave some units vacant, which would defer the costs of turnover and operation. A more likely response by affected PHAs would be to reduce overall project expenses such as housing maintenance, protective services, management and leasing services, and/or self-sufficiency programs for tenants.”

- **If the proposal were finalized, HUD would need over \$300 million in additional funds to serve the same number of families.** Additional funding of \$311-\$385 million would be needed to maintain the same number of assisted family members.

Notably, eligible individuals would bear costs in new verification and documentation processes that impose barriers to accessing assistance, where:

- **HUD acknowledges that “a significant share” of the aggregate costs to verify eligibility under the proposed rule will fall on U.S. citizens and nationals.** HUD states: “The total costs for existing tenants who do not have any of the required documents for verification range from \$1.5 million to \$6.4 million, where a significant share falls on U.S. citizens and nationals.” The costs and associated efforts of gathering documentation “could potentially result in denial, termination, or delay of housing assistance because some tenants and applicants cannot produce the required documents.”

The RIA also identifies costs for entities such as PHAs and housing owners, spanning the administrative costs of verifying eligible immigration status to the eviction and turnover costs of processing terminations, with minimal named costs for HUD. Related to eviction, the RIA concludes by briefly exploring the proposed rule’s impact on homelessness and coming up with an ambiguous net effect.

Take Action – Keep Families Together!

NLIHC supports the *Keep Families Together* campaign, led by National Housing Law Project and the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition, to oppose the mixed-status rule. The *Keep Families Together* [website](#) includes resources to educate housing and immigration advocates about the real harms of HUD’s proposed changes, if finalized, would cause. Advocates are encouraged to monitor the *Keep Families Together* website and NLIHC’s resources for updates.

Take action to oppose HUD’s Mixed-Status Rule:

1. **Draft and submit your comment using the *Keep Families Together* website by April 21!**
 - a. The website includes prompts for specific communities, including children, families, Latino, Black, and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
2. **Add your organization to a comment letter led by the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition by April 20!**
 - a. The comment letter summarizes how the proposed rule punishes U.S. citizens, while doing nothing to increase the availability of affordable housing.

Submit comments via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by 11:59 pm ET on April 21, 2026.

Read HUD’s RIA [here](#).

Explore the [National Housing Law Project’s analysis](#) and [CBPP’s](#) research.

Learn more about mixed status families’ access to housing assistance in [Chapter 6](#) of NLIHC’s *2026 Advocates’ Guide*.

HoUsed

Join Tomorrow’s April 14 National HoUsed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing!

By NLIHC Policy Team

Keywords: HoUsed Campaign, National Call, webinar, NLIHC events

[Join](#) NLIHC’s next national HoUsed campaign call tomorrow (April 14) from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET. We will provide the latest federal housing policy updates, including an overview of the president’s fiscal year (FY) 2027 [budget request](#), and an in-depth analysis of HUD’s recent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that would allow public housing agencies (PHAs) and HUD-assisted owners to impose work requirements and time limits on assisted families. A recent CBPP [analysis](#) found that a 2-year time limit on assistance would result in an estimated 3.3 million people losing their rental assistance, including 1.7 million children. Join the next national

call to learn more and learn how advocates can [fight back](#) against proposals that would leave fewer people with safe, stable homes. [Register here](#).

NLIHC's National HoUsed Campaign Call Agenda: April 14, 2026

- Welcome and Introductions
 - David Gonzalez Rice, senior vice president of policy, NLIHC
- Overview of the Trump Administration's FY27 Budget Request
 - Kim Johnson, senior policy director, NLIHC
- Work Requirements and Time Limits in HUD Assisted Housing NPRM
 - Renee Williams, senior policy advisor, NLIHC
 - Michael Nagel, policy manager, The Arc
 - Janelle Scott, director of policy and legislative affairs, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA)
 - Jesse Fairbanks, policy analyst, public benefits justice, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
 - Korey Lundin, senior attorney, National Housing Law Project (NHLP)
- Ways to Take Action

Access NLIHC's archive of HoUsed campaign calls and other webinar recordings [here](#).

Disaster Housing Recovery

El Niño Forecast in Pacific Ocean Means Shifting Disaster Risk for Portions of the Country

By Oliver Porter, NLIHC DHR Intern

Keywords: El Niño, hurricane season, FEMA, DHS

Recent [reports](#) have discussed the possibility of a super El Niño, which could develop in late summer. El Niño weather events occur every few years when parts of the Pacific Ocean rise in temperature, causing cascading changes to atmospheric conditions globally and extreme weather in some parts of the globe. Super El Niños follow the same pattern, but they warm the Pacific to even higher temperatures, which heightens the impacts of weather systems globally. If forecasts prove accurate, a Super El Niño could fundamentally change the outlook for the latter half of the hurricane season in 2026 and cause continuing impacts for hurricane and wildfire seasons in 2027.

El Niño events typically reduce cyclone and hurricane conditions in the Atlantic while increasing the conditions for those storms in the Pacific. For the US, this could mean increased cyclone and typhoon risks for Hawaii and Guam but decreased threats for the Gulf Coast and Eastern United States, which have been consistently impacted over the last decade. The [first forecasts](#) of the Atlantic Hurricane Season takes this phenomenon into account—calling for below-average tropical cyclone numbers in the Atlantic.

While they mean a quieter Atlantic, El Niños produce powerful rainstorms in the Pacific which could pummel the West Coast and pose significant flooding concerns. El Niños' warming effects usually do not dissipate from the atmosphere very quickly, and this specific event is expected to make 2027 the warmest year on record. If elevated temperatures persist in the years following this event, this could also increase future wildfire risk, as the increased vegetation growth from the El Niño's enhanced rainfall eventually dries up.

This Super El Niño is developing at a time when the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is already under crisis. The second Trump administration has a pattern of [rejecting](#) many states' major disaster declarations, and the agency suffered extensive management shocks under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem's [tenure](#), which reduced readiness and delayed disaster spending. While the new DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin [rescinded](#) Noem's obstructive policy—requiring the Secretary to approve any expenditures over \$100,000—it remains to be seen whether the agency can properly marshal resources to communities during major disasters. Meanwhile, FEMA still lacks a permanent administrator with emergency management experience, and there has been [reports](#) that an unqualified government contractor Kara Voorhies was making decisions for acting administrator Karen Evans.

Disaster advocates need to be prepared for heightened risks caused by the combination of this possible Super El Niño and the ongoing management crises at FEMA. NLIHC's Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition is actively exploring strategies to strengthen states' preparedness for disasters amidst this changing landscape and will continue to update members as these strategies develop further.

Opportunity Starts at Home

***Opportunity Starts at Home* Campaign Releases New Fact Sheet on Recovery, Mental Health, and Housing**

By Julie Walker, NLIHC Project Manager, *Opportunity Starts at Home*

Keywords: multi-sector, recovery, SAMHSA, supportive housing models

The [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) (OSAH) campaign released a new [fact sheet](#) describing the essential connection between access to affordable housing and recovery for individuals with substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) designates a stable home as one of the four essential dimensions of recovery. Housing insecurity, on the other hand, is associated with declining mental health, increased risk of incarceration, and a significantly higher risk of opioid overdose. More affordable housing and investments in supportive housing models that place people in housing without requiring abstinence or treatment are necessary to promote long-term recovery from substance use disorders.

Access to a safe and stable environment is essential in recovery, but systemic barriers frequently prevent people from securing the housing they need to heal. Many individuals with SUDs or mental health conditions are disproportionately represented in the criminal legal system, often due to a lack of treatment access. Housing providers frequently use criminal history as a reason for denial, a practice that serves as a barrier to housing access and potentially violates fair housing laws.

The most effective housing solution for individuals with substance use disorders involves prioritizing immediate placement in housing without requiring abstinence or treatment as a prerequisite. Evidence from a systematic review of 26 studies reveals that programs that house people without requiring treatment saw an 88% reduction in homelessness and 41% improvement in housing stability. Participants in supportive housing were also found to be 3.4 times less likely to use drugs or alcohol during their first year compared to those in programs that require treatment first.

By strengthening existing affordable housing solutions and investing in supportive housing models, policymakers and communities can promote recovery and build a more equitable system of care. Recovery and mental health advocates play a vital role in ensuring that people who are housing insecure or experiencing homelessness can access the stable environment they need and deserve.

The fact sheet was developed with the help of campaign partners the [Legal Action Center](#), the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#), and [The Kennedy Forum](#). In total, the campaign has posted 18 multi-sector fact sheets on its website. Each fact sheet compiles landmark research to help policymakers, opinion leaders, and the public understand the deep connections between housing and other national priorities, from healthcare to education to economic growth. Housing advocates are encouraged to download the fact sheets and use them in making the case for cross-sector collaboration with potential allies in other sectors. Expanding the movement for housing justice requires ensuring that sector partners understand how housing directly impacts their own missions and goals.

Read the fact sheet [here](#).

Our Homes, Our Votes

Join Today's April 13 *Our Homes, Our Votes* Campaign Webinar Series

By Tia Turner, NLIHC Project Manager, *Our Homes, Our Votes*

Keywords: OHOV, voting rights, local advocacy, Louisiana v. Callais, upcoming webinar

[Register](#) for today's 3:00 pm ET *Our Homes, Our Votes* webinar titled, "[Protecting Voting Rights: Strengthening Democracy Through Local Housing Advocacy](#)."

This webinar is the next installment in the 2026 *Our Homes, Our Votes* [webinar series](#) and will explore the critical role housing advocates play in supporting democratic participation and protecting access to the ballot, particularly for low-income renters and historically marginalized communities. As barriers to voting continue to emerge at the state and federal levels, this webinar will help participants understand how housing advocacy intersects with civic engagement and why this work is essential to a functioning democracy.

Participants will gain a foundational understanding of:

- How housing instability and voter suppression are interconnected
- The role of housing organizations, tenant leaders, and service providers in expanding voter access
- Strategies for embedding nonpartisan voter engagement into housing advocacy work
- How local efforts can strengthen civic participation and build long-term voter power

What to Expect:

- Chantelle Wilkinson, NLIHC vice president of strategic partnerships and campaigns, will open the call with key updates on the SAVE Act, a recent executive order on mail-in voting, and the Supreme Court case *Louisiana v. Callais*, including what's at stake and where the case currently stands.
- Dr. Bambi Hayes-Brown, president and CEO of Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT) and NLIHC board chair, will discuss how Georgia ACT is putting housing advocacy into practice through civic engagement. She will highlight how their work connects housing advocacy to voter participation, the strategies used to build tenant power and strengthen democracy, and what it looks like to organize and engage tenants as a civic force within their communities.
- Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz, policy associate at the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness, will share insights on voter registration efforts focused on engaging people experiencing homelessness. She will discuss strategies for working through shelter and outreach provider networks, as well as leveraging local advisory boards made up of individuals with lived experience.
- Tia Turner, NLIHC project manager for *Our Homes, Our Votes* (moderator), will close the webinar by previewing the next session and sharing ways participants can stay connected and engaged with the *Our Homes, Our Votes* initiative.

NLIHC's [Our Homes, Our Votes](#) campaign is a nonpartisan initiative to boost voter turnout among low-income renters and elevate housing as an election issue.

Register for the webinar series [here](#).

Watch previous webinars and view the 2026 webinar schedule [here](#).

Strategic Partnerships & Campaigns

Join NLIHC's 4/20 Fireside Chat: Continued Conversation on How Art & Research Reimagine Housing Justice

By May Louis-Juste, NLIHC Project Manager, Strategic Partnerships

Keywords: Fair Housing Month, fireside chat

What does it take to move beyond acknowledgment and toward real repair? This Fair Housing Month, we're continuing the conversation about how communities are pushing back against harmful narratives and reclaiming their dignity. Join NLIHC on [April 20 at 3:00 pm ET](#) for a fireside chat as we continue the conversation on how art and research reimagine housing justice.

NLIHC President and CEO Renee M. Willis, alongside artist and activist Tonika Lewis Johnson and housing researcher Amber S. Hendley, will discuss how art, research, and community leadership can challenge harmful narratives and restore dignity to communities impacted by discriminatory housing practices.

Tune into "[The Common Ground](#)" to hear Tonika Lewis Johnson and Amber S. Hendley on how narrative change, community leadership, and truth-telling drive real housing justice.

Register for the event [here](#).

Research

Survey of Homelessness Service Providers Highlights Concerns about Threats to Funding and the Criminalization of Homelessness

By Nada Hussein, NLIHC State and Local Research Analyst

Keywords: criminalization, homelessness, budget

A [Pulse Check](#) survey by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) highlights how threats to federal funding and state and local-level efforts to criminalize homelessness have impacted homelessness service providers, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and their clients. The survey found that the threat to critical funding has had destabilizing effects for organizations providing homelessness services. Nearly three-quarters of service providers had either reduced core services (23%) or were anticipating needing to do so (50%). The survey also found that efforts to criminalize homelessness have resulted in greater levels of fear, stress, and distrust among people experiencing homelessness and displacement from areas where outreach and services are provided.

NAEH distributed their survey to leaders of homelessness service providers and CoCs between November and December 2025. NAEH received responses from homelessness services leaders representing 39 states, as well as the District of Columbia, and from CoC leaders in 27 states. The survey included questions related to funding cuts, the criminalization of homelessness,

imposition of new Medicaid work and recertification requirements, and impacts of the current administration's policy proposals.

Ninety percent of CoC leaders and 87% of service provider leaders responded that they were very concerned about cuts to federal programs. Twenty-three percent of homelessness service providers had reduced or eliminated core services like housing or behavioral health due to funding uncertainty and another 50% anticipated having to do so.

When asked about efforts to criminalize homelessness since 2024, 74% of homelessness service providers observed increases in the breaking up of homeless encampments, 59% observed the introduction or expansion of camping bans, 56% noted an increase in the movement of unhoused people to other neighborhoods, and 55% saw an increase in police presence in areas where unhoused people are sheltering.

When respondents were asked about their clients' experiences while measures to criminalize homelessness increase, 72% of service provider leaders reported their clients were expressing increased levels of fear, stress, or distrust with law enforcement; 54% said they had clients displaced from areas where outreach services are provided, making it difficult to reach these individuals; and 50% said that enforcement policies have resulted in a negative shift in the relationship between unhoused people and communities.

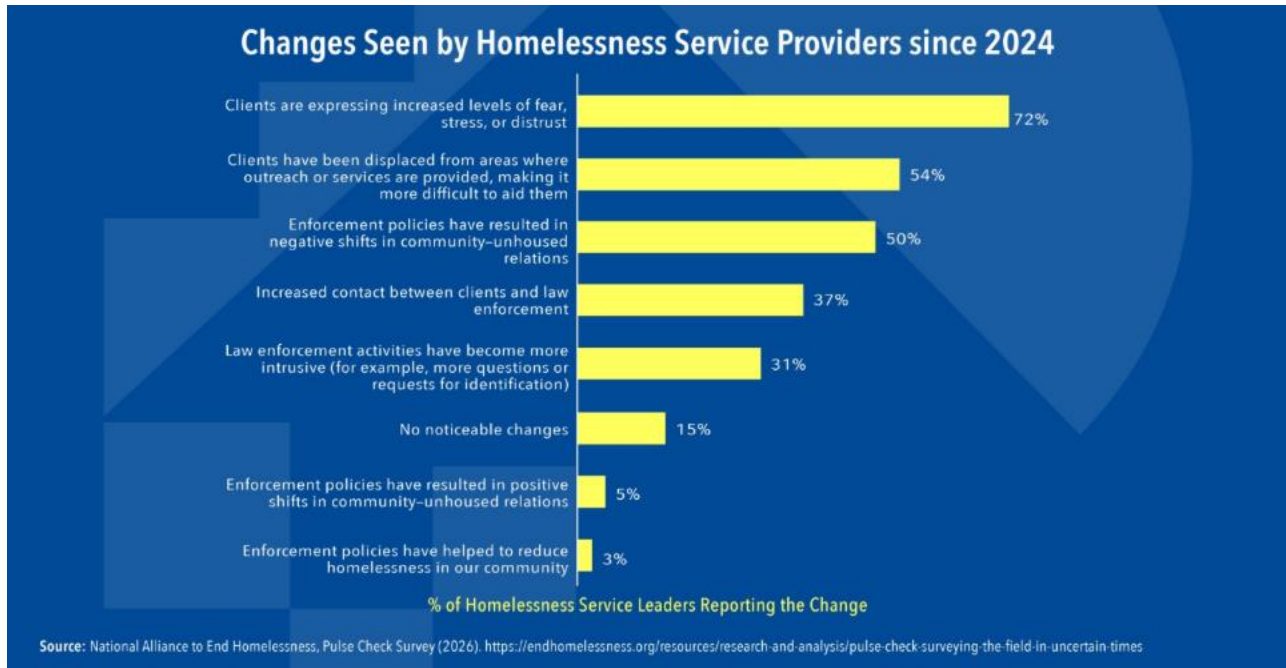
In a July 2025 executive order, President Trump proposed committing unhoused people to long-term institutional settings such as mental health hospitals, substance use treatment centers, and prisons. Seventy-seven percent of homelessness service providers noted that these facilities are not appropriate or very inappropriate for the clients they serve. The majority of service providers also noted that beds in these facilities were unavailable or rarely available. The survey also asked about the impacts of a policy proposal that would require service providers to verify individuals' immigration status. Seventy-eight percent of service providers noted that this requirement would lead to delays or reduced access to services and 74% said this would lead to reduced trust of service providers.

NAEH's full *Pulse Check* survey report is available [here](#).

Fact of the Week

Efforts to Criminalize Homelessness Negatively Impact Service Providers' Clients

Keywords: criminalization, homelessness, budget



Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness, *Pulse Check Survey* (2026).

<https://endhomelessness.org/resources/research-and-analysis/pulse-check-surveying-the-field-in-uncertain-times>

NLIHC News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of April 6

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of April 6:

- “Sacramento County’s top official says 2024 homeless count was ‘artificially low,’” *The Sacramento Bee*, April 8, at: <https://tr.ee/CcNWJ5>
- “Administration Seeks to Slash HUD Budget Again,” *Affordable Housing Finance*, April 9, at: <https://tr.ee/hFgQaY>
- “Mayors Are Trying to Solve the Housing Crisis as Federal Efforts Stall,” *Notus*, April 9, at: <https://tr.ee/VYgIVU>

Where to Find Us – April 13

- [Florida Disaster Collaboration Conference](#) – Orlando, FL, April 20-21 (Noah Patton)
- [From Housing Justice to Civic Power: A Vermont Action Summit](#) – Burlington, VT, April 25 (Tia Turner)
- [National VOAD Conference](#) – Reno, NV, May 4-7 (Noah Patton & Meghan Mertyriss)

- [There's No Place Like Home, 2026 Annual Conference](#) - Phoenix, AZ (in-person), May 12-13, 2026 (Kenza Janati)
 - [National Adaptation Forum](#) – Pittsburgh, PA, May 12-14 (Noah Patton)
 - [NeighborWorks Montana Housing Conference](#) – Fairmont Hot Springs, MT, May 18-20 (Nada Hussein)
 - [Minnesota's Affordable Housing Summit 2026](#) – Minneapolis, MN (in-person), June 4 (Renee M. Willis, Keynote Speaker)
 - [Influencing Social Policy](#) – virtual, June 10 (Tia Turner)
 - [AASC Conference](#) – Austin, TX, August 23-24 (Tia Turner)
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NLIHC Staff

Sarah Abdelhadi, Manager, State and Local Research
 Andrew Aurand, Senior Vice President for Research, x245
 Bridgette Barbosa, Graphic Design Intern
 Sidney Betancourt, Manager, Inclusive Community Engagement, x200
 Kayla Blackwell, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, x231
 Victoria Bourret, Manager, State and Local Innovation Outreach, x244
 Alayna Calabro, Senior Policy Analyst, x252
 Billy Cerullo, Manager, Training and Innovation
 Adelle Chenier, Senior Director of Events
 Esther Colón-Bermúdez, Research Analyst
 Lakesha Dawson, Director of Operations and Accounting
 Ramina Davidson, Vice President of Field Strategy & Innovation
 Neha Darisi, Field Intern
 Lindsay Duvall, Manager, Member Engagement, x206
 Thaddaeus Elliott, Housing Advocacy Organizer
 Dan Emmanuel, Director, Research, x316
 Janelle Flowers, Operations Coordinator
 Jamaal Gilani, Director of People and Culture
 Kayla Gilchrist, Senior Housing Advocacy Organizer
 David Gonzalez Rice, Senior Vice President of Public Policy
 Raquel Harati, Research Analyst
 Danita Humphries, Executive Operations Manager, x226
 Nada Hussein, Research Analyst, State and Local Innovation, x264
 Ella Izenour, OSAH Intern
 Kenza Idrissi Janati, Housing Advocacy Coordinator
 Kim Johnson, Senior Director of Policy, x243
 Sarita Kelkar, Policy Intern
 Mayerline Louis-Juste, Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, x201
 Lisa Marlow, Senior Director of Communications, x813
 Meghan Mertyris, Senior Disaster Housing Recovery Analyst
 Julian Mura-Kröger, Research Intern
 Khara Norris, Senior Vice President of Operations and Finance, x242
 Libby O'Neill, Senior Policy Analyst

Noah Patton, Director, Disaster Recovery, x227
Mackenzie Pish, Research Analyst
Oliver Porter, DHR Intern
Benja Reilly, Development Coordinator, x234
Zenayah Roache, Housing Advocacy Organizer
Dee Ross, Tenant Leader Fellow
Gabrielle Ross, Manager, IDEAS, x208
Craig Schaar, Data Systems Analyst
Brooke Schipporeit, Senior Director, Field Organizing and Innovation, x233
Kristen Stehling, Fund Development Director
Carlton Taylor, Jr., Senior Graphic Communications Coordinator
Cecily Thomas, Development Coordinator, x810
Tia Turner, Project Manager, *Our Homes, Our Votes*
Julie Walker, Project Manager, *Opportunity Starts at Home*
Brandon Weil, Graphic Communications Manager
Chantelle Wilkinson, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships & Campaigns, x230
Renee Williams, Senior Advisor for Public Policy
Renee M. Willis, President and CEO, x247
Tiara Wood, Communications Coordinator