



# Memo To Members & Partners

*A weekly newsletter from the National Low Income Housing Coalition*

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## HUD

### **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Staff Placed on Administrative Leave; HUD Workforce Drops by Estimated 23% Since January – Take Action!**

**TAG: HUD**

*Keywords: HUD, Trump Administration, layoffs*

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) staff were placed on administrative leave on April 15, following an executive order (EO) released last month targeting the agency and several others for closure (see *Memo*, [3/17](#)).

Kenneth Jackson, an official with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), was appointed acting director of the agency the day before all 13 USICH staff were placed on leave. According to recent [reports](#), the agency will continue to operate with just one or two employees.

USICH was created under the “McKinney-Vento Homeless Act of 1987” to coordinate the federal response to homelessness between departments and agencies, including developing a federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness and annual reports on the plan’s implementation. By law, the agency is required to have an executive director, and at least five regional field advisors.

The layoffs at USICH are the latest in a series of actions taken by the Trump Administration to severely reduce the size, role, and capacity of federal agencies and departments. On April 1, over 10,000 staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS) were fired, including the 23 federal employees responsible for administering the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP; see *Memo*, [4/7](#)).

#### **HUD Staffing Updates**

At HUD, since the beginning of the year an estimated 2,300 staff – around 23% of HUD’s workforce – have either retired, been placed on administrative leave, or accepted an offer for the Deferred Resignation Program. At the beginning of the year, HUD employed around 10,000 people around the country.

Better known as the “fork in the road” offer, the Deferred Resignation Program offers federal employees the option of voluntarily separating from their job while receiving pay and benefits through September 30. HUD was also issued a Reduction in Force ([RIF](#)) memo giving the agency until May 18 to develop a plan to layoff employees at and below a specified classification, while earlier this year, leaked documents from DOGE revealed plans to terminate at least half of HUD’s workforce.

#### **Take Action!**

[Tell members of Congress](#) why HUD resources are critical to low-income families and communities and urge representatives to protect HUD programs and staff!

HUD staff play a vital role in ensuring federal resources can reach the communities, families, and individuals they serve. Without HUD employees, the department will not be able to administer resources and provide technical assistance crucial to helping communities provide rental assistance; build and preserve affordable housing; address and prevent homelessness; and rebuild housing and infrastructure after disasters.

As a direct consequence of potential mass layoffs, homeless shelters will be forced to close their doors, communities will need to freeze affordable housing projects, households receiving rental assistance will be at risk of falling behind on rent and facing eviction, and disaster-impacted communities will be unable to rebuild. At a time when more renters than ever are struggling to afford the cost of housing and homelessness has reached a record high, we must strengthen – not shred – the nation’s housing safety net.

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## **HUD Delays Effective Date of Certain Provisions of HOME Final Rule, Including Tenant Protections**

**TAG: HUD**

*Keywords: HOME, Tenant Protections*

HUD [published on April 17](#) a second delay in implementation of certain changes made to the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program regulations. Changes to the HOME regulations published in the *Federal Register* on January 6 were originally to take effect on February 5 (see *Memo*, [1/13](#)). However, a notice in the *Federal Register* on January 31 delayed implementation to April 20, citing President Trump’s “[Regulatory Freeze Pending Review](#)” memo (see *Memo*, [2/3](#)). The delay was to “allow executive departments and agencies time to review any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rules may raise.”

Based on the April 17 update, most of the rule will go into effect on the updated planned effective date of April 20; however, certain provisions are being further delayed and will be subject to further rulemaking. The provisions being delayed are:

- American Dream Downpayment Initiatives – removal of Action Plan requirements for state governments;
- Maximum Per-Unit Subsidy Amount, Underwriting, and Subsidy Layering – Green Building Standard per unit subsidy revision; and
- Tenant Protections and Selection.

The new effective date for these provisions is October 30, 2025. HUD will issue a separate *Federal Register* publication inviting public comment.

While the final rule affects many areas pertaining to the HOME program, NLIHC submitted [comments](#) regarding the proposed changes focused on strengthening tenant protections for renters living in HOME-assisted properties and improvements to the provisions concerning Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). The final rule issued on January 6 includes many recommendations made by NLIHC and greatly strengthens tenant protections and improves CHDO provisions. NLIHC summarized key changes in the HOME regulations

regarding tenant protections (see *Memo*, 12/20/24) and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) (see *Memo*, 12/28/24).

The April 17 update raises concerns about the eventual implementation of the new tenant protections provisions, which provide a baseline set of protections including the right to organize, limits on security deposits, and protection against retaliation. NLIHC will monitor the *Federal Register* for the public comment dates and post further updates in Memo to Members.

Read the April 17 *Federal Register* notice at: <https://bit.ly/42Ca4oo>.

Find the final *Federal Register* version of the final rule at: <https://tinyurl.com/4asbbd54>.

Find an easier to read version of the final rule at: <https://tinyurl.com/yes7k39n>.

Read more about HOME on [page 5-1](#) of NLIHC's *2024 Advocates' Guide*.

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## Budget and Appropriations

### Trump Administration's FY26 Budget Proposal Expected to Slash Spending on HUD Programs – Take Action Now!

**TAG: Budget and Appropriations**

*Keywords: Appropriations, FY26*

The Trump Administration is expected to release a fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget proposal by mid-May, with an outline – known as a “skinny budget” – expected later in April. The budget is expected to propose massive spending cuts to HUD’s vital affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs, including a significant overhaul of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program that would likely result in a decrease in the number of assisted households.

Every year, the Administration submits a budget request to Congress in advance of the annual appropriations process. Only Congress has the power to provide funding for federal programs, so the president’s budget request does not carry any legal weight but it does provide an opportunity for the Administration to signal their priorities in the fiscal year ahead. The anticipated “skinny budget” will likely provide topline funding requests for each of the 12 appropriations bills for FY26, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill that funds HUD’s vital affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs. The mid-May request will provide fuller details about how the Trump Administration would fund individual federal programs.

Recent [reports](#) indicate Administration officials may be considering proposals to make direct cuts to and “block grant” the HCV program. The HCV program receives funding every year appropriated by Congress to carry out various elements of the program, including voucher renewals, administrative costs, and the creation of new vouchers. A block grant provides states and localities with a pot of funding that can be used for multiple purposes; by allowing states and localities to shift funding from voucher renewals or the creation of new vouchers to other

purposes, block granting the HCV program would effectively act as a cut to the number of vouchers available to assist households in need.

During his first term, President Trump repeatedly called for [massive spending](#) cuts to HUD programs, including deep cuts to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program that, if enacted, would have taken housing assistance away from 200,000 households who rely on their HCV to keep a roof over their heads. The previous Trump Administration also pushed Congress to enact policies that would increase barriers to accessing housing assistance, including work requirements, time limits, and minimum rent increases on HUD-assisted households. However, thanks to advocates and congressional champions who worked tirelessly to protect HCVs and other vital HUD programs, these proposed cuts and policy changes were never enacted. NLIHC is expecting these threats to be raised again as FY26 negotiations take shape.

### **The need for additional funding for the Emergency Housing Voucher program**

In addition to the need for increased funding in FY26 to cover the cost of HCV renewals, Congress will need to provide funding to ensure the 60,000 households who receive an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) do not lose their assistance. The [EHV program](#) was created in the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,” which provided \$5 billion for 60,000 new tenant-based rental assistance vouchers specifically targeted to people experiencing or at immediate risk of homelessness, including people escaping intimate partner violence. The EHV program mandates that public housing authorities (PHAs), which are responsible for administering the program, work with their local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to identify people and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and connect them to an EHV, plus wrap-around services when needed for long-term housing stability.

The EHV program has been extremely successful, helping almost 60,000 people and families – and in particular families with children – find and maintain stable housing. While funding for the program was originally slated to last until 2030, the rapid increase in the cost of rent over the last four years has caused funding to run out much more quickly than expected. Unless additional funding is allocated by Congress, HUD estimates that funding for the program will likely run out in 2026.

### **Take Action**

As Congress begins their work on FY26, NLIHC will continue to monitor developments and provide updated materials for advocates to take action and demand increased funding for HUD’s vital programs in any final FY26 spending bill.

***Urge Congress to pass a FY26 spending bill with increased funding for HUD’s affordable housing and homelessness programs!***

Use NLIHC’s toolkits and resources to take action on FY26 funding, including 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.](#)

National, state, local, tribal, and territorial organizations can also [join over 2,300 organizations](#) on CHCDF’s national letter calling on Congress to support the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources in FY26.

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## Fair Housing

### NLIHC joins AFFH Comment Letter Urging Secretary Turner to Withdraw Interim Rule, Welcomes Organizations to Join Comment

**TAG: Fair Housing**

*Keywords: HUD, comment letter, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, National Fair Housing Alliance, fair housing*

The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) invites advocates to [join](#) a [public comment letter](#) urging HUD Secretary Scott Turner to immediately withdraw the 2025 Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH) Interim Final Rule and reinstate the 2021 AFFH Interim Final Rule. The Trump Administration’s AFFH [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR) nullified the rule and took effect on April 2, 2025 (see *Memo*, [3/3](#)). NLIHC joined the public comment letter and welcomes national, state, and local organizations to join in support. Additionally, NFHA shared a [condensed comment template](#) for organizations who choose to add their own comment or provide additional insights on the intersection of housing and healthcare, education, or other issues. The deadline to submit comments on the IFR on [Regulations.gov](#) is May 2, 2025.

Title VIII of the “Civil Rights Act of 1968 (the Fair Housing Act) requires HUD to administer its programs in a way that affirmatively furthers fair housing. The Fair Housing Act not only makes it unlawful for jurisdictions and public housing agencies (PHAs) to discriminate; the law also requires jurisdictions to take actions that undo historic patterns of segregation and other types of discrimination, as well as to take actions to promote fair housing choice and to foster inclusive communities. The protected classes of the Fair Housing Act are determined by race, color, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, and religion.

The new AFFH rule requires grantees to simply attest that they have taken any action to promote fair housing. Secretary Turner claims the new rule will cut “costly red tape imposed on localities,” but for decades, advocates have warned that the promise of the “Fair Housing Act” never being fulfilled, and this failure continues to exacerbate racial disparities in housing and homelessness. PolicyLink has released a helpful [explainer](#) on the new AFFH rule.

Read the NFHA comment letter [here](#) and add your organization [here](#).

Write your own comment letter using the NFHA [comment template](#) and submit on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by May 2, 2025.

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## HUD Proposes to Rescind the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Regulations

**TAG: Fair Housing**

*Key Words: OIRA, OMB, affirmative fair housing marketing, regulations, rescind, HUD*

A HUD [proposal to rescind the affirmative fair housing marketing regulations](#) was listed on the website of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OIRA does not provide a summary of the proposal, unlike what it has done in normal times. This hints at yet another attack on fair housing by the Trump Administration. NLIHC will monitor this proposal and inform *Memo* readers as it moves from OIRA to HUD for comment.

The obligation to affirmatively market housing in a way that complies with federal fair housing laws applies to housing insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), assisted with HUD's Multifamily Assistance programs, and other HUD-subsidized housing, such as the HOME and national Housing Trust Fund programs. The obligation applies to jurisdictions, subrecipients, and project owners. These entities must design and employ marketing plans and/or submit HUD-designed forms that promote fair housing by ensuring outreach to all potentially eligible households, especially those least likely to apply for assistance. Affirmative marketing consists of actions to provide information and otherwise attract eligible persons to available housing without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, familial status (persons with children under 18 years of age, including pregnant women), disability, or religion. The affirmative marketing requirements also apply to projects targeted to people with special needs.

The affirmative fair housing marketing requirements extend from statute, executive order, and regulation. Statutory authority exists in the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and Executive Order 11063, which provide that all federal executive departments and agencies must act to end discriminatory practices in the programs or activities of recipients of federal financial assistance.

An example of how various FHA and HUD programs are required to comply with affirmative fair housing marketing regulations is a HOME program guidance document, [HOMEfires Vol. 14 No. 1, February 2018](#), summarizing the affirmative marketing procedures for HOME participating Jurisdictions (PJs). The HOME program affirmative fair housing marketing regulations are at [§92.351](#). HOMEfires states that PJs must describe specific steps that must be taken to ensure applicants who are unlikely to apply for housing without special outreach have equal access to housing opportunities generated by the use of HOME program funds. There are five elements that each PJ's marketing procedures must include:

1. A description of how the PJ plans to inform the public, subrecipients, owners, and potential tenants about federal fair housing laws and the PJ's affirmative marketing policy;

2. The requirements and practices that each subrecipient and owner of HOME-funded housing must adhere to in order to carry out the PJ's affirmative marketing procedures and requirements;
3. A statement of procedures to be used by subrecipients and owners to inform and solicit applications from people in the housing market area who are least likely to apply for the housing without special outreach;
4. A list of the records the PJ will keep, and the records the PJ will require subrecipients and owners to keep, regarding efforts made to affirmatively market HOME-assisted units, and to assess the results of these actions; and
5. A description of how the PJ will annually assess the success of affirmative marketing action(s) and what corrective actions will be taken where affirmative marketing requirements are not met

PJs must implement their affirmative marketing procedures in projects or programs that they administer directly. PJs must also provide their affirmative marketing procedures to subrecipients that administer all or a portion of the PJ's HOME program and to owners/developers of HOME projects with five or more HOME-assisted units. The requirement to affirmatively market must be included in the written agreement between the PJ and the subrecipient or owner. The PJ must ensure subrecipients and owners have an understanding of the fair housing practices for advertising and soliciting applications (targeted populations should include those least likely to apply), know what records they must keep to document compliance, and how the PJ will assess the owner's marketing procedures and their success.

HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs has a handbook, "Multifamily Asset Management and Project Servicing (4350.1)," which has a [chapter](#) noting that one way HUD has implemented its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) is through Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans (AFHMPs). These plans seek to address disparities in exposure to and information about housing options in an attempt to promote fair housing choice and prevent the perpetuation of segregation. The goal of an AFHMP is to achieve a condition in which individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market area have a like range of housing choices available to them regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, familial status or religion. The plan outlines marketing strategies the property owner must use, including special efforts to attract people who are least likely to apply for housing and to make such people aware of available housing opportunities. The Office of Multifamily Programs developed a form ([form HUD-935.2A](#)) that developers must submit. The affirmative fair housing marketing regulations for FHA projects are at [24 CFR Part 200 Subpart M](#).

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## HoUSed

**National HoUSed Campaign Call on April 22 Cancelled: Join Housing Now! Day of Action Event Near You!**

**TAG: HoUSed**

NLIHC will cancel our Tuesday (April 22) national HoUSed campaign call. Instead, advocates can join the National Coalition for the Homeless' (NCH's) Housing Now! National Day of

Action on April 22 to show their support for federal housing and homelessness programs and call on Congress and the White House to pursue the long-term, large-scale investments that will be required to end homelessness and housing insecurity.

A national rally in Washington, D.C. will be held from 11:00am to 2:00pm ET on the Capitol grounds, and communities around the country have signed up to host their own Housing Now! events. Learn more about the Day of Action, including events in your community, at NCH's [website](#).

NLIHC's next national HoUSed campaign call will take place Tuesday, May 13, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET. [Register for the series here](#), and access NLIHC's archive of HoUSed Campaign calls and other webinar recordings [here](#).

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## **IDEAS**

### **The Beauty Turner Academy of Oral History is Accepting Applications for Summer 2025!**

#### **TAG: IDEAS**

*Keywords: National Public Housing Museum, Beauty Turner, Beauty Turner Academy of Oral History*

The National Public Housing Museum is bringing back the Beauty Turner Academy of Oral History for the summer of 2025! Applications are open now through April 25. This 11-week PAID intensive summer training program introduces the principles, ethics, and practice of conducting oral history-based memory work and is designed for public housing communities across the country. This year's program will run between June 9 – Aug 29 and will include a participant stipend, training workbook, and equipment starter kit. The program is entirely virtual, and applicants are welcomed from across the country. Find out more about the application [here](#).

The Beauty Turner Academy and the National Public Housing Museum envision a world where residents are empowered to document, preserve, share, and celebrate narrative histories from their perspectives—the people who call public housing home.

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## **State and Local Innovation**

### **Recap of NLIHC's Rent Stabilization Webinar on 4/16**

#### **TAG: State and Local Innovation**

*Keywords: Webinar, Tenant Protection, Eviction, Rent Stabilization*

On Wednesday, April 16, NLIHC's [State and Local Innovation \(SLI\) campaign](#) hosted the latest iteration of its *State and Local Tenant Protections: A Primer on Renters' Rights* webinar series with a call on rent stabilization protections. During the call, attendees had the opportunity to hear from researchers, tenant advocates, and housing organizers about efforts to enact permanent rent stabilization protections for renters at the state and local levels, including the importance of implementing such protections to promote housing stability and divert the threat of evictions. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

Across the country today, housing is out of reach for many of the lowest-income renter households. Indeed, [rental costs are roughly 35% higher than they were in comparison to pre-pandemic averages](#), leading many renter households to be cost-burdened by their rent, or, paying more than 30% of their monthly income toward rental and utility costs. At the same time, demand in the rental market has increased considerably, leaving renters with very few affordable and available housing options. According to NLIHC's latest "[The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes](#)" report for 2025, the United States currently faces a shortage of 7.1 million affordable – and available – rental housing units for extremely low-income households. Meaning, there are just three affordable rental housing units available for every ten extremely low-income renters today.

To make housing more affordable to tenants, lawmakers in state and local jurisdictions across the country have turned to implementing rent stabilization protections for tenants. Once implemented, rent stabilization protections slow the appreciation of rental costs per year - or throughout the duration of a tenant's lease agreement - making a tenant aware of how much will be charged to them in rent each month. [Rent stabilization protections have been passed in three states nationwide, with more than 40 local jurisdictions - including cities and counties - having passed such protections.](#)

During the webinar, which was joined by the Community Service Society of New York, the Community Alliance of Tenants, and CASA of Maryland, attendees learned about how rent stabilization protections work as a key anti-displacement tool to protect tenants against rent gouging and rental inflation that seeks to price tenants out of their homes. Nada Hussein, Project Coordinator, State and Local Innovation, provided an overview of the state and local level work happening across the country to enact rent stabilization protections. Nada provided an overview of NLIHC's [State and Local Tenant Protections Database](#) and talked about NLIHC's [recent publication](#) on rent stabilization protections. The toolkit, which was released in the fall of 2024, breaks out the core components of rent stabilization protections as well as highlights jurisdictions that have implemented such protections for renters. The toolkit, [which can be found here](#), also provides recommendations from tenant advocates on how such protections can be strengthened to cover the greatest number of renter households.

Next, Samuel Stein and Oksana Miranova, senior policy analysts from the [Community Service Society of New York](#), presented their research on rent stabilization protections in New York, including providing a succinct primer on the history of such protections in the state. Samuel and Oksana also showcased their [recent research](#) on rent stabilization protections, including tenants' attitudes toward rent stabilization protections and how there is overwhelming support for the passage of rental regulatory policies across the state. Next, attendees heard from Kim McCarty, executive director of the [Community Alliance of Tenants](#) in Oregon, on the local efforts to enact rent stabilization in the state. Kim spoke about the state's currently implemented rent stabilization bill, which was passed through "[Senate Bill 608](#)" in 2019 and described how tenant

advocates rallied for such protections for years – first campaigning for such protections in 2016. Kim also spoke about the tenant-led and tenant-centered approach to passing rent stabilization protections in Oregon, including the coalition that led these efforts, the [Stable Homes for Oregon Families](#) coalition.

Advocates in Prince George’s County, Maryland, Eden Aaron, a policy and research analyst at [CASA of Maryland](#), and Alex Vazquez, the national organizing director for the organization, spoke about similar approaches to centering tenants in the advocacy process in the county. CASA of Maryland, which helped secure rent stabilization protections for renters in Prince George’s County in 2024 through “[CB-55-2024](#),” talked about how tenants rallied over the course of two years to make such protection permanent. CASA of Maryland talked about how they organized hundreds of tenants, door-knocked, signed petitions, used social media to amplify tenants’ stories, and made rent stabilization an election issue in order to uplift the crucial need for renter protections.

Overall, this webinar series was created to exemplify the efforts employed by housing advocates, tenant organizers, and legal aid service providers who have enacted state and local level renter protections. In the absence of federal level tenant protections, state and local level tenant protections are critical in keeping eviction rates down and preventing homelessness.

Resources from the call, including slideshow presentations from the panelists, can be found [here](#).

The SLI campaign will host one final webinar on June 11 on laws that strengthen code enforcement procedures and habitability standards for renters.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

For more information on NLIHC’s State and Local Innovation project, please visit: <https://nlihc.org/state-and-local-innovation>.

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## **Disaster Housing Recovery**

### **Disaster Housing Update – April 21, 2025**

**TAG: Disaster Recovery**

*Keywords: Disaster housing, FEMA*

As requested by members of the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC), below we present the latest information on erosion of federal disaster response and recovery capabilities. Given the sheer number of changes, this list is unlikely to be completely inclusive. If you see issues in your area that are not mentioned, please feel free to reach out to NLIHC’s Manager of Disaster Recovery, Noah Patton ([npatton@nlihc.org](mailto:npatton@nlihc.org)) and Disaster Housing Policy Analyst Meghan Mertyris ([mmertyris@nlihc.org](mailto:mmertyris@nlihc.org)).

### **Disaster Declarations and Preliminary Damage Assessments**

- The president [denied](#) a request for a disaster declaration made by the State of Washington after a “Bomb Cyclone” impacted the state in late 2024. The letter denying the declaration did not provide a reason, though Washington Governor Bob Ferguson stated that the application met all the requirements. The state plans to appeal the decision.
- Arkansas received a [denial](#) from the federal government regarding its request for Individual Assistance (IA) for severe storms and tornados that impacted the state on March 14, 2025. The application for Public Assistance (PA) is still pending. The state plans to appeal.

### **Assistance Extension Denials**

- North Carolina’s request for an extension of a 100% cost share determination for Hurricane Helene-related expenses was [denied](#) by the Administration as being “unnecessary.” The request was supported by a bipartisan group of NC Congressman and Senators. An extension would have continued the current policy that the federal government would fully reimburse state and local work to repair roads, infrastructure, and government operations in the area impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2024. A similar [request](#) for an extension by the state of Georgia was denied in February.

### **FEMA Grant Pauses and Cancellations**

- In January, the Department of Homeland Security issued a pause on all grants at FEMA – including Hazard Mitigation Grants, wildfire management grants, and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Despite a Judge’s [order](#) siding with Attorneys General from 22 states and the District of Columbia that the ongoing pause violated an injunction, grant funds largely appear to remain paused. However, some Hazard Mitigation Grants have been [issued](#).
- FEMA moved to [terminate](#) the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program earlier this month – recapturing over \$800 million slated for climate mitigation projects across the country. Funds from projects approved in earlier years that have not already been spent are also being [clawed back](#) by the agency.

### **FEMA and Related Disaster Capabilities Reduction**

- The Administration announced the [termination](#) of Americorp’s National Civilian Climate Conservation Corp – including the FEMA Corp, which provides aid workers to areas impacted by disasters. The remainder of Americorp’s administrative staff have been placed on leave.
- The fate of the Boston-area headquarters of FEMA’s Region 1 remains [in doubt](#). Despite earlier attempts by the Administration to close the office, the office remains operational. New England congressional delegations [pushed back](#) on the proposed closing of the office in letters earlier this month.
- DHS Secretary [offered](#) a “buyout” to agency employees earlier this month. FEMA was not exempted from the offer. The deadline for employees taking the buyout to notify the agency was April 14. It is unknown how many employees have taken the offer.
- Travel restrictions put in place by the Administration are [preventing](#) FEMA officials from attending major hurricane and flood conferences ahead of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season.
- A task force of NC lawmakers [commissioned](#) by President Trump in January issued a report on April 16 that took a cautious tone to the Administration’s efforts against

FEMA. The report offered common-sense reforms that could speed assistance to disaster-impacted areas without dismantling the agency.

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## Opportunity Starts at Home

### Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign Updates National Policy Agenda

**TAG: Opportunity Starts at Home**

*Keywords: Opportunity Starts at Home, multi-sectors*

The [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) (OSAH) campaign released an updated version of its national policy agenda, “[Within Reach: Ambitious Federal Solutions to Meet the Housing Needs of People with Low Incomes](#).” Written in collaboration with the OSAH campaign’s [Steering Committee](#), *Within Reach* identifies short- and long-term policy strategies essential for Congress to act on to address the affordable housing crisis. These strategies include expanding rental assistance, increasing the supply of deeply affordable housing, and providing emergency financial assistance for households experiencing unforeseen economic shocks. The report features research demonstrating that housing is a critical driver of outcomes in many other areas of life, such as health, education, economic mobility, food security, poverty reduction. The updated policy agenda also maintains its emphasis on advancing racial equity, stating that “Affordable housing (and housing broadly) has a long history rooted in racial and social injustice that must be remedied if we want to grow the economy, care for our seniors and people with disabilities, create safe communities and neighborhoods for everyone, improve food security, meet veterans’ needs, end homelessness, strengthen youth, support local businesses, and more.”

Read the policy agenda [here](#).

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## Research

### State-Level COVID-19 Eviction Moratoria May Have Helped Reduce Risk of Child Maltreatment

**TAG: Housing-Related Data**

*Keywords: Child maltreatment, eviction moratoria, COVID-19, housing stability and children, child abuse*

A recent article published in *Pediatrics*, “[State-Based Eviction Moratoria and Child Maltreatment During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#),” examines whether state-level eviction moratoria implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic were associated with changes in reported child maltreatment rates. The authors found that in the states studied, eviction moratoria were significantly associated with reduced biweekly reporting of physical abuse (16%

reduction), sexual abuse (21%), and child neglect (12%) during the study period (January 1, 2019, to mid-August 2021). These findings suggest that eviction moratoria may help to prevent child maltreatment by promoting housing stability.

Previous studies have shown that housing insecurity and eviction increase the risk of child maltreatment and of Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations. The authors note that in most states, “a family’s failure to provide secure housing” is considered child neglect, despite the fact that housing insecurity often reflects “structural adversities beyond a family’s control.” In 2022, 11% of child removals through the child welfare system were associated with inadequate housing. A rapidly growing body of evidence demonstrates that providing housing-insecure families with financial assistance and/or increasing tenant protections can not only promote housing insecurity but help to improve child and family wellbeing outcomes and safeguard families’ material needs. The authors sought to leverage geographic variations in the implementation of state-level eviction moratoria during the pandemic to understand if eviction moratoria were associated with changes in reported child maltreatment rates.

The authors linked data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), the COVID-19 Eviction Moratoria and Housing Policy Database (EMHPD), and Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering COVID-19 time series data to compare changes in average biweekly maltreatment reporting rates before and during the pandemic between counties in states with and without eviction moratoria. They defined their “treatment” group as 185 counties located in states with continuous eviction moratoria in effect from mid-March 2020 to mid-August of 2021 (California, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Washington, and the District of Columbia). The control group included 133 counties in states that never implemented a state-level eviction moratorium (Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming).

The authors found that eviction moratoria were significantly associated with a reduction in biweekly reports of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Though moratoria were also negatively associated with overall child maltreatment report rates, this association was not statistically significant. The statistical model suggests that the moratoria were associated with a decline in average reporting rates of 16% for physical abuse, 21% for sexual abuse, and 12% for neglect.

The study findings suggest that policies to promote housing security such as eviction moratoria, direct cash assistance, and rental assistance may effectively reduce the risk of child maltreatment. However, the authors emphasize that the limitations of the study may have skewed the findings. For one, reported child maltreatment rates provide an incomplete picture of reality as not all cases of maltreatment are reported; they specifically call attention to the implications of varying school instructional modes (in-person, hybrid, fully remote) during the pandemic on the frequency of child maltreatment detection and reporting. Furthermore, the analysis did not account for other COVID-19 related federal, state, and local policies that may have had a positive effect on child maltreatment risk, such as unemployment insurance and an expanded child tax credit.

This article can be found at: <https://bit.ly/4ijOSt1>.

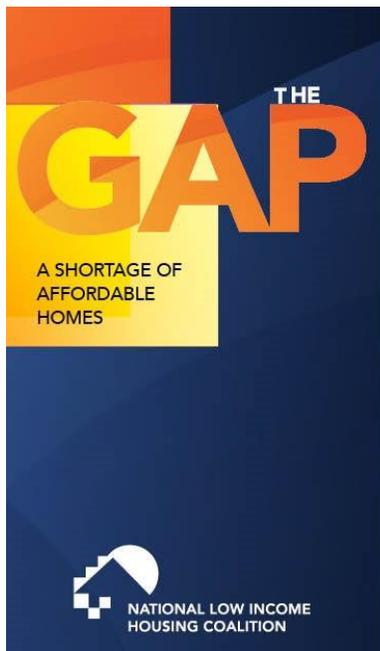
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## Fact of the Week

### Extremely Low-Income Renters Are More Likely Than Other Renters to Have Characteristics that May Limit Their Incomes

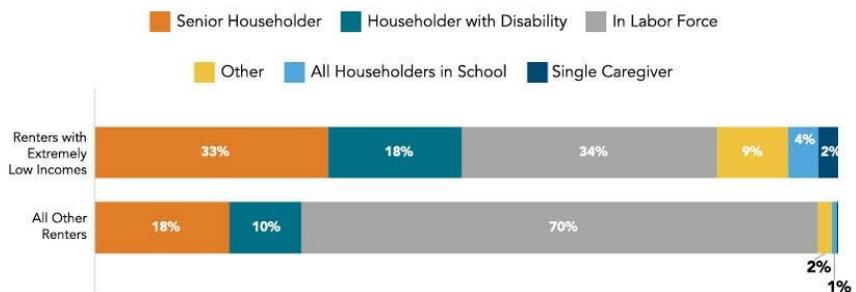
**TAG: Fact of the Week**

*Keywords: Renters, Extremely low-income renters, Demographics*



### Extremely Low-Income Renters Are More Likely to Be Seniors, Householders with Disabilities, Householders in School, or Single-Adult Caregivers

Householder Type by Income



Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or of a household member with a disability, and other. Senior means householder or householder's spouse (if applicable) is at least 62 years of age. Disabled means householder and householder's spouse (if applicable) are younger than 62 and at least one of them has a disability. School means householder and householder's spouse (if applicable) are enrolled in school.  
Source: 2023 ACS PUMS.

Source: [The Gap Report](#), NLIHC 2025

## NLIHC Careers

### NLIHC Seeks Director of Communications

NLIHC seeks a Director of Communications to work closely with the NLIHC Vice President of External Affairs to support the implementation of NLIHC's communications strategies. The Director of Communications will manage communication plans, media, brand, and public relations and expand overall visibility and reach in support of the Coalition's mission, vision, goals, and objectives. The Director of Communications will supervise two positions: a Graphic Communications Manager and a Graphic Communications Sr. Coordinator. The salary range for this position is contingent upon experience and is from \$92,000 - \$118,000. This position requires physical time in the office, and the candidate must be located in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area or be able to commute to our office located in D.C. for a hybrid work schedule.

## Responsibilities/Duties

- Manage the development and implementation of the Coalition's internal and external communication strategies, including publications, e-communications, media, digital, public relations, and marketing.
- Develop and maintain key communication channels, adapting and improving the approach in coordination with external trends and housing policy priorities.
- Lead efforts to drive and execute external digital communications, including websites, social media, email campaigns, multimedia.
- Develop and oversee implementation of external marketing and communications strategies, tactics, and deliverables.
- Oversee development and implementation of creative assets.
- Manage content and editorial needs for all digital platforms.
- Collaborate with team leads to drive internal communications to support initiatives and programs.
- Manage communications team workflows for requests, publications, and campaigns.
- Develop/maintain strong relationships with reporters, writers, and opinion leaders in print, broadcast, online, and social media.
- Maintain up-to-date database of all media contacts.
- Pitch stories and secure regular media interviews and editorial board meetings for President/CEO and other Coalition staff and members as appropriate.
- Collaborate with team leads to develop and implement messaging strategy.
- Prepare and distribute press releases and media alerts; manage press events for NLIHC and state partners.
- Manage the process of placing op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, blogs pieces, and other opinion pieces for president/CEO and other Coalition staff and members as appropriate.
- Approve articles for Coalition staff and members as appropriate for placement in partner publications.
- Curate new activation opportunities with media organizations.
- Manage media performance strategy and metrics.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for use of social media.
- Monitor print, broadcast, online, and social media for coverage of NLIHC, NLIHC campaigns, and NLIHC policy priorities; reach out to amplify or correct as needed.
- Stay abreast of new developments in social media and recommend advances and changes to NLIHC platforms. Maintain records of all media work; produce metrics of all social media contacts; prepare monthly reports.
- Manage content development, writing, and editing of NLIHC publications.
- Manage internal staff and state partners in development of media strategies.
- Develop and implement webinars, workshops, and written materials to aid NLIHC members in use of social media and press strategies.
- Collaborate with teams across the organization to amplify programs, projects, and campaigns.
- Supervise communications team and interns.
- Facilitate opportunities for professional development.

- Assist in implementation of the annual Housing Policy Forum, Leadership Awards Reception, and other events.

### **Qualifications**

This is a full-time position, and candidates must be physically located in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree. Applicants must have a strong commitment to social justice and NLIHC's mission. This position would be ideal for someone with five or more years of communications and management experience. Proficiency with Microsoft Office suite and Adobe Creative Cloud is required.

A person will be most successful in this role if you have knowledge and experience in all aspects of communications, digital media, social media, media relations, PR, and brand management.

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

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter with salary requirement, and one writing sample to Jen Butler, NLIHC VP of External Affairs, via email at [jbutler@nlihc.org](mailto:jbutler@nlihc.org).

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## **NLIHC News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of April 14**

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during week of April 14:

- Improving patient screening for housing instability with electronic health records, *Medical Xpress*, April 15, at: <https://tinyurl.com/8xm63dys>
- The Homeless Garden Project: Opening Doors to the Unhoused, *CounterPunch*, April 18, at: <https://tinyurl.com/3mVV6xhn>
- One map shows the affordable housing gap for low-income renters across the US, *Business Insider*, April 18 at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd6f8ec>

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### **Where to Find Us – April 21**

- [Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition 2025 Summit](#) – Topeka, KS, April 22-23 (Tia Turner)
  - [National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials](#) (NALEO) Educational Fund Policy Institute: Shaping Economic Success for Latinas – Los Angeles, CA, May 7 (Kayla Blackwell)
  - [Ulster County CoC Annual Membership Meeting](#) – Kingston, NY, May 13 (Lindsay Duvall)
  - [SWTHA Tri-Annual Meeting](#) – Flagstaff, AZ, May 12-May 14 (Tia Turner)
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## **NLIHC Staff**

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Millen Asfaha, Operations Coordinator  
Andrew Aurand, Senior Vice President for Research, x245  
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Kayla Laywell, Housing Policy Analyst, x231  
Hannah Botts, Our Homes, Our Votes Intern  
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Jen Butler, Vice President, External Affairs, x239  
Alayna Calabro, Senior Policy Analyst, x252  
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Lakesha Dawson, Director of Operations  
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Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314  
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Nada Hussein, ERASE Project Coordinator, x264  
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Nara Kim, Policy Intern  
Sasha Legagneur, Field Intern  
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Khara Norris, Vice President of Operations and Finance, x242  
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Noah Patton, Manager, Disaster Recovery, x227  
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Katie Renzie, Research Intern  
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Julie Walker, OSAH Campaign Coordinator  
Brandon Weil, Graphic Communications Manager  
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Renee Willis, Interim President and CEO, x247  
Tiara Wood, External Affairs Coordinator