



# Memo To Members & Partners

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

**Volume 30, Issue 7**  
**February 24, 2025**

## **Budget and Appropriations**

- Join CHCDF's National Day of Action on February 27 to Demand a Final FY25 Spending Bill with Significant Increases for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services!
- Senate Adopts Framework for "Skinny" Reconciliation Package, While House Plans to Consider Massive Bill This Week

## **Congress**

- House Financial Services Committee to Hold Hearing on Housing Supply

## **White House**

- President Trump Announces Executive Order to Intimidate Immigrant Communities, Does Not Change Eligibility

## **Homelessness and Housing First**

- New Resource: Healthy Parents, Healthy Babies Video Series Highlights Housing & Maternal Health Equity

## **Housing Policy Forum**

- Register for NLIHC's Hill Day Prep Webinar on March 5 to Prepare for Capitol Hill Day

## **HoUSED**

- Join Tomorrow's (February 25) National HoUSED Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing!

## **State and Local Innovation**

- Register for Tomorrow's (February 25) Tenant Protections Webinar on "Just Cause" Eviction Standards
- New Data Highlights Impact of Eviction Record Sealing Protections in Oregon

## **Fair Housing**

- The National Fair Housing Alliance, National Urban League and Others Sue Trump Administration Over Executive Orders Banning Civil Rights Principles

## **Public Charge**

- NLIHC and Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition Release New Fact Sheet Debunking Myths on Immigrants and Affordable Housing

## **Opportunity Starts at Home**

- Recap of 2/18 Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign, National Women's Law Center, and National Network to End Domestic Violence Webinar Exploring Connections Between Gender Justice and Housing

## **Research**

- Eviction Prevention Workshops Can Increase Tenants' Understanding of Their Rights and Resources

## **Fact of the Week**

- Some States Have a Greater Need for HUD Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Funds

## **NLIHC Careers**

- NLIHC Seeks Director of Communications

## **NLIHC News**

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 17
- Where to Find Us – February 24

## Budget and Appropriations

### Join CHCDF's National Day of Action on February 27 to Demand a Final FY25 Spending Bill with Significant Increases for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services!

**TAG: Budget and Appropriations**

*Keywords: appropriations, FY25*

NLIHC is joining our partners in the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding ([CHCDF](#)) for a National Day of Action on February 27. Advocates around the country should [contact their members of Congress](#) on February 27 to demand a final fiscal year (FY) 2025 spending bill with increased funding for HUD's vital affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs! Use our "[Oppose Dramatic Cuts to Federal Investments in Affordable Housing](#)" toolkit for resources, talking points, advocacy ideas, and other helpful information about defending funding for affordable housing and homelessness resources in the FY25 federal budget.

Despite some progress on a topline funding number for an FY25 spending agreement, negotiations between congressional appropriators have reached another stumbling block with a March 14 funding deadline quickly approaching. Congress has until March 14 to reach an agreement on FY25 spending, as well as draft, negotiate, and pass legislative text. Without an agreement, lawmakers will need to pass another continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government funded or risk a partial shutdown.

With so much to do in limited time, appropriations leaders are discussing another short-term CR lasting until early- or mid-April. Negotiations have also hit another stumbling block, this time over a provision Senate Appropriations Committee Vice-Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) want to add to any FY25 spending bill that would guarantee the White House is unable to refuse to release congressionally appropriated funding, also known as "impounding funds," or "impoundment." While impoundment is already illegal under the "Impoundment Control Act of 1974," the Trump Administration has repeatedly attempted – in some cases, successfully – to freeze funding already approved by Congress. The infamous (and rescinded) January 27 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [memo](#) issuing a freeze on all federal grants and contracts sowed distrust among appropriators, significantly setting back budget negotiations.

Rather than finalizing a FY25 spending bill, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) are pushing instead for a year-long CR that would provide flat funding across federal programs. Long-term CRs can have devastating consequences for the people and communities served by HUD programs. Because the cost of rent rises every year, programs like HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program require yearly increases in funding just to maintain the number of households currently served.

Flat or insufficient increases act as a cut to funding, reducing the number of people served. A recent analysis from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) shows that, under the House's essentially flat proposed funding level for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) renewals in FY25, an [estimated 328,800 fewer households would be served by the program](#); a similar

number of households would lose their assistance under a year-long CR. With such steep funding cuts, it would likely be impossible for housing providers to maintain current assistance, and some households would lose their vouchers. A year-long CR would also necessitate “anomalies,” additional funding provided to help alleviate budget shortfalls that also provide increased discretion to the Administration on spending decisions.

“Congress should not pass a clean full-year CR that would cede immense discretion and authority to President Trump, Elon Musk and [OMB Director] Russell Vought to zero out programs and redirect funding as they see fit,” said Vice-Chair Murray in a memo.

## **Take Action**

### ***Urge Congress to pass a final FY25 spending bill with increased funding for HUD’s affordable housing and homelessness programs!***

Advocates can use NLIHC’s resources to take action today and urge Congress to pass increased funding for affordable housing and homelessness in FY25, including for NLIHC’s top priorities:

- Full funding to renew all existing contracts for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.
- \$6.2 billion for public housing operations and \$5.2 billion for public housing capital needs.
- \$4.7 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program.
- \$100 million for the Eviction Protection Grant Program.
- At least \$1.3 billion for Tribal housing programs, plus \$150 million for competitive funds targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

### **Use NLIHC’s toolkits and resources to take action on FY25 funding, including by:**

- **Emailing or calling members’ offices** to tell them about the importance of affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources important to you, your family, your community, and 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 people 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.](#)
- **Using our “[Oppose Dramatic Cuts to Federal Investments in Affordable Housing](#)” toolkit:** This toolkit includes resources, talking points, advocacy ideas, and other helpful information on defending funding for affordable housing and homelessness resources in the FY25 federal budget. Meet with your representatives and urge them to provide the most possible funding for these vital programs in any final FY25 budget agreement.

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 FY25.

---

## Senate Adopts Framework for “Skinny” Reconciliation Package, While House Plans to Consider Massive Bill This Week

**TAG: Budget and Appropriations**

*Keywords: budget reconciliation, budget resolution*

The Senate voted in the early morning hours of February 21 to pass a budget resolution that will provide the blueprint for the first of two potential reconciliation bills. The resolution passed along a mostly party-line vote of 52-48, with Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) serving as the only Republican to join Democrats in opposing the resolution.

With the resolution passed, the Senate committees will begin drafting legislative language according to the instructions provided. The bill would provide over \$340 billion in additional spending for military and immigration enforcement and proposes at least \$5 billion in cuts from energy-related programs and potentially through changes to Medicaid or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps.”). With Republicans in control of the House, Senate, and White House, they can use reconciliation to pass a bill without any support from Democrats. “Reconciliation” is a legislative process that allows for faster consideration of a bill by limiting debate time and suspending the Senate’s “filibuster” rule, allowing a bill to pass the chamber with a simple majority of 51 votes, rather than the 60 votes usually required.

The House is expected to consider its own version of the budget resolution as soon as this week. In contrast to the Senate’s “skinny” resolution, the House’s proposal would advance Trump Administration priorities by providing additional funding for the military and immigration enforcement while also extending a series of tax cuts primarily benefiting the wealthy and corporations slated to expire at the end of the year. To offset the huge spending increase, the House resolution proposes commensurate massive cuts to energy funding and vital safety net programs, including Medicaid and SNAP.

While housing assistance has not been named as a potential target for cuts, the anti-poverty programs being considered play a crucial role in economic stability for people and families with low incomes by helping them put food on the table and receive medical care. The financial assistance these programs provide also promotes housing stability: by helping families afford the cost of food and other necessities, more money is left over at the end of the month to ensure rent is paid. States can also use Medicaid to cover [health-related social needs](#), including housing.

Threats to Medicaid – which serves over 7.2 million low-income people around the country – have triggered widespread outcry from advocates around the country, including people who rely on Medicaid for healthcare and other needs. Public opposition to the proposed cuts is creating divisions among House Republicans, who can only afford to lose three votes to pass their resolution on the floor.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness launched a [Take Action page](#) for advocates to quickly and easily contact their elected officials and urge them not to support cuts to Medicaid.

Take action here: [tinyurl.com/3c2ntnnw](https://tinyurl.com/3c2ntnnw).

---

## Congress

### House Financial Services Committee to Hold Hearing on Housing Supply

**TAG: Congress**

*Keywords: House Financial Services Committee, HFSC, housing supply*

The U.S. House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance [will hold a hearing](#), “Building Our Future: Increasing Housing Supply in America,” on March 4 at 2 pm ET. Further information, including a witness list, and a link to watch the hearing are not yet available. Additional information will be posted on the Committee’s website [here](#).

Read the press announcement about the hearing [here](#).

---

## White House

### President Trump Announces Executive Order to Intimidate Immigrant Communities, Does Not Change Eligibility

**TAG: Fair Housing**

*Keywords: Trump, executive order, immigrant, Protecting Immigrant Families, PIF*

On February 19, President Trump released an [Executive Order](#) to intimidate immigrant families, claiming to bar households from accessing critical services. The Executive Order, however, does not change eligibility requirements, which are set in federal law. The Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition released a [statement](#) emphasizing that the order does little to change the already narrow access to public benefits by people who are undocumented such that the Order has no immediate effect.

The Executive Order, “Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders,” requires federal agencies to identify federally funded programs that allow undocumented people to receive benefits and, consistent with applicable law, prohibits undocumented people from accessing these benefits. The Order also requires each agency to report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) all agency funding sources that serve this population and recommended actions within 30 days.

People who are undocumented are already ineligible for most federal programs. By discouraging access to public benefits, policies such as this Executive Order will lead to even more housing insecurity and homelessness. **The new policy does not change families’ eligibility for public benefits like housing programs**, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Order is designed to frighten immigrant families.

Read the executive order [here](#).

Read PIF's statement [here](#).

---

## Homelessness and Housing First

### **New Resource: Healthy Parents, Healthy Babies Video Series Highlights Housing & Maternal Health Equity**

**TAG: Homelessness**

*Keywords: homelessness, Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response, Healthy Parents Healthy Babies*

The [Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response](#) launched a new resource related to its “[Healthy Parents, Healthy Babies](#)” (HPHB) initiative. HPHB explores strategies to reduce racial disparities in maternal and birth outcomes, improve housing stability, and support healthier futures for parents and their children.

The initiative launched three new videos: two videos from women with lived experience, Destiny and Ariana, who share their stories and perspectives and how they helped inform HPHB's recommendations. The third video is a brief training video that details the connection between housing and healthcare, and how both impact parents and their children. These videos can be used for public education, advocacy, and practitioner dialogues.

Families experiencing homelessness—especially Black, Indigenous, and other families of color—face disproportionately high risks of poor maternal and infant health outcomes, including increased preterm birth rates, low birth weight, and infant mortality. The HPHB initiative underscores how stable housing is a critical determinant of maternal and child health and shares solutions that center racial equity, trauma-informed care, and cross-sector collaboration to address these disparities.

The HPHB website is home to several additional resources, including a webinar with slide decks and a report with recommendations developed by people with lived experience.

Watch the video series and explore the full resource here: [tinyurl.com/4rtuxjkv](https://tinyurl.com/4rtuxjkv).

---

## Housing Policy Forum

## **Register for NLIHC’s Hill Day Prep Webinar on March 5 to Prepare for Capitol Hill Day**

**TAG: Forum**

*Keywords: NLIHC, Capitol Hill Day, Forum, webinar, training, advocates*

NLIHC encourages advocates from across the country to [register](#) for our Hill Day Prep webinar on March 5 to prepare for our Capitol Hill Day on March 27. The webinar will be held from 4 to 5 pm ET.

Capitol Hill Day is the concluding event of NLIHC’s annual Housing Policy Forum, taking place this year on March 24-27 at the Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Every year, advocates from around the country attend Capitol Hill Day to urge members of Congress and their staff to oppose funding cuts to HUD and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) affordable housing and homelessness programs, expand resources for these vital programs, advance anti-racist policies, and support legislation that will improve the lives of people with the lowest incomes.

The March 5 webinar will help advocates prepare for Capitol Hill Day by reviewing NLIHC’s policy priorities and by providing an overview of what to expect during Hill meetings. To participate in Capitol Hill Day, register to [virtually attend the Forum](#), and check the “Yes, I will participate” box on the registration page.

Register for the Hill Day Prep webinar at: <https://tinyurl.com/skcjp7v9>.

---

## **HoUSed**

### **Join Tomorrow’s (February 25) National HoUSed Campaign Call for Universal, Stable, Affordable Housing!**

**TAG: Forum**

*Keywords: NLIHC, Capitol Hill Day, Forum, webinar, training, advocates*

[Join](#) Tuesday’s (February 25) national HoUSed campaign call from 4-5 pm ET. The call will cover the recent directive from Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to terminate at least half of HUD employees, and the impact cutting staff would have on HUD’s ability to administer the programs communities rely on. We will also hear updates on ongoing recovery efforts from disaster-impacted communities. [Register here](#).

NLIHC’s national calls will now take place on the second and last Tuesday of every month, from 4-5 pm ET. [Register for the series here](#).



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

---

## State and Local Innovation

### Register for Tomorrow's (February 25) Tenant Protections Webinar in "Just Cause" Eviction Standards

**TAG: State and Local Innovation**

*Keywords: tenant protections, webinar*

NLIHC invites advocates nationwide to [register](#) for the newest webinar in our series on state and local tenant protections.

The webinar, "Strengthening Renters' Rights: 'Just Cause' Eviction Standards," will take place tomorrow, February 25, from 2-3:30 pm ET, and will discuss "just cause" protections and how they safeguard renters from threats to their housing stability. Attendees will hear from a broad range of speakers who are actively working on advocating for tenants' rights at the federal, state, and local levels, and will share specific state and local level campaigns to advance tenant protections.

#### Agenda

- Welcome and Updates
  - Nada Hussein, NLIHC
- Local Efforts to Enact Just Cause Standards in Oregon
  - Sybil Hebb, Oregon Law Center
- Local Efforts to Enact Just Cause Standards in Washington
  - Rachael Myers, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
  - Mindy Woods, Resident Action Project
- Making the Connection: Why Tenant Protections are Important and How Advocates Can Support the National Tenants Bill of Rights
  - Kayla Blackwell, NLIHC
- Q&A

---

## New Data Highlights Impact of Eviction Record Sealing Protections in Oregon

**TAG: From the Field, State and Local Innovation**

*Keywords: Tenant Protections, Eviction Record Sealing, Oregon, Evictions*

New data released by Oregon's state court system in January 2025 found that over [47,000](#) [eviction records have been sealed](#) as a result of a state law allowing tenants to shield their

evictions from public view - making them inaccessible to third party background and credit screening companies as well as new landlords. Oregon's eviction record sealing law was made effective through "[House Bill 2001](#)," passed in 2023 as part of a [larger housing bill package](#) focused on housing financing, affordable housing, and tenant protections. Signed into law by Governor Tina Kotek, "House Bill 2001" allows tenants to have their eviction records "set aside," or sealed, under certain circumstances; adding an additional layer of protection for tenants looking to shield their eviction records. Similar protections already existed through "[Senate Bill 873](#)," passed in 2019 to allow tenants to expunge – or erase – their eviction records altogether. Through a review process initiated by the state's courts in December 2024, judicial staff reviewed about 160,000 eviction cases to determine eligibility for sealing with a resulting 47,000 eviction cases sealed and more than 50,000 still under judicial review.

Under the state's eviction record sealing law, residential rental evictions where the court issued a judgement against a tenant after January 1, 2014 are eligible to have an eviction set aside by the courts. In addition to the retroactive time requirement legislated by the law, several conditions must be satisfied by an eviction record to qualify for sealing. According to the Oregon Judicial Branch, if the judgement – or result of the eviction case – stipulated that a tenant had to move out of their home, they must wait five years for the court to clear the eviction record. If the eviction record resulted in a money judgement, the tenant must also satisfy this judgement before becoming eligible for sealing. The tenant must also notify the court that they have satisfied the judgment. In cases where a tenant avoided an eviction trial by signing an agreement with their landlord, the tenant must wait 12 months to have their eviction record sealed; unless the tenant appeals to the court that all terms of their agreement were fulfilled.

In all other residential eviction cases, such as if the tenant won their eviction case or the case was closed or dismissed, the tenant is eligible to have their eviction record sealed without having to satisfy a waiting period. Moreover, a tenant can apply to have their eviction record sealed under an expedited review process, though the tenant must apply through a "[Motion to Set Aside Residential Eviction Judgement](#)" process and must meet the eligibility criteria noted above.

Through the state's eviction record sealing process, courts will clear eviction records just once per year – a process that started in December 2024 and will subsequently take place in December annually. The state courts will not notify tenants if their eviction record was sealed through this process, however a tenant is able to search their name within the "[Oregon Judicial Department Online Records Search](#)" to determine whether their eviction case resulted in a sealing. If the case cannot be found through the online search, it was likely sealed by the courts, though if a tenant would like to confirm that an eviction record has been sealed, an "[Order Request](#)" form can be submitted to the courts to receive a copy of the order stating that the eviction record has been sealed. For cases that do appear on the Judicial Department's online search database, the presence of the eviction record could stipulate that the case was not included as being eligible under the law or the Judicial Department is still working to seal the record.

[Eviction record sealing, and even expungement, protections](#) are critical tools used to shield tenants from the negative consequences of an eviction record on a tenant's public record. Even in cases where a tenant is not displaced from their home at the conclusion of an eviction case, the mere presence of an eviction on a tenant's record can impact a tenant's ability to apply for future housing opportunities. Given that an eviction record appears on a tenant's record when applying for housing, a bad mark on a background check or credit report – as packaged on a tenant screening report - can often result in automatic denial, in turn prohibiting a tenant from accessing

safe, stable, and affordable housing long into the future. Eviction record sealing protections can be implemented automatically without a tenant having to apply or appeal to the courts, such as in Oregon, or can occur through a petition process like in the [State of Maryland](#).

While eviction record sealing protections distinguish the visibility of a tenant's eviction record, eviction record expungement protections, comparatively, are a more permanent protection afforded to tenants. Eviction record expungement involves complete eviction record erasure, making it seem like it was never there. Eviction record expungement laws exist in states like [Minnesota](#) and [Utah](#).

As of 2025, NLIHC has tracked 19 states through its State and Local Tenant Protections Database and three localities that have passed some form of eviction record sealing and/or expungement protections for tenants. Most recently, [Idaho](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Virginia](#) passed protections for tenants in 2024, while states like [Hawai'i](#) and [Nebraska](#) are considering new protections for tenants this legislative session.

For tenants seeking eligibility information and criteria to determine whether they qualify to have eviction records sealed, the [Oregon Law Help](#) center, created by the Oregon State Bar to provide free legal information, created a tool for tenants with an eviction filing present on their record to determine eligibility and find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

---

## Fair Housing

### **The National Fair Housing Alliance, National Urban League, and Others Sue Trump Administration Over Executive Orders Banning Civil Rights Principles**

**TAG: Fair Housing**

*Keywords: civil rights, fair housing, National Fair Housing Alliance, diversity, equity, inclusion, DEI*

On Wednesday, February 19, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), National Urban League (NUL), and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago filed a lawsuit, represented by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF) and Lambda Legal, against the Trump Administration. The lawsuit challenges recent executive orders that undermine diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility (DEIA) efforts, and target transgender individuals, arguing that the orders harm critical civil rights protections.

The plaintiffs argue that the orders violate the First Amendment by suppressing free speech on DEIA topics, the Fifth Amendment by creating vagueness around what actions are prohibited, and the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments by discriminating against marginalized groups, especially people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals, with a particular animus toward Black and transgender people. Janai Nelson, President and Director-Counsel of LDF, emphasized that these executive orders not only perpetuate dehumanizing and divisive rhetoric but also aim to stifle organizations providing essential services to marginalized communities.

The lawsuit asserts that:

- The executive orders violate the plaintiffs’ First Amendment right to free speech by censoring and chilling their views on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility;
- The executive orders are so vague that the organizations do not know what is and is not prohibited, in violation of their Fifth Amendment due process rights; and
- The executive orders discriminate against people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ people, with particular animus toward Black people and transgender individuals, in violation of the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments’ guarantee of equal protection.

The press release quoted several individuals impacted by the executive orders, including Will, an AIDS Foundation Chicago program participant and caseworker for another organization: “As a Black man living with HIV who has experienced homelessness, for years I have relied on the lifesaving services of organizations like AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC), who understood my intersectional identities. Now, as I work in the HIV field, I am deeply concerned about the threat these orders represent to AFC’s ability to serve our communities if they can’t even name the issues our people are facing.”

Read the full press release [here](#) and read the complaint [here](#).

---

## Public Charge

### **NLIHC and Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition Release New Fact Sheet Debunking Myths on Immigrants and Affordable Housing**

**TAG: Fair Housing**

*Keywords: new resource, protecting immigrant families coalition, PIF, immigrants, immigration*

NLIHC and the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition (PIF) released a new fact sheet, “[Targeting Immigrants Will Not Solve the Affordable Housing Crisis](#).” The new resource debunks xenophobic lies used by the Trump Administration to scapegoat immigrants as a factor in the affordable housing crisis. Policies proposed by President Trump, including those targeting immigrants such as withholding federal resources from [sanctuary jurisdictions](#), allowing immigration enforcement to [raid shelters](#) and other sensitive areas, [evicting mixed-status immigrant households](#) from HUD housing, and [discouraging access to public benefits](#), will lead to even more housing insecurity and make it harder for states and communities to address pressing housing needs.

High housing costs are due to systemic drivers, not immigrants. Income rates have not kept up with housing costs, particularly for those with the lowest incomes. While a full-time worker needs to earn more than [\\$26 an hour](#) to afford a modest, one-bedroom apartment at fair market rent, 42% of workers in the United States make less than that amount. Nationally, there is a shortage of [7.3 million homes](#) affordable and available to people with the lowest incomes due to a market failure—the private market cannot reliably build enough housing with rents low enough for extremely low-income families, and Congress has consistently failed to fill this gap.

Immigrants have inherent dignity and worth by virtue of their humanity – as we all do. Importantly, immigrants play a critical role in solving the housing crisis. By deporting immigrant workers, the construction workforce will be dramatically impacted, slow housing construction, raise costs, and ultimately decrease the number of new homes that can be built, worsening housing supply issues. The Trump Administration’s proposals, if implemented, will lead to even more housing insecurity and homelessness by undermining state and local efforts to meet housing needs and harm people in their moments of greatest need by targeting “[protected areas](#)” like shelters and schools. Rather than targeting immigrants, Congress should provide the long-term, large-scale investments necessary to end the affordable housing crisis, including expanding rental assistance, investing in affordable housing supply, providing emergency rental assistance, and other eviction prevention measures while strengthening renter protections.

Read the fact sheet [here](#).

---

## Opportunity Starts at Home

### Recap of 2/18 Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign, National Women’s Law Center, and National Network to End Domestic Violence Webinar Exploring Connections Between Gender Justice and Housing

Tag: Opportunity Starts at Home

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

The Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign and Steering Committee members of the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) held a [webinar](#) (Passcode: =bpN8D5V) on February 18 exploring the connections between gender justice and housing. Speakers from NWLC, NNEDV, and the OSAH campaign provided background information on the roots of the U.S. housing crisis and its impacts on women and LGBTQIA+ people’s economic insecurity; discussed why access to stable, affordable housing is foundational to positive outcomes for women and LGBTQIA+ people and their families; highlighted the prevalence of housing insecurity issues faced by survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV); and shared how the OSAH campaign works with multi-sector organizations to shift the narrative around affordable housing to include diverse perspectives. A storyteller from Sparking Change, a NWLC storytelling initiative, shared her own experiences with housing insecurity and the experiences of individuals and families she works with as a client advocate with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). The webinar concluded with an overview of key findings and advocacy messaging guidance from focus groups and national polling conducted by NWLC and Hit Strategies in 2024.

Watch a recording of the webinar [here](#) (Passcode: =bpN8D5V). To request a transcript of the recording please contact Sarah Hassmer at [shassmer@nwlc.org](mailto:shassmer@nwlc.org).

Webinar speakers included:

- Sarah Hassmer, Director of Housing Justice at NWLC.
- Talia Grossman, housing legal fellow at NWLC.

- Elana Hampton-Stover, Director of Housing at NNEDV.
- Chantelle Mitchell, storyteller with Sparking Change and client advocate with MUSC.
- Chantelle Wilkinson, director of the OSAH campaign.
- Courtney Kronenberg, research manager at HIT Strategies.
- Ross Miletich, senior analyst at HIT Strategies.

Sarah Hassmer opened the webinar by providing a brief overview of the U.S. housing crisis, highlighting that the country's foundation built on colonization, dispossession of indigenous communities, and slavery are inextricable from the discriminatory housing policies and markets today. While the national shortage of affordable and available housing affects all renters, single women and LGBTQIA+ people who rent are more likely to have extremely low incomes and be cost-burdened. Talia Grossman followed this overview by talking about why affordable housing is foundational to all aspects of life for women, LGBTQIA+ people, and their families, highlighting the impact of affordable housing on health care, nutrition, childcare, education, employment, and environmental justice.

Elana Hampton-Stover discussed the housing needs for survivors of IPV based on data from the annual NNEDV Domestic Violence Counts Report, which provides a 24-hour snapshot of the number of adults and children served by domestic violence shelters and programs and the number of requests that went unmet due to lack of resources. In the 2023 count, housing and shelter were the most common service provided and comprised the most unmet needs requests. Hassmer went on to discuss how IPV is often a contributing factor to people experiencing homelessness, and that their homelessness is often compounded and prolonged by violence and that women and LGBTQIA+ people are also disproportionately impacted by IPV.

Chantelle Mitchell spoke about her family's experiences with housing insecurity and homelessness and cited the disparity between wages and rental housing prices, tradeoffs between paying for rent, childcare, and food for her family, and a lack of available financial assistance as factors that led to evictions. She also emphasized the mental and physical impacts of eviction and the dehumanizing aspects of eviction that she and families she works with experienced. Mitchell called for more resources to ensure families can afford safe and stable housing.

Chantelle Wilkinson provided an overview of the OSAH campaign and its work with national and state multi-sector partners to frame the issue of housing as central to all issue areas. She outlined the campaign's [organizational partners](#) made up of Steering Committee members, Opportunity Roundtable members, and State campaigns and reviewed the campaign's national [policy agenda](#). Wilkinson also highlighted recent campaign events and resources, including [multi-sector fact sheets](#), and shared ways to get involved with the national and state campaigns. Courtney Kronenberg reviewed focus groups and polling Hit Strategies conducted in partnership with NWLC from September to November 2024. Two phases of research were conducted to better understand opinions and values around housing justice and identify messaging that can successfully build support for centering women, particularly women of color, people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ people. Five focus groups were held, followed by a national poll of 1,000 general population adults and oversamples of Black women, Latina women, LGBTQIA+ people, and Asian American and Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (AANHPI) women to ensure representation of these priority audiences. Results showed that cost of living and inflation is by far the most important issue to respondents, and a lot of anxieties around cost are related to cost



of housing and rent. Groceries and food are the most stressful expenses, followed by housing costs, and housing costs are the biggest stressor for Black women and AANHPI women. The poll makes it clear that all people, regardless of race, gender, or income, deserve more affordable housing access and a better economy that works for them while holding people in power accountable. They recommend messaging that centers women of color, especially Black women, to help people better understand the struggle marginalized communities face, emphasizes that affordable housing lives under a larger umbrella of cost issues to help people connect the cost of housing with basic needs like groceries, establishes housing as a right for everyone, and contrasts the wealthy profiting off of rising housing costs with average people struggling to keep up with rising rents.

---

## Research

### Eviction Prevention Workshops Can Increase Tenants' Understanding of Their Rights and Resources

**TAG: Other Housing Policy Issues**

*Keywords: tenant education, renter education, eviction prevention, renter rights, legal assistance*

A recent article in Housing Policy Debate, “[\*The Benefits and Limitations of Tenant Rights Education: A Case Study of Eviction Prevention Workshops in San Diego, California\*](#),” examined the impact of eviction prevention education workshops on renters’ understanding of rights and resources. The researchers found that workshop attendees were more likely than non-attendees to correctly answer questions about limits to rent increases, the eviction process and timeline, how to handle unresponsive landlords, and resources or services available to tenants.

Led by the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, the Eviction Prevention Workshop offers renter education about general laws and policies that govern the tenant-landlord relationship. To evaluate the impact of the workshops on attendees understanding of their rights and resources, the researchers attended 82 workshops between April 2022 to June 2023 and collected data through 98 follow-up interviews with 71 renters who attended workshops (attendees) and 27 renters who did not attend workshops (non-attendees).

At least 40% of workshop attendees provided correct answers to all seven questions in the follow-up interviews. More than 60% of attendees provided correct answers for at least four questions. Incorrect responses were highest for questions about whether there were limitations on rent increases, what to do if a landlord refuses to fix a problem in their home, and organizations that help with eviction.

Tenants who attended workshops were more likely to answer questions correctly than tenants who did not attend. Nearly 80% of attendees correctly identified a written notice as the first step for a landlord to initiate an eviction and 65% answered correctly when asked whether it was true (or false) that they had five days to respond to the notice. In comparison, only about half of non-attendees answered both questions correctly. More than 40% of attendees answered the question about limits to rent increases correctly, compared to only 9% of non-attendees. Further, the

percentage of attendees who correctly identified legal organizations that could help with eviction was nearly double for attendees (41%) compared to non-attendees (22%).

Interviews also revealed other outcomes from the workshops. Nearly two out of three workshop attendees expressed that the workshop alleviated some of their housing-related stress. They attributed this to learning about their rights, the importance of documenting communication and payments, problem-solving strategies, and available tools and resources. Five attendees were motivated to join tenant advocacy or organizing organizations. While the workshop did not provide direct legal assistance, many tenants were able to learn about or receive a warm hand-off to legal resources that could help with their individual housing situations. However, tenants in crisis were frustrated by the lack of immediate help or the inability for the workshop to address their individual situation. Other tenants left the workshop with increased stress, frustrations, or hopelessness about systematic challenges facing renters including landlord-tenant power imbalances.

The authors conclude that the Eviction Prevention Workshop had clear benefits for most tenants who participated in the study. They suggest that one major strength of the Eviction Prevention Workshop is its deep reliance on community-based organizations (CBOs) to recruit and host workshops, particularly for CBOs that serve harder-to-reach populations such as immigrants and refugees. They also discuss the success of some CBO outreach to schools and churches to reach tenants who are not engaged with CBOs but would still benefit from tenant education. The authors suggest that attendees would benefit more from workshops that directly offer other displacement prevention services such as tenant organizing and on-site legal help. Finally, because workshops and legal assistance do not address the increased costs of rental housing, they emphasize the need for policies such as rent limits and rental assistance to support housing stability.

Read the report at: <https://bit.ly/3D0ojKM>.

---

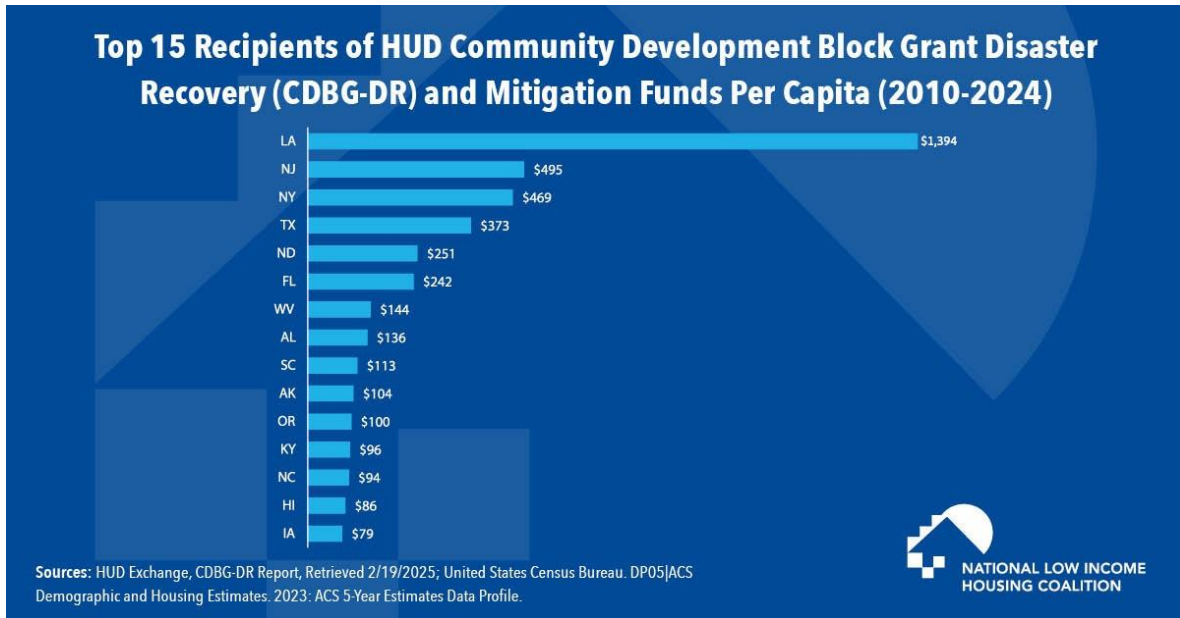
## **Fact of the Week**

### **Some States Have a Greater Need for HUD Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Funds**

**TAG: Fact of the Week**

*Keywords: CDBG-DR, disaster recovery, mitigation*





Sources: HUD Exchange, CDBG-DR Report, Retrieved 2/19/2025; United States Census Bureau. DP05|ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profile.

## 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 - \$110,00. 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).

---

## **NLIHC in the News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 17**

The following are some of the news stories to which NLIHC contributed during the week of February 17:

- “Illinois lawmakers renew push to provide more tax credits for low-income housing development” *WGLT*, February 17, at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n92d7aj>.
  - “Oklahoma's Section 8 voucher program underfunded by more than \$500,000” *The Oklahoman*, February 17, at: <https://tinyurl.com/3j8m322c>.
  - “Why are hundreds of people living outside in Rhode Island?” *The Boston Globe*, February 21, at: <https://tinyurl.com/3597usvs>.
- 

### **Where to Find Us – February 24**

- [Binghamton University](#) Justice and Housing in America course – virtual, February 25 (Lindsay Duvall).
  - [HomesRI Monthly Policy & Advocacy Meeting](#) – virtual, February 26 (Lindsay Duvall).
  - [NAEH 2025 National Conference](#) – Los Angeles, CA, February 27 (Noah Patton).
  - [United Native American Housing Association](#)'s Annual Meeting – Denver, Colorado, March 31 (Raquel Harati).
  - [Humane Society Animal Care Expo](#) – Las Vegas, NV, April 17 (Julie Walker).
  - [Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition 2025 Summit](#) – Topeka, KS, April 22-23 (Tia Turner).
- 

## **NLIHC Staff**

Sarah Abdelhadi, Senior Research Analyst

Millen Asfaha, Operations Coordinator

Andrew Aurand, Senior Vice President for Research, x245

Sidney Betancourt, Project Manager, Inclusive Community Engagement, x200

Kayla Laywell, Housing Policy Analyst, x231  
Hannah Botts, Our Homes, Our Votes Intern  
Victoria Bourret, Project Manager, State and Local Innovation, x244  
Jen Butler, Vice President, External Affairs, x239  
Alayna Calabro, Senior Policy Analyst, x252  
Billy Cerullo, Housing Advocacy Organizer  
Adelle Chenier, Director of Events  
Esther Colón-Bermúdez, Research Analyst  
Courtney Cooperman, Project Manager, Our Homes Our Votes, x263  
Lakesha Dawson, Director of Operations  
Lindsay Duvall, Senior Organizer for Housing Advocacy, x206  
Thaddaeus Elliott, Housing Advocacy Coordinator  
Dan Emmanuel, Manager, Research, x316  
Sarah Gallagher, Vice President, State and Local Policy Innovation, x220  
Jamaal Gilani, Director of People and Culture  
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314  
Raquel Harati, Research Analyst  
Danita Humphries, Senior Executive Assistant, x226  
Nada Hussein, ERASE Project Coordinator, x264  
Kenza Idrissi Janati, Tenant Leader Intern  
Kim Johnson, Public Policy Manager, x243  
Nara Kim, Policy Intern  
Sasha Legagneur, Field Intern  
Mayerline Louis-Juste, Senior Communications Specialist, x201  
Meghan Mertyris, Disaster Housing Recovery Analyst  
Khara Norris, Vice President of Operations and Finance, x242  
Libby O'Neill, Senior Policy Analyst  
Noah Patton, Manager, Disaster Recovery, x227  
Mackenzie Pish, Research Analyst  
Benja Reilly, Development Coordinator, x234  
Katie Renzie, Research Intern  
Dee Ross, Tenant Leader Fellow  
Gabrielle Ross, Project Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, x208  
Sarah Saadian, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Field Organizing, x228  
Craig Schaar, Data Systems Coordinator  
Brooke Schipporeit, Director, Field Organizing, x233  
Carlton Taylor, Jr., Senior Graphic Communications Coordinator  
Tejas Telkar, Homelessness and Housing First Policy Intern  
Cecily Thomas, Development Coordinator  
Tia Turner, Housing Advocacy Organizer  
Julie Walker, OSAH Campaign Coordinator  
Brandon Weil, Graphic Communications Manager  
Chantelle Wilkinson, OSAH Campaign Director, x230  
Renee Willis, Interim President and CEO, x247  
Tiara Wood, External Affairs Coordinator