

Changing Post-Election Political Landscape: 5 Ways You Can Take Action

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Speakers:



Diane Yentel
President and CEO



Sarah Mickelson
Director of Public Policy



Elayne Weiss
Senior Policy Analyst

5 Ways You Can Take Action:



1. Protect Affordable Housing Resources
2. Share Your Success Story
3. Protect the Housing Trust Fund
4. Reprioritize Federal Spending on Housing
5. Include Housing in any Infrastructure Spending Bill

1. Protect Affordable Housing Resources



Stop Further Cuts in the FY 2017 Budget:

Congress is likely to pass another Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded through Spring 2017 to allow the next Congress and President to make budget decisions. This provides Congress with the opportunity to enact even deeper cuts to HUD and USDA Rural Housing programs.

HUD needs \$1.5 billion in additional funding over FY 2016 enacted levels—and USDA needs \$18 million—in order to maintain existing rental assistance contracts and funding levels. If Congress enacts spending bills at FY16 levels, more than 100,000 Housing Choice Vouchers could be lost. **For more information, see:**

http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/CHCDF_Opposition-to-Long-Term-CR_FY17.pdf

Please urge your Members of Congress to enact their final FY 2017 spending bills as soon as possible and to ensure no further cuts to housing programs. Tell them what further budget cuts will mean for your communities.

Protect Affordable Housing Resources cont.



Lift the Spending Caps in FY2018

The *Budget Control Act of 2011* set in motion very low spending caps on federal spending on defense and non-defense programs. Since then, Congress has reached short-term agreements to increase spending above these limits. However, tight spending caps return for the FY 2018 budget and pose a significant risk to housing programs.

President-elect Trump wants to lift the cap on defense spending only, putting the full weight of these budget limitations on non-defense programs, including affordable housing. He also proposed cutting non-defense spending by an additional 1% each year for the next 10 years..

Please urge your Members of Congress to protect affordable housing resources from strict spending caps. Ask them to:

- 1. Lift the harmful spending caps.**
- 2. Ensure parity (1:1) between defense and non-defense programs.**
- 3. Provide the highest allocation possible for housing programs.**

2. Share Your Success Story



Show Congress the Positive Impacts of Federal Housing Programs

NLIHC and other national leaders are preparing a national report on the broad, positive impacts of HUD and USDA affordable housing programs to share with Members of Congress. Our hope is to feature a wide range of success stories to demonstrate how these programs have helped low income people living in rural, suburban, and urban communities nationwide. The report is slated for publication in early 2017.

It is important that we collect success stories from across the country—especially if they are on our target list for the House and Senate. **See the target list here:** <http://bit.ly/2fVEt9o>

Submit a Success Story by December 15, 2016 at
<https://nlihc.wufoo.com/forms/chcdf-success-story-survey/>

3. Protect the National Housing Trust Fund



Significant Threats to the National HTF in the Next Congress

Threats include:

- Budget reconciliation process – Using HTF dollars to offset cost of tax reform
- Appropriations process – Using HTF dollars to plug HUD budget holes
- Repeal of authorizing legislation – Renewed efforts to eliminate the HTF

Tell your Members of Congress why the HTF is critically needed and should be protected, especially if your Senators or Representatives serve on the Banking/Financial Services Committees or Appropriations Committees.

4. Reprioritize Federal Spending on Housing



Reform the Mortgage Interest Deduction and Reinvest in Key Housing Programs

NLIHC is relaunching our United for Homes campaign to enact modest reforms to the MID in order to expand its availability to low and moderate income homeowners and to reinvest billions of dollars in savings into affordable rental housing programs that serve families with the greatest needs. The United for Homes proposal would give 15 million additional homeowners who currently do not benefit from MID a tax break and would generate \$241 billion in savings over 10 years to be reinvested into affordable rental housing for the lowest income people.

Congress will address tax reform in 2017, and MID will be on the table. We need to ensure that these resources are reinvested into affordable housing solutions for those with the greatest needs.

Join the United for Homes Webinar in January to learn more about how you can help.

5. Include Housing in any Infrastructure Spending Bill



Affordable Housing Infrastructure Is Key to Long-Term Economic Growth

A large-scale investment in infrastructure provides an opportunity to expand affordable housing resources. Investing in affordable housing infrastructure—through new construction and preservation—bolsters productivity and economic growth, provides a long-term asset that connects low income families to communities of opportunity and economic mobility, and supports local job creation and increased incomes.

NLIHC urges Congress to expand the Housing Trust Fund, provide funding to repair and rehabilitate public housing, increase Housing Choice Vouchers, and make affordable housing developments eligible for any infrastructure bank or tax incentives. **For NLIHC's Housing Infrastructure Factsheet, see: <http://bit.ly/2fDBAIX>**

Please ask your Member of Congress to include affordable housing in any infrastructure spending bill.

On Our Radar...



House Republicans' *A Better Way* Anti-Poverty Plan

- Proposes [welfare reform-style changes](#) to housing programs, including work requirements and time limits that [could lead to deeper poverty](#). [Extreme poverty doubled under welfare reform](#).
- We may also see attempts to block grant housing programs to the states.
- Opportunities to improve voucher administration and mobility.

Attacks on Fair Housing

- Look out for language on spending bills that would prevent HUD from implementing its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule. Likely HUD Secretary Ben Carson called it "[social engineering](#)" and federal overreach.
- We need to educate Congress on why AFFH will help promote economic mobility by allowing more people to live in communities with access to good schools, jobs, and transit.

Threats/ Opportunities for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit

- The goal of tax reform is to lower corporate tax rates. To do so, Congress would need to eliminate nearly all tax expenditures, putting the Housing Credit at risk. It is critical to continue to build support—especially among Republicans—for [S.3237, introduced by Senator Cantwell \(D-WA\) and Hatch \(R-UT\), to expand and improve the Housing Credit so that it better serves people with the greatest, clearest needs](#).
- Opportunities through an Infrastructure spending bill.



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Questions?

For More Information:



Sarah Mickelson, Public Policy Director

smickelson@nlihc.org

Elayne Weiss, Senior Policy Analyst

eweiss@nlihc.org

A copy of this presentation and advocacy materials will be provided after the webinar.