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## Take Action

### Join the Campaign to Protect and Expand the National Housing Trust Fund

NLIHC's National Housing Trust Fund campaign has taken on new urgency in light of new opportunities and threats this year in Congress. National, state, and local organizations and local government officials are invited to join the campaign by signing onto our national letter to Congress. The letter urges Congress to expand the national Housing Trust Fund (NTF) to at least \$3.5 billion annually in comprehensive housing finance reform legislation as part of a broad commitment to access and affordability in the housing market.

The HTF is the first new federal housing resource in a generation exclusively targeted to help build and preserve housing affordable to people with the lowest incomes. The HTF is currently funded by a small assessment on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's annual book of business, but far greater resources are needed to meet the need. According to NLIHC's *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes* report, there are just 35 rental homes affordable and available to every 100 extremely low income households in the U.S. As a result, 71% of these households pay more than half of their limited incomes on rent, forcing them to make impossible trade-offs between paying rent and buying groceries, seeing a doctor, or saving for college or an emergency. In the worst cases, they become homeless.

In 2014, Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Banking Committee voted to support housing finance reform legislation introduced by then-Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) that would have increased funding for the HTF to an estimated \$3.5 billion annually. This should be the starting point for any future legislation considered by Congress.

Join the national HTF campaign by signing the national letter at: <http://bit.ly/2FjBMK5>

Learn more about the HTF at: <http://bit.ly/2mm5Fmo>

Read about how states have used their HTF dollars so far at: <http://bit.ly/2fuy74I>

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## Our Homes, Our Voices Week of Action

### Make Your Voice Heard: #OurHomesOurVoices Housing Week of Action, May 1-8

It's time to mobilize for affordable homes. Sign up and begin planning today to participate in the 2018 [Our Homes, Our Voices](#) National Housing Week of Action, May 1-8.

Federal investments in proven affordable housing solutions [benefit us all](#). But at a time when we should be *increasing* those investments, President Donald Trump will again propose slashing vital HUD and USDA resources that house low income people and revitalize distressed communities.

Last year, NLIHC – together with our members, national and state partners, mayors, other elected officials, and others – worked with advocates nationwide to organize the *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action. Groups across the country – from Miami, Florida to Palmer, Alaska and beyond – hosted more than 60 rallies, press conferences, letter-writing campaigns, and other events to defeat harmful funding cuts and let our members of Congress know why affordable housing matters to our communities.

**Join us from May 1-8 for [Our Homes, Our Voices](#), a National Housing Week of Action.**

Building on last year's success, we will hold this year's week of action from **May 1-8**. Together we will bring more attention to the severe shortage of homes affordable to the lowest income people and urge increased investments in solutions.

You can start planning an event in your community for the Housing Week of Action by going to [www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org](http://www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org). There you will find guides for how to plan different types of activities and sample materials and content for you to use, including talking points, tweets, op-eds, press releases, social media images and posters. When you've planned an event, we'll feature it on the website, directing supporters to you and inspiring others to plan activities.

NLIHC's [2018 Housing Policy Forum: Building the Movement](#) will also help you prepare. In addition to the latest updates on federal housing policy, we'll offer several panels and workshops on effective state and local organizing strategies and share tools and ideas to help you plan a successful event for this year's *Our Homes, Our Voices* Housing Week of Action.

The need for affordable housing in communities across the country is greater than ever, while threats to funding for programs that make affordable housing possible are more severe than they've been in decades.

It's time to act - to raise our voices not only to protect vital affordable housing programs, but to expand them so that everyone, especially those with the lowest incomes, has an affordable place to call home.

[Join us!](#)

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## **NLIHC News**

### **NLIHC 2018 Housing Policy Forum, March 19-20, to Address State of Fair Housing on 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fair Housing Act**

The [NLIHC 2018 Housing Policy Forum: Building the Movement](#), March 19-21 in Washington DC, will explore the state of fair housing in 2018 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Housing discrimination and racial and income segregation persist in communities across the country, and threats to the law's requirement to affirmatively further fair housing are on the rise. Richard Rothstein, author of the *The Color of Law*, NAACP Legal Defense Fund Thurgood Marshall Institute Director James A.A. Cadogan, Ford Foundation Director of Equitable Development Don Chen, and others will discuss the history and current state of fair housing in America at this year's Forum. Space at the Forum is quickly filling up, so [register today!](#)

The Forum will provide a wide array of opportunities for those committed to building the affordable housing movement to engage with advocates and practitioners, movement leaders, policy experts, researchers, government officials, and low income residents on the challenges and opportunities ahead and on strategies for achieving real solutions. In addition to fair housing, the Forum will offer sessions and workshops on the threats and opportunities for affordable housing in 2018 and beyond; a new national campaign to expand the affordable housing movement with non-traditional allies in health, education, faith, civil rights, and other sectors; the current political and legislative environment in the run-up to the 2018 elections; the keys to state, local, and resident-led organizing; making housing an issue with the media; and effective story-telling for affordable housing. The Forum will also explore mobilizing nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement; using dynamic research to change the story and influence policy solutions; ensuring housing protections for LGBTQ individuals; housing the formerly incarcerated; and others. There will also be opportunities to engage with

leaders and staff in Congress on affordable housing challenges, solutions and priorities, and there will be a special session for low income residents on the morning of March 19.

Confirmed and invited speakers and panelists at the Forum include:

- U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) (Invited)
- Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report*
- Mark Horvath, founder of *Invisible People*
- Kriston Capps, staff writer, *CityLab*
- Laura Kusisto, reporter, *Wall Street Journal*
- Danica Roem, state delegate (D-VA) (Invited)
- Sheila Crowley, former NLIHC president and CEO
- Megan Sandel, MD MPH, principal investigator, Children’s Health Watch
- Ed Goetz, director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and professor of urban and regional planning, University of Minnesota
- Joseph Lawler, economics reporter, *Washington Examiner*
- Christina Rosales, communications director, Texas Housers
- Shannon Van Zandt, director of sustainable housing and research and professor at the Texas A&M Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center
- Vincent Reina, assistant professor, University of Pennsylvania
- Marla Newman, director of community development, City of Winston-Salem, and NLIHC board member

[Register for the 2018 NLIHC Housing Policy Forum Today!](#)

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## **Matthew Desmond to be Honored at NLIHC 2018 Housing Leadership Awards Reception, March 20**

Matthew Desmond, MacArthur Genius awardee and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, will receive the 2018 Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award at [NLIHC’s annual Housing Leadership Awards Reception](#) taking place in Washington DC on March 20. Make a [donation](#) in Dr. Desmond’s honor and/or [register to attend](#) the event today.

The Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award, named for former NLIHC president and CEO Sheila Crowley, goes to an outstanding leader who has elevated the conversation around affordable housing for those most in need.

Matthew Desmond is the first-ever recipient of the Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award. He was chosen for his groundbreaking work on the need for affordable housing for the lowest income people in America. Dr. Desmond is a professor in the Department of Sociology at Princeton University and the principal investigator of The Eviction Lab. In his brilliant book *Evicted*, Dr. Desmond brings readers into the lives of eight families struggling to get by in the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee, and demonstrates how, in Dr. Desmond’s words, “eviction is a cause, not just a condition, of poverty.” Through this book and others, his articles in major news publications and journals, and public appearances around the country, Dr. Desmond has heightened public and policy-maker awareness about issues of racial, social, and housing justice and called for bold solutions.

The other 2018 honorees are Lisa Hasegawa, former executive director of the National Coalition for Asian and Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) and NLIHC board member, who will receive the

Cushing Dolbeare Lifetime Achievement Award, and U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), who will receive the Edward Brooke Housing Leadership award.

Please make a Leadership Award Reception sponsorship [donation](#) honoring these leaders and supporting NLIHC's mission of promoting socially just public policy to ensure the lowest income people in America have decent, affordable homes. To register for the 2018 Leadership Reception at which Dr. Desmond, Ms. Hasegawa, and Ms. Collins will be recognized, contact Christina Sin at [csin@nlihc.org](mailto:csin@nlihc.org) or register [online](#) (a separate ticket from the NLIHC Housing Policy Forum, taking place the same week, is required to attend the reception).

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## **Disaster Housing Recovery**

### **FEMA Abruptly Reverses TSA Decision**

FEMA on January 24 [abruptly reversed temporary housing extensions](#) for Puerto Rican families displaced to Connecticut. In response to a [letter from Senator Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) and requests from other state officials, FEMA had agreed three days before to extend the eligibility for the Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) program for 36 Puerto Rican families who relocated to Connecticut. The agency then reversed the decision without warning, stating that 24 of the families were no longer eligible for the program because their homes in Puerto Rico had been deemed “livable.” FEMA officials could not explain why the families’ eligibility for the TSA program was not verified prior to the extension. Connecticut officials have pushed back against this decision, citing the frequent disconnect between inspectors’ and survivors’ accounts of damage to homes.

NLIHC, on behalf of the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC), submitted [a letter to FEMA](#) urging that it immediately work to address the medium- and longer term housing needs of low income people displaced by the hurricanes. Among other things, the DHRC urges FEMA to take immediate action to work with HUD to stand up its Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

Read the press statement from the DHRC at: <http://nlihc.org/press/releases/8727>

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### **Senators Call for Addressing Deficiencies in House Disaster Spending Bill**

A group of eight senators sent a [letter](#) on January 17 to Senate leadership urging them to “address the deficiencies” in the House-passed disaster supplemental bill, H.R. 4667. The letter urges leadership to ensure the Senate bill includes adequate Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico, provides tax relief for survivors in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, addresses delays in loan disbursements to Puerto Rico and other issues with Community Disaster Loans, and provides more Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) resources to speed disaster housing recovery.

The letter’s authors, Democratic Senators Robert Menendez (NJ), Bill Nelson (FL), Cory Booker (NJ), Catherine Cortez Masto (NV), Kirsten Gillibrand (NY), Tammy Duckworth (IL), Christopher Murphy (CT), and Edward Markey (MA), wrote that “H.R. 4667 should do more to promote relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.” In addition to addressing “Medicaid disparities suffered by Puerto Rico,” the letter states that House bill’s requirement that the Fiscal Oversight Board review and approve any disaster recovery project valued at over \$10 million for Puerto Rico “imposes unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles bound to delay the provision of critical relief to the American citizens living in Puerto Rico.” The senators note that the Fiscal Oversight Board was put into place to oversee the island’s debt restructuring process and that Congress never

intended to empower the board to dictate the provision and allocation of disaster relief funding. The senators also called for waiving any required federal cost-share for the island.

The letter further states that Community Disaster Loans provided to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands should not be subject to the oversight and discretion of the secretaries of the Treasury and Homeland Security, that American companies in Puerto Rico should not be subject to a more rigorous tax regime than companies on the mainland, and that the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and other tax relief be provided to American citizens living in Puerto Rico.

The senators call for increased funding for the CDBG-DR program. “H.R. 4667 fails to provide adequate funding for the CDBG-DR program,” the senators state. “Failure to provide adequate funding [for] CDBG-DR will force states and territories to compete for limited resources and further delay the already slow housing recovery.”

Read the Senators’ letter [here](#).

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## Texas Releases State Plan for Harvey Disaster Recovery

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development and Revitalization Program released the [State of Texas Plan for Harvey Disaster Recovery](#) on January 18. The plan details how the state intends to spend the \$57.8 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding recently allocated to it by HUD. The GLO is leading the recovery process in Texas and is accepting comments on the plan through February 1. Comments can be mailed, faxed, emailed, or submitted through their [online form](#). Advocates have concerns about the plan’s short public comment period, data gathering methods, lack of specifics on fair housing, and instability to meet low income communities’ needs.

The plan states that the limited amount of CDBG-DR prohibits the GLO from setting funds aside for homeless and special needs populations. The plan also promises all projects will undergo Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) reviews, but lacks specific language about how those will be implemented. Funds will focus on Harris County, which was determined the most impacted by Hurricane Harvey through the state’s needs assessment, and will provide resources for the Residential Buyout, Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering, and Affordable Rental Recovery programs.

NLIHC state partner Texas Housers has raised concerns about the data collection methods used for the needs assessment, noting that the use of American Community Survey (ACS) data does not convey the true needs of the communities impacted. Texas Housers has a [continuing blog series](#) on the State plan.

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## Additional Updates on Disaster Housing Recovery

The following is a review of additional housing recovery developments related to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the California wildfires since last week’s *Memo to Members and Partners* (for the article in last week’s *Memo*, see [1/22](#)). NLIHC also posts this information at our [On the Home Front](#) blog.

### General Updates

The IRS is urging survivors of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria to see if they qualify for the [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#). A special computation method is available for residents of the affected areas, increasing

their eligibility for EITC or increasing the amount they receive. The EITC helps low and moderate income individuals and families by decreasing the amount of federal taxes due.

NLIHC has compiled [a list](#) of upcoming deadlines related to disaster recovery. The next deadline for Hurricane Irma survivors in Florida participating in the TSA program is February 10.

## **California Wildfires**

*FEMA*

A FEMA update reports that 184 applicants and 360 individuals are living in [direct housing](#), such as manufactured housing or directly leased units.

## **Hurricane Maria**

*FEMA*

The Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair (VALOR) program launched a [new initiative](#) in Puerto Rico to provide temporary, essential repairs to allow survivors to move back to their homes. Supplies are funded through FEMA, and the repairs are not intended to return housing to pre-disaster conditions.

*Local Perspectives*

Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Roselló announced he is [moving to privatize](#) the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). The utility company has long been accused of corruption and mismanagement and has faced increased criticism following Hurricane Maria. Selling PREPA could take 18 months.

A short *Politico* [video](#) discusses issues related to informal construction in Puerto Rico, which by some estimates comprises almost 50% of the islands housing. Prior to Hurricane Maria, residents built houses on land they did not own or added on to their existing houses without proper permits. FEMA is unwilling to reimburse people for damages to illegally constructed housing.

Puerto Rican residents are becoming concerned as private banks' three-month moratoria on foreclosures [draw to a close](#). The number of repossessed homes on the island was already high prior to the storm, and experts worry those numbers will jump significantly, leaving many homeless. The lack of power on much of the island has prohibited people from generating revenue, leaving them unable to resume making mortgage payments.

## **Hurricane Irma**

*Local Perspectives*

The Florida Housing Coalition, an NLIHC state partner, holds [Hurricane Update webinars](#) every Friday at 1:30 pm ET. The webinars are free and open to member organizations and others interested in staying updated on Hurricane Irma recovery efforts.

## **Hurricane Harvey**

*FEMA*

FEMA offers infographics detailing recovery efforts for [each Texas County](#) affected by Hurricane Harvey, as well as a [statewide](#) infographic.

*Local Perspective*

Texas Governor Greg Abbott approved a General Land Office (GLO) [request for \\$38.6 million](#) to fund direct housing programs. The dollars have been transferred to the GLO from funds previously appropriated for the



Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The transfer will help maintain the program’s functions until the Texas Legislature passes fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and numerous disaster survivors testified at the [Texas House Urban Affairs Committee hearing](#) on January 18. While approximately 900,000 people in Texas have applied for housing assistance through the General Land Office, hundreds of thousands are still waiting to be approved or have been denied. Land Commissioner Bush and Mayor Turner placed heavy blame on the federal government, specifically Congress, for the slow pace of recovery.

### *From Our Partners*

Texas Housers, an NLIHC state partner, released a [new report](#) that shows owner-occupied housing is being inspected at higher rates than renter-occupied units despite similar FEMA registration rates. This disparity could be a result of intentional decisions at FEMA or complications with the application process for renter households. The report also shows that, overall, less than half of federal assistance applications have been approved to date.

Lone Star Legal Aid received a [\\$250,000 grant](#) from the W.M. Keck Foundation to help expand its Disaster Relief Unit. The grant will allow for additional staff and resources.

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## **Budget and Appropriations**

### **Join Day of Action TODAY to Protect Housing Benefits**

The Center for American Progress’ HandsOff campaign has organized a digital day of action for January 29, the day before the State of the Union. The day of action seeks to highlight the upcoming benefit cuts (“welfare reform”) threats and to educate people before President Trump’s speech and congressional retreats—where lawmakers meet to set the agenda for the year.

Please tweet throughout the day using the sample tweets provided by NLIHC, the Center for American Progress, and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. To ensure the **#HandsOff** hashtag trends, please focus your tweets during the **1 pm ET hour**.

- Taking away housing benefits will make it even harder for struggling families to get ahead and live with dignity. If Congress cuts housing benefits, even more ppl would be homeless, living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, or struggling to meet other basic needs **#HandsOff**
- The best way to help struggling families earn more and get ahead is to expand – not slash – investments in affordable homes, job training, education, childcare, and other policies to help families thrive. **#HandsOff**
- Increasing access to affordable housing is the most cost-effective strategy for reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic mobility. Congress should be **EXPANDING** investments in proven affordable housing programs. **#HandsOff** federal affordable housing programs
- Housing benefits are designed to help people when they fall on hard times, like when they are unemployed or underemployed, and to care for those with the greatest need for assistance, including seniors, people with disabilities, and children. **#HandsOff**

- Work requirements will only make it more difficult for families to get and keep their jobs. Imposing such requirements will not create the well-paying jobs and opportunities that are needed to lift families out of poverty. #HandsOff
- Work requirements are counter-productive and actually prevent people from working. Work requirements will have the greatest impact on ppl w/ disabilities, who need affordable homes – and often other services offered by housing providers – in order to maintain employment #HandsOff

[Center for American Progress sample tweets](#)

[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities sample tweets](#)

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## Research

### Mayors Identify Lack of Affordable Housing as Major Concern in New Survey

The Boston University Initiative on Cities released the results of its 2017 survey of 115 mayors of cities with at least 75,000 residents. Fifty-one percent of the mayors surveyed identified housing costs as one of the top three factors that prompts residents to move away from their city. Only 13% of the mayors thought their city’s current housing stock matched residents’ housing needs very well or extremely well. Even in the least expensive cities, 18% of mayors thought the housing stock met residents needs very well or extremely well.

When asked to identify the two top ways their city’s housing should change, 39% identified an increase in the availability of affordable multi-bedroom units, 36% identified an increase in homeownership rates, 30% identified a need to modernize or replace older housing stock, 17% identified an improvement in housing stability for renters, and 10% identified an increase in the availability of publicly subsidized housing.

When asked to identify the two biggest obstacles to improving access to housing for low income families, 50% of mayors cited a lack of state or federal funds. Only six percent identified zoning and land-use density restrictions as a significant obstacle.

The study’s researchers emphasized that the housing crunch is affecting cities of all types. “This is true of mayors of rich cities and poor cities and cities across the country,” said Katherine Levine Einstein, assistant professor of political science at Boston University who led the survey.

The study was sponsored by Citi Community Development and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The *Menino Survey of Mayors: 2017 Results* is available at: <http://bit.ly/2rCymjK>

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### Length of Housing Assistance Driven by Demographics and Housing Market Conditions

A report by Kirk McClure published by HUD, *Length of Stay in Assisted Housing*, examined the length of time that households receive assistance from one of six HUD programs for low income households, including public housing, Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), and Section 8 project-based rental assistance. These programs assisted approximately 5.1 million households in 2015. The typical household who exited one of these programs in 2015 had received assistance for six years, up from 4.4 years in 2000. This increase is largely the result of an increase in HUD-assisted elderly households, who receive assistance for a longer period of time, and housing market conditions.

While the average length of stay for HUD-assisted households who exited one of the programs in 2015 was six years, half of them exited after 3.6 years or fewer. HCV recipients, public housing residents, and Moving-to-Work (MTW) public housing residents who exited had an average stay of 6.6, 5.9, and 5.7 years, respectively. Half of those who exited, however, had a stay of 4.8 years or less for HCVs, 3 years or less in public housing, and 4 years or less in MTW public housing.

HUD-assisted elderly households who exited in 2015 had stayed in the program for an average of 9.1 years, compared to 5.1 years for disabled nonelderly households with no children, and 4.2 years for nonelderly nondisabled households with children. From 2000 to 2015, the average stay for those who exited HUD assistance rose by 1.5 years for elderly households, 1.2 to 1.7 years for people with disabilities (with and without children, respectively), and 1.1 years for nondisabled nonelderly families with children. During the same time, seniors and people with disabilities accounted for nearly all of the growth in HUD-assisted households. Elderly households accounted for 33% of HUD-assisted households in 2015, up from 31% in 2000; disabled households accounted for 23% of HUD-assisted households in 2015, up from 14% in 2000; and nonelderly nondisabled families with children accounted for 32% of HUD-assisted households in 2015, down from 43% in 2000.

The report found that income did not predict length of assistance. Households that stayed in assisted housing and those that exited had roughly similar incomes, between \$13,000 and \$14,000 per year. Surprisingly, those with incomes from wages typically had longer lengths of stay than those with incomes from other sources. The author suggests that wage income may not be stable and may be at risk of loss when emergencies occur, such when as a worker without paid sick leave has to take time off for an illness.

Housing market and neighborhood conditions had an impact on length of stay. Higher cost neighborhoods and higher cost metropolitan areas were associated with longer lengths of stay. Higher vacancy rates at the neighborhood and metropolitan level were associated with shorter lengths of stay. Higher neighborhood poverty was associated with shorter stays, indicating that HUD-assisted households living in higher poverty neighborhoods are likely to exit assistance sooner in order to leave high poverty areas.

The author concluded that national economic forces and rental housing trends have likely played a large role in longer lengths of stay in housing assistance programs. Incomes have not kept pace with increases in rents. From 2000 to 2015, the median gross rent increased by 54% while renter incomes increased by 31%. Lengths of stay in housing assistance programs will continue to increase as long as these trends continue.

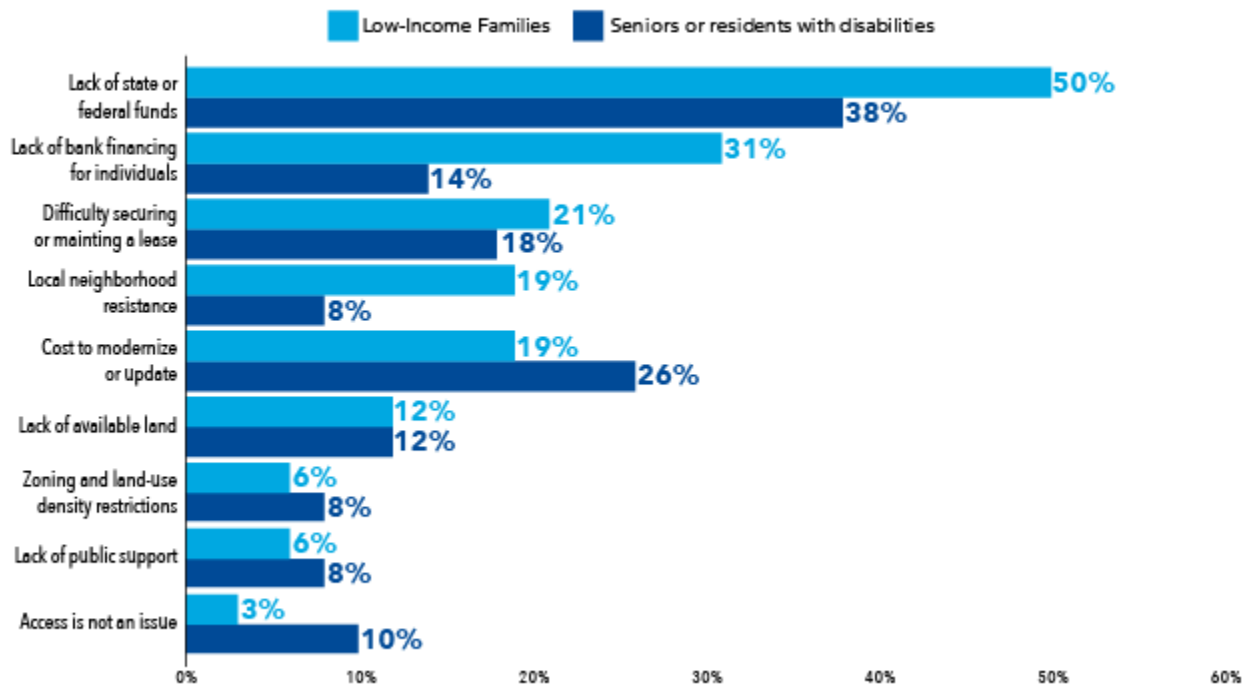
*Length of Stay in Assisted Housing* is available at: <http://bit.ly/2FgniLO>

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## Fact of the Week

### Mayors Cite Lack of State or Federal Funds as Biggest Obstacle to Addressing Need for Affordable Housing

#### Percentage of Mayors Who Identify Issue as One (of Two) Biggest Obstacles to Improving Access to Housing for Low Income Families and Residents with Special Needs



Source: Boston University Initiative on Cities (2018)

Source: Boston University Initiative on Cities. (2018) *Menino Survey of Mayors: 2017*. Boston, MA

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## From the Field

### California Advocates Release Expanded Toolkit for Rent Control Campaigns

Expanded organizing tools and materials are now available to community advocates working to implement local rent-control policies to forestall rapidly escalating housing costs in California. Tenants Together, a statewide renters' rights education and advocacy organization, released *Communities Thrive with Rent Control*, on January 22. This is the second and significantly expanded edition of the toolkit.

The toolkit details the positive impacts of rent control in preventing displacement, stabilizing communities, and contributing to family success. A review of key features of the 19 California ordinances that provide some type of rent control shows that these policies do not lead to a decline of housing quality or increased costs to local governments, refuting two common arguments made by landlord trade associations that regularly oppose rent-control proposals. Beyond dispelling the misinformation offered by opponents in local legislative processes, the toolkit provides specific recommendations for campaigning to defeat common landlord tactics such as weakening rent control implementation regulations or launching ballot initiatives to repeal policies enacted by city councils.

For advocates making little progress gaining traction with local elected officials, *Communities Thrive with Rent Control* recommends ballot initiative campaigns. Going directly to voters was a successful strategy in November 2016, when new rent-control laws were established in both Mountain View and Richmond. To bolster rent-control campaigns, Tenants Together offers guidance on using renter demographic data, building coalitions, and navigating the state's Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which restricts the number of rental units that can be regulated through local rent-control ordinances.

Download and read *Communities Thrive with Rent Control* at: <http://bit.ly/2DGK56t>

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## Events

### **Mayors and CEOs Launch U.S. Housing Investment Coalition**

A group of U.S. mayors and CEOs launched the Mayors & CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment coalition on January 25. In addition to the CEOs of Airbnb, GHC Housing Partners, and Sutter Health, the coalition includes mayors from Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania. The late San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee initiated the idea to create a coalition of private and public partners to support affordable housing and address homelessness. The coalition will focus advocacy efforts at the federal level to ensure adequate funding for important programs like Housing Choice Vouchers, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grants, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and HOME Investment Partnerships programs.

The coalition also looks to create three public-private partnership programs. The Housing Innovation, Investment and Reform Opportunities (HIRO) program would provide competitive grants to encourage cross-sector projects aimed at addressing homelessness and the affordable housing crisis. The HUD Partnerships Accelerating Supportive Services (HUD-PASS) would pair HUD housing vouchers with services from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide targeted support for families experiencing homelessness and confronting multiple barriers to overcoming their homelessness. The Housing Stabilization Fund creates a funding pool to provide one-time, short-term emergency housing assistance to help keep families in stable housing during an emergency.

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### **Housing First Partners Conference Early Bird Registration Ends February 9**

The “Housing First Partners Conference 2018: Assuring Program Integrity in a Changing Environment” is April 9-12 in Denver, Colorado. It offers dynamic pre-conference institutes and an information-packed three-day conference that will feature workshops, plenaries, TED-style talks, interviews and inspiring presentations from providers, researchers, policy makers and those with lived experience – all of whom are passionately engaged in ending chronic homelessness.

View the schedule at a glance, pre-conference institute information, and a listing of conference workshops at: <http://bit.ly/2BBE5KU>

Early bird registration rates end on February 9. Book your hotel room by going to: <http://bit.ly/2DIMj1g>

A limited number of discounted registrations for providers are available; they are intended specifically for front-line workers in direct service agencies. To apply, please contact Paula Sasser to receive an application: [Paula.Sasser@HorizonMeetings.com](mailto:Paula.Sasser@HorizonMeetings.com)

For more information about HFPC 2018, visit <http://www.hfpartnersconference.com/2018/>.

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## NLIHC in the News

### NLIHC in the News for the Week of January 21

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of January 21:

- “The fair housing rule Ben Carson’s HUD wants to delay, explained,” *Curbed*, January 26 at: <http://bit.ly/2DPDIW>
  - “14 Mayors And CEOs Across U.S. Launch New Push To Protect, Expand Federal Investment In Affordable Housing And Homeless Services,” *PR Newswire*, January 25 at: <http://prn.to/2ngKbYf>
  - “What’s at Stake With Amazon’s New HQ? Ask Newark,” *Wired*, January 19 at: <http://bit.ly/2Bh9zkR>
  - “How Tenants in D.C. Are Preserving Their Affordable Apartments,” *Next City*, January 19 at: <http://bit.ly/2DB9eeH>
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## More NLIHC News

### NLIHC Seeks Housing Campaign Coordinator

NLIHC is accepting applications for a National Multisector Campaign Coordinator to support the implementation of a long-term multisector affordable housing campaign.

**Background:** After a year-long planning process and with the input from education, health, children’s, anti-poverty, faith-based, and civil rights organizations, NLIHC, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Make Room, and Children’s HealthWatch launched a dynamic, long-term, multi-sector Campaign to meet the housing needs of the lowest income people in America.

This is a critical moment in federal housing policy. Support for addressing rental affordability has gained momentum over the past several years. Potentially powerful new constituencies - in the health care, education, veterans, aging, child welfare, child poverty, faith, and other communities - are recognizing the impact the inability to afford decent housing has on the wellbeing of the people they serve. At the same time, there are unprecedented threats to federal housing assistance.

In the face of these opportunities and challenges, the multisector housing campaign will strive to address the entrenched shortage of housing affordable for the lowest income people. Strengthened and expanded coalitions nationally and in priority states will pursue a coordinated strategy to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about the problem and its practical solutions and the impact the solutions will have on the quality of life not only of low income people, but of the country more broadly.

The Campaign will deploy policy analysis and development, communications, and informing to impact opinion leaders and policymakers. It will be staffed and operated out of NLIHC. The Campaign’s steering committee includes leaders in education, health, civil rights, poverty alleviation, children’s issues, faith communities, disability rights, and other others. The goals of the Campaign are to advance federal policy solutions that:

1. *Fill the gap between rents and incomes* for the most vulnerable households through a variety of rental assistance strategies.

2. *Prevent destabilizing housing crises* through the creation of flexible short-term tools for low income homeowners and renters.
3. *Create more housing affordable to the lowest income people* through deeply income-targeted production programs like the national Housing Trust Fund.
4. *Defend against funding cuts and harmful policy changes* in existing low income housing programs.

A key part of the Campaign will be to develop and nurture an infrastructure of state partners that promotes the Campaign's federal substantive objectives. Seven state-based organizations have received grants to enable them to build broad and diverse state-based coalitions. These coalitions will lead state-based efforts supportive of the Campaign, including effective communications and engagement activities. The efforts by the initial seven grantees will serve as models that can be replicated in other states as additional funding becomes available. The work of the state partners will be supported by the national Campaign, with a significant role played by the Campaign Coordinator.

**The Job Description:** The Campaign Coordinator will report to the Campaign Director. S/he will have the following responsibilities:

- Support the Campaign Director in building and maintaining a cooperative, productive coalition structure, including close coordination with the Campaign's partners, the Campaign Steering Committee, and a larger network of cooperating organizations;
- Support the Campaign director in carrying out all aspects of the Campaign plan, including helping to develop and implement effective communications, outreach and advocacy plans;
- Working closely with the NLIHC field team, provide and administer grants to state partners and ensure effective partner grants management: ensure grantees are carrying out the terms of their grants and are effectively and appropriately using the grants provided to achieve intended outcomes;
- Ensure the effective integration of a state-based Campaign efforts into national efforts;
- Ensure that state-based coalitions in grant-receiving states have the materials, tools, and other supports needed to function as effectively as possible;
- Organize webinars and other training and technical assistance for key coalition members engaged in the campaign in all states;
- In partnership with NLIHC's field team, stay in close contact with key organizational leaders in grant-receiving and other states to ensure that the Campaign and state efforts are best synchronized;
- Review plans and reports about state coalition efforts in grant-receiving states to determine ongoing effectiveness;
- Develop and implement a plan to ensure that state and local leaders are effectively engaged with and apprised of Campaign-related developments;
- Contribute to periodic reports to the Campaign's partners, Steering Committee members, donors, and relevant others about the Campaign's progress; and
- Other duties as assigned.

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

- A bachelor's degree (master's degree preferred).
- A minimum of five years previous experience working in, coordinating, or leading efforts on one or more complex, multi-faceted projects or campaigns;
- A demonstrated, clear commitment to the alleviation of poverty (affordable housing experience a plus);
- Experience successfully building partnerships among organizations;
- Demonstrated excellence in organizational skills;
- Excellent communications skills, both orally and in writing;

- Experience in grant management and in reporting to donors, a plus; and
- An ability to work in a diverse, fast-paced environment.

**Compensation and Benefits:** An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time position located in Washington, DC.

**Status:** Full-time (exempt)

**Reports To:** Multisector Housing Campaign Director

**Job Application Process:** Candidates for this position should *send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples* to: Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, NLIHC, 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 at [pkealey@nlihc.org](mailto:pkealey@nlihc.org). The cover letter should describe the candidate's interest in, and relevant experiences for, the position, and it should include salary requirements and the names and contact information for at least three people serving as candidate references. (NLIHC will not contact references before consulting with the candidate.)

## Where to Find Us – January 29

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel and other NLIHC staff will be speaking at the following events in the coming months:

- [CHAPA Federal Forum On Affordable Housing & Community Development](#), Boston, MA on February 13
- [2018 Illinois Governor's Conference on Affordable Housing](#), Chicago, IL, February 21-22
- [NCSHA Legislative Conference](#), Washington, DC on March 7
- [Housing First Partners Conference 2018](#), Denver, CO, April 10-12
- [2018 Building Michigan Communities Conference](#), Lansing, MI, April 30 to May 2
- [2018 Denver Housing Summit](#), Denver, CO on May 24

## NLIHC Staff

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 Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245  
 Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244  
 Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226  
 Dan Emmanuel, Research Analyst, x316  
 Ellen Errico, Creative Services Manager, x246  
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 Emma Kerr, Research Intern, x229  
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 Sarah Mickelson, Director of Public Policy, x228  
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Christina Sin, Development Coordinator, x234  
Debra Susie, Disaster Housing Recovery Coordinator, x227  
Elayne Weiss, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, x243  
Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247  
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