NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Memo TO Members

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In This Issue:

TAKE ACTION

Affordable Housing and Transportation Programs Threatened

Funding for affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs is under attack. Contact Congress today and tell them to protect the federal spending needed to ensure families and communities can thrive. And sign your organization onto a letter by advocates calling on Congress to protect vital programs.

In late January 2017, news broke that the Trump Administration is preparing dramatic cuts to the federal budget to reduce spending by over $10 trillion over 10 years, while also promising to increase defense spending and cut taxes that predominantly benefit wealthy Americans. Severe budget cuts will largely fall on critical safety net and other essential programs, including affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs that help raise families out of poverty—programs that are already facing devastating cuts in the upcoming budget year because of the very low spending caps required by law.

Organizations and advocates concerned about transportation, housing, community development, and homelessness are working together to circulate a letter urging Congress to lift the harmful caps on federal spending and provide the highest level of funding possible for these programs in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

Please sign your organization on today at: http://bit.ly/2jnY5Ee

Why This is Important

Congress should not balance the budget on the backs of low income families. With more households struggling to make ends meet—and our nation's affordable housing and transportation infrastructure deteriorating—we cannot afford funding cuts to the very programs that sustain our communities and help families thrive.

The Department of Transportation and HUD help more than 5 million seniors, people with disabilities, and other families afford stable and safe housing, promote economic mobility, build critical transportation infrastructure, and spur economic development in our communities. Through these investments, we can reduce homelessness and housing instability, improve our nation's infrastructure, and encourage economic growth and job creation.

How You Can Take Action

Members of Congress need to hear from you! Join advocates around the country by signing a letter urging Congress to lift harmful spending caps and to provide the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs.

Please click here to sign your organization on to the letter. **The deadline to sign the letter is March 3.**

To view the letter to Members of Congress, visit: http://bit.ly/2ioVsDU

Please share the letter and encourage organizations in your network to sign.

Questions/Comments? Email outreach@nlihc.org.

NLIHC NEWS

Ron Terwilliger Provides Matching Gift for NLIHC 2017 Housing Leadership Awards Reception!

NLIHC is pleased to announce that J. Ronald Terwilliger has provided a generous matching gift for the 2017 Housing Leadership Awards Reception! Make a contribution today and your support will be matched up to a total value of $20,000!

Each year, NLIHC honors two extraordinary individuals for their contributions to affordable housing. The Cushing Niles Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award, named after NLIHC's late founder, goes to an individual who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to achieving safe, decent, and affordable homes for low income people. The Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award, named for the late Senator Brooke (R-MA) who championed low income housing as a U.S. senator and later as chair of the NLIHC board of directors, goes to an exemplary housing leader who has championed affordable housing on the national level.

Mr. Terwilliger, founder of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America's Families, will receive the 2017 Brooke Award for his outstanding contributions to elevating the national discussion on recalibrating federal housing policy to better serve the needs of low income households. **Amy S. Anthony**, former CEO and founder of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), will receive the 2017 Dolbeare Award for her many years of dedication, service, and innovative leadership in producing and preserving affordable rental housing for low income households.

The Annual Leadership Reception is NLIHC's single fundraising event, the proceeds of which constitute a significant part of NLIHC's budget.

Double the value of your contribution to the Leadership Awards Reception up to a total value of $20,000 by donating today at www.nlihc.org/donate and help us honor these two extraordinary individuals.

The 2017 Leadership Reception takes place on Tuesday, April 4 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington DC. For more information or questions, please contact Christina Sin at csin@nlihc.org or 202-507-7453.

Please also join us for **NLIHC's 2017 Housing Policy Forum: Advancing Solutions in a Changing Landscape** in Washington, DC, April 2-4. The forum will provide attendees the opportunity to engage with leaders from Capitol Hill and the new Administration on the current state of affordable housing and emerging challenges and opportunities. These and other thought-leaders, policy experts, researchers, affordable housing advocates and providers, and low income residents will discuss the best strategies for meeting the housing needs of the lowest income households in America. The forum is filling up fast, so register today at: http://bit.ly/2dnJpnS

UNITED FOR HOMES

Thirty House Democrats Call For Reinvesting Savings from Housing-Related Tax Reforms into Affordable Rental Housing

Thirty Democratic Representatives led by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) will send a Dear Colleague letter this week to the House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA), urging them to reinvest any savings from housing-related tax reforms, like reforms to the mortgage interest deduction, into rental housing programs for low income households—like the national Housing Trust Fund, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and rental assistance and production programs—instead of using the savings to lower tax rates or reduce the deficit.

Signers include Representatives Adams (D-NC), Brady (D-PA), Carson (D-IN), Cicilline (D-RI), Clarke (D-NY), Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Conyers (D-MI), DeSaulnier (D-CA), Espaillat (D-NY), Green (D-TX), Grijalva (D-AZ), Heck (D-WA), Jayapal (D-WA), Jeffries (D-NY), Kihuen (D-NV), Larsen (D-WA), Lawrence (D-MI), Lee (D-CA), Meeks (D-NY), Moore (D-WI), Napolitano (D-CA), Nolan (D-MN), Holmes Norton (D-DC), Pingree (D-ME), Pocan (D-WI), Rush (D-IL), Serrano (D-NY), Slaughter (D-NY), and Velázquez (D-NY).

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel stated, "Given the affordable housing crisis in communities across the nation, it is critical that Congress reinvest scarce federal resources into providing affordable rental homes for people with the greatest needs. I applaud these Members of Congress for taking this important step toward ending homelessness and housing poverty once and for all, and I encourage them to cosponsor the Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2017, which would do just that."

Mr. Ellison reintroduced the "Common Sense Housing Investment Act" on February 8. NLIHC and the United for Homes campaign—which is supported by more than 2,300 national, state, and local organizations and government officials—strongly endorse the legislation. Stay tuned for more information on Mr. Ellison's legislation, and action you can take to support it, coming soon.

A copy of the Dear Colleague letter can be found at: http://bit.ly/2j2j8MM

NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel's press statement is at: http://nlihc.org/press/releases/7413

Join the United for Homes campaign at: http://nlihc.org/unitedforhomes/support

United for Homes Endorser Webinar Series

The second webinar in a series for United for Homes (UFH) campaign endorsers was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2 pm ET. The webinar focused on best practices for media strategies to promote the UFH campaign.

In addition to sharing best practices for engaging social and tradition media, the webinar provided information on tax reform, updates on Representative Keith Ellison's (D-MN) Dear Colleague letter urging Congress to keep housing resources within housing in any tax reform bill, a notification that Mr. Ellison's "Common Sense Housing Investment Act" was reintroduced in the 115th Congress, and information on best practices for advocating with Members of Congress on the UFH campaign.

Edorser webinars are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm ET. The next endorser webinar is Wednesday, March 8 and will focus on building the base through field organizing.

If you are already a UFH endorser, please register today for the March and future webinars at: http://bit.ly/2irHS2E. You can register once for all of the upcoming webinars and be kept in the loop regarding the agendas.

View the presentation from the February 8 webinar at: http://nlihc.org/unitedforhomes

If you are not already a UFH endorser, please join the campaign at: http://nlihc.org/unitedforhomes/support

If you are not sure if you are a UFH endorser, check the list of current endorsers at: http://bit.ly/2hXD7O1

ADMINISTRATION

NLIHC Submits Comments on OMB Guidance for Implementing Executive Order Requiring Repeal of Two Regulations for Each New One Proposed

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) posted guidance for implementing Executive Order (EO) 13771 that requires federal agencies to repeal at least two existing regulations for each new proposed regulation and to calculate the incremental cost of all new regulations and repealed regulations so that there is no net cost due to regulatory action during a given year (see *Memo*, 2/6). OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) posted a Memorandum dated February 2 on the White House website offering interim guidance specific to FY17. OMB will issue further guidance regarding FY18 and subsequent years.

According to the OIRA guidance Memorandum, EO 13771 applies to "significant" regulatory actions issued between noon, January 20, 2017 and September 30, 2017, as well as to those issued as proposed rules before noon on January 20, 2017. EO 12866, from 1993 and referenced in EO 13771, defines "significant" regulatory actions as those that have an annual effect on the economy of at least $100 million, or that "adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, *or state, local, or tribal governments or communities* (emphasis added)."

The OIRA Memorandum guidance is in the form of questions and answers. One guidance question is "which existing regulatory actions, if repealed or revised, could be considered deregulatory actions, and thus qualify for savings?" The guidance answers in part that "meaningful burden reduction through the repeal or streamlining of mandatory reporting, recordkeeping or disclosure requirements may also qualify." Although the Memorandum reminds agencies that they "should also confirm that they will continue to achieve their regulatory objectives after the deregulatory action is undertaken," repealing or streamlining reporting and recordkeeping could undermine the integrity of many HUD programs, especially those that have statutory obligations to serve specific populations based on income, age, disability, and unique needs such as those of people who are homeless, fleeing domestic or sexual violence, or exiting the criminal justice system.

An example of a statutory obligation is Section 3 of the "Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968," which requires preferences in employment and training opportunities for public housing residents and low income residents in the service area of a HUD-assisted housing or community development activity. To ensure the intent of Section 3 is realized, public housing agencies, communities receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and construction contractors using these funds must report their best efforts to comply with Section 3 and be subject to HUD monitoring. HUD published proposed changes to the 1994 interim rule under which Section 3 has been operating (see *Memo*, 3/23/15), but a final rule has not yet been issued. Incoming HUD Secretary Carson should seriously consider prioritizing improvements to Section 3, given his stated intentions to assist low income people by improving their economic conditions. If HUD issues a final Section 3 rule, EO 13771 requires HUD to jettison two others. NLIHC cannot think of two HUD rules that can justifiably be eliminated. Even if HUD removes two sets of rules, it is doubtful that any resulting cost savings would accrue to those who would still be responsible for Section 3 record keeping and reporting.

Another example is the new national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) which is targeted to extremely low income renter households, those with incomes less than 30% of the area median income or the federal poverty line. For Congress to be assured that this particular population is actually benefitting from HTF-assisted housing, states must keep records and report to the public, HUD, and Congress. The HTF is currently operating under an interim rule. HUD intends to seek public comment on the interim rule after states and other stakeholders have had about a year of experience implementing the HTF and then issue a final rule based on feedback from stakeholders. There are no good options for alternative rules that HUD would have to repeal in order to issue a final HTF rule.

It should be noted that since February 1981 when President Reagan issued EO 12291, agencies have had to prepare regulatory impact analyses that weighed benefits and costs of rules. President Obama issued EO 13563 (see *Memo*, 1/21/11, 3/4/11) requiring agencies to undertake "retrospective analyses of rules that might be outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome, and to modify, streamline, expand, or repeal them." HUD's plan in response to Mr. Obama's order was presented on May 26, 2011 (see *Memo*, 5/27/11). Consequently, HUD has already endeavored to cull any excessively burdensome regulations.

EO 13771 and the OIRA Memorandum mention only the "costs" of regulations; their benefits are not discussed. NLIHC's position is that OIRA Memorandum overemphasizes cost by requiring them to be measured as "opportunity costs" to society, as defined in OMB Circular A-4. That Circular asserts, "The principle of 'willingness-to-pay' (WTP) captures the notion of opportunity cost by measuring what individuals are willing to forgo to enjoy a particular benefit." Many pages of Circular A-4 are devoted to market-based means of estimating cost and benefit. However, most HUD regulations cannot be monetized or easily quantified; they are designed to ensure that the people whom Congress intended to assist actually benefit or that people are not harmed, for example, by lead-based paint or by racial discrimination.

The OIRA Memorandum poses a question about treating unquantified costs and cost savings (but not benefits). The answer instructs agencies to refer to OMB Circular A-4, which contains pages of discussion regarding treatment of non-quantifiable benefits and costs, but does not anticipate the dramatic force of EO 13771. Two passages in Circular A-4 touch upon the difficult-to-monetize or -quantify nature of most HUD regulations:

- "When important benefits and costs cannot be expressed in monetary units, benefit-cost analysis is less useful, and it can even be misleading, because the calculation of net benefits in such cases does not provide a full evaluation of all relevant benefits and costs."
- "If you are not able to quantify the effects, you should present any relevant quantitative information along with a description of the unquantified effects, such as ecological gains, improvements in quality of life, and aesthetic beauty."

Three organizations - Public Citizen, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO - filed a lawsuit on February 8, asserting among other claims that EO 13771 and OIRA's Memorandum exceed the president's constitutional authority and violate the Administrative Procedures Act.

NLIHC has submitted a letter to Dominic J. Mancini, acting administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at OMB, expressing grave concern about the impact that EO 13771 will have on the low income people served by the HUD programs. That letter is at: http://bit.ly/2kdmpbj

EO 13771 is at: http://bit.ly/2kx0TlY

The OIRA Memorandum is at: http://bit.ly/2kqp6rA

The lawsuit is at: http://bit.ly/2k32KzC and a Q&A about it from Public Citizen is at: http://bit.ly/2kXdqPm

BUDGET

White House Promises Budget within Weeks

White House Spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters on February 9 that the Trump Administration will submit a budget blueprint to Congress "within a few weeks." Lawmakers and other observers had speculated that the Administration might forgo submitting a budget request and instead submit a comprehensive financial package later in the spring.

It is unclear when Congress will begin budget deliberations for FY18. Lawmakers must first complete spending bills for the rest of FY17 which runs until September 30. The government is currently operating on a stopgap funding measure (Continuing Resolution) that expires on April 28.

The statutory deadline for the president to submit a FY18 budget was February 6, but that deadline has been missed consistently in recent years, especially when a new president begins his term. The Administration will most likely provide a "skinny budget," a high-level budget outline new presidents typically submit when they first take office, rather than a comprehensive executive branch budget.

Mr. Spicer suggested the Administration's budget plan would reduce deficits through a combination of spending cuts and economic growth that would increase tax revenues. "When it comes to deficit reduction, which is something (Mr. Trump) is very interested in, it is not a one-side-of-the-ledger option," Mr. Spicer said. "The president has been very, very keen on trying to make sure that we look at the revenue side as much as we look at the spending side."

Mr. Spicer was asked if overhauling entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare would be part of the president's plan to balance the budget, but Mr. Spicer demurred: "I think that (the budget outline) will answer a lot."

A number of independent budget analyses, including one by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, have cast doubt on the assertion that economic growth could pay for Mr. Trump's many campaign promises, including trillions of dollars of tax cuts over a decade, increases in military and veterans' spending, and the construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

RESEARCH

Inadequate Funding Puts Housing Vouchers At-Risk

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) issued a report, *Substantial Funding Boost Needed to Renew Housing Vouchers in 2017*, estimating that the cost of renewing current housing vouchers in 2017 is $18.86 billion, which is $1.18 billion higher than in 2016 and $500 million higher than the amount passed by the Senate in its FY17 spending package. CBPP estimates that more than 100,000 current vouchers could go unfunded if FY17 spending remains at FY16 levels and more than 25,000 vouchers could be unfunded under the Senate's spending plan.

The "Budget Control Act of 2011" required across-the-board spending cuts in most discretionary programs in 2013, including a $938 million reduction for Housing Choice Vouchers. This forced state and local housing agencies to reduce the number of vouchers for low income families by more than 80,000. Over the last two years, Congress provided sufficient funding for more than 55,000 vouchers to be been added back to the supply. The renewal funding for these additional vouchers in 2017 represents a 2.7% increase from 2016. In addition, tenant income growth has not kept pace with rising rental costs. A voucher typically covers the gap between the recipient's rent contribution (30% of adjusted income) and the cost of their rent up to a payment standard for a modest rental home. Rising rents and stagnant incomes increase the cost of filling this gap. The authors also note that approximately half of voucher recipients are seniors and people with disabilities, most of whom live on fixed incomes like Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security and SSI was 0.3% for 2017, while rental costs increased by 3.1%.

Substantial Funding Boost Needed to Renew Housing Vouchers in 2017 is available at: http://bit.ly/2gEmown

Study Finds HUD Is Inadequately Meeting the Needs of Disabled Households

A study published in *Housing Policy Debate*, "The Characteristics and Unmet Housing Program Needs of Disabled HUD-Assisted Households" by Casey Dawkins and Mark Miller, finds a mismatch between the housing needs of people with a disability and HUD programs. Seventy percent of extremely low income (ELI) households with a disability are not served by HUD programs, and a high percentage of those who receive HUD assistance still have unmet accessibility needs. Seventy percent of households with a disability living in public housing, for example, did not receive a requested disability-related accommodation.

Thirty-six percent of all ELI households and 34% of ELI renter households include a person with a disability. Seventy percent of all ELI households with a disability and 53% of ELI renter households with a disability do not receive HUD assistance, indicating a large number of potentially eligible households are not served by HUD programs.

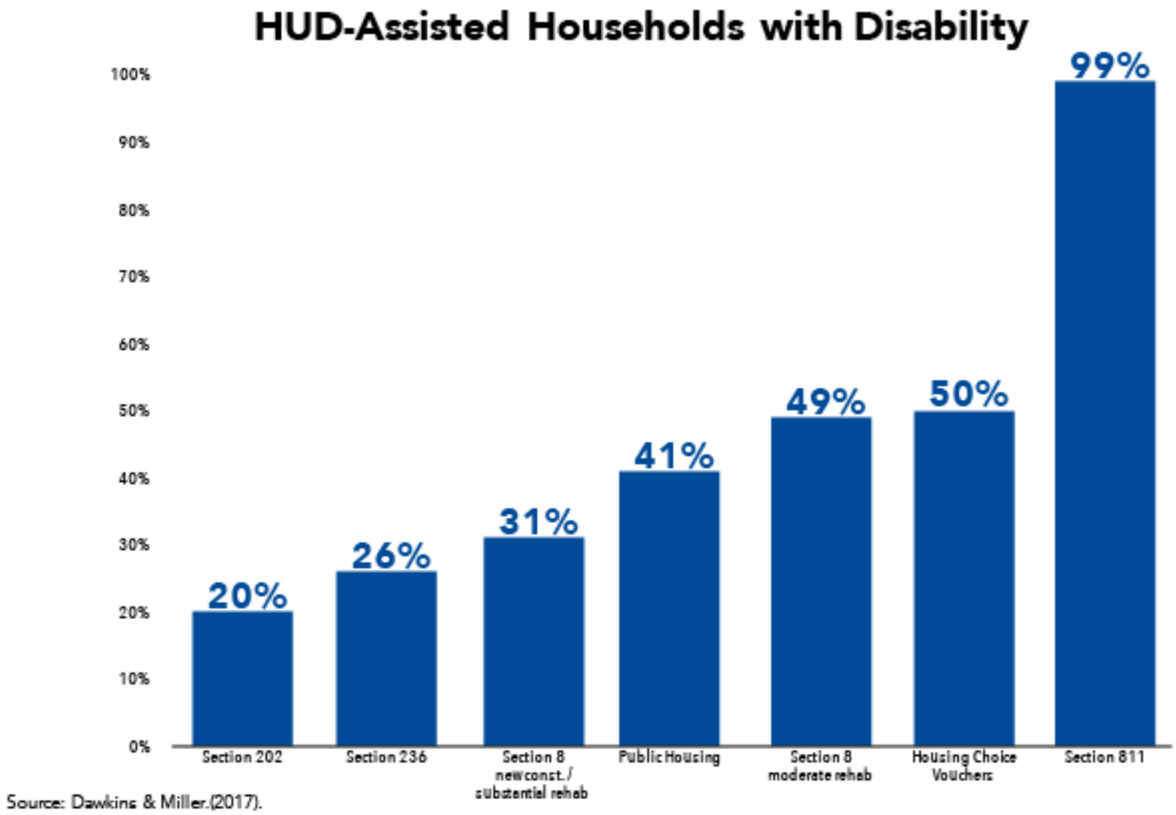
A significant share of HUD-assisted households with a disability live in housing potentially not matched well to their accessibility needs. Ninety-two percent of 481,328 public housing households with a disability do not live in an accessible unit. Seventy percent of 48,000 public housing households who requested a disability-related accommodation did not receive one. In HUD's multifamily programs (Section 202 for the elderly, Section 811 for people with disabilities, Section 236, and Section 8 new construction/substantial rehab), 52% of households with a disability live in properties not designated for people with disabilities. These findings indicate potentially unmet program needs for accessible housing.

The authors recommend community outreach to identify and recruit people with a disability who may be eligible for HUD assistance. Recognizing that properties designated for people with disabilities, specifically HUD 811 properties, may be at odds with the goal of community integration for people with disabilities, the authors suggest a need to balance the goal of integration with the goal of matching HUD-assisted households to appropriate accommodations. The authors recommend better data about disability accommodations in HUD-assisted properties. They urge HUD to collect data on the specific disabilities of HUD-assisted persons and on the accessible units requested and provided, similar to data already collected for public housing. These data would provide a fuller picture of unmet needs within HUD programs.

The Characteristics and Unmet Housing Program Needs of Disabled HUD-Assisted Households is available at: http://bit.ly/2luInrY

FACT OF THE WEEK

Large Share of HUD-Assisted Households Have a Disability



Source: Dawkins, C. & Miller, M. (2017). The characteristics and unmet housing program needs of disabled HUD-assisted households. *Housing Policy Debate*.

FROM THE FIELD

New Data from Maine Shows Significant Increase in Housing Need

Avesta Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer and provider in Portland, ME, released new data the week of February 5 about the demand for and availability of its affordable apartments over the past three years. The data show that the number of households seeking affordable housing from Avesta is rising dramatically, while the number of households the organization is able to move into apartments has not kept pace.

Avesta Housing, an NLIHC member, provides affordable housing across southern Maine and New Hampshire. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. The organization manages approximately 2,300 apartment homes at more than 80 properties. Avesta tracks data on the region's housing needs to understand the scope of the problem and to share with policy makers.

Avesta experienced a 16% increase in requests for housing between 2014 and 2016, from 3,067 to 3,562 households. The number of households moving into Avesta homes each year remained essentially unchanged, from 346 in 2014 to 340 in 2016. And requests for Avesta's affordable housing show signs of accelerating. In January 2017, 369 households representing 668 individuals requested Avesta housing, a 30% increase over housing requests in January 2016 and higher than in any month in 2016. Of those 369 households, Avesta was only able to house 35. Ninety percent could not be accommodated.

The number of households moving in to Avesta apartments annually has remained flat largely because insufficient financing prevents the organization from developing additional units each year. Despite the clear need for more affordable housing in the region, Avesta received only enough financing to develop 214 new apartments between 2014 and 2016.

The median income of households seeking housing from Avesta in January 2017 was $14,400, equivalent to 23% of Maine's median income, according NLIHC's 2016 *Out of Reach* report. Households headed by a senior over the age of 55 represented 35% of all applicants, the largest age demographic of the group.

"The fact that the requests we receive for affordable housing increase each year but our move-in numbers are flat is especially concerning as we anticipate budget cuts in the U.S. Congress," said Avesta President and CEO Dana Totman. "We have nearly 3,000 people sitting on our housing wait list. Very few will get the housing they need without expanding the affordable housing stock."

Avesta Housing Development Officer Greg Payne, an NLIHC board member and director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, an NLIHC state partner, stated that concerns about impending cuts to key federal housing programs prompted the organization to consider additional ways to collect and share important data. "Housing providers everywhere--like ours--need to recognize that we are entering a uniquely dangerous time, and it is incumbent upon us all to step up our game in communicating about the growing unmet housing needs already hurting our communities," Mr. Payne said. "Avesta is committed to continually improving our data collection efforts to make sure policy makers understand what's happening on the ground when they put forward their new budget proposals."

For more information, contact Greg Payne at gpayne@avestahousing.org.

RESOURCES

Summary of Key Changes in Third Revision of RAD Notice

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) issued a summary of key changes important to residents in the third revision of the Notice implementing the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). Notice PIH-2012-32 (HA)/H-2017-03, REV-3 effectively serves as the "regulations" governing implementation and administration of RAD (see *Memo*, 1/17).

The NHLP summary highlights nine changes to RAD Component I, which governs public housing property conversions to either project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA). For instance, the revised RAD Notice seeks to improve the quality of information that must be provided to residents of public housing proposed for RAD conversion. At the two meetings with residents required prior to a public housing agency (PHA) applying to HUD for a RAD conversion, the revised Notice now requires PHAs to discuss whether:

- The conversion will permanently move residents to another location;
- Another entity will have an ownership interest in the property once it is converted; and
- There will be a change in the number or configuration of assisted units that prevents a household from returning after temporarily moving during renovation.

The summary also highlights five changes to RAD Component II, which governs privately owned multifamily properties assisted under the Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance Program (RAP), Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab), and Mod Rehab Single Room Occupancy (SRO) programs.

The purpose of RAD is to preserve and improve low income housing by enabling PHAs to leverage Section 8 rental assistance contracts to raise private debt and equity for public housing capital improvements. Component

I allows up to 185,000 public housing units to be converted to PBVs or to PBRA by September 30, 2018. Component II allows private properties assisted through the Rent Supp, RAP, Mod Rehab, and Mod Rehab SRO programs to convert an unlimited number of Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) to PBRA or, as of the FY15 Appropriations Act, to PBVs.

NHLP's summary is at: http://bit.ly/2k3ofAo

PIH 2012-32/H 2017-03 REV-3 is at: http://bit.ly/2ipEF3v, and a redline version showing the changes in the Notice is at: http://bit.ly/2ilCquQ

More information about RAD is on page 4-13 of NLIHC's *2016 Advocates' Guide* at: http://bit.ly/22QZiEm, on the NHLP's website at: http://nhlp.org/RAD, and on a website created by NLHP and the American Federation of State, Country, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) at: www.rad-watch.org

EVENTS

CBPP Webinar on Federal Housing Funding and Policy Outlook, February 16

The safety net – including federal housing assistance – is facing the gravest threats in our lifetimes, and the road ahead will be unpredictable and difficult. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) will host a webinar, "Treacherous Road Ahead: Outlook for Federal Housing Funding and Policy" at 2 pm ET on Thursday, February 16**.** CBPP staff Barbara Sard and Doug Rice will guide participants through the challenging terrain of federal housing funding and policy in 2017, with an eye towards identifying key threats, opportunities, and decision points.

Register for the free webinar at: http://bit.ly/2kM71EI

Webinar on Immigrant Access to Federally Assisted Housing, February 22

The National Housing Law Project will hold a webinar on the rights of immigrants to access programs funded by HUD and USDA Rural Development. The webinar will emphasize a recent HUD policy memorandum confirming the rights of victims of domestic and sexual violence "self-petitioners" to access public and assisted housing and the rights of survivors regardless of their immigration status to access emergency shelters and transitional housing that receive federal funds (see *Memo*, 1/9).

The free webinar will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2:00 pm ET.

For many survivors of domestic and sexual violence, the ability to secure decent, safe, and affordable housing is critical to their long-term survival. But immigrant survivors often face obstacles in accessing federally subsidized housing and services that protect life or safety because of providers' misunderstandings about immigration requirements for program participants.

Presenters will be:

- Gideon Anders, senior staff attorney, National Housing Law Project
- Karlo Ng, staff attorney, National Housing Law Project
- Leslye Orloff, adjunct professor and director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law

Register at: http://bit.ly/2k4vzXr

NLIHC IN THE NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of February 5:

- "Time to reform the mortgage interest deduction," *The Hill - Blogs*, February 6 at: http://bit.ly/2kK32KX
- "Advocates Support Federal Bill Protecting Renters," *Banker & Tradesman*, February 9 at: http://bit.ly/2kdAvcI
- "Election threatens tax credits for low income housing," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, February 6 at: http://bit.ly/2kJXYWM
- "Cranford: RSI Bank partners with Monarch Housing Associates to fight homelessness," *MyCentralJersey.com*, February 4 at: http://mycj.co/2kXLCuD

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