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## Take Action

### Urge Congress to Provide Robust Funding for Affordable Housing and Reject Proposals to Slash Housing Benefits

President Donald Trump's [FY19 budget request](#) slashes federal housing benefits that help millions of low income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, low-wage workers, veterans, and other vulnerable people afford their homes. In addition to severe funding cuts and in some cases the elimination of critical programs, the proposal includes harmful rent increases and arbitrary work requirements that would leave even more low income people without a stable home. Take action to oppose these proposals today; your members of Congress need to hear from you!

Groups concerned about housing, community development, and homelessness are circulating a letter urging Congress to ensure affordable housing and community development programs receive the highest allocation of discretionary funds possible for FY19. Last year, more than 3,400 national, state, and local housing and community development, faith-based, disability, and civil rights organizations, as well as officials in municipal, tribal, and state governments signed onto a similar letter. [Read and sign this year's letter here.](#)

NLIHC is also circulating a sign-on letter urging Congress to oppose any proposals that would cut housing benefits by increasing rents and imposing onerous and administratively wasteful work requirements on current and future tenants. [Read and sign the letter here.](#)

Please share these letters and encourage organizations in your network to sign on **by March 16.**

Read NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel's recent "Point of View" article in *Memo to Members and Partners* on the president's proposed spending cuts for the poor at: <http://bit.ly/2otDpOz>

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## NLIHC 2018 Housing Policy Forum

### NLIHC Housing Policy Forum, March 19-21, to Explore Non-Partisan Voter Engagement Leading Up to 2018 Elections

NLIHC's [2018 Housing Policy Forum: Building the Movement](#) taking place in Washington, DC, March 19-21, 2018 will feature a session titled "Housing Is Built with Ballots: Non-partisan Voter Engagement Leading Up to 2018 Elections." Space at the Forum is limited and the event is filling up fast, so register [today!](#)

Electoral campaigns are a key opportunity for the affordable homes movement because they are when elected officials lay out their visions and make their policy commitments. Learn how your organization can register voters, engage with candidates, and increase voter turnout all in a non-partisan way that does not threaten your tax-exempt status. The panelists have engaged extensively in non-partisan voter engagement campaigns that have produced real results and advanced housing solutions. Confirmed and invited speakers for the session are Sim Wimbush, executive director, Virginia Housing Alliance; Barb Harris, executive director, Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council; Alan Greenlee, executive director, Southern California Association for NonProfit Housing; and Abby Levine, director, Bolder Advocacy Initiative, Alliance for Justice.

Other featured speakers and panelists at this year's Forum include U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ); *The Cook Political Report's* Charlie Cook; *Wall Street Journal* Reporter Laura Kusisto; Ben Austen, author, *High Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing*; Virginia State Delegate Danica Roem (D) (invited); and Don Chen, Ford Foundation director of equitable development; among others.

The Forum will focus on building the affordable housing movement in 2018 and beyond. The movement is growing and expanding, and NLIHC's 2018 Housing Policy Forum will engage advocates, residents, affordable housing providers, and others on taking the movement to the next level.

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

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## **Disaster Housing Recovery**

### **NLIHC Creates Outline of CDBG-DR Federal Register Notice for Residents and Advocates**

NLIHC has prepared a simple outline for residents and advocates to help them understand the requirements related to an Action Plan, public participation, and reporting that must be met in order to receive and use Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. NLIHC's outline summarizes key features to help residents and advocates better shape a CDBG-DR grantee's Action Plan and to monitor uses of CDBG-DR over time.

NLIHC's outline is based on the February 9, 2018 *Federal Register* notice that applies to the \$7.4 billion in CDBG-DR funds Congress appropriated on September 8, 2017. Of that amount, HUD awarded \$5 billion to Texas, \$1.5 billion to Puerto Rico, \$616 million to Florida, and \$243 million to the Virgin Islands.

While the outline is based on the February 9 *Federal Register* notice, most of the features covered are likely to apply to future *Federal Register* notices about new CDBG-DR funding, including one that will be published for the additional \$28 billion Congress appropriated on February 9, 2018 (although that upcoming *Federal Register* notice will have special features about the \$12 billion specifically for disaster mitigation).

NLIHC's "Outline of the CDBG-DR *Federal Register* Notice" is at: <http://bit.ly/2o11kk2>

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## **HUD Updates Status of Multifamily Properties in Disaster Areas**

HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs provided stakeholders with a status report on privately owned HUD-assisted properties in areas hit by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. As of February 22, HUD has completed site visits to properties in Florida, Georgia, and Texas. HUD is still gathering information about vacant or uninhabitable units in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Still in "recovery mode," HUD Multifamily has recovery plans from most owners in Georgia and Texas, while owners are still working on recovery plans in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Texas has 454 Multifamily properties; 13% suffered moderate-to-severe damage. Eighty-two of the properties have not returned to "full operational mode," which can mean not all of the residents have returned to their homes because the properties are still undergoing repairs.

Georgia has 62 Multifamily properties; 3% suffered moderate-to-severe damage. All have returned to normal operations.

Florida has 910 Multifamily properties; 11% suffered moderate-to-severe damage. One hundred and seventy-three properties are still not fully operational, and only ten of these have approved recovery plans. HUD is still attempting to collect information about displaced residents.

Puerto Rico has 203 Multifamily properties; 34% suffered moderate-to-severe damage. Six of the 203 properties do not have permanent power; one has a generator serving the entire property, two have generators that serve only the office and common areas, and three have no generator. Only four properties are fully operational.

The Virgin Islands has 17 Multifamily properties; 65% suffered moderate-to-severe damage. Eight properties are fully operational, while one property has power only for the office and common areas.

HUD is planning meetings with property owners in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in early March.

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## **Florida Senators Call for Housing Solution for Displaced Puerto Rican Families**

Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Bill Nelson (D-FL) sent a [letter](#) on February 15 to FEMA Administrator Brock Long urging him to approve the Direct Lease Program for Puerto Rican evacuees. An estimated 200,000 Puerto Rican families have relocated from the island to Florida. “While the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program has provided many Puerto Ricans on the mainland temporary housing relief, this program is not intended to be a long-term housing solution,” the senators state. “The FEMA Direct Lease program, however, would provide much needed housing assistance directly to displaced Puerto Ricans who desperately need it.”

Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló submitted a request to FEMA to expand the Direct Lease Program on January 31, but FEMA has not yet approved it, despite the thousands of families struggling to find affordable long-term housing solutions. The NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) has called on Congress and FEMA to implement the HUD-administered Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) – a solution for longer-term housing recovery needs that was proven to be effective after previous natural disasters. See the DHRC’s recommendations to Congress, FEMA, and the administration at: <http://nlihc.org/issues/disaster>

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## **Members of Congress Warn Against Misuse of Disaster Aid**

Five representatives and two senators sent a [letter](#) to the chairman of the Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) for Puerto Rico, José B. Carrión III, reminding him that the recently passed disaster supplemental funding should be used solely for recovery and rebuilding purposes. Various reports suggested that the Puerto Rico government may use federal funding to service the island’s debt, which “completely disregards the continued suffering on the Island,” the letter stated. Following Congressional passage of additional disaster aid on February 8, the Puerto Rico government issued a new fiscal plan on February 12 that predicted the island would pay off its billions of dollars in debt much sooner than previous forecasts. Senators Robert Menéndez (D-NJ) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) joined Representatives Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Sean Duffy (R-WI), Tom MacArthur (R-NJ), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), and Luis Gutiérrez (D-IL) in warning that “none of the funding provided under the disaster supplemental be diverted to service Puerto Rico’s debt.”

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## **Additional Updates on Disaster Housing Recovery – February 26**

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 [2/20](#)). NLIHC also posts this information at our [On the Home Front](#) blog.

## California Wildfires

### FEMA

According to a [FEMA update](#), the FEMA inspection team has completed 94% of requested housing inspections, and the Small Business Administration has approved 159 loans for homeowners and renters.

## Hurricane Maria

### USDA

The USDA will provide an [additional \\$1.27 billion](#) to provide temporary food assistance to residents of Puerto Rico recovering from Hurricane Maria. The grant will be distributed through the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) administered by the USDA beginning March 1. The maximum allotment for a family of four will now be \$649. The grant funding comes from the “Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements of 2017,” which passed in October.

### Local Perspectives

On February 14, the Puerto Rico Housing Department [suspended](#) a \$133 million contract to repair homes after a review board determined the contractor, New York-based Adjusters International, did not meet several requirements. The company had already been enrolling residents and conducting inspections, and the decision to suspend the contract could further delay recovery efforts.

Philadelphia Mayor Kenny has the ability to refer up to 50 families who were victims of a natural disaster for [rental assistance from the Housing Authority](#). Through this special program, families would be placed at the top of the public housing waiting list, but the city government had referred only two families as of February 15. Due to limited public housing resources, city officials said they felt it would be unfair to move Puerto Rican families ahead of others who have sometimes been waiting years. Advocates for the families expressed frustration that the program was not being utilized.

Vamos4PR, a Florida group representing Puerto Ricans displaced by Hurricane Maria, [spoke at an Orange County Commission meeting](#), urging the board to pass resolutions that would protect funding for affordable housing in the Sadowski Federal Trust Fund. These funds have been swept into the general treasury fund every year for over a decade.

## Hurricane Irma

### FEMA

National Flood Insurance Program policyholders in Special Flood Hazard Areas may request extra funds, known as [Increased Cost of Compliance](#), to upgrade a structure to comply with local building regulations.

### Local Perspectives

Following Hurricane Irma, the number of students in the Florida Keys receiving free and reduced meals at school has [increased](#) from about a third to almost 60%.

## Hurricane Harvey

### FEMA

According to a [FEMA update](#), 8,750 households remain in FEMA-funded hotels, and 1,923 survivors are in temporary disaster housing.

## Local Perspectives

An [update from the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas](#) reports that repairs have been made on 3,500 homes through the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS) program, with another 10,300 homes in the process, and over 170 homeowners are currently participating in the Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair Program (DALHR).

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is [refusing to share data](#) on the progress made related to short-term housing programs. Texas Housers, an NLIHC state partner, has urged the agency to share the data in an effort to ensure the State is helping those most in need. Officials say an agreement with FEMA prohibits them from sharing data, contrary to the Texas Public Information Act.

The Houston Rising Coalition for an Equitable Recovery, which consists of several Houston-area community organizations, submitted [comments about the Texas State Action Plan](#) concerning housing, jobs, and environmental health and justice. The coalition recommends the GLO prioritize housing over infrastructure for federal funding and implement greater community outreach and participation strategies. The group also suggests covering construction-related employees with worker's compensation insurance.

Despite 74,000 flooded homes, Jefferson County - where Port Arthur is located - [received no funding](#) in the GLO's State Action Plan. A quarter of Port Arthur's residents live below the poverty line, and additional financial resources are necessary for the area to rebuild and recover, especially after additional flooding occurred in January, 2018, following heavy rainfall. Lone Star Legal Aid's Equitable Development Initiative's Environmental Justice team represents the Port Arthur Community Action Network (PA-CAN); both organizations have been advocating for low income families in the area.

Texas Housers and other Houston-area community groups are encouraging renters, who make up half of Houston residents, to [share photos of health and safety concerns](#) in their apartments using the hashtags #OutOfOrder and #descompuesto. A new report from Heather Way and Carol Fraser of the University of Texas School of Law Entrepreneurship and Community Clinic, [Out of Order: Houston's Dangerous Apartment Epidemic](#), demonstrates the poor conditions and limited options facing low income Houston renters. The report uses data collected prior to Hurricane Harvey, and safety and health concerns have increased significantly after the storm.

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## Research

### Brookings Report Shows Cities Experiencing Uneven Economic Progress

The Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution released its annual report, [Metro Monitor](#), the week of February 19. *Metro Monitor* tracks economic progress in the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. using an Inclusive Growth Index. The report shows widespread but uneven progress across most metropolitan areas between 2015 and 2016, and racial disparities in relative poverty persist.

The Inclusive Growth Index measures growth along three dimensions: economic growth, prosperity, and inclusion. Economic growth is measured by the changes in gross metropolitan product (GMP), total number of jobs, and number of jobs at young firms. Between 2015 and 2016, 93 of the 100 metro areas experienced increases in GMP and 96 added jobs. The construction, finance, and high tech sectors tended to be the primary drivers behind increases in GMP, while the oil and gas and government sectors tended to slow GMP growth.

Metro areas with large manufacturing, government, and education sectors showed slower job growth. Metro areas on the east and west coasts and in the Sunbelt experienced the most growth, with Middle America continuing to lag by comparison.

Prosperity is measured by the changes in average wage per job, productivity (GMP divided by total jobs), and standard of living (GMP per capita). A majority of metropolitan areas experienced growth in average wages, driven mostly by services, tech, construction and health care, while declines in wages were associated with metros reliant on energy, manufacturing, and government spending (e.g., state capitols). Despite increasing wages, productivity declined in 64 metro areas, mainly because in metros with job increases, output did not increase correspondingly, reducing the amount of output per worker. The 87 metros with increases in standard of living were also metros with increases in employment and productivity.

Inclusion is measured by the changes in the employment rate, median wage, and relative earnings poverty rate. Eighty-two metros experienced rising employment rates, and none of the 18 others saw statistically significant declines. Higher employment rates drove tighter labor markets, resulting in increases in median wages in 73 metros and modest decreases in relative poverty in 55 metros. Economic inclusion by race saw some progress in 2016, but challenges remain. Though 53 metros reduced racial disparities in employment rates, employment rates rose for both white people and people of color in only 26 metros. Further, the racial disparity in relative poverty rates declined in only two metros.

The report did not address how the employment and wage changes match up with rental housing costs (for comparisons between wages and rents in every jurisdiction and ZIP code in the U.S., see NLIHC's [Out of Reach](#) report) nor did it deal with the shortage of affordable rental homes and housing cost burdens for different income groups (for those data for the largest 50 metro areas in the U.S., see NLIHC's [The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes](#) report).

*Metro Monitor* is available at: <http://brook.gs/2onNI6Z>

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## **Criminal Justice**

### **Vera Institute of Justice Seeks Proposals from PHAs to Help Them Implement Reentry Programs**

The Vera Institute of Justice is [requesting proposals](#) from public housing authorities (PHA) that would benefit from technical assistance to plan and implement reentry programs for people leaving prison or jail. The goals of the 14-month assistance program are to increase access to housing for people with conviction histories, improve the safety of public housing and surrounding communities through reentry housing strategies, and promote collaboration between housing authorities and other criminal justice stakeholders to reduce crime and improve reentry outcomes for those leaving prison. PHAs that manage their own units or administer a Housing Choice Voucher program are eligible, and neighboring housing authorities can choose to submit a single application. This initiative is through funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The deadline for applications is May 2.

Read the full Request for Proposals (RFP) at: <http://bit.ly/2sN4EZI>

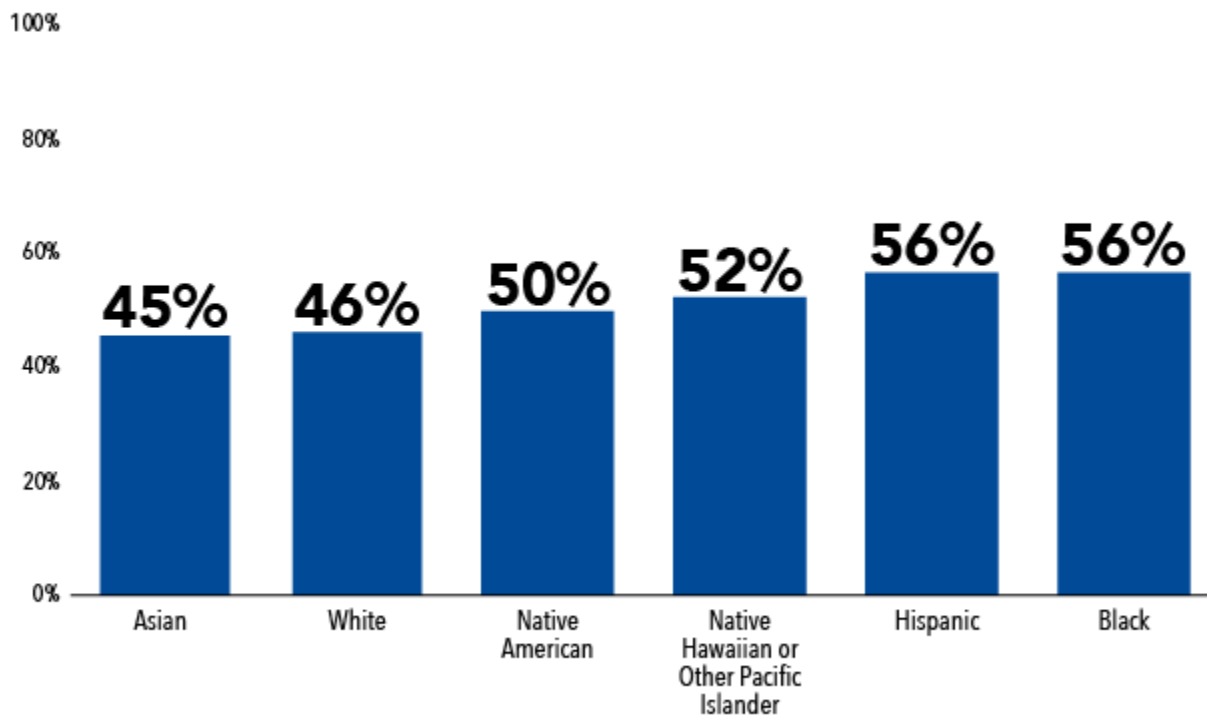


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## Fact of the Week

### Most Minority Renters Suffer Housing Cost Burdens

#### % of Renters with Housing Cost Burden by Race



Source: Prosperity Now (2018)

“Housing cost burden” defined as spending more than 30% of household income on rent and utilities.

Source: Prosperity Now. (2018). 2018 Scorecard. Washington, DC: Author

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## From the Field

### Maryland Advocates Urge Legislators to Increase Funding for Rental Housing

Advocates from across Maryland gathered in Annapolis on February 15 for Housing Day, coordinated by the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC), an NLIHC state partner. More than 250 advocates met with 41 legislators to ask them to increase funding for Rental Housing Works (RHW), a state program that provides subordinate gap financing solely for projects financed using the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD’s) Multifamily Bond Program and 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and they called for full funding of the state’s other rental housing programs to create urgently needed affordable housing throughout the state.

MAHC Board President Ivy Dench-Carter kicked off the day by introducing Senator Ed Kasemeyer (D), chair of the Budget and Tax Committee; Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones (D), chair of the Capital Budget Subcommittee; and Delegate Maggie McIntosh (D), chair of the Appropriations Committee, among others. Following remarks by these and other legislators, DHCD Secretary Kenneth Holt spoke about projects created

with RHW resources and about the impact the program could have if it received additional funding. MAHC Legislative Committee Chair Jessica Zuniga then reviewed the legislative priorities for advocates to raise with their legislators: \$25 million in funding for the RHW program and full funding for the other DHCD rental housing programs. Advocates spent the rest of the morning meeting with legislators.

RHW has been in operation for six years, during which it created 9,400 jobs and leveraged nearly \$1 billion in other investments. The loan program has received \$113.7 million to date, which have been used to create or rehabilitate 75 rental housing developments benefiting low income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Advocates urged their legislators to increase the funding for RHW to \$25 million in the FY19 budget.

The governor proposed fully funding other rental housing programs administered by DHCD at \$30 million for FY19. Much of the state funding for these programs comes from the repayment of previous loans and does not require new appropriations. Housing Day advocates urged adoption of the DHCD rental housing programs budget as proposed.

For more information about the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition, visit [www.mdahc.org](http://www.mdahc.org) or email Miranda Darden-Willems at: [mdarden@mdahc.org](mailto:mdarden@mdahc.org)

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## Events

### Webinar on HUD's Proposal to Raise Rents, February 28

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) will hold a [webinar](#) on February 28 at 1:00 pm ET about HUD's proposals to raise rents on residents of public housing and private housing with project-based rental assistance, as well as on residents who rely on Housing Choice Vouchers to secure affordable housing. HUD's proposals would also give public housing agencies and private owners of HUD-assisted housing the option of imposing work requirements. These proposed benefit cuts, which would make it harder for low income families, people with disabilities, and seniors to make ends meet, comes on the heels of a \$1.5 trillion tax cut for corporations and the wealthy.

HUD's proposals would increase rents for most tenants, including a three-fold increase for the poorest residents. Imposing work requirements could force families into homelessness because of a lost job, reductions in their work hours, or an undiagnosed disability, or because they missed some paperwork in their busy lives. The proposals provide none of the resources that people actually need to secure employment, and the proposals add additional burdens on tenants that are employed or cannot work because of a disability. Imposing complex administrative burdens increases the risk of error and threatens our most vulnerable neighbors who could get lost in the shuffle. Purported to promote work, the proposals would actually push families, seniors and people with disabilities out of their homes.

The webinar will discuss the proposals, how low income tenants will be impacted, and what advocates can do to respond. More information about HUD's proposals can be found [here](#), as well as in NHLP's 1-page summary [here](#).

Presenters:

- Jessica Cassella, National Housing Law Project
- Don Saunders, National Legal Aid & Defender Association
- Lucy Newman, The Legal Aid Society of New York City
- Judith Goldiner, The Legal Aid Society of New York City

Register for the webinar [here](#).

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## **Our Homes, Our Voices: National Housing Week of Action**

### **Join the *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action, May 1-8**

Take action and make it clear that President Trump's massive proposed cuts to affordable housing programs must be defeated. Sign up and begin planning today to participate in the 2018 [Our Homes, Our Voices](#) National Housing Week of Action, May 1-8, and join the thousands who will make our voices heard!

Federal investments in proven affordable housing solutions [benefit us all](#). But at a time when we should be *increasing* those investments, President Trump has again proposed slashing vital HUD and USDA resources that house low income people and revitalize distressed communities. Join the movement in support of affordable homes during this year's [Our Homes, Our Voices](#) National Housing Week of Action!

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 have planned an event, NLIHC will feature it on the website, directing supporters to you and inspiring others to plan activities.

NLIHC's [2018 Housing Policy Forum: Building the Movement](#) in Washington DC, March 19-21, will also help you prepare. In addition to the latest updates on federal housing policy, the Forum will 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 have 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 from May 1-8 for the [Our Homes, Our Voices](#) National Housing Week of Action.**

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## **NLIHC in the News**

### **NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 18**

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of February 18:

- "9 Foundations Partner To Tackle America's Housing Crisis, As Trump Tries To Gut Funding," *The Huffington Post*, February 21 at: <http://bit.ly/2ESwLfb>
- "Foundations pledge \$4.9 million in new affordable housing initiative," *Curbed*, February 20 at: <http://nydn.us/2o76VJM>
- "California rents have risen to some of the nation's highest. Here's how that impacts residents," *The Mercury News*, February 16 at: <http://bayareane.ws/2Cfwt0R>
- "No major city has enough affordable housing to meet demand, but how does Seattle stack up?," *The Seattle Times*, February 16 at: <http://bit.ly/2C4fcI4>

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## NLIHC News

### 2018 Housing Leadership Awards Commemorate NLIHC's Founder Dolbeare and Leaders Brooke and Crowley

NLIHC's [Housing Leadership Awards](#) commemorates NLIHC's founder, Cushing Dolbeare, former NLIHC Chair and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke (R-MA), and former NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley. These leaders epitomize NLIHC's enduring commitment to ending homelessness and housing poverty in America.

**The Cushing Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award** is named after NLIHC's late founder who was often referred to as the "godmother" and "conscience" of the affordable housing movement. Cushing established the precursor to NLIHC in the garage of her home in Northeast Washington DC in 1974 in response to the Nixon administration's moratorium on federal housing programs, and she led the organization for many years thereafter. Cushing designed the methodology for and was the original author of *Out of Reach*, NLIHC's widely-cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and the wages of low income people. The 2018 Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award goes to Lisa Hasegawa, former executive director of the National Coalition for Asian and Pacific American Community Development and NLIHC board member. Ms. Hasegawa receives the award for leading national efforts to address the affordable housing needs of low income Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and working with other civil rights organizations and advocates throughout her career on behalf of people who are poor.

**The Edward Brooke Housing Leadership Award** is named for the late senator who championed low income housing as a U.S. senator and as chair of the NLIHC Board of Directors after he left the Senate. The first African American to be popularly elected to the Senate, Mr. Brooke partnered with Senator Walter Mondale (D-MN) to develop and sponsor legislation that became the Fair Housing Act of 1968. He also authored of the 1969 "Brooke rule" that residents of federally assisted housing should spend no more than 25% of their incomes on housing (raised to 30% in 1981). The 2018 Brooke Award goes to U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) for being a steadfast defender of affordable housing and homelessness programs for many years in the Senate, opposing proposed cuts to critical HUD programs, co-sponsoring the bill that created the national Housing Trust Fund, supporting the Housing First model for addressing homelessness, and more.

**The Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award** is named for former NLIHC President and CEO Sheila Crowley, who led NLIHC for more than 17 years until her retirement in 2016. Among her many accomplishments, Sheila led the national advocacy campaign that eventually succeeded in creating and funding the national Housing Trust Fund, the first new program in a generation design to create and preserve affordable housing for the lowest income people in America. Matthew Desmond, MacArthur Genius awardee and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, will be the first-ever recipient of the Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award for his groundbreaking work to elevate the need for affordable housing for the lowest income people in America and his calls for bold solutions.

Make a [donation](#) today to support NLIHC in its mission to achieve socially just public policy to ensure the lowest income people have decent, affordable homes.

[NLIHC's 2018 Housing Leadership Awards Reception](#) will take place in Washington, DC on March 20. To register for the 2018 Leadership Reception at which Ms. Hasegawa, Dr. Desmond, 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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## **NLIHC Welcomes Isaiah Milbauer as New NLIHC Field Intern**

NLIHC is pleased to welcome Isaiah Milbauer as the new NLIHC field intern for the spring semester. Isaiah is currently on a gap year before pursuing his undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago. He became interested in housing issues while working as an organizer for a politician in his hometown of New York City. His interest grew while working on outreach for the New York Immigration Coalition. Isaiah is eager to contribute to the field team at NLIHC and join the fight for affordable homes for those with the lowest incomes in America.

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## **NLIHC Seeks Graphic Design/Communications Intern for Summer 2018**

NLIHC is accepting applications for a graphic design/communications intern for the summer. Interns are highly valued and fully integrated into our staff work. We seek students passionate about social justice issues who have excellent graphic design, communications, and interpersonal skills.

The graphic design/communications intern assists with designing collateral material like brochures, flyers, infographics, social media imagery, and content on the NLIHC website. The intern also prepares and distributes press materials, assists with media research and outreach for publication releases, works on social media projects, maintains a media database, and tracks press hits. Graphic design and Adobe Creative Cloud (Illustrator, InDesign, and/or Photoshop) experience is needed. Please provide three design samples and/or link to an online portfolio in addition to a writing sample.

Summer Interns are expected to work 40 hours a week, and NLIHC provides a modest stipend. A cover letter, resume, and writing/graphic design samples are required for consideration.

Interested students should send their materials to: Ellen Errico, creative services manager, NLIHC, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 via email to: [eerrico@nlihc.org](mailto:eerrico@nlihc.org)

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## **Where to Find Us – February 26**

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

- [NCSHA Legislative Conference](#), Washington, DC on March 7
- [Make Room Journalism Study Tour](#), Houston, TX on March 27
- [Housing First Partners Conference 2018](#), Denver, CO, April 10 -12, 2018
- [PolicyLink 2018 Equity Summit](#), Chicago, IL on April 13
- [2018 Building Michigan Communities Conference](#), Lansing, MI, April 30 to May 2
- [2018 Denver Housing Summit](#), Denver, CO on May 24

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## **NLIHC Staff**

Sonya Acosta, Policy Intern, x241

Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245

Victoria Bourret, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244  
Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226  
Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316  
Ellen Errico, Creative Services Manager, x246  
Jared Gaby-Biegel, Research Intern, x249  
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314  
Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232  
Emma Kerr, Research Intern, x229  
Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317  
Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222  
Lisa Marlow, Communications Specialist, x239  
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