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Budget and Appropriations

Senators Circulate “Dear Colleague” Letters to Support HUD Funding in FY19

Senators are circulating “Dear Colleague” sign-on letters in support of funding for affordable housing and community development programs in fiscal year (FY) 2019. NLIHC encourages advocates to reach out to their senators and ask them to sign onto the following letters:

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and Homeless Assistance

- Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) is [circulating a letter requesting \\$2.8 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants and \\$22.8 billion for tenant-based rental assistance](#) in FY19. The deadline to sign is April 13. Senators can contact Meredith Booker (Meredith_Booker@merkley.senate.gov) to sign the letter.

Public Housing

- Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) is circulating a [letter in support of the public housing program](#). The letter requests full funding for the public housing operating fund and \$5 billion for the public housing capital fund. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 16. Senators can contact Rebecca Schatz (Rebecca_Schatz@menendez.senate.gov) or Meredith Booker (Meredith_Booker@merkley.senate.gov) to sign.

Project-Based Rental Assistance

- Senators Jeff Merkley and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) are [circulating a letter supporting \\$12.2 billion for the Project-Based Section 8 program](#) to renew existing contracts for a full twelve-month term. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 13. Senators can contact Meredith Booker (Meredith_Booker@merkley.senate.gov) to sign.

Housing for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

- Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) [is circulating a letter in support of HUD’s Section 202 and 811 programs](#) for the development of new housing and the continuation of rental assistance for very low income seniors and persons with disabilities. The letter requests \$619 million for renewal funding and \$210 million for capital advance and project-based rental assistance awards for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program, and \$313 million for the Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities program. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 16. Senators can contact Rebecca Schatz (Rebecca_Schatz@menendez.senate.gov) to sign.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

- Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are [circulating a letter calling for \\$1.5 billion in funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships program](#) (HOME) in FY19. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 16. Senators can contact Kelsey Daniels (Kelsey_Daniels@coons.senate.gov) or Brent Palmer (Brent_Palmer@feinstein.senate.gov) to sign.

Community Development Block Grant Program

- Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Chris Coons (D-DE) are [circulating a letter in support of \\$3.5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program](#) (CDBG) in

FY19. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 13. Senators can contact Kelsey Daniels (Kelsey_Daniels@coons.senate.gov) or Brent Palmer (Brent_Palmer@feinstein.senate.gov) to sign.

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative

- Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) is [circulating a letter in support of \\$200 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative](#) in FY19. The deadline for senators to sign the letter is April 16. Senators can contact Rebecca Schatz (Rebecca_Schatz@menendez.senate.gov) to sign.

White House and House GOP Consider Plan to Rescind Funding from FY18 Omnibus

President Trump and members of the House GOP are considering a budget maneuver to rescind spending for non-defense discretionary spending from the \$1.3 trillion FY18 omnibus package that Congress passed last month with bipartisan support (see *Memo*, [3/26](#)). The omnibus spending package included a 10% increase for HUD programs. The move to claw back funds comes after the president and House Republicans expressed their opposition to the size of the package. The White House would need to draft a plan indicating the funds to be rescinded and send it to Congress for approval by a simple majority in both the House and Senate.

Senate Republicans have expressed skepticism about the plan. When considering the bill, Senate Democrats could force Republicans to take tough votes on popular federal programs in an election year. Lawmakers are also worried that rescinding funding from the omnibus, which took months to negotiate, would undermine the ability of the parties to reach future bipartisan spending deals.

Take Action

Take Action on April 10! Thank Congressional Champions for Increased Federal Investments in Affordable Housing

Over the last year, you joined with advocates throughout the country to urge members of Congress not only to reject President Trump's call to slash affordable housing and community development investments, but to provide much-needed increases in funding. Congress listened, and together we achieved a 10% increase in federal investments in HUD's programs in FY18. Congressional champions were critical in achieving this victory.

Join NLIHC and the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) in showing our gratitude to members of Congress who helped secure these important increases to affordable housing and community development investments (See related article in this issue of *Memo*). On **April 10**, we will be having a "Day of Thanks" to show our appreciation and encourage Congress to again reject President Trump's [proposed FY19 cuts](#) to housing benefits that help struggling seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other people in need keep roofs over their heads.

Show your gratitude: Tweet at Congressional champions, call, or email on **April 10**, thanking them for rejecting harmful cuts and for increasing federal investments in important affordable housing and community development programs.

- **Twitter:** We will hold a tweetstorm at **2 pm ET on April 10**. Following are some sample tweets you can use:
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for your work to secure needed funding increases for affordable housing and community

development programs in the FY18 appropriations bill. This funding helps ensure more people have a safe, accessible, affordable home.

- Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for rejecting harsh cuts in favor of providing housing for seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, veterans, and other vulnerable communities.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for increasing funding for public housing by \$959 million in FY18. This funding helps seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children have a safe, accessible, affordable home.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for increasing funding for Homeless Assistance Grants by \$130 million. This increase will allow an additional 20,000-25,000 people move from homelessness to housing.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for expanding housing assistance for very low income people with disabilities. This funding can help provide vouchers to 40,000 new recipients who have disabilities.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for expanding housing assistance for very low income people with disabilities. This funding can allow for construction of more than 1,800 new homes for persons with disabilities.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for providing funding to create 760 new homes to help older adults.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for providing funding for all existing tenant-based rental assistance, and for providing new HUD-VASH and Family Unification Program vouchers targeted toward veterans and families.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for increasing funding for CDBG, which allows state and local governments to respond to their communities' needs.
 - Thank you @SenatorCollins @SenJackReed @MarioDB @RepDavidEPrice for expanding affordable housing through the HOME program. The additional \$412 million will help low income households by rehabbing their homes and building new ones.
- **Call:** Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to speak with an operator who will connect you to your lawmakers.
 - **Email:** [Email your lawmakers here.](#)

Join Sign-On Letter by April 13 Urging Robust Funding for Affordable Housing Programs in FY19

Sign onto a [national letter](#) urging Congress to provide robust funding for critical affordable housing programs in FY19. Over the last year, advocates throughout the country urged members of Congress not only to reject President Trump's call to slash affordable housing investments, but to provide much needed increases in

funding. As a result, advocates, resident leaders, and Congressional champions achieved a 10% increase in federal investments in HUD's programs in FY18 - funding that will directly translate into more affordable homes for the lowest income people.

This achievement was an important step forward — but there is still much more to do. Let's build on the momentum of this year's funding victory to carry it into the next. President Trump [continues to propose huge cuts](#) to housing benefits that help struggling seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other populations keep roofs over their heads.

Take action to oppose President Trump's proposal to cut housing benefits in FY19.

Sign onto a [national letter](#) urging Congress to oppose the president's proposed cuts and to increase funding for affordable housing programs. Last year, more than 3,400 national, state, and local organizations and governments signed a similar letter urging robust funding for affordable housing programs. Sign onto this year's letter about the FY19 spending bills by the **April 13 deadline**. [Read and sign onto this year's letter here](#).

Share your Story! How Will Cuts to Affordable Housing Benefits Impact You?

NLIHC, the Center for American Progress, and other partner organizations are collecting stories about the impact of President Trump's proposed budget cuts for households across the country. The initiative is part of the "[Hands Off](#)" campaign aimed at stopping harmful cuts to government benefits and federal programs that provide access to basic living standards. Please share your story about how the president's proposed budget cuts would impact you and your family.

Read more about the Hands Off campaign and submit your story at: <https://bit.ly/2JmlGCv>

Our Homes, Our Voices

New Events and Resources for National Housing Week of Action, May 1-8

The *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action is rapidly approaching, and advocates throughout the country are working on teach-ins, tweetstorms, rallies, press conferences, and housing tours that will take place May 1-8. The recent good news about the final 2018 federal appropriations is proof that your advocacy is making an impact. The threats to HUD and USDA housing programs remain very real for 2019, so it is essential to continue building momentum.

Event Planning Webinar on Thursday, April 12, 2 pm ET

To assist organizations planning local events, NLIHC is hosting a [webinar](#) to discuss best practices and resources available to organizers. Attendees will hear suggestions about effective messaging, best use of templates and materials, and building turnout for a local event. The webinar will include advice and perspectives from organizers who conducted local events during the Week of Action in 2017.

RSVP for the webinar at: <https://bit.ly/2H1wGH6>

Merchandise Available

Show your support for the Week of Action by [purchasing](#) T-shirts, stickers, mugs, water bottles, or hats with the *Our Homes, Our Voices* logo. Be sure to visit the online store today so that you have your items to display by May 1.

Visit the online store at: <https://www.cafepress.com/ourhomesourvoices>

Visit the *Our Homes, Our Voices* [website](#) to learn more about the Week of Action and the campaign, and stay tuned for further updates.

Opportunity Starts at Home

Sign Multi-Sector Letter to Congress Calling for Safe, Stable, and Affordable Homes

[Tell Congress](#) to protect and expand affordable housing. By signing onto this [letter to Congress](#), you will let your elected officials know that a new broad-base of stakeholders beyond the affordable housing field calls on Congress to support safe, stable, affordable homes.

The [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) campaign seeks to achieve [four policy goals](#):

1. **Bridge the gap** between rents and incomes for low income households through rental assistance;
2. **Provide aid** to people experiencing job losses, serious illness, or other economic shocks to avert housing instability or homelessness;
3. **Increase** the affordable housing stock for low income renters; and
4. **Defend** existing rental assistance and other targeted housing resources from harmful cuts.

Safe, decent, and affordable homes impact us all. [Students](#) do better. [Patients](#) are healthier. People can more readily [escape poverty](#) and [homelessness](#). The economy is more [productive](#). [Veterans](#) thrive in the communities they swore to defend. The formerly [incarcerated](#) can rebuild their lives. And our nation is more [just and fair](#).

If you work in the housing sector, help us to [recruit new voices](#). Tell colleagues, partners, and friends in other sectors (i.e., education, health, anti-poverty, criminal justice, veterans, etc.) about the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign.

The broader the movement, the better our chances in achieving real policy change.

Please [sign](#) the *Opportunity Starts at Home* letter to Congress today.

Please also be sure to follow the campaign on Twitter: @OppStartsatHome #OpportunityStartsatHome

Congress

California Democrats Urge HUD Not to Change Mission Statement

A group of seven Congressional Democrats from California sent a [letter](#) to HUD Secretary Ben Carson expressing their concern about his [proposal](#) to change HUD's mission statement from one "that promotes inclusion and discrimination-free communities to one that does not strive to offer the same protections." While some discriminatory housing practices have declined since the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the need for HUD to be a champion for fair housing has not changed. The Congressional leaders state that the "changes to the HUD mission statement would erase decades worth of progress" combating housing

discrimination. The letter asks Dr. Carson to retain the current mission statement, commit to ensuring the agency builds inclusive and sustainable communities, and provide a written response by April 9.

The authors of the letter – Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein and Representatives Jared Huffman, Jerry McNerney, Mark DeSaulnier, Barbara Lee, and Mike Thompson – join hundreds of organizations expressing their concern about Dr. Carson’s proposal to remove anti-discrimination language from HUD’s mission statement. The Fair Housing Task Force (FHTF), of which NLIHC is a member, submitted a [letter to Dr. Carson](#) signed by 573 organizations and individuals – 164 national organizations and 409 state and local groups and individuals – condemning the proposal. The letter states in part: “We urge you in the strongest possible terms to reverse course and retain language in your agency’s mission statement that reflects one of HUD’s most important responsibilities: enforcement and promotion of the Fair Housing Act. Many of our organizations worked diligently with HUD to ensure that this language would be included in HUD’s mission statement as a public acknowledgement that this part of HUD’s responsibilities is every bit as important as its role in providing resources for housing and community development.”

Read the California Congressional Democrats’ letter at: <https://bit.ly/2Iu0bym>

Read the Fair Housing Task Force’s letter at: <https://bit.ly/2Df19eA>

Bills Introduced to Preserve Affordable Rental Homes in Rural Areas

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Representative Ann Kuster (D-NH) introduced the “Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2018” as companion bills [S.2574](#) in the Senate and [H.R.5352](#) in the House. The bills are intended to help preserve affordable housing in rural communities by offering several provisions that extend rental assistance for the Rural Development (RD) rental housing programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Rental assistance through RD’s Section 521 program is only available while an RD-assisted Section 514, 515, or 516 mortgage is active. Many Section 515 and 514 mortgages are beginning to mature, which could leave tenants without Section 521 rental assistance and rural communities with fewer affordable units as rents are allowed to rise to market rates in properties with mature mortgages.

The bills offer several solutions to this problem. One solution would allow the RD Section 521 rental assistance to be decoupled from the mortgage, allowing Section 521 rental assistance to continue even if the Section 515 or 514 mortgage has been paid in full. Another solution would offer an RD Section 542 preservation voucher to households living in units with maturing Section 515 or 514 mortgages, providing low income households an affordable housing option once Section 521 rental assistance ends. The bills would also direct the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that RD policies are better aligned with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, thereby expanding opportunities to preserve affordable housing in rural communities. Finally, the bills would permanently authorize the Multifamily Housing Revitalization Program, currently a demonstration program.

More information about RD rural rental programs is on page 4-35 of NLIHC’s *2018 Advocates’ Guide*, <https://bit.ly/2Jneea4>

Disaster Housing Recovery

Texas Housers Sues Texas General Land Office over Data Transparency

Texas Housers, an NLIHC state partner, [filed a lawsuit](#) in late March against the Texas General Land Office (GLO) seeking access to data on the agency’s disaster recovery short-term housing programs. The Texas GLO

has a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to administer several housing recovery programs following Hurricane Harvey, including the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS) and Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair (DALHR) programs. Despite repeated requests for data on how funding is being spent or specifics of their agreement with FEMA, the GLO maintains it is unable to share that information. Texas Housers asserts the agency's lack of transparency is a violation of the Texas Public Information Act. A judge is expected to make a decision about a temporary injunction next week.

Advocacy groups need access to data to hold federal, state, and local agencies accountable during the recovery process. Having access to the GLO's data would allow advocates to assess the fairness and effectiveness of efforts to date as well as to analyze implications for future recovery efforts. The GLO is responsible for creating a state action plan for using Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. Texas Housers and other local organizations have done extensive work to ensure these federal funds reach those most in need and to foster the creation of equitable communities post-disaster.

Additional Updates on Disaster Housing Recovery – April 9

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 [4/2](#)). NLIHC also posts this information at our [On the Home Front](#) blog.

General Updates

OMB Director Mick Mulvaney issued a [memo](#) with guidance for agencies regarding the implementation of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 as it relates to emergency supplemental appropriations. Among other issues, the memo calls for agencies to ensure that “grantees expend all awarded disaster relief funds within the 24-month period following the agency's obligation of those funds, unless waived by OMB.”

Hurricane Maria

FEMA

FEMA is [seeking landlords](#) in Puerto Rico to participate in the Direct Lease and Multi-Family Lease and Repair programs. FEMA pays participating landlords directly to help provide homes for displaced survivors.

Hurricane Irma

Local Perspectives

The [Heart of Florida United Way](#) has launched a new housing assistance program for displaced Hurricane Maria survivors. The program is limited to assisting those whose homes in Puerto Rico were declared uninhabitable by FEMA and who are working.

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation announced that funding from the [State Housing Initiatives Partnership \(SHIP\)](#) program will soon be allocated to local governments hardest hit by Hurricane Irma. The funds will assist income-qualified households in need of repairs to their homes, including evacuees from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands living in Florida.

Hurricane Harvey

Local Perspective

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas published a [report](#) about the redevelopment of public housing following Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Ten years later, the continuing hardships experienced by affected communities could offer lessons for Hurricane Harvey recovery.

Research

Homeless Face Fewer Barriers with Long-term Rental Subsidy than with Other Assistance

An article published in *Cityscape* by Marybeth Shinn and others, “Mismatch between Homeless Families and the Homelessness Service System,” finds that homeless families were less likely to be eligible for and use transitional housing than they were for short-term or long-term rental assistance. Of these three types of assistance, homeless families had the highest rate of eligibility for and use of long-term rental subsidies. On the other hand, homeless families faced three significant barriers to accessing transitional housing assistance: basic eligibility criteria, availability of appropriately sized units, and locations away from families’ networks. An expansion of long-term housing subsidies and deeper targeting to families with greater needs could end much of family homelessness, compared to short-term rental assistance which creates uncertainty and anxiety for families, or service-intensive programs with eligibility criteria that may exclude families.

The authors examined data from the Family Options Study (see *Memo*, [10/31/16](#)), which screened 2,490 homeless families in emergency shelters in 12 communities for eligibility for the three types of assistance: transitional housing, short-term rental assistance, or long-term rental subsidy. Families were then randomly assigned to one of the available types of assistance.

Seventy one percent of homeless families passed initial eligibility screening for transitional housing, when it was available in their communities. The size of available units, family composition, and minimum income or employment requirements were the most common barriers to eligibility. Of those randomly offered a spot in transitional housing, only 46% passed additional screening, accepted the offer of assistance, and moved in. Ninety-one percent of homeless families passed initial eligibility screening for short-term rental assistance, when it was available in their communities. Of those randomly offered short-term rental assistance, 51% accepted the offer and moved into an apartment. Ninety-six percent of homeless families passed initial eligibility screening for long-term rental subsidy, when it was available in their communities. Criminal background checks, poor credit histories, and lack of ties to the local community prior to entering shelter were the most common barriers to eligibility. Of the families randomly offered a long-term rental subsidy, 73% accepted the offer and moved into an apartment.

“Mismatch between Homeless Families and the Homelessness Service System” is available at: <https://bit.ly/2GtHc9D>

Study Finds Significant Racial Disparities in Homelessness Rates

A study of five communities by the Center for Social Innovation’s Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) found significant racial disparities in rates of homelessness. Black residents accounted for nearly 65% of people experiencing homelessness in the five communities, even though they accounted for only 18% of the communities’ overall population. Nationwide, black people account for 12% of the population, but 43% of the homeless population.

The study examined data from the homeless management information system (HMIS), collected 148 oral histories from people experiencing homelessness, and conducted 18 focus groups from various communities.

The study also included an on-line survey of homeless service providers, which found that the service providers' workforce is not representative of the community they serve. Sixty-six percent of senior managers were white, 12.6% were black, and 10.1% were Hispanic/Latino.

The oral histories revealed five major themes: a lack of financial resources combined with fragile, impoverished social networks unable to provide support; high housing costs or dangerous or inhabitable housing forcing individuals into homelessness; criminal backgrounds making it difficult to find housing even with a voucher; mental health challenges; and family disintegration.

The study's recommendations include: targeted subsidies or flexible emergency funding to prevent homelessness and to help people exit homelessness, greater investments in affordable housing, better regulation of evictions, modifications to the allowable scope of landlord background checks, sealing records of non-violent offenders, and more research into the racial disparities in behavioral health interventions.

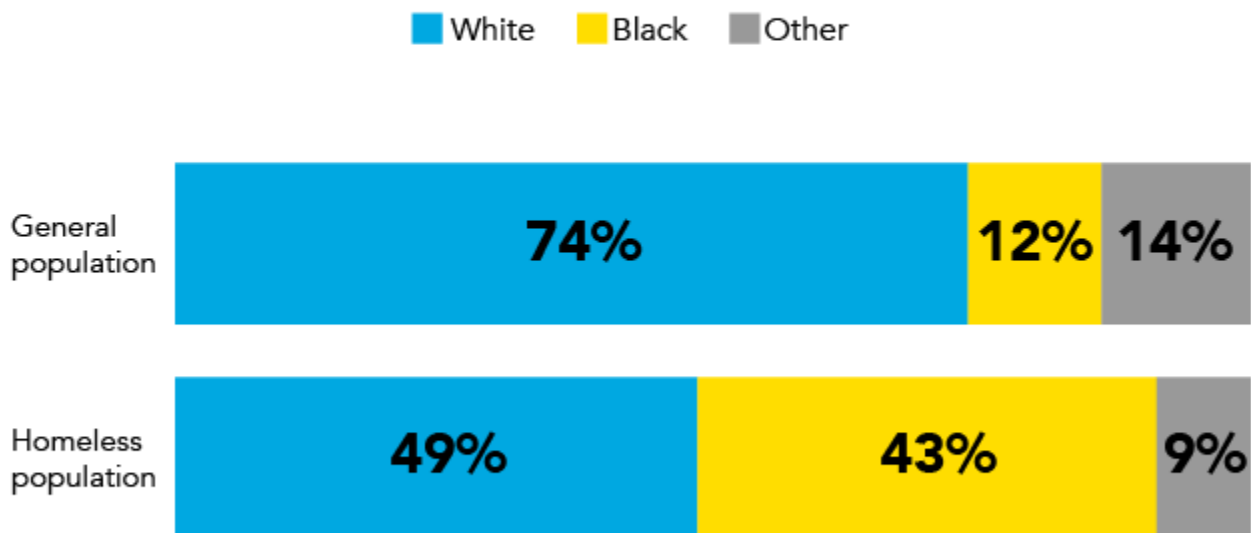
SPARC's *Phase One Study Findings* is available at: <https://bit.ly/2uS8odK>

More information about SPARC is available at: <http://center4si.com/sparc/>

Fact of the Week

Homelessness Victimizes Black People Disproportionately

Racial Disparities in Homelessness



Source: SPARC. (2018).

Source: SPARC. (2018). *Phase One Study Findings*. Needham, MA: Center for Social Innovation.

From the Field

Hawaii Appleseed Release Report on Impact of Vacation Rentals on Housing Affordability

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice released [*Hawaii Vacation Rentals: Impact on Housing and Hawaii's Economy*](#) on March 22. The report discusses the rapid growth of vacation rental units (VRUs) and the resulting impact on housing affordability in Hawaii. The report goes on to explore various policy solutions implemented in other communities, and makes recommendations for how Hawaii, and Oahu specifically, can better enforce their own restrictions on VRUs.

According to the new report, there are 23,000 VRUs in Hawaii as of 2017, a 35% increase over two years. The growth in VRUs is likely due to the high profitability of operating homes as unofficial hotels rather than using them for long term rentals. Data shows that a dwelling unit produces 3.5 times as much revenue in Hawaii as a VRU. As a result, speculators have been buying properties and converting them for these uses. While AirBnB and other web host sites contend that VRUs are often additional income for people occasionally making an extra room available, data shows that at least 52% of VRUs in Hawaii are owned by nonresidents.

The report also provides a review of other communities who have studied the economic impact of tourism and additional revenue generated through sales taxes charged to VRUs. The findings clearly demonstrate that even after adjusting for new tax revenue, VRUs place an economic burden on communities by decreasing available rental housing.

To provide a clearer path forward, Hawaii Appleseed lays out several recommendations in the report:

- Require all VRUs to be officially permitted, and implement fines to those in violation of the current ruling banning rentals for fewer than 30 days.
- Demand data transparency from the internet hosting sites so that enforcement agencies can identify violations and pursue corrections. To date, there have been 1,035 investigations into illegal VRUs in Oahu and only 49 violation notices because it is difficult to obtain data about transactions and rentals.
- Support Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting so that they have the staff necessary to enforce policies in place to curb illegal VRUs.

The report is very well documented with reviews and data on how VRUs are impacting housing affordability throughout the islands, and can be a resource for advocates considering local restrictions similar to those established in Oahu.

Read *Hawaii Vacation Rentals: Impact on Housing and Hawaii's Economy* at:

<http://hiappleseed.org/publications/hawaii-vacation-rentals-impact-housing-hawaiis-economy/>

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of April 1

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of April 1:

- "Orlando Breaks Ground On Affordable Housing Development," *90.7 WMFE*, April 4 at: <https://bit.ly/2IAuH9H>
- "If rent regulation raises the rent, is it worth the cost?," *The Mercury News*, April 3 at: <https://bayareane.ws/2uTW7W0>

- “Chairman Crowley Advocates to Expand Affordable Housing for Seniors,” *Publicnow*, April 2 at: <https://bit.ly/2IvpNeg>
 - “Landless Americans Are the New Serf Class,” *The Daily Beast*, March 31 at: <https://thebea.st/2qcl6OP>
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NLIHC News

NLIHC Seeks Housing Advocacy Organizer

NLIHC is accepting applications for the position of housing advocacy organizer. As a member of the NLIHC field team, the housing advocacy organizer mobilizes NLIHC members on federal policy advocacy based on NLIHC’s approved policy agenda, assists in the design and implementation of campaign field strategies, and conducts outreach activities in specific states. The organizer will spend significant time developing and retaining NLIHC membership; increasing endorsements for NLIHC campaigns; and mobilizing NLIHC membership, state coalition partners, and other advocates on “calls to action” and other organizing efforts in support of socially just affordable housing policy that ensures the lowest income people in the U.S. have decent, affordable homes.

The position requires strong written and oral communication skills and excellent electronic technology skills, including proficiency in the Microsoft Office suite, database management, and social media use. Some familiarity with customer relationship management systems like Salesforce would be a plus. Priority consideration will be given to candidates with proven organizing experience mobilizing a community or constituent base at a national, state, or local level. Some knowledge of federal housing policy is a plus. A bachelor’s degree is required. The position is based in Washington, DC. Some travel is required.

An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

Interested candidates should submit by email (rwillis@nlihc.org) a cover letter with salary requirements, resume, and two writing samples to Renee Willis, vice president for field and communications, National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Where to Find Us – April 9

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

- [Housing First Partners Conference 2018](#), Denver, CO, April 10 -12
- [PolicyLink 2018 Equity Summit](#), Chicago, IL on April 13
- [South Carolina Housing Conference](#), Columbia, SC, April 17-18
- Annual Summit for Fair Housing, Mobile, AL on April 19
- Provider Alliance to End Homelessness, Los Angeles, CA on May 17
- [Conference on Ending Homelessness](#), Yakima, WA, May 22-23
- [2018 Denver Housing Summit](#), Denver, CO on May 24
- [Maryland Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies \(MAHRA\) Annual Conference](#) Ocean City, MD on May 24
- [Virginia Housing Alliance Annual Luncheon](#), Richmond, VA on June 14
- [Florida Housing Coalition Annual Conference](#), Orlando, FL on August

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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
Lauren McMahon, Graphic Design and Communications Intern, x252
Sarah Mickelson, Senior Director of Public Policy, x228
Isaiah Milbauer, Field Intern, x252
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242
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