National Low Income Housing Coalition
Memo to Members

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NLIHC in the News

Take Action

On May 17 Tell Congress to Support #SmartTaxReform

Join the United for Homes (UFH) campaign on May 17 to urge Congress to support modest reforms to the mortgage interest deduction (MID) that would benefit millions of lower income homeowners and to reinvest the savings from those reforms into affordable housing for the lowest income renters.

Due to underfunded affordable housing programs, just 1 in 4 poor families eligible for rental housing assistance in the U.S. gets the help they need. Meanwhile, three-quarters of federal housing subsidies go to homeowners through the MID and other homeowner tax expenditures largely benefitting households with the highest incomes. Half of all homeowners receive no tax benefit from the MID, and the vast majority of the MID benefits go to households with incomes over $100,000. Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Evicted* Matthew Desmond wrote about this inequity in his recent *New York Times Magazine* article, "How Homeownership Became the Engine of American Inequality."

The UFH campaign calls for reforms to the MID that would give a tax break to 25 million lower income homeowners and generate $241 billion in savings to be reinvested in affordable rental housing solutions, like the national Housing Trust Fund and rental assistance, for the lowest income households. The National Association of Realtors will be on Capitol Hill during the week of May 15 advocating with Congress against reforms to the MID. The UFH campaign has identified May 17 as the day to counter their messages by contacting members of Congress and flooding Twitter with messages about #SmartTaxReform.

Call your Members of Congress

Call your members of Congress and ask them to support smart MID reform, reinvest the savings in affordable housing solutions, and endorse the United for Homes campaign.

1. Call the congressional switchboard toll free at 202-224-3121, or
2. Visit NLIHC's website and enter your ZIP code in the Contact Congress box on the right.

Look up the contact information for your representative and senators and use the sample scripts provided.

Participate in a Tweetstorm from 1pm – 2pm ET on May 17!

Help flood Twitter with accurate information on how the MID promotes income and racial inequality and incentivizes mortgage debt rather than homeownership. Call for reforms to the MID that could help end homelessness and housing poverty in America.

Sample tweets are below; graphics can be found at: http://bit.ly/2qSyutO

- Why are subsidies going to highest income when so many low income renters are struggling? http://bit.ly/1Roj19L #SmartTaxReform Now
- Over 8 million of the lowest income renters pay more than half their income on rent. http://bit.ly/1Roj19L #SmartTaxReform
- For every 100 extremely low income households, there are just 35 rental units affordable and available to them. http://bit.ly/1Roj19L
- "It's no secret that the MID disproportionately benefits higher-income households." via @JRTHousing http://bit.ly/2qsXVT0
- "Convert the MID into a tax credit so that moderate- & lower-income families can benefit." via @JRTHousing http://bit.ly/2qsXVT0

- "The MID should be converted into a nonrefundable credit available to all taxpayers..." via http://bit.ly/2nTDc8o
- "It's time to reduce the amount of mortgage debt eligible for the deduction." via http://bit.ly/2nTDc8o
- "Modifications to the MID would generate tens of billions to increase the supply of affordable rental homes..." via http://bit.ly/2nTDc8o
- The MID promotes higher mortgage debt, NOT homeownership. We need #smarttaxreform #NARlegislative
- Did you Know that 75% of housing aid goes to the country's highest earners thru tax deductions? #NARlegislative
- Did you Know 70% of people in the US don't benefit from the MID? #NARlegislative
- The MID mostly benefits ppl who don't need hsg asst. Meanwhile, only 1 in 4 struggling rentals get the help they need. #NARlegislative
- Reforming the MID & reinvesting svgs could help address income inequality & end homelessness. Time for #smarttaxreform #NARlegislative
- We need tax policies that boost all working families, not just the wealthy #NARlegislative unitedforhomes.org
- Current mortgage deductions benefit highest income households. What about struggling families? #NARlegislative unitedforhomes.org
- Over 1/2 of homeowners receive no tax benefit from MID. It benefits highest income households. Rebalance & reinvest. #SmartTaxReform
- We spend more to subsidize homes of 7m highest income households than we do to help 55m with the lowest income. #NARlegislative
- <25% of federal housing spending benefits low income renters. Most goes to subsidize higher income homeowners. Time for #SmartTaxReform
- We have the solutions to end homelessness, build strong foundations & strengthen communities #United4Homes http://bit.ly/2qwCFuY
- #United4Homes proposal would generate $Bs in savings to be reinvested into rental housing for people w/greatest need http://bit.ly/2qwCFuY
- Through the #United4Homes campaign, 25m homeowners w/mortgages would receive a tax break. Learn more http://bit.ly/2qwCFuY
- Reducing the mortgage tax relief cap to $500k of a mortgage..."It just makes sense." #SmartTaxReform via http://bit.ly/2mjqcFd
- "The MID disproportionally benefits higher income households" #SmartTaxReform via http://bit.ly/2kK32KX
- Mortgage Tax Credit vs. Deduction? A credit would benefit 15m homeowners who currently don't receive tax relief from homeownership.
- We lack enough affordable homes. #United4Homes would provide $241B over 10yrs to reinvest in affordable housing. http://bit.ly/2qwCFuY
- #SmartTaxReform can do a lot to end homelessness & hsg poverty. Join #United4Homes to make reform happen: unitedforhomes.org

For our nation to address the affordable housing crisis faced by families with extremely low incomes, we must rebalance federal housing policy and increase investments in proven solutions.

Join Letters Opposing Harmful Policy Riders and Budget Cuts in FY18 Spending Bills

NLIHC has joined the Clean Budget Coalition (CBC) —a group of more than 100 organizations—to urge Congress to reject harmful poison-pill policy riders in the FY18 spending bills. NLIHC has also joined the Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) to urge Congress to pass a clean budget that promotes opportunity for all, improves basic living standards, and protects the environment. All organizations that care about budget integrity and oppose harmful policy riders and cuts to essential programs are encouraged to sign the CBC and CHN letters.

The CBC letter states, "Ideological riders are measures that the public opposes and would be unpopular to move as standalone legislation. The American people support policies to restrain Wall Street abuses and ensure safe and healthy food and products, to protect our air, land, water and wildlife, to ensure safe and fair workplaces, to prevent consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing, to create fair rules of the road for our campaign finance system, to provide access to justice and fair housing, and to ensure continued access to vital health care services including reproductive health care. Contentious poison pill riders are intended to advance the priorities of special interest donors and supporters and should not be included in funding bills."

The CHN letter states, "Rather than budget cuts, we urge you to support a budget that is an engine for economic progress. It must provide enough funding for jobs and infrastructure programs, with targeted help for low-income communities and struggling individuals, including immigrants seeking a better life. All Americans deserve the security of being able to sustain basic living standards. Our national security depends on adequate funding to reduce the threats of hunger or homelessness and to increase access to health care. Our security also depends on making sure that seniors can afford to retire without fear of inadequate food, health care, or heat for their homes. We are more secure when all our people can contribute to and benefit from our economy, including people with disabilities, and no matter our race, ethnicity, gender, or immigrant status."

Sign onto the Clean Budget Coalition letter at: tinyurl.com/CleanBudgetFY18Letter

Read the letter at: http://bit.ly/2pCJ6bx

Read and sign onto the Coalition for Human Needs letter at: http://bit.ly/2qAPTHQ

Tell Congress to Protect and Expand the National Housing Trust Fund

As Congress begins considering funding levels for FY18 and taking up housing finance reform legislation, NLIHC urges all organizations concerned about homelessness and the lack of affordable homes in the U.S. to sign onto a letter calling on Congress to protect and expand the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), a critical new resource for building and preserving homes for the lowest income people in America. The deadline for signing the letter has been extended to May 31.

The first new federal affordable housing resource in a generation, the HTF is exclusively targeted to build and preserve housing affordable to people with the lowest incomes, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities or special needs, low-wage workers, and people experiencing homelessness. In 2016, the first $174 million in HTF dollars were allocated to the states. Because the HTF is administered as a block grant, each state has the flexibility to decide how best to use HTF resources to address its most pressing housing needs. The first year of funding was a strong start to the program, but Congress must significantly expand the HTF to address the critical affordable housing needs of the lowest income renters in every community in the U.S.

With more resources, the HTF can play a critical role in ensuring the nation's 11.4 million extremely low income households have access to decent, affordable homes.

The need to protect and preserve the HTF is relevant to Congressional negotiations on the FY18 spending bills. Additionally, Congress is considering reforms to the government sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in 2017. Because the HTF is funded through a small assessment on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's new business each year, reforms to the GSEs would have a direct impact on the HTF. Previous bipartisan legislation reforming the GSEs included a significant increase in resources to the HTF. Congressional leaders considering reforms during this session of Congress must protect and expand the HTF to assist the 7.4 million extremely low income households who lack access to affordable homes. There may also be opportunities to expand the HTF in a comprehensive infrastructure package and in comprehensive tax reform efforts.

Sign the letter by **May 31** urging Congress to protect and expand the HTF and share it with your networks.

Contact your Congressional delegation directly at: http://bit.ly/2lBR7eM

NLIHC News

NLIHC to Release 2017 *Out of Reach* Report on June 8

NLIHC will release the 2017 edition of its annual report, *Out of Reach*, on June 8. *Out of Reach* documents the gap between renters' wages and the cost of rental housing in every state and jurisdiction in the country. The preface of this year's report will be written by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN). A special webinar for NLIHC members about the report's findings will be held on June 9 at 2 pm ET. Register for the webinar at: http://bit.ly/2q9z3wr

The *Out of Reach* report shows what the Housing Wage is throughout the country. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a modest and safe rental home without spending more than 30% of his or her income on housing costs based on HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR), an estimate of what a family moving today can expect to pay for a modest rental home in the area. The report compares the Housing Wage to prevailing renter wages and incomes. The report also shows how many hours an individual must work each week for 52 weeks a year at the prevailing minimum wage to afford a modest one- and two-bedroom apartment. A new feature this year, *Out of Reach* 2017 will provide Housing Wages and prevailing renter wages not just nationally and by state, county and jurisdiction, but also at the ZIP code (Small-Area Fair Market Rent) level.

View the 2016 *Out of Reach* report and interactive website at: http://nlihc.org/oor

United for Homes

Calls to Reform the Mortgage Interest Deduction in the News

Calls to reform to the mortgage interest deduction (MID) have appeared in two major news outlets in recent weeks. In an editorial titled "Houses of Lobbyists" on May 6, *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) editorial board responded to President Trump's proposed outline for tax reform by urging the administration and Congress to reduce the amount of a mortgage eligible for the MID from $1 million to $250,000 to "make the tax benefit less tilted to the affluent, and [to] also provide more revenue for lower tax rates." On May 9, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Evicted* Matthew Desmond published a piece in the *New York Times Magazine* titled "How Homeownership Became the Engine of Inequality," highlighting the imbalance in federal housing policy and the fact that tax breaks like the MID favor higher income homeowners.

The proposal offered by the WSJ editorial board differs from NLIHC's United for Homes (UFH) campaign in several ways. First, the UFH campaign proposes reducing the amount of a mortgage eligible for tax relief more modestly than the WSJ editorial, to $500,000 rather than $250,000. Second, the UFH campaign would convert the deduction into a tax credit, which would provide greater tax benefits to 25 million lower income homeowners. Finally, the UFH campaign proposes to reinvest the $241 billion in savings from these two changes in affordable rental housing for people with the greatest needs, instead of using the savings to lower tax rates largely benefitting the wealthy and corporations.

The WSJ editorial argues that the MID distorts the market by encouraging investment in housing, instead of more productive economic activity that might benefit everyone, and that the MID does not result in higher homeownership rates compared to countries without such a tax break. The editors criticize real estate industry groups for lobbying to protect the MID from reforms. “Even after its role in promoting the housing mania and panic a decade ago, the housing lobby wants more subsidies and more political favoritism,” the editorial states. “If tax reform were really about fairness, housing would be treated no differently than any other industry.”

Mr. Desmond’s piece in the *New York Times Magazine* features the stories of a number of homeowners and renters with different incomes, and shows how those homeowners with highest incomes and largest mortgages benefit disproportionately from the MID compared to lower income homeowners and extremely low income renters. The piece makes vivid the fact that the MID, which costs the government about $70 billion a year, is a highly regressive tax expenditure that primarily serves higher income households.

“Because of rising housing costs and stagnant wages, slightly more than half of all poor renting families in the country spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs, and at least one in four spends more than 70 percent,” Mr. Desmond writes. “Yet America’s national housing policy gives affluent homeowners large benefits; middle-class homeowners, smaller benefits; and most renters, who are disproportionately poor, nothing. It is difficult to think of another social policy that more successfully multiplies America’s inequality in such a sweeping fashion.”

Mr. Desmond’s piece highlights NLIHC’s UFH campaign noting that “Yentel’s coalition supports the idea of lowering the size of deductible mortgage debt to $500,000 and reallocating the savings to housing assistance for low-income families.” NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel is quoted saying, “The solution is so obvious. There are a number of programs that have proven success in ending homelessness and ending housing insecurity.”

The WSJ editorial board and Mr. Desmond’s pieces are just two examples of the growing number of those calling for reforms to the MID. Similar appeals to reform the MID have recently come from former George W. Bush Advisor Dennis Shea and former Obama Advisor Michael Stegman, the CATO Institute, J. Ronald Terwilliger, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and others.

The momentum to rebalance federal affordable housing policy is growing. Through smart tax reform, we have before us a tremendous opportunity to make homes affordable for the lowest income people.

The WSJ editorial is at: http://bit.ly/2q2rqYA

Matthew Desmond’s article is at: http://bit.ly/2q2rqYA

To join the UFH campaign go to: www.unitedforhomes.org

Congress

FHFA Director Watt Testifies before Senate Banking Committee, Addresses HTF

The Banking Committee held a hearing on Thursday, May 11 on “The Status of the Housing Finance System after Nine Years of Conservatorship” with Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Mel Watt as the sole witness. The Senate Banking Committee is moving forward with discussions about reforming our nation’s housing finance system, which remains a top priority for Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

During the hearing, Mr. Watt focused on the reforms that FHFA has made as conservator to the government sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to make them more stable and reduce taxpayer risk. Mr. Watt cautioned, however, that the federal conservatorship of the GSEs was not sustainable, and that it is the responsibility of Congress, not FHFA, to develop housing finance reform principles.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) asked Mr. Watt about how the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), which is currently funded through a modest fee on the GSEs' book of new business each year, will be capitalized going forward. Mr. Watt said he decided to lift the suspension on the GSEs' obligation to fund the HTF based on statutory mandate. He said that while FHFA does not have authority over the disposition of HTF funds, it does have the authority to fund the HTF. Senator Van Hollen thanked Mr. Watt for his decision to lift the suspension—pointing out that the decision was consistent with statute—and noted that Maryland was putting its HTF allocation to good use.

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) asked Mr. Watt about the role Fannie and Freddie play in the multifamily housing sector and FHFA's effort to realign the GSEs to better serve underserved communities. Mr. Watt reminded the Committee that FHFA and the GSEs' responsibility extended beyond homeownership to include rental housing as well. He said that there has been substantial progress in motivating the GSEs to finance multifamily housing that is affordable for low income families. Mr. Watt added that the Duty to Serve rule has helped push the GSEs to more aggressively serve specific underserved markets, including rural, affordable housing preservation, and manufactured housing.

NLIHC remains committed to working with advocates across the country to ensure that funding for the HTF is included in any housing finance reform legislation. NLIHC encourages all advocates to sign a letter urging Congress to protect and expand the HTF and to share the letter with their networks. The deadline for signing the letter is May 31.

Sign onto the letter supporting the HTF at: http://bit.ly/2lBR7eM

Watch and learn more about the hearing at: http://bit.ly/2q6PGuA

Budget

Webinar on Effective Messaging to Stop Trump's Proposed Cuts to Affordable Housing, May 19

Join a webinar titled "Getting the Message Right: How to Stop Trump's Proposed Cuts to Affordable Housing" on May 19, 3:00-4:00 pm ET.

In his spending blueprint for FY18, President Donald Trump proposed to slash federal investments in affordable housing and community development by 15%, putting more than 200,000 families at immediate risk of eviction and homelessness and starving local communities of the resources they need to thrive. The Trump administration is expected to release more details later in May.

NLIHC and other leaders of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) invite you to learn how to effectively communicate with policymakers and the public about the impact of President Trump's budget cuts on families and communities.

Speakers include:

- Rebecca Vallas, Center for American Progress
- Jeremy Slevin, Center for American Progress
- Tiffany Manuel, Ph.D., Enterprise Community Partners
- Amy Clark, National Housing Conference
- Elayne Weiss, National Low Income Housing Coalition

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Announces Plans to Eliminate Position of Under Secretary for Rural Development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on May 11 plans to reorganize the agency to establish an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. The plan also details other changes to the agency, including the elimination of the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development, which oversees the agency's rural housing programs. Rural development programs and personnel would report directly to the USDA Secretary.

"This proposal is part of a one-two punch in the gut for Rural America," stated Bob Rapoza, executive secretary of the National Rural Housing Coalition (NRHC). "First, the Administration released a budget proposal that decimates important rural development programs. Then they move on a reorganization plan that downgrades rural development as an important function for USDA." In a press statement, NRHC states that the proposal "sends a clear signal from the Administration that rural communities and those who live there are not a priority."

While the administration's proposal states that the elimination of the Rural Development Under Secretary "promotes the importance of rural development," this plan comes on the heels of President Trump's FY18 budget outline that proposed to cut the department's budget by 20% and eliminate USDA's largest rural development programs, including its water-wastewater loans and grants and the Rural Business service.

Further details on the administration's proposal to reorganize USDA will likely be included in the president's full FY18 budget proposal, which may be released as soon as the week of May 22.

USDA's reorganization plan is at: http://bit.ly/2r4F7Wd

NRHC's press statement is at: http://prn.to/2r50XsS

Criminal Justice and Housing

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty Hosts National Forum on Human Right to Housing, June 6-7

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty will host a policy forum to support its newly-launched Housing Not Handcuffs national campaign, which fights against the criminalization of homelessness and for ensuring people have access to affordable housing. The forum will be held June 6-7 in Washington, DC.

The forum will include discussions on a number of important topics, from the intersectional forms of discrimination that result in the criminalization of homelessness to the models of advocacy that are succeeding in cities and counties across the country.

Diane Yentel, NLIHC president and CEO, and Elayne Weiss, NLIHC senior policy analyst, will speak at the event.

Register for the forum at: http://bit.ly/2qxhhq6

Research

Bank Closures Since Great Recession Impact Access to Financial Services

A report by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), *Bank Branch Closures from 2008-2016: Unequal Impact in America's Heartland,* finds that bank closures since the Great Recession have diminished access to financial services in both urban and rural areas. Lack of access to financial services can increase residents' reliance on expensive alternative financial products and services, like payday loans and check-cashing services, and impede small business lending and growth.

Using geospatial analysis of bank branch data collected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the authors examined the distribution of bank branch closures between 2008 and 2016. Their analysis showed that:

- 6,008 bank branches were lost between 2008 and 2016, accounting for 6% of all bank branches nationally.
- Eighty-two percent of losses were in urban areas and 18% were in rural areas.
- The Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, and Detroit metropolitan areas lost 12 to 25% of their branches.

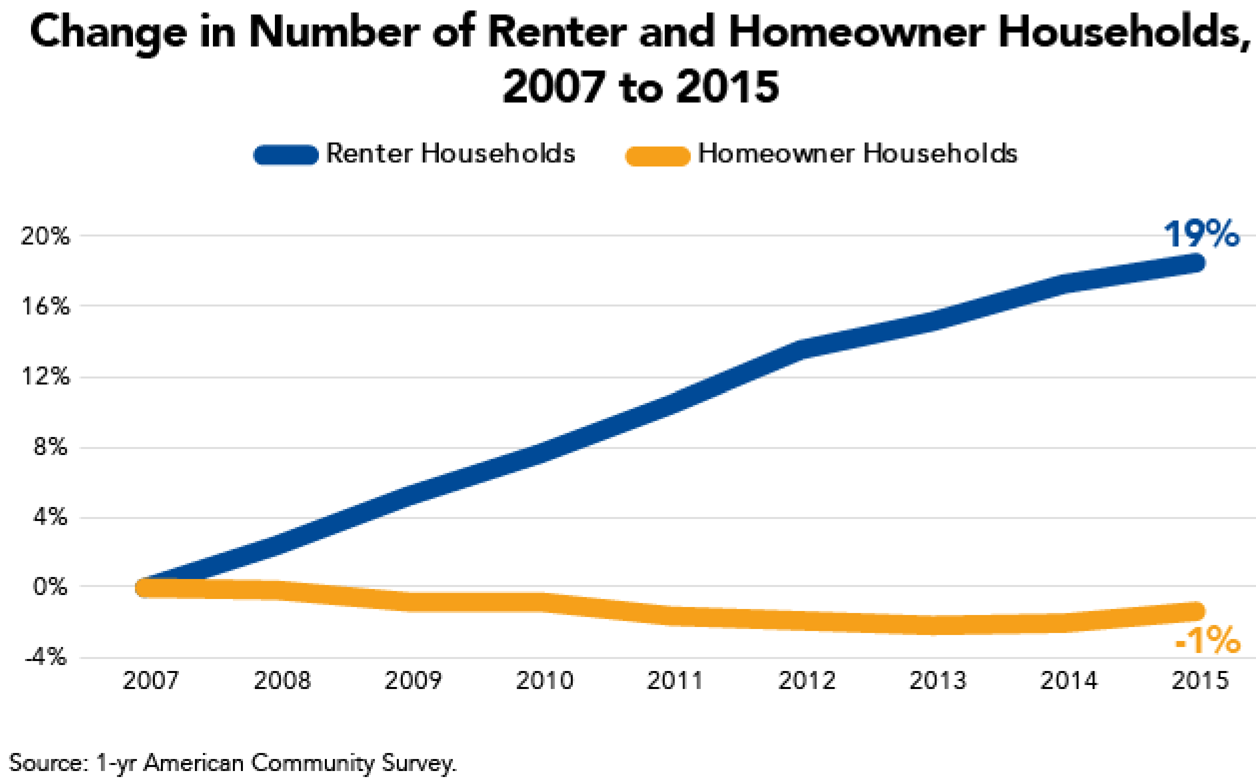
Branch closures in rural areas may result in greater challenges to bank access than closures in urban areas. The report analyzed the emergence of "banking deserts," which are populated areas with no banks within 10 miles. Rural areas are more at-risk for banking deserts. Six hundred and fifty rural banking deserts exist across the country, and between 2008 and 2016, 86 new rural banking deserts appeared. Rural census tracts with a banking desert had a higher percentage of minorities, including Hispanics and Native Americans, than non-desert rural tracts. Rural census tracts with a banking desert also had higher poverty rates, higher housing vacancy rates, and lower home values than non-desert rural tracts.

Bank Branch Closures from 2008-2016: Unequal Impact in America's Heartland is available at: http://bit.ly/2r4EuvR

Explore data from the report at: http://bit.ly/2qwCiB5

Fact of The Week

Number of Renters Grows Dramatically Over Last Ten Years, Number of Homeowners Declines



Source: 1-yr American Community Survey.

From the Field

New Jersey Advocates Celebrate New Law Requiring Shelter in Severe Weather Conditions

A new law requires all counties in New Jersey to have a plan in place to shelter all homeless individuals during conditions of severe weather. The “Code Blue” law was signed by Governor Chris Christie (R) on May 11. Under the new law, counties will issue Code Blue Alerts whenever the temperature drops below 25 degrees Fahrenheit without precipitation or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit with precipitation. Code Blue Alerts will also be issued for any night when the National Weather Service forecasts the wind chill to be below zero degrees Fahrenheit for more than one hour. The coalition of advocacy groups and homeless service providers advancing the bill included in prominent role the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (the Network), an NLIHC state partner.

Many New Jersey cities and counties have been operating with Code Blue policies for several years. The new statewide law will create a consistent policy for all 21 counties. The increased budget expense for local governments remains unclear. In some counties, Code Blue plans will rely heavily on space provided by local churches and other organizations; these improvised shelter locations will be covered under “Good Samaritan” liability protections per the new law.

Staci Berger, president and CEO of the Network, celebrated the new law, indicating that the previous patchwork of efforts was insufficient. “The level of services available throughout the state has varied widely, which is dangerous and unacceptable,” she said. “Statewide standards have been desperately needed to ensure the safety of our neighbors who need shelter, especially in extreme weather." Ms. Berger specifically thanked Assemblymen Bruce Land (D) and Bob Andrzejczak (D) and Senator Jeff Van Drew (D) for being the lead sponsors of the legislation.

For more information about the passage of New Jersey's Code Blue law, contact Arnold Cohen, senior policy coordinator at Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, at acohen@hcdnnj.org.

Social Service Providers in Independence, MO Explore Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions at Annual Summit

Social services providers from across Independence and eastern Jackson County, MO gathered for their third annual summit on May 9, organized under the theme of "working together for collective impact." Social Service Summit organizers brought together agencies and organizations that support residents as homeless assistance counselors, housing and supportive service providers, healthcare providers, mental health practitioners, and job training and employment counselors. One-hundred and sixty people attended the event, learning from fellow advocates and service providers and brainstorming ways to create new partnerships.

The Social Service Summit was hosted by the Community Service League of Independence and the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, an NLIHC member organization. Summit speakers included Zach Walker, Independence city manager; AJ Bockelman, assistant director of Empower Missouri, an NLIHC state partner; Traci Gleason, director of communications at the Missouri Budget Project; and James Saucedo, NLIHC housing advocacy organizer. The combination of presenters fulfilled the intent of event organizers to incorporate local, state, and national perspectives and solutions for addressing housing, homelessness, and other challenges facing low income people in Independence.

"The community of Independence works constantly and consistently to assess and understand the needs of all of its citizens," said Empower Missouri's Vickie L. Riddle, who served on the summit planning committee. "It's a wonderful example of best practices writ large. We are grateful for their engagement within our Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness and our HUD Continuum of Care."

Social Service Summit Co-Chair Sarah Schoefield Wimberley noted that many among Independence's social service agencies had not considered what it could mean for their organizations to work collaboratively together, to create the best possible outcomes for their clients and their shared interests. Ms. Schoefield Wimberley said that she was especially interested in sharing with attendees where program funding at all levels of government comes from, where it might be threatened in today's political environment, and what agencies can do to protect it. She shared that an attendee from Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and another from the Community Services League (CSL) met for the first time at this year's summit. The two soon realized that they serve many of the same clients through ECS's meals programs and CSL's job training program. As a result the summit, the two now plan to formally collaborate later this year.

Social Service Summit Co-Chair and Community Services League President & CEO Doug Cowen said that a summit highlight was including a national perspective on housing and homelessness issues for the first time this year. "Hearing from James Saucedo about the challenges of housing low-income families on a national level, and the programs addressing it through the federal government, was so impactful for our attendees," he said. "We can take this news and use it to empower policy and actions in Independence and our surrounding communities. We are grateful for the NLIHC's partnership to advance our education and understanding."

For more information, contact Social Service Summit Co-Chairs Doug Cowan at cowand@cslcares.org or Sarah Schoefield Wimberley at rev.sarah@sbcglobal.net.

Event

PAHRC Holds Forum in Boston on Sustainability and Resiliency, June 2

The Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation (PAHRC), HAI Group's research center, will be hosting its second annual PAHRC Report Forum, *How Sustainable Communities Create Resilient People: Exploring How Affordable Housing Drives Sustainability for People and Places*, at Boston's Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center on Friday, June, 2 from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm.

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of May 7

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of May 7:

- "In the Age of Trump, We Need to Protect Map Databases," *Slate*, May 11 at: http://slate.me/2qZ5IrG
- "$6 Billion Proposed Cut from HUD Budget Slams Door on Millions of Homeless Families," *Daily Kos*, May 11 at: http://bit.ly/2r5uK4A
- "How Homeownership Became the Engine of American Inequality," *MSN.com*, May 9 at: http://bit.ly/2qxI8lU
- "A Housing Affordability Crisis That's Worse for the Lowest Income Americans" *Frontline - PBS*, May 9 at: http://to.pbs.org/2qPW1f0

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