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Congress

Congress Returns to Washington with Full Agenda

When Congress returns to Washington this week after its month-long recess, it will face a full agenda of legislative priorities, including responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, enacting final FY18 spending bills, and moving forward with tax reform legislation.

Disaster Relief for Victims of Hurricane Harvey

While the full extent of the damage is unknown, experts anticipate that recovering from Hurricane Harvey may require over \$100 billion in federal disaster relief funds. NLIHC is working closely with organizations on the ground, including NLIHC state-partners the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, the Texas Homeless Network, and the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations, as well as with Texas Appleseed and others, to advocate for resources to repair or rebuild federally assisted housing developments that were damaged by flooding and to help the lowest income people who were displaced by the storm.

In recent years, some conservative members of Congress have criticized the role of the federal government in responding to natural disasters. In 2005, Vice President Mike Pence, then a Republican congressman, called for offsetting any post-Hurricane Katrina aid with budget cuts in other programs. After Superstorm Sandy destroyed much of the New York and New Jersey coastline, 179 House members and 36 Senators – including Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz – voted against federal aid because they argued it included too much “pork and unrelated spending,” in Mr. Cruz’s words. Former Congressman Mick Mulvaney, who now serves as President Trump’s director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), unsuccessfully advocated to offset the cost of Sandy relief with across-the-board cuts to domestic programs.

The House is expected to vote Wednesday on an initial appropriation of \$7.85 billion requested by the Trump administration to help Houston and southeast Texas recover after Hurricane Harvey. The package includes \$7.4 billion for FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund and \$450 million for the Small Business Administration’s disaster loan program, designed to help individuals and small businesses begin rebuilding their homes.

At the time of this *Memo to Members and Partners*, House leaders have indicated that the disaster aid will not be tied to must-pass legislation to lift the debt ceiling. More conservative members of Congress, including the House Freedom Caucus, have resisted combining Harvey relief funds with other bills, calling instead for deep spending cuts and reforms alongside any legislation to lift the debt ceiling.

The Senate could combine Harvey disaster relief with a bill to lift the debt ceiling and send the combined package back to the House for approval. Such a bill would likely garner broad bipartisan support, despite opposition from the Freedom Caucus, and would be signed by the president. “The president and I believe that [debt ceiling legislation] should be tied to the Harvey funding, that our first priority is to make sure that the state gets money,” stated Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. “It is critical and to do that, we need to make sure we raise the debt limit.”

Texas Governor Greg Abbott described the disaster aid package as an important initial “down payment” on Harvey relief that he expects will come to \$150 billion to \$180 billion. “We need Congress to step up and pass this and help Texas rebuild,” he said.

An additional \$5 billion to \$8 billion for Harvey could be included in a catch-all spending bill Congress must pass to fund the government after the new fiscal year begins on October 1, with a more robust package to be enacted at a later date.

NLIHC will advocate with leaders on Capitol Hill and in the Administration to ensure sufficient federal funding is allocated to support the needs of those impacted by Harvey, particularly those with the lowest incomes.

FY 2018 Spending Bills

Congress has until October 1, when the new fiscal year begins, to enact final FY18 spending bills or a short-term funding measure, known as a Continuing Resolution, to avert a partial federal government shutdown.

House leaders are moving quickly to pass all twelve spending bills. In July, the House passed four security-related spending bills, and this week they will vote on the eight remaining bills – including funding for affordable housing and community development programs – as part of one large “megabus” measure. Dozens of amendments have been filed, but it is unclear which ones will receive a vote. Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ) has withdrawn a harmful amendment that would have prevented HUD from implementing its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, undermining federal fair housing law and housing choice. NLIHC opposes an amendment offered by Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH) that would shift funding away from private fair housing enforcement. NLIHC will continue to track all amendments and will keep advocates updated.

The House and Senate spending bills take very different approaches to funding affordable housing and community development programs. Under the House bill, more than 140,000 housing vouchers that families are expected to use next year would be lost. Without housing assistance, families are at immediate risk of eviction and, in worst cases, homelessness. The House bill also reduces flexible resources used by states and localities to build and preserve affordable housing and address community needs. The bill undermines public-private partnerships that provide affordable homes for low income people, and it cuts funding used to keep families healthy and safe by removing lead and other harmful toxins from their homes.

The Senate bill rejects the spending cuts proposed in the House version and provides an increase in resources for affordable housing. While the House set overall spending limits for domestic programs at \$3 billion below the already tight Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps, the Senate agreed to write their spending bills at FY17 levels, which exceed the BCA caps. This agreement allowed the Senate Appropriations Committee to allocate \$8 billion more than the House bill overall and \$1.4 billion more than the current year to HUD. This level of funding for HUD is a direct result of strong advocacy by residents and affordable housing organizations throughout the country and the efforts of Congressional champions of affordable housing led by Subcommittee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI).

NLIHC and other advocates are concerned, however, that despite the increase in funding, the Senate bill may still not provide enough cover the full extent of inflationary costs, putting 60,000 vouchers at risk.

It is imperative that Congress reach a budget deal to lift the harmful spending caps and to fully fund affordable housing to ensure that no housing vouchers are lost, that public housing is maintained, and that other critical programs are protected.

Tax Reform

Once the House passes its spending bills, it will turn its attention to tax reform legislation, a top priority for Republicans in Congress and the White House. Party leaders have set an ambitious goal of enacting tax reform legislation before the end of the year.

In recent weeks, the White House has discussed possible reforms to the mortgage interest deduction (MID), a \$70 billion tax expenditure that disproportionately benefits higher income homeowners. The administration is considering capping the tax deduction at the first \$500,000 of a mortgage rather than the first \$1 million, the current threshold - a change that aligns with one of the proposals of the NLIHC-led United for Homes campaign.

While NLIHC and United for Homes call for reinvesting the significant savings from MID reform into affordable rental homes for people with the greatest needs, through solutions like the national Housing Trust Fund or rental assistance, the administration and Congressional Republicans propose using any savings to offset the cost of lowering tax rates for millionaires and corporations.

It is critical that any tax reform legislation keep housing dollars within housing and reinvest savings from MID reform into programs that address the growing rental housing crisis for those with the lowest incomes. NLIHC encourages advocates to call their members of Congress in support of the United for Homes proposal to help end homelessness and housing poverty in America.

Disaster Recovery

Trump Administration Begins Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts

President Donald Trump issued a [declaration of a major disaster](#) for the state of Texas on August 25, triggering federal aid to areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Assistance may include grants for temporary housing, home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and businesses recover. The original disaster declaration was [amended four times](#) to expand the areas covered. To-date, 47 counties are covered for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) public assistance program. Thirty-three counties are eligible to receive hazard mitigation grants. In addition, 33 counties are covered for FEMA individual assistance and debris removal.

A [fifth amendment](#) to the original disaster declaration was issued on September 2, following a [letter](#) from the president altering the cost-sharing arrangements under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Instead of a 75% federal cost-share, the amendment authorizes a 90% federal cost-share for debris removal and direct federal assistance and a 100% federal cost-share for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance. These cost-share provisions apply for 30 days from the start of the disaster declaration, reverting to 90% afterward.

FEMA

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) grant program provides federal assistance to government organizations and certain private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration to repair or replace disaster-damaged facilities. Hazard mitigation grants provide assistance to state and local governments and certain private nonprofits to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural disasters.

The Individuals and Households Program (IHP) may provide for certain housing and other needs. Housing needs covered include temporary housing, lodging-expense reimbursement, and costs not covered by insurance to repair or replace owner-occupied homes. Other needs covered include the cost of childcare, medical and dental treatment, funerals, damage to household items like appliances, vehicle damage, clean-up, and moving and storage.

FEMA has a [website](#) devoted to Texas Hurricane Harvey (DR-4332). The [designated areas option](#) on the left column of the webpage indicates which counties are currently eligible for the three forms of assistance: individual assistance, two types of public assistance, and hazard mitigation grants. News [updates](#) are also available on the left column. FEMA's home page has a link to [resources and information for individuals](#) that includes safety tips, information on how to apply for assistance, emergency numbers, and other resources.

In anticipation of storm damage in Louisiana, a presidential declaration of emergency was declared for that state on August 28. FEMA's [website](#) for Louisiana Tropical Storm Harvey (EM-3382) initially named five parishes covered for public assistance, and seven parishes were added on August 31.

HUD

HUD announced it will speed federal disaster assistance to provide support for homeowners and low income renters forced from their homes due to the hurricane. Five specific actions were listed in an [August 28 announcement](#):

- Allow Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships funds previously allocated to the state and local governments to be redirected to address critical needs, including housing and services for disaster victims. The aim is to expedite the repair and replacement of damaged homes.
- Grant a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages.
- Provide Section 203(h) FHA insurance to disaster victims who have lost their homes.
- Provide Section 203(k) loans that enable disaster victims to finance the purchase and repairs of homes.
- Offer the state and local governments a Section 108 loan guarantee for housing rehabilitation, economic development, and repair of public infrastructure. Section 108 is a component of the CDBG program. The state or local government pledges up to five years' worth of its CDBG entitlement amount as collateral for the loan guarantee.

HUD has established a new webpage, [Hurricane Harvey Latest News](#). Key items include:

- [Disaster FAQs](#)
- [Guidance on Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
- [Fair Housing Disaster Toolkit](#)
- [Tips and Tools for Reaching Limited English Proficient Communities in Emergency](#)

There is a new [HUD Exchange page](#) devoted to Hurricane Harvey offering a comprehensive set of links for residents and HUD grantees and partners.

HUD's standard [Disaster Resources](#) webpage has links to all relevant HUD program divisions.

HUD's Office of Housing Counseling has sent updates that encourage all participating housing counseling agencies impacted in Texas and the surrounding region to review the [Hurricane Harvey Resource Page for Housing Counselors](#) and the [Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness Toolkit](#) located on HUDEXchange. It contains disaster recovery and emergency preparedness resources specifically for housing counseling programs. The toolkit provides immediate access to [Disaster Recovery Flyers](#), the [Housing Counseling Disaster Program Guide](#), and other helpful resources.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

An IRS news release ([IR-2017-137](#)) warns of fake charity scams in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Because some scams use names that are similar to familiar organizations, IRS recommends consulting its [Exempt Organizations Select Check](#) page.

Revenue Procedure 2014-49 (Rev. Proc. 2014-49) from 2014 provides guidance to owners and state housing finance agencies (HFAs) regarding temporary relief from certain requirements that apply to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. A key provision allows an owner to provide up to twelve months of emergency housing to households that have been displaced by Hurricane Harvey. Households are eligible for emergency housing in a LIHTC unit if their home was located in an area eligible for FEMA individual assistance.

Unless a property's written policies and procedures provide a preference for households displaced by a presidentially declared disaster, an owner may not skip over households on a waiting list to provide emergency housing. Existing households cannot be displaced in order to provide emergency housing.

Rev. Proc. 2014-49 relieves an owner and household of providing evidence of income eligibility. All other LIHTC rules apply, however, including LIHTC rent limits. The emergency relief period ends one year after the date the disaster was declared, in this case August 25, 2018. After that date displaced households that are not income-eligible under the LIHTC program cannot occupy a unit assisted under the LIHTC program. To provide emergency housing, an owner must request written approval from the HFA, in this case the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

Rev. Proc. 2014-49 also provides program carryover allocations, recapture, and compliance monitoring relief.

USDA Rural Development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Rural Development (RD) has a Disaster Assistance [webpage](#) outlining assistance available in the event of a disaster, including:

- Residents of RD-financed apartments displaced by a disaster may apply for occupancy at other RD-financed apartments and receive special priority consideration for the next available unit.
- Owners of RD-financed multifamily buildings may request temporary measures to reduce the financial burden of addressing damage while waiting for private hazard insurance reimbursement.
- Homeowners with an RD loan or grant may seek a 180-day moratorium on making house payments if they have excessive non-reimbursed expenses associated with property damage or medical expenses, or if they suffer job loss.
- Homeowners with an RD loan or grant whose income has been reduced by more than 10% and will be reduced for the foreseeable future may request a payment assistance package.

U.S. Department of Justice

The U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ), Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development issued joint guidance to help ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance do not violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by discriminating against individuals and communities on the basis of race, color, or national origin when providing emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services. Although this joint guidance was issued on August 16, 2016, it is still in effect because it is on HUD's new Hurricane Harvey Latest News webpage, remains on DOJ's [website](#), and refers to other documents currently on FEMA's Civil Rights Title VI [webpage](#).

The guidance reminds readers that the Title VI prohibition of discrimination on the basis of national origin requires recipients to ensure that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to programs, activities, benefits, services, and vital information. The guidance also states that recipients are prohibited from implementing facially-neutral policies and practices that have a disproportionate impact on protected groups.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA has a [Disaster Loan Assistance](#) webpage that includes information for homeowners and renters. A [Fact Sheet for Homeowners and Renters](#) indicates that renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace clothing, furniture, cars, or appliances damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Homeowners may apply for up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence to its pre-disaster condition. For applicants unable to obtain credit elsewhere the interest rate will not exceed 4%. For those who can obtain credit

elsewhere, the interest rate will not exceed 8%. The SBA offers loans with long-term repayments, in many cases up to 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

For more NLIHC information on Hurricane Harvey and disaster response efforts, see: <http://nlihc.org/issues/disaster>

NLIHC News

September is NLIHC Membership Month!

September is the Coalition's annual Membership Month. At our core, NLIHC is a membership organization comprised of over 1,000 housing advocates, resident associations, local governments, non-profit organizations, and others. Individually, each NLIHC member stands for housing justice, working in their community and nationally to ensure low income people have access to homes that are safe, decent, accessible, and affordable. Together, we are the housing movement for those with the lowest incomes, advocating for change at local, state, and federal levels and relentlessly pushing for everyone in our country to have a home where they can rest, grow, and thrive. Membership Month provides us an opportunity to celebrate our members across the country and to grow our collective strength.

Beginning this month, NLIHC members will have the option of renewing their membership automatically each year by becoming a recurring member. If you select this option, your credit card will be charged on your anniversary date at the same membership amount, and your Coalition membership will be automatically renewed. Automatic recurring membership makes ongoing membership more convenient for our members and provides NLIHC a sustaining base of support. It is also green, as NLIHC will no longer need to print and mail renewal notices for recurring members.

If you are not an NLIHC member, [join us today](#) and become part of the movement to end homelessness and housing poverty in America.

- [Join NLIHC](#) during September and be entered into a raffle to win a free registration and hotel stay at NLIHC's Annual Housing Policy Forum in Washington, DC, March 19-21, 2018. Membership in the Coalition begins at \$5 for low income and student members, with suggested membership rates for other individuals and organizations. Join at whatever contribution level you can afford.

If you are already a member, help us strengthen the movement.

- [Recruit others to join you](#) – friends, family members, colleagues, and partner organizations! For every new member you recruit, you will be entered into a raffle to win a free registration and hotel stay at NLIHC's Annual Housing Policy Forum in Washington, DC, March 19-21, 2018.
- Show your support on social media: let everyone in your social media networks know that you are an NLIHC member and that together we are the housing movement. Urge others to join! Download social media images and sample posts at: www.nlihc.org/membership-month

Have questions about Membership Month or want to check the status of your membership? Please contact NLIHC's Field Team at: outreach@nlihc.org

Take Action

Sign Letter Opposing Amendment That Would Shift Funding Away from Private Fair Housing Enforcement

The National Fair Housing Alliance is circulating a sign-on letter opposing an amendment proposed by Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH) that would shift funding away from private fair housing enforcement in the FY18 Transportation-HUD (THUD) spending bill.

The letter states that in 2016 nonprofit organizations funded by the Fair Housing Initiatives Program's (FHIP) Private Enforcement Initiatives (PEI) grants "investigated 70 percent of reported complaints, more than double the number of complaints investigated by local, state, and federal government agencies combined." Funds are already available to state and local agencies through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP).

The House Rules Committee will decide later this week whether Mr. Stivers will be permitted to offer his amendment during House debate of the FY18 spending package, which includes the THUD bill.

Read and sign onto the letter at: <http://bit.ly/2gpoO2P>

United for Homes

NLIHC to Host Webinar on Campus Action for United for Homes, September 13

NLIHC invites United for Homes endorsers to attend a webinar, "Back to School: Campus Activism and the United for Homes Campaign," on September 13 at 2 pm ET. Presenters from NLIHC and a number of United for Homes endorsing organizations will discuss the importance of connecting with young advocates on college campuses. Economic inequality is hot topic of campus activism, and MID reform must be included in discussions about solutions.

The September 13 webinar will feature a discussion about finding, informing, and mobilizing campus organizations. Webinar attendees will learn some of the key benefits of involving campus activism, especially increasing the energy and urgency around the campaign. Presenters will also discuss how to manage ongoing involvement from young advocates when they frequently cycle through leadership and membership.

United for Homes webinars highlight best practices for advocacy and provide a broader understanding of how mortgage interest deduction reform can be central to social movements focused on more than just housing. The most recent webinar in July, "Direct Action and the United for Homes Campaign: Disruption and Agitation in the Effort for MID Reform," provided perspectives from endorsers who have led and studied direct action and its impact on affordable housing in America. Watch the July webinar at: <http://bit.ly/2wv48QR>

Future webinars will feature guest experts, policymakers, advocates, and researchers on topical issues. All UFH webinars are available on the UFH website at: <http://bit.ly/2wv48QR>

If you have not already registered for the monthly UFH endorser webinars, register for the September 13 event at: <http://bit.ly/2irHS2E>. Once you register, you will not need to register again for the monthly UFH endorser webinars.

If you are not already a UFH endorser, please join the campaign at: <http://bit.ly/2IXytCa>

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

Research

Study Examines Health Status and Access to Health Services for HUD Tenants with Disabilities

A study by Debra Bricker, Veronica Helms, and Teresa Souza published in *Housing Policy Debate* examines the health and healthcare utilization among HUD-assisted adults with disabilities. The study, *Health and Health Services Access Among Adults with Disabilities Who Receive Federal Housing Assistance*, finds that HUD-assisted adults with disabilities make up a greater proportion of the HUD-assisted population than previously believed and face important health disparities.

HUD and other agencies currently lack information about the health needs of HUD-assisted tenants with disabilities. To examine these needs, the study's authors linked survey data from the 2010-2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) with HUD administrative data. The linked data set allowed the authors to compare HUD-assisted adults with and without disabilities across 12 variables related to health and health services.

The authors found that people with disabilities accounted for 44% of HUD-assisted adults, which is significantly higher than previous estimates of 30% that relied solely on HUD administrative data. Compared to HUD-assisted tenants without disabilities, those with disabilities were significantly more likely to experience fair or poor health, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and asthma. HUD-assisted adults with disabilities were also more likely to have seen a general doctor, specialist, or mental health professional in the past year, or to have visited the emergency room two or more times in the past 12 months. HUD-assisted adults with disabilities were also more likely to have health insurance, but they still struggled to afford necessary healthcare services.

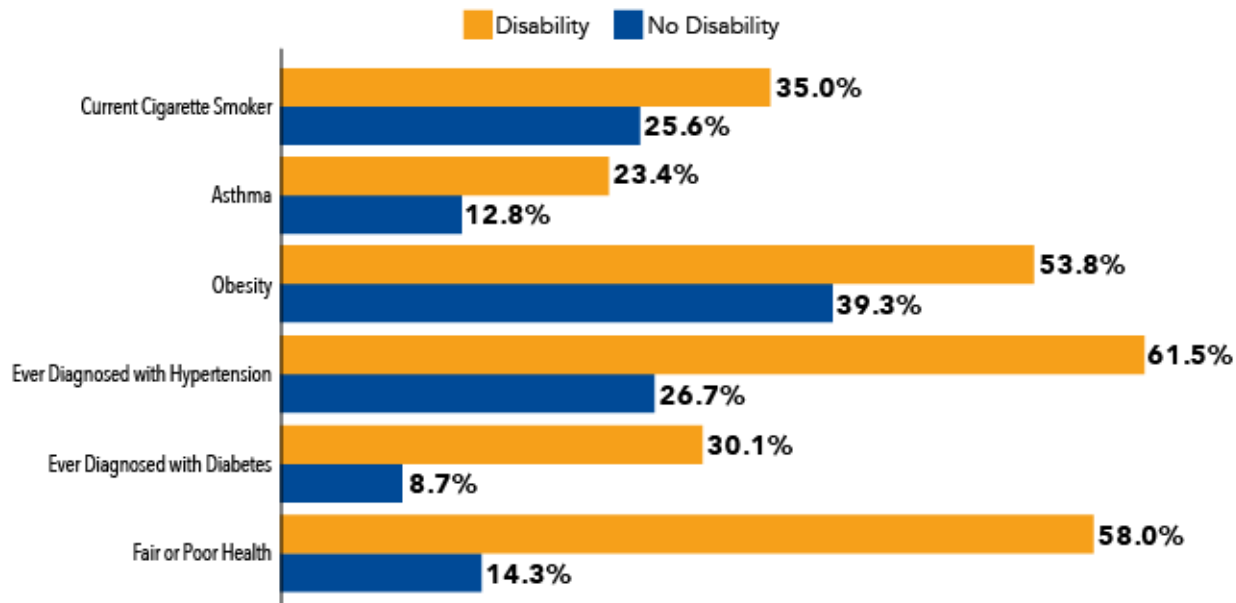
The authors' findings affirm the need for better coordination between housing and health programs. The authors also recommend future research to evaluate the impact enhanced service coordination for people with disabilities has on health outcomes.

Health and Health Services Access Among Adults with Disabilities Who Receive Federal Housing Assistance is available at: <http://bit.ly/2vIvWxp>

Fact of The Week

HUD-Assisted Adults with Disabilities Have Higher Rates of Health Issues

Health Disparities Among HUD-Assisted Adults with Disabilities



Source: Brucker, D. L., Helms, V., Souza, T. (2017). Health and health services access among adults with disabilities who receive federal housing assistance. *Housing Policy Debate*, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2017.1357048.

Source: Brucker, D. L., Helms, V., Souza, T. (2017). Health and health services access among adults with disabilities who receive federal housing assistance. *Housing Policy Debate*, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2017.1357048.

From the Field

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Begins in Texas

As the floodwaters in southeast Texas recede, hundreds of thousands of Texans face catastrophic damage and dislocation caused by Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent flooding. Recent estimates are that 100,000 homes have been destroyed and more than 40,000 people have taken refuge in shelters and hotel rooms across the region. More than 364,000 households have filed for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid, and many more will do so in the coming days. Low income people with the fewest resources face the greatest challenges. NLIHC is working with local partners in Texas to ensure that the rebuilding process is fast and equitable and that the input and needs of the lowest income people are prioritized on the local, state, and federal levels.

In large-scale disasters like Hurricane Harvey, the federal response begins with FEMA working with state and local officials to assess damage throughout the region, the results of which inform the administration's supplemental spending request to Congress for disaster-relief funds. HUD will then conduct its own damage assessment, using FEMA's findings to determine the impact of the hurricane on the region's housing stock and, in particular, on subsidized housing for low income people and on homes secured through FHA loans. This process began even as historic rainfall was still pummeling Houston and the surrounding area.

On Friday, September 1, OMB Director Mick Mulvaney wrote to Congress requesting an initial appropriation of \$7.85 billion for FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). Congress returns to Washington, DC, today following a month-long recess and faces a litany of time-sensitive tasks, including funding the government past September 30. (See an update on the administration and congress’s activities to-date in the article “Congress Returns to Washington with Full Agenda” in this *Memo to Members and Partners*.) NLIHC will advocate with leaders on Capitol Hill and in the administration to ensure sufficient federal funding to support the needs of people impacted by Harvey, in particular those with the lowest incomes.

As is so often the case, the lowest income people were impacted disproportionately during the hurricane and now face the greatest challenges in re-stabilizing their lives. As a result of decades of segregation and insufficient investments, low income communities in southeast Texas, particularly communities of color, are located in low-lying areas with insufficient infrastructure to protect from flooding. Thousands of Houston’s subsidized homes in both public housing and privately owned properties are located in the region’s 100-year flood plan, making them first to flood and the most severely impacted. Poor, segregated communities are also more likely than others to be located in close proximity to toxic waste sites, many of which have flooded, bringing additional threats to residents’ health and safety. Houston residents who experienced homelessness prior to the storm have lost all of their possessions, and many may not be considered for housing assistance and other needs-assistance that require verification of pre-disaster occupancy. The most vulnerable survivors of Hurricane Harvey must be cared for and provided decent housing long-term, and proper federal resources must be invested to ensure resiliency and disaster preparedness in low-income communities going forward.

NLIHC is working closely with our members and partners in Texas, including NLIHC state-partners the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (Texas Housers), the Texas Homeless Network, and the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations, to advocate for equitable disaster recovery. These partners have worked for decades alongside low income communities and have advocated for the needs of the most vulnerable in the aftermath of natural disasters. Community leaders in the region have outlined seven principles that must guide Hurricane Harvey relief efforts:

- Securing help from government must be fair, easy and understandable, and survivors must have a say in the process.
- Everyone must get safe temporary housing where they can reconnect with family and community.
- Displaced people must have access to the resources they need to lead normal lives.
- Everyone must be assisted to fully recover housing, personal property and transportation quickly.
- All homeowners must be able to rebuild in safe, quality neighborhoods of their choice.
- Renters must get quality, affordable rental property in safe, quality neighborhoods of their choice.
- All neighborhoods must be free from environmental hazards with quality public infrastructure to keep them safe and resilient.

NLIHC will continue to support the work of our partners and members in Texas as we together advocate on the local, state, and federal levels for the needs and rights of the lowest income people. Follow NLIHC’s Harvey-related news round-ups by subscribing to the NLIHC blog [On the Homefront](#), and follow Texas Housers by subscribing to their [news updates](#).

Events

Webinar on “Stopping Tax Cuts for Millionaires and Corporations to Protect Working Families,” September 12

The Coalition on Human Needs and Americans for Tax Fairness will host a webinar, “Stopping Tax Cuts for Millionaires and Corporations to Protect Working Families,” featuring Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) and other special guests, on September 12, 7-8 pm ET.

President Trump and Republican leaders in Congress are working to pass massive tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations while the needs of low income people in America go unmet. Representative Ellison is the author of HR948, the “[Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2017](#),” which calls for rebalancing federal housing policy by reforming the mortgage interest deduction, a tax expenditure that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest homeowners, and investing the savings into affordable housing solutions for those most in need.

The webinar will cover:

- How to engage in the tax fairness campaign at the local, state, and federal levels
- Key talking points and messaging
- The presenters’ theory of winning the battle in the field

Register for the webinar [here](#).

NeighborWorks Training Institute in Washington DC, December 11-15

The next NeighborWorks Training Institute (NTI) will take place in Washington, DC the week of December 11-15. The NTI offers more than 100 course offerings in affordable housing development and financing; housing asset management; community engagement; community revitalization; community economic development; housing construction and rehabilitation; financial capability and homeownership education, coaching, and counseling; nonprofit management and leadership; and single-family and small business lending. In addition to taking training courses throughout the week, participants can attend a mid-week symposium, “[Pathways Out of Poverty: Investing In Independence, Keeping the Pathways Open](#)” on December 13.

More information about the NTI is at: <http://www.neighborworks.org/dc2017>

Register for the NTI at: <http://bit.ly/1ATs8Ia>

NLIHC in the News

NLIHC in the News for the Week of August 27

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of August 27:

- “If GOP scales back the mortgage interest deduction, Californians would be hit hardest,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 27, at: <http://lat.ms/2gh4eFm>
- “Put a \$6 billion housing bond on California ballot,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 29, at: <http://bit.ly/2xyHaGk>
- “Trump’s Policies on Immigrants and Tariffs Could Hurt Harvey Efforts,” *NBCNEWS.com*, August 31, at: <http://nbcnews.to/2wqkdol>
- “Affordable-housing panel starts looking for fixes,” *Orlando Sentinel*, September 1, at: <http://bit.ly/2vxLw3d>

Other NLIHC News

NLIHC Seeks Interns for Fall Semester

NLIHC is accepting applications for internship positions for the fall 2017 semester. Interns are highly valued and fully integrated into our staff work. We seek students passionate about social justice issues with excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

The available positions are:

- **Research Intern.** Assists in ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects, writes weekly articles on current research for NLIHC's weekly *Memo to Members and Partners* newsletter, attends briefings, and responds to research inquiries. Quantitative skills and experience with SPSS a plus.
- **Policy Intern.** Tracks new legislation, attends and summarizes Congressional hearings for the *Memo to Members and Partners* newsletter, participates in visits to Congressional offices, develops materials for use in lobbying the House and Senate to achieve NLIHC's policy agenda, and updates the NLIHC Congressional database.

Fall interns are expected to work 25 hours a week beginning in September and finishing up in December. A modest stipend is provided. A cover letter, resume, and writing sample are required for consideration. In your cover letter, please specify the position(s) for which you are applying and that you are interested in the fall 2017 internship.

Where to Find Us – September 5

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

- [Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Event](#) in Newburgh, NY on September 14
- [New York Association on Independent Living statewide conference](#) in Troy, NY, September 18-19
- [Tennessee Housing Development Agency Conference](#) in Nashville, TN, on September 21
- [Connecticut Housing Coalition's Annual Conference](#), Cromwell, CT, on September 26
- [The Housing Washington 2017 24th Annual Affordable Housing Conference](#) in Spokane, WA, October 2-4
- [Empower Missouri Annual Conference](#) in St. Louis, MO, October 5-6
- [Grounded Solutions Intersections 2017](#) in Oakland, CA, October 9-12
- [NALCAB's 2017 National Conference](#) in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on October 11
- [Housing Justice Network 2017 Meeting](#) in Washington, DC, October 12-14
- [National Council of State Housing Agencies Annual Conference](#) in Denver, CO, October 14-17
- [Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Conference](#), Fairbanks, AK, October 23-24
- [Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition Annual Meeting](#), Baltimore, MD, on November 6
- [Ohio Housing Conference](#), Columbus, OH, on November 7
- [ReFrame Association Conference: Home, Health, and Hope](#) in Kingsport, TN on November 9
- [Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama 2017 Housing Works! Conference](#) in Orange Beach, Alabama, November 15-17
- Yale University event in New Haven, CT on November 28

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NLIHC Staff

Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245
Josephine Clarke, Executive Assistant, x226
Dan Emmanuel, Research Analyst, x316
Ellen Errico, Creative Services Manager, x246
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314
Sarah Jemison, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x244
Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232
Joseph Lindstrom, Manager, Field Organizing, x222
Lisa Marlow, Communications Specialist, x239
Sarah Mickelson, Director of Public Policy, x228
Khara Norris, Director of Administration, x242
James Saucedo, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233
Christina Sin, Development Coordinator, x234
Elayne Weiss, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, x243
Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x228