



**Volume 26, Issue 07**

**February 22, 2021**

## **Take Action**

### **Sign-on**

- Take Action: Sign onto a Letter Urging the Biden Administration to Extend, Improve, and Enforce the CDC Eviction Moratorium!
- Sign Your Organization on to Letter Supporting Increased Congressional Funding for Housing and Homelessness Resources TODAY!

## **Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness – Highlights**

- House Expected to Vote This Week on \$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Package

## **Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness – Other**

- Join NLIHC's National Call on Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness Today at 2:30 pm ET
- Recording Available of NLIHC's February 16 National Call on "Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness"
- Additional Coronavirus Updates – February 22, 2021
- Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – February 22, 2021

## **USICH**

- Robert Marbut Removed as Executive Director of USICH

## **NLIHC Events**

- Congressional Leaders to Address NLIHC Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2021, March 30-31
- Contribute in Honor of Representative Maxine Waters and Other NLIHC 2021 Housing Leadership Award Recipients
- Upcoming Webinars on Effective Advocacy and NLIHC Policy Priorities

## **Opportunity Starts at Home**

- Justice in Aging and NLIHC Release New Issue Brief on the Impact of Housing Instability on Low-Income Seniors

## **Resource**

- New Resource Available on Gender and Racial Justice in Housing

## **Research**

- Black and Latino Workers More Likely to Experience Difficulties during COVID-19

## **Fact of the Week**

- Four in Ten Black and Latino Workers Concerned about Losing Homes in Coming Year

## **NLIHC News**

- NLIHC Seeks Development Specialist

## **NLIHC in the News**

- NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 14

## Take Action

### **Take Action: Sign onto a Letter Urging the Biden Administration to Extend, Improve, and Enforce the CDC Eviction Moratorium!**

[Sign your organization](#) onto [a letter](#), already signed by over 2,000 organizations and elected officials, urging the Biden administration to extend, improve, and enforce the current CDC eviction moratorium until the end of the pandemic. The federal eviction moratorium has kept millions of people who otherwise would have been evicted stably housed but it has significant shortcomings that undermine its public health impacts. The moratorium must be extended beyond its current expiration on March 31 through the end of the pandemic, and be improved and enforced.

The Biden administration should: improve the moratorium order by making its protections automatic and universal; rescind the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) issued last year by the CDC that created loopholes in the moratorium's protections; empower the Department of Justice to enforce the moratorium; and create a renter hotline to report abuses. The failure to address issues with the current moratorium has allowed some landlords to wrongfully evict tens of thousands of renters without consequence.

[Please sign your organization](#) onto the [letter](#) to President Biden, HUD Secretary-designate Fudge and CDC Director Walensky to extend, improve, and enforce the federal eviction moratorium. Elected officials are also encouraged to sign. If you are unsure whether your organization has already signed, review a list of current signatories [here](#).

Please circulate widely! The deadline to sign-on is March 15.

Thank you for your advocacy.

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### **Sign Your Organization on to Letter Supporting Increased Congressional Funding for Housing and Homelessness Resources TODAY!**

Advocates for housing, community development, and ending homelessness are working together to urge Congress to provide the highest possible funding for HUD and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) housing and community development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2022. NLIHC encourages all our member and partner organizations to sign on to the letter at: [tinyurl.com/4vq836e6](https://tinyurl.com/4vq836e6)

In the coming weeks, Congress will decide how to divide available funding for FY22 among the 12 appropriations subcommittees. These funding allocations for subcommittees, called 302(b) allocations, will determine how much funding is available for HUD and USDA programs on housing, homelessness, and community development in FY22.

State and local governments and the communities they serve rely on federal resources to meet the infrastructure needs of their communities, including community development and accessible, affordable housing. Increased investments are ever more critical this year as families struggle to make ends meet and our nation's affordable housing crisis worsens due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is critical that the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) and Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittees in both the House and Senate receive the highest possible 302(b) allocations. Adequate 302(b) allocations will help the subcommittees have the resources they need to fund the homeless, affordable housing and community development programs at levels that exceed current spending and meet the level of need caused by the pandemic.

Read the letter and sign your organization on at: [tinyurl.com/4vq836e6](https://tinyurl.com/4vq836e6)

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## Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness – Highlights

### House Expected to Vote This Week on \$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Package

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on February 26 on the “American Rescue Plan,” a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill that includes [over \\$40 billion](#) in housing and homelessness resources. The plan is based on the parameters of President Biden’s coronavirus relief proposal.

After completing voting on the bill’s various provisions (see *Memo*, [2/16](#)), the nine House authorizing committees will pass their sections to the House Budget Committee on February 22 to be compiled into one legislative package. The bill will then be sent to the House Rules Committee, which is charged with ensuring the package is aligned with reconciliation rules and limitations. Reconciliation rules state the bill’s total cost cannot exceed the \$1.9 trillion outlined in the 2021 budget resolution, but estimates from the Congressional Budget Office indicate the bill’s current price tag sits at \$1.95 trillion. House Democrats will likely seek spending offsets to bring the cost of the package back down. The bill will then go to the House floor for a vote.

After the bill passes the House, it is expected to move quickly through the Senate, skipping committee votes and going directly to the Senate floor. Once received, senators will have up to 20 hours to debate the bill, during which the senators will be able to propose amendments to the bill before taking a final vote. House and Senate leaders aim to have a final bill sent to President Biden by March 14.

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## Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness – Other

### Join NLIHC’s National Call on Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness Today at 2:30 pm ET

Join today’s (February 22) national call on coronavirus, disasters, housing, and homelessness at 2:30-4 pm ET. Eric Samuels from the Texas Homeless Network will provide an update on the devastating winter storms and homelessness in Texas. John Pollock of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel will discuss right-to-counsel efforts around the country. Marcie Roth of the World Institute on Disability will discuss using the recent FEMA Executive Order to expand eligibility for non-congregate sheltering to people in long-term care facilities. We will also: discuss an update on progress for the Department of Treasury to release a new FAQ on its Emergency Rental Assistance program; receive field updates from New Orleans and Kentucky; get the latest from Capitol Hill on negotiations on the new COVID relief bill; and more.

Register for the national call at: <https://tinyurl.com/ru73qan>

See the full agenda [here](#).

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### Recording Available of NLIHC’s February 16 National Call on “Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness”

During the most recent national call on [coronavirus, disasters, housing, and homelessness](#), we discussed the next coronavirus relief package, heard about strategies for targeting emergency rental assistance (ERA) to the lowest-income households, learned about the applicability of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) eviction moratorium to lease expiration and no-cause eviction notices, and received updates from the field.

Jennifer Loving of [Destination: Home](#) discussed her organization's work creating a community-driven equity approach for providing [emergency rental assistance](#) in Santa Clara County, California. In total, the organization has provided over \$31 million to 14,000 households in-need, 77% of which are households with extremely low-incomes. Destination: Home recommends prioritizing the lowest-income and most vulnerable residents, providing enough assistance to help people stay housed and meet basic needs, taking intentional steps to reach underserved communities and people of color, and avoiding onerous requirements to ensure there is the necessary flexibility to serve the most vulnerable residents.

NLIHC's Diane Yentel provided updates on the CDC eviction moratorium and emergency rental assistance. The Biden administration [announced](#) an extension of COVID-19 forbearance and foreclosure protections through the end of June, and NLIHC is urging the administration to [extend, improve, and enforce](#) the CDC's eviction moratorium. NLIHC is also [tracking](#) the implementation of more than 600 ERA programs across the country. So far, five states and 22 localities have opened ERA programs with funding from [December's COVID-19 relief package](#).

Eric Dunn from the [National Housing Law Project \(NHLP\)](#) shared insights from NHLP's recent memo on the [applicability of the CDC eviction moratorium to lease expiration and no-cause eviction notices](#). Local judges and jurisdictions are moving forward with evictions based on lease expirations or no-cause evictions, despite the eviction moratorium covering these circumstances. We received field updates from the [Nevada Housing Coalition](#) and the [Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.](#) NLIHC's Sarah Saadian provided an update on the [budget reconciliation process](#) to pass the next coronavirus relief bill.

NLIHC hosts national calls on Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing, and Homelessness every week. On today's call, we will hear from advocates in Texas on the devastating winter storms, get updates on right to counsel efforts around the country, learn about using FEMA reimbursement for non-congregate sheltering for people in long-term care facilities, and more. Register for today's call (Monday, February 22 at 2:30 pm ET) at: <https://tinyurl.com/ru73qan>

Watch a recording of the February 16 call at: [tinyurl.com/1aebqenf](https://tinyurl.com/1aebqenf)

Access presentation slides at: [tinyurl.com/24sax4sx](https://tinyurl.com/24sax4sx)

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## **Additional Coronavirus Updates – February 22, 2021**

### *Biden Administration*

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Agriculture on February 16 [announced](#) a coordinated extension and expansion of forbearance and foreclosure relief programs.

### *Consumer Finance Protection Bureau*

Homeowners and renters can visit the [Consumer Finance Protection Bureau's website](#) for up-to-date information on their relief options, protections, and key deadlines.

### *Department of Agriculture*

The USDA on February 16 [announced](#) an extension of eviction and foreclosure moratoriums on USDA Single Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed loans through June 30, 2021.

### *Department of Housing and Urban Development*

HUD on February 16 [announced](#) extensions of the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) foreclosure and eviction moratoriums, as well as an extension of the initial start date of a COVID-19 forbearance. The Office of Public and Indian Housing is planning to announce similar relief for homeowners assisted under the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program and the Section 184A Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Program.

The Office of Housing Counseling is hosting a [webinar](#) on February 23 at 2 pm EST to help owners and managers of HUD-assisted or insured multifamily properties who are looking for resources to assist their tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar will provide an overview of housing counseling services and cover how to find and connect with local housing counseling agencies.

### *Reporting*

[CityLab](#) reports that Republican state lawmakers are slowing emergency rental assistance funds from Congress, forcing some cities and counties to pursue workarounds by seeking aid directly from the federal government. Federal rent relief has met resistance from Republican-led legislatures in Idaho and Michigan. These threats to stall or block rent relief distribution have real-world consequences for tenants, as states have a limited amount of time to spend the money from the Treasury Department before losing the aid.

[NPR](#) shares the story of a Florida family whose landlord moved forward with the eviction process, even though the family submitted the required CDC paperwork to their landlord. In some cases, landlords are pretending they have not received the CDC declaration and are moving forward with the eviction process, says Shamus Roller, executive director of the National Housing Law Project.

[USA Today](#) reports the pandemic is forcing more Americans to live in cars and RVs, and like every measure of homelessness and poverty, people of color are disproportionately represented among vehicle dwellers. This "hidden homeless crisis" is expected to worsen as the government safety net frays.

A recent [report](#) from Apartment List, an online rental housing platform, found that [rent debt is concentrated among minority tenants](#). The report found that 53% of Black renters have unpaid housing bills, compared with 38% of Hispanic renters, 27% of Asian renters, and 21% of white renters.

The [Appeal](#) discusses the growing momentum in cities, states, and in Congress to ensure every tenant facing eviction has a guaranteed right to counsel. John Pollock of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel highlights that access to legal representation can make the difference between stability and catastrophe for families.

[NPR's](#) Ari Shapiro spoke with Lee Camp, a St. Louis attorney who represents tenants, about how the COVID-19 recession has affected housing insecurity. "On the back end of this pandemic, we will see families saddled with debt like we have never seen. We will still likely be dealing with mass evictions, which will turn into homelessness into the streets," said Camp.

The [New York Times](#) reports that some officials fear frigid weather is a greater risk for people experiencing homelessness than the coronavirus. Cities and communities are struggling with how to shelter people who are homeless without exposing them to COVID-19.

[NBC News](#) reports that mobile home residents are one of the hardest-hit groups facing eviction amid the pandemic. When mobile home residents find themselves facing eviction, they risk not only losing the lot they are renting but also their home equity.

## State and Local News

### Alabama

Governor Kay Ivey [authorized](#) the Alabama Housing Finance Authority (AHFA) to implement the state's new \$263 million COVID-19 [emergency rental assistance program](#). AHFA expects to accept applications from landlords and tenants beginning March 1.

### Alaska

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation will be distributing nearly \$200 million in federal rent and utility assistance. [Alaska Housing Rent Relief](#) will help Alaskan renters and landlords cover up to 12 months of rent and utilities. The window to submit applications is from February 16 to March 5.

### Arizona

The Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to [rescind the county's eviction moratorium](#) that two state lawmakers said was illegal. Pima County Board Supervisor Matt Heinz responded that it is completely inappropriate to rescind the moratorium during the pandemic because it will endanger dozens of people.

### California

[San Jose lawmakers](#) at the city and council level approved a “[hybrid](#)” plan to distribute millions of rent relief funds with local and state distribution strategies. Advocates, including [Destination: Home](#), say the implementation model prioritizes equity and will ensure these critical resources reach the households most in need. Approximately 43,000 Santa Clara County families are at risk of eviction, and more than 65% of clients in the county's existing emergency relief programs are extremely low-income.

Fresno unveiled on February 17 a [refurbished motel](#) of about 80 rooms, the latest in the city's efforts to house individuals who are homeless in former rundown motels. The newest motel is the fourth to be acquired and converted into emergency housing. The city of Fresno contributed \$6.8 million and the Fresno Housing Authority provided \$24 million to buy the four motels and operate them for the next five years.

The Sacramento City Council on February 16 approved a [\\$31.7 million](#) rental assistance program. More than half of the money came from the state of California, and \$15 million came directly to Sacramento from the U.S. Department of Treasury. [Applications](#) are scheduled to open on February 25.

### Connecticut

A “no-freeze” [shelter in Danielson](#) has been able to accommodate the number of clients who seek shelter, but the prospect of the federal eviction moratorium ending has shelter providers concerned about a potential surge of newly-homeless residents.

### Georgia

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) reported that six hours after [DeKalb County](#) opened applications for its new \$21 million emergency rental assistance program on February 12, more than 2,000 individuals had already applied. The county also received 17,000 website visits, 3,7000 emails, and 350 calls related to the program. A group of court officials, Atlanta Legal Aid, the DeKalb County Marshal's Office, Goodwill of North Georgia, and mediators from the Dispute Resolution Center are part of a coalition helping administer the relief program.

The [Augusta Chronicle](#) reports that thousands of Augusta families have fallen through the cracks of the federal eviction moratorium. The Richmond County Marshal's Office served 2,357 households with eviction papers during 2020 in every month except April. Augusta-Richmond County Commissioners recently approved over [\\$6 million](#) in federal rental and utility assistance.

## *Idaho*

The lack of affordable housing in the [Treasure Valley](#) is making it harder for people seeking permanent housing amid the ongoing pandemic and economic fallout. About 34,000 Idahoans are at risk for eviction or homelessness.

## *Illinois*

An op-ed in the [Chicago Tribune](#) discusses why the [Just Cause for Eviction](#) ordinance should be part of Chicago's housing policy solution to prevent the looming eviction crisis. The ordinance, backed by the Chicago Housing Justice League and supported by more than 64 community organizations, would end no-fault evictions and require landlords to pay relocation assistance to renters who are evicted for non-tenant-related reasons.

## *Iowa*

[Clinton County supervisors](#) unanimously approved authorizing their emergency management coordinator to request approval for FEMA's non-congregate sheltering program. Other counties in the region have successfully received approval for reimbursement from FEMA for non-congregate sheltering costs.

[Burlington's Transitions](#) has housed about a dozen people since opening its doors as a warming center on February 4. The shelter is not yet able to house residents for extended periods, but it will eventually house up to 13 people. Transitions has been using ESG-CV funds to house would-be residents in hotel rooms and apartments.

An annual street count in [Cedar Rapids](#) on January 27 found a record number of people sleeping outside. The destructive derecho, pandemic, and the lack of affordable housing likely have contributed to this increase.

## *Kansas*

The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and the City of Wichita announced the state's [\\$200 million](#) rental and utility assistance program. Wichita residents can apply for assistance through the [Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#). Kansans living outside the Wichita city limits can apply through the [Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance program](#).

## *Kentucky*

[Over 900 evictions](#) have been filed in Louisville so far this year. Landlords are finding loopholes to evade the CDC eviction moratorium, and many tenants are unaware of local resources and struggling with virtual court hearings. Governor Andy Beshear announced the relaunch of the Health at Home Eviction Relief Fund, which will provide an additional \$297 million in housing assistance.

## *Massachusetts*

Despite current federal and state eviction protections, families across Boston and Massachusetts are being forced from their homes as a result of no-fault evictions. [City Life/Vida Urbana](#) held a rally outside of a property to protest the "no-fault" evictions of two residents.

The [22 News I-Team](#) found that Springfield is one of the hardest-hit cities in Massachusetts in terms of eviction filings. According to data from the [Massachusetts Trial Court](#), 60% of Hampden County evictions that have occurred since the statewide moratorium was lifted in October were in Springfield.

## *Michigan*

[Mecosta County nonprofits](#) have been stepping up to provide services for individuals who are homeless amid the ongoing pandemic and winter weather. The Mecosta/Osceola Mid-Michigan Community Action helps



individuals and families who are homeless find stable housing and provide case management services for individuals experiencing homelessness, those that owe back rent, and people at risk for eviction.

### *Missouri*

The Missouri Housing Development Commission announced that applications for the [Missouri State Assistance for Housing Relief Program](#) are now open. Governor Parson on February 11 signed HB 16 into law, providing more than \$324 million in federal funding for rental and utility assistance.

### *New Jersey*

The city of [New Brunswick](#) paused its Cold Blue program in which it opens Unity Square as a warming center when overnight temperatures drop below 25 degrees. The director of Human and Community Services said the “timing was unfortunate,” given the frigid temperatures impacting the area. Staci Berger, president and CEO of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, [tweeted](#), “This is illegal, immoral & possibly deadly.”

### *Pennsylvania*

[Hundreds of tenants in western Pennsylvania](#) have been evicted in the last several months, despite the federal eviction moratorium, and thousands more are facing eviction. In Allegheny County, 1,138 eviction cases have been filed since November 1. Judges ruled in favor of evicting tenants in 213 of those cases, and tenants were forced out of their homes in 135 cases.

[Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse](#) announced on February 16 that he would extend the city’s ban on evictions for another 30 days into mid-March. The original order was adopted after city officials found that hundreds of people would face eviction at the start of 2021. The city is also distributing [\\$500,000 in Emergency Solutions Grants – CARES \(ESG-CV\)](#) funds to tenants. Local landlords have [reported](#) that Harrisburg’s rental relief has been very helpful for themselves and their tenants.

### *Texas*

Amid the ongoing pandemic, the federal eviction moratorium’s shortcomings are coming into focus. The CDC moratorium does not protect holdover tenants who overstay their leases, leaving some [North Texas families](#) with nowhere to go when their leases end. Advocates, including Sandy Rollins of the Texas Tenants’ Union, are calling for local, state, and federal lawmakers to enact broader eviction moratoriums.

The Houston City Council voted on February 17 to approve a [grace period ordinance](#) that would extend the amount of time renters have to resolve payment issues before a landlord can pursue an eviction to March 31. Without the grace period ordinance, Texas tenants have only three days to resolve a missed payment before landlords can file an eviction. Jen Rice, a reporter at Houston Public Media, [tweeted](#) about the shortcomings of the ordinance.

### *Utah*

The [Salt Lake Tribune](#) reports the Utah Apartment Association opposes translating key pieces of eviction law information into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic to help communities of color disproportionately impacted by evictions. This article is part of a series on Utah evictions and the state’s leading landlord law firm.

### *Virginia*

The [Virginian-Pilot](#) reports the number of Virginia Beach residents who reported being at risk of homelessness during the 2020 pandemic more than quadrupled compared to the prior year. Black residents and families with children made up the majority of people who reached out to the city for housing assistance. Virginia Beach has housed 330 people in hotels since the beginning of the pandemic, and 60% of those people have found

temporary or permanent housing. At the end of January, 123 households were residing in three hotels in the city.

### *Washington*

The [Spokesman-Review](#) estimates thousands of renters in Spokane County could face eviction when Washington's moratorium is lifted on March 31. In December and January, landlords in Spokane County filed eviction notices on 550 households. The Spokane County Bar Association estimates the county could see more than 2,000 eviction filings a month when the moratorium ends.

### *Washington, DC*

Despite the opportunity to receive 100% reimbursement from FEMA for non-congregate sheltering costs, [D.C. officials say there are no plans to expand](#) the Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V). The director of the D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) cites other non-federally reimbursable costs associated with operating the PEP-V sites and an overall lack of capacity as reasons for not expanding the program. There are 555 people waiting to be placed into PEP-V as of February 5.

## **Guidance**

### *Department of Housing and Urban Development*

[COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infection Disease Preparedness](#) – Updated February 17, 2021

[COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Coordination with the Veteran System](#)

[COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Establishing a Capitalized Operating Reserve](#)

[Weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Homeless Service Providers – February 18, 2021](#)

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## **Additional Disaster Housing Recovery Updates – February 22, 2021**

The NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition is convening and supporting disaster-impacted communities to ensure that federal disaster recovery efforts reach all impacted households, including the lowest-income and most marginalized people who are often the hardest-hit by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover.

Learn more about the DHRC's policy recommendations [here](#).

The DHRC submitted a [comment](#) on a [proposed rule](#) announced by FEMA that would severely restrict disaster-impacted states from receiving federal assistance in the future. To learn more, read NLIHC's [fact sheet](#) on the rule and NLIHC's [2/16 Memo](#).

## **Winter Storm**

President Biden approved an [emergency declaration for Texas](#), making federal emergency aid available to supplement recovery efforts in areas affected by a severe winter storm beginning on February 11. Emergency protective measures for mass care and sheltering and direct federal assistance will be provided at 75% federal funding.

FEMA has sent [generators and other relief supplies](#) to Texas as the state continues to face power outages and dangerous travel conditions. The Texas Division of Emergency Management has opened over [200 warming stations](#) across Texas. To find the closest warming shelters, visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/warm/>. Read more about [FEMA's response](#) to the severe winter storms.

The [Washington Post](#) reports on how the dangerously cold weather and accompanying power outages in Texas are especially dire for the state's most marginalized communities – those whose lives have already been threatened by disaster and disease in recent years.

The [New York Times](#) reports that while the rolling blackouts in Texas have left four million residents without power in the brutally cold weather, experts and community groups say many marginalized communities were the first to be hit with power outages. If [history serves as a guide](#), they could be among the last to be reconnected.

The [New York Times](#) reports that long-term care facilities in Texas are struggling to get by amid the loss of power and water across the state. Long-term care facilities have reported broken water mains, lack of running water, oxygen shortages, and other problems. In Williamson County, local officials are working to ensure more than 60 long-term care facilities have blankets, diesel to run generators, and enough water for drinking and cleaning.

The City of [Houston](#) has opened six additional warming facilities in response to the severe winter weather, each capable of housing 50-60 individuals. Widespread power outages on February 15 due to winter storms left at least one [homeless shelter in Dallas](#) without electricity for hours. The outages also led to 130 people who were temporarily residing in a hotel to be moved to the downtown convention center.

Hundreds of unsheltered individuals in Texas are being directed to seek [life-saving refuge in shelters](#). Many [organizations and volunteers are coming together](#) to provide support for individuals experiencing homelessness, but advocates and providers say capacity is becoming an issue and that the government must provide more resources. One San Antonio organization is sheltering people who are homeless, seniors, and people with disabilities.

[Governor Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma](#) on February 17 requested a federal disaster declaration for all counties after declaring a state of emergency in the state. President Biden approved an [emergency declaration for Oklahoma](#), making federal disaster aid available to all 77 counties. Governor Laura Kelly of [Kansas](#) and Governor John Bel Edwards of [Louisiana](#) also issued states of emergency.

[Tulsa residents](#) have raised \$1.5 million since February 12 to house hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness in hotels and motels during the frigid winter weather. Outreach organizations are sending case managers and housing assistance coordinators to hotels and motels later this week to try to find long-term housing placements for the individuals residing there.

## **Hurricanes Laura & Delta**

[Southerly](#) details how a lack of sufficient and timely federal aid, evictions, and rising rents are pushing southwest Louisiana residents into homelessness after the back-to-back hurricanes. Governor John Bel Edwards [appealed](#) to President Biden, asking for more federal funds in the form of block grants and for FEMA to increase the federal cost share for hurricane recovery efforts. This is the third story in a three-part series supported by the Pulitzer Center about how southwest Louisiana is recovering from Hurricanes Laura and Delta amid the pandemic. Read the [first](#) and [second](#) stories.

## **Wildfires in the West**

A survivor who [lost his home in the Camp Fire](#) and has been homeless ever since is being forced to relocate because the City of Chico is issuing eviction notices to people living at Comanche Creek. The Chico City Council is expected to meet on March 2 to discuss the greater Chico homeless task force.

President Biden approved a [Major Disaster Declaration for Washington](#) to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by wildfires and straight-lines last September.

FEMA is currently seeking interested, qualified property management companies to participate in the [Direct Lease Program](#) to help provide temporary housing to wildfire survivors in Lane County.

FEMA [announced](#) on February 5 it has begun construction on a site where temporary housing units will be provided to eligible survivor families from Lincoln County. The new Lincoln City site is expected to hold up to 21 temporary housing units.

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## USICH

### **Robert Marbut Removed as Executive Director of USICH**

Robert Marbut left his position as executive director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) on February 16. Mr. Marbut's tenure at USICH was defined by his rejection of evidence-based best practices and endorsement of dehumanizing and ineffective methods for addressing homelessness.

Mr. Marbut rejected "[Housing First](#)," a proven strategy that prioritizes finding safe, stable, accessible housing for people experiencing homelessness before addressing other problems, like substance abuse or untreated mental health issues. The efficacy of the Housing First model is supported by two decades of research and has been identified by USICH as a best practice for ending homelessness.

Instead, Mr. Marbut described his approach to combating homelessness as "Housing Fourth," calling for large-scale shelters with treatment facilities where people experiencing homelessness "earn" their right to beds within the shelters. In his previous role as a homelessness consultant to cities, he called for cities to stop "enabling" homelessness by providing free meals, which he called "street feeding," and allowing people to sleep in public spaces. He also endorsed expanding law enforcement's authority to arrest people experiencing homelessness for violating minor ordinances.

In addition to drawing criticism from NLIHC and other homelessness advocates, Mr. Marbut's appointment was met with disapproval from members of Congress. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) released a [press statement](#) noting that "it is a problem that the Trump Administration's designee to head the Interagency Council on Homelessness may believe that it's more important to stop churches from providing food to homeless people than it is to find those people homes." House Democrats sent a letter to the former administration outlining their disappointment with Marbut's appointment (see *Memo*, [12/16/19](#)). NLIHC [strongly rebuked](#) Mr. Marbut's appointment, worked with our national partners to push back on his ineffective and dehumanizing policies, and urged the Biden administration to remove Mr. Marbut from his position.

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## NLIHC Events

### **Congressional Leaders to Address NLIHC Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2021, March 30-31**

**NLIHC's Virtual Housing Policy Forum 2021: A New Day**, taking place March 30-31, 1-5 pm ET, will feature special presentations from key leaders in Congress, including **Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, **Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)**, and **Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)**, among others, on the congressional response to the COVID-19 pandemic, housing and homelessness, and the work that remains to be done to address housing poverty and homelessness in the U.S. during and after the pandemic. Register today to attend the Forum at: <http://bit.ly/NLIHCForum21>



**Speaker Pelosi (D-CA)**



**Senator Portman (R-OH)**



**U.S. Representative Waters (D-CA)**

There will also be keynote speakers and panels on Racial Equity and Housing Justice; Best Practices in Organizing; Legislative Opportunities to Advance Housing In 2021/Capitol Hill Insiders Panel; State and Local Emergency Rental Assistance Programs; Achieving Universal Housing Assistance; Lessons Learned: COVID-19 and the Need for Structural Reform; Sharing Resident Lived-Experience Stories with Elected Officials; and more.

Register to attend at: <http://bit.ly/NLIHCForum21>

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## Contribute in Honor of Representative Maxine Waters and Other NLIHC 2021 Housing Leadership Award Recipients

Make a [contribution to NLIHC](#) in honor of 2021 Housing Leadership Award Honoree **Representative Maxine Waters** (D-CA), chair of the House Financial Services Committee. Chair Waters will receive a 2021 Edward W. Brooke Housing Leadership Award for her indispensable leadership fighting for equity and justice, combatting racism, championing the housing needs of the lowest-income people, and achieving critical housing and homelessness resources and protections during the 2020 pandemic. This award is named for Senator Edward Brooke (R-MA), who championed low-income housing as a U.S. senator and later as chair of the NLIHC board of directors. Donate to NLIHC in Chair Waters' honor as an [individual](#) or as an [organization](#).



Rep. Maxine Waters

The other honorees in 2021 are **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH), chair of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, who will also be bestowed an Edward Brooke W. Housing Leader Award; **Joy Johnson**, long-time resident leader of the Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR) and former NLIHC board member, who will receive the Cushing Dolbear Lifetime Service Award; and the **Housing Justice Network** of the National Housing Law Project, which will receive the Sheila Crowley Housing Justice Award. These exceptional leaders will be recognized at NLIHC's 39th Annual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration held virtually on Wednesday April 28, 4-5 pm ET. Register to attend the event at: <https://bit.ly/3quNxWb>

Recognize these outstanding leaders by making a donation to NLIHC in their honor!

Donate as an individual at: <https://bit.ly/2Kd9oRZ>

Donate as an organization at: <https://bit.ly/2LpBbzy>

Or text LEADERSHIP to 41444 to donate in honor of the awardees.

Your donation will be recognized in the Leadership Awards Celebration program. The contribution will support NLIHC's mission to achieve socially just public policy to ensure the lowest-income people have decent, affordable homes.

Register to attend the April 28 Housing Leadership Awards Celebration at: <https://bit.ly/3quNxWb>

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## **Upcoming Webinars on Effective Advocacy and NLIHC Policy Priorities**

NLIHC will host two webinars in March to equip Virtual Capitol Hill Day participants and other advocates with effective advocacy and NLIHC's policy priorities. NLIHC's annual Capitol Hill Day will take place virtually this year on April 1 and is part of [NLIHC's 2021 Housing Policy Forum: A New Day](#).

The first webinar, "Advocacy 101," is scheduled for March 11 at 3:00 pm ET. The NLIHC field team will cover the basics on federal policymaking, allowable advocacy activities for nonprofits, and tips for effective advocacy. The session will also include a practice legislative visit. The webinar is an excellent training opportunity for those new to advocacy. Register for the March 11 webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3tLGgTP>

The second webinar, "NLIHC 2021 Policy Priorities," is scheduled for March 25 at 3:00 pm ET. The NLIHC policy team will provide an overview of NLIHC's policy priorities for the 2021 Capitol Hill Day, and the field team will provide examples of how advocates' can connect their work and experiences to these policy priorities during their legislative visits. Sign up for the March 25 webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3rGPsHk>

Register for NLIHC's 2021 Virtual Housing Policy Forum: A New Day, March 30-31, at: <https://www.nlihcforum.org/>

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## **Opportunity Starts at Home**

### **Justice in Aging and NLIHC Release New Issue Brief on the Impact of Housing Instability on Low-Income Seniors**

[Justice in Aging](#) and NLIHC recently co-published an [issue brief](#) that explores how housing instability, housing unaffordability, and homelessness impact the low-income senior population. The issue brief examines: 1) the intersection of age/ethnicity on rental cost burden; 2) the disproportionate impact of housing cost burdens on older Black and Latino populations that are rooted in income inequality; 3) the nationwide shortage of affordable rental units; 4) an increase in seniors experiencing homelessness; and 5) housing and health policy solutions needed to solve this problem.

“Caught in the vise between their fixed, lower incomes and steadily rising costs for rental housing,” the report states, “low-income seniors are facing unsustainable rent burdens, paying ever higher percentages of their meager incomes on housing. This untenable situation causes life-threatening stress and leads to people having to choose between paying rent, eating, or buying medications—while also increasing the risk they will be forced onto the streets.”

Justice in Aging is a Roundtable participant of the *Opportunity Starts at Home* multisector affordable homes campaign.

Read the brief at: <https://bit.ly/37tHQ3s>

Follow the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign on social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Be sure to [sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to get the latest updates about the campaign, including new multi-sector partners, [calls to action](#), events, and [research](#).



## Resource

### New Resource Available on Gender and Racial Justice in Housing

The National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) and NLIHC co-authored a new [fact sheet](#) on gender and racial justice in housing. The fact sheet outlines the disproportionate impact of housing instability on women, particularly women of color, women with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community.

Wage gaps based in gender and race make it more difficult for women of color to afford safe, decent, stable, and accessible housing, putting them at disproportionate risk of housing instability and in worst cases homelessness. Expanding federal housing assistance and protections for renters would help ensure that women, children, and families are able to access affordable, stable housing, which would have tremendous positive impacts on women’s employment and economic stability, health outcomes, and educational attainment, particularly for households with children.

Read the fact sheet at: <https://tinyurl.com/d0ak3zy1>

## Research

### Black and Latino Workers More Likely to Experience Difficulties during COVID-19

Color of Change, the National Employment Law Project, Time’s Up, and ILR Worker Institute have joined together to issue a new report, “[Foundations for a Just and Inclusive Recovery: Economic Security, Health and Safety, and Agency and Voice in the COVID-19 Era](#).” The report highlights the role of structural racism and sexism in exacerbating economic and health disparities. The researchers find that Black and Latino workers, women, and low-pay workers experienced decreased economic security and healthcare access as a result of COVID-19. The authors suggest policy responses such as building worker power to hold employers accountable and replacing siloed programs and policies with multi-faceted solutions.



The *Just Recovery Survey*, administered in the fall of 2020, measured workers' experiences amid COVID-19. A total of 3,100 individuals completed the survey, all of whom were in the labor market or expected to rejoin in the future. In order to examine differences by race and ethnicity, the survey oversampled Black and Latino respondents.

The survey included several indicators of economic security, including income losses, access to unemployment support, ability to pay bills, and housing security. Thirty-three percent of all workers lost income between March and October of 2020, but these rates were much higher for low-pay workers and Black and Latino workers. Forty-five percent of Latino workers, 42% of Black workers, 44% of workers in the lowest pay quartile lost income during this period. Black, Latino, low-pay workers, and women were also more likely than their white, male, high-pay counterparts to see their unemployment claims denied.

Forty-two percent of all workers reported challenges paying their bills because of COVID-19, though the pandemic's financial impact affected groups differently. Among workers in the lowest pay quartile, 65% of non-white respondents reported financial difficulties compared to 52% of white respondents. A higher proportion of women reported financial difficulties compared to men, at 45% and 38%, respectively. For some, these financial challenges led to housing insecurity, such as eviction and foreclosure. Ten percent of Black workers either experienced or received notice of eviction or foreclosure compared to 2% of white workers. Further, 44% of workers in the lowest pay quartile, 42% of Black workers, and 39% of Latino workers expressed concern that they would face eviction or foreclosure in the coming year.

The report also exposes disparities in health outcomes and healthcare access. Forty-two percent of Black workers and 40% of Latino workers reported knowing someone who had died from COVID-19, compared to 23% of white workers. Healthcare affordability also varied significantly by race and income. Sixty-nine percent of non-white workers reported not being able to afford the health services they needed, compared to 49% of white workers.

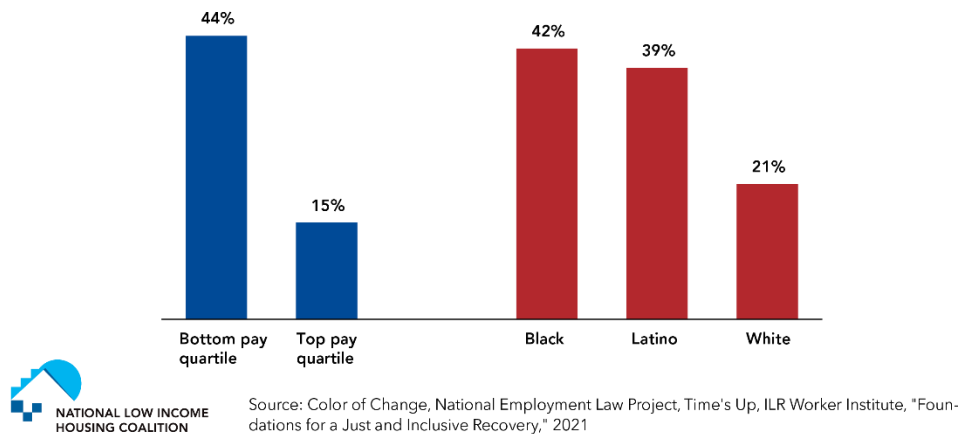
The report can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dk4j6H>

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## **Fact of the Week**

### **Four in Ten Black and Latino Workers Concerned about Losing Homes in Coming Year**

## Share of Workers With Some Concern Their Household Will Experience Eviction or Foreclosure in Next Year



Source: Color of Change, National Employment Law Project, Time's Up, ILR Worker Institute, "Foundations for a Just and Inclusive Recovery," 2021.

### NLIHC News

#### NLIHC Seeks Development Specialist

NLIHC seeks a development specialist who will support NLIHC fund development activities and events that enable the Coalition to obtain the necessary resources to fulfill its mission of achieving socially just public policy to ensure the lowest-income people in America have decent, accessible, affordable homes. The individual will also support NLIHC with other key operational needs, reporting to the NLIHC chief operating officer, with guidance and oversight from the NLIHC development coordinator.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in developing, and mailing to, lists to potential sponsors of the NLIHC Housing Leadership Awards Celebration/Reception (LAC), tracking progress on incoming pledges, and following up with sponsors and potential sponsors and with NLIHC host committee members.
- Assist with moving and maintaining sponsor and prospective sponsor data in Salesforce.
- Collect supplemental LAC program materials (quotes on honorees, bios, photos, etc.)
- Coordinate uploading of new lists from allied organizations into Salesforce/Mailchimp when they are provided.
- Coordinate end-of-year appeals campaign – draft appeals, postcards, emails, e-newsletters articles; work with communications team on materials and social media; create outreach lists; mail out solicitations; and other related tasks.
- Handle efficient filing of copies of donor/sponsor letters.
- Monitor NLIHC Special Member dues, send invoices, and follow up regarding payments. Track progress on NLIHC Special Member benefits (ads needed for LAC, publications to be mailed, etc.)
- Monitor incoming data to Salesforce for any irregularities.
- Enter registrations for complimentary Forum attendees where necessary (manually entering Special Members, event sponsors, *Advocates' Guide* authors, any VIP/invitees of the CEO, etc.)

- Produce list of previous year donors and their giving levels for NLIHC *Annual Report*.
- Serve as back-up to executive assistant for production of acknowledgment letters.
- Monitor NLIHC's various webpages that recognize donors for any missing logos and ensure updates are made to keep the website current.
- Assist in the preparation of grant applications and proposals for review by the NLIHC president/CEO and chief operating officer (COO), working with program staff and COO to determine proposal elements, and submitting final proposals for consideration. Assist in compiling and drafting funder reports for review and finalization by the COO.
- Assist in ensuring all grant contact and follow-up information is up-to-date and accurate in Salesforce database.
- Assist in the coordination of other events and activities for which fundraising is involved like NLIHC's anniversary events.

### **Organizational/Operations Support**

1. Support COO with operations activities.
2. Coordinate with contracted agency (currently Cogency Global) on state charitable registrations, ensuring annual registrations for all states in which registrations are required. Also ensure successful NLIHC business licenses and Good Standing reports with DC government.
3. Attend all meetings of the NLIHC Board of Directors and before Board committees, as needed. Participate in staff meetings, retreats, trainings, and all Coalition events.
4. Other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** To receive serious consideration for this position, an applicant should have the following attributes and background:

- A bachelor's degree.
- A strong commitment to the alleviation of poverty and social justice (affordable housing knowledge/experience a plus).
- Demonstrated strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent communications skills, both orally and in writing.
- Experience successfully building and maintaining professional partnerships and relationships.
- Experience in funder/donor research and cultivation, proposal- and report-writing, and fundraising appeals desired. Experience in event coordination a plus.
- Experience using Salesforce CRM a plus.
- An ability to work in a diverse, fast-paced environment.

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:** An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, NLIHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time position located in Washington, DC, though candidates residing outside the DC area may be considered and full-time telework is being implemented during the pandemic.

**JOB APPLICATION PROCESS:** Send a cover letter, resume, and two writing samples to: Bairy Diakite, Operations Manager, NLIHC, 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005 or by email at [bdiakite@nlihc.org](mailto:bdiakite@nlihc.org). The cover letter should describe the candidate's interest in and relevant experiences for the position and include salary requirements and the names and contact information for at least three people serving as candidate references (NLIHC will not contact references before consulting with the candidate.)

## NLIHC in the News

### NLIHC in the News for the Week of February 14

The following are some of the news stories that NLIHC contributed to during the week of February 14:

- “Low income housing tax credit - aggregators fight sponsors in year 15,” *Forbes*, February 16 at: <http://bit.ly/37r6TUH>
- “How COVID-19 brought the next housing crisis,” *Time Magazine*, February 18 at: <https://bit.ly/37xKdlB>
- “Rents are skyrocketing in many of the small cities people fled to in 2020,” *Business Insider*, February 19 at: <http://bit.ly/2NMVszO>

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### NLIHC Staff

Kyle Arbuckle, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x227  
Olivia Arena, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x209  
Xavier Arriaga, Policy Analyst, x231  
Andrew Aurand, Vice President for Research, x245  
Victoria Bourret, Senior Organizer for Housing Advocacy, x244  
Jen Butler, Director, Media Relations and Communications, x239  
Alayna Calabro, Policy Analyst–COVID-19 Response, x252  
Josephine Clarke, Senior Executive Assistant, x226  
Bairy Diakite, Operations Manager, x254  
Emma Foley, Research Intern, x249  
Dan Emmanuel, Senior Research Analyst, x316  
Ed Gramlich, Senior Advisor, x314  
Kim Johnson, Housing Policy Analyst, x243  
Jameil Johnson, Graphic Design/Communications intern  
Paul Kealey, Chief Operating Officer, x232  
Mike Koprowski, Director, Multisector Housing Campaign, x317  
Joseph Lindstrom, Director, Field Organizing, x222  
Mayerline Louis-Juste, Communications Specialist, x201  
Sarah Saadian, Vice President, Public Policy, x228  
Khara Norris, Senior Director of Administration, x242  
Neetu Nair, Research Analyst, x291  
Noah Patton, Housing Policy Analyst, x227  
Ikra Rafi, Creative Services Specialist, x246  
Catherine Reeves, Development Coordinator, x234  
Brooke Schipporeit, Housing Advocacy Organizer, x233  
Kevin Tan, Graphic Design/Communications intern  
Dan Threet, Research Analyst, x202  
Chantelle Wilkinson, Housing Campaign Manager, x230  
Renee Willis, Vice President for Field and Communications, x247  
Rebecca Yae, Senior Research Analyst–COVID-19 Response  
Diane Yentel, President and CEO, x225