



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Changing Political Landscape: 4 Ways You Can Take Action

Wednesday, February 22

Who is NLIHC?



The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. Our goals are to preserve existing federally assisted homes and housing resources, expand the supply of low income housing, and establish housing stability as the primary purpose of federal low income housing policy.

Become a NLIHC Member here: <http://nlihc.org/membership>

Sign up for our policy updates and Calls-to-Action: <http://bit.ly/2keDsei>

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www.nlihc.org

4 Ways You Can Take Action:



1. Protect Affordable Housing Resources
2. Protect the Housing Trust Fund
3. Reprioritize Federal Spending on Housing
4. Include Housing in any Infrastructure Spending Bill

1. Protect Affordable Housing Resources



Stop Further Cuts in the FY 2017 Budget:

The government is operating under a Continuing Resolution through April 2017. The Trump administration and many conservatives in Congress want to enact even deeper cuts to non-defense programs, including affordable housing.

HUD needs \$1.5 billion in additional funding over FY 2016 enacted levels in order to maintain existing rental assistance contracts and funding levels. More than 100,000 Housing Choice Vouchers could be lost. **For more information, see:** http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/CHCDF_Opposition-to-Long-Term-CR_FY17.pdf

Please urge your Members of Congress to ensure no further cuts to housing programs. Tell them what further budget cuts will mean for your communities.

Lift the Spending Caps in FY 2018:



The *Budget Control Act of 2011* set in motion very low spending caps on federal spending on defense and non-defense programs. Since then, Congress has reached short-term agreements to increase spending above these limits. However, spending caps return for the FY 2018 budget and pose a significant risk.

President Trump wants to lift the cap on defense spending only, putting the full weight of these budget limitations on non-defense programs, including affordable housing. He also proposed cutting non-defense spending by an additional 1% each year for the next 10 years—a proposal that could devastate HUD programs and likely increase housing poverty and homelessness.

Please ask your Members of Congress to:

- **Lift the harmful spending caps.**
- **Ensure parity (1:1) between defense and non-defense programs.**
- **Provide the highest allocation possible for housing programs.**

Please sign onto this national letter: <http://bit.ly/2jaEF4F>



2. Protect the National Housing Trust Fund



Significant Threats to the National HTF in the Next Congress

Threats include:

- Budget reconciliation process – Using HTF dollars to offset cost of tax reform
- Appropriations process – Using HTF dollars to plug HUD budget holes
- Repeal of authorizing legislation – Renewed efforts to eliminate the HTF

Tell your Members of Congress why the HTF is critically needed and should be protected, especially if your Senators or Representatives serve on the Banking/Financial Services Committees or Appropriations Committees.

3. Reprioritize Federal Spending on Housing



Reform the Mortgage Interest Deduction and Reinvest in Key Housing Programs

Congress will address tax reform in 2017, and MID will be on the table. We need to ensure that these resources are reinvested into affordable housing solutions for those with the greatest needs.

NLIHC's United for Homes campaign seeks to enact modest reforms to the MID in order to expand its availability to low and moderate income homeowners and to reinvest billions of dollars in savings into affordable rental housing programs that serve families with the greatest needs. Our proposal would give 15 million additional homeowners who currently do not benefit from MID a tax break and would generate \$241 billion in savings over 10 years to be reinvested into affordable rental housing for the lowest income people.

Endorse the United for Homes campaign: <http://bit.ly/1UHm3nV>



4. Include Housing in any Infrastructure Spending Bill



Affordable Housing Infrastructure Is Key to Long-Term Economic Growth

NLIHC urges Congress to expand the Housing Trust Fund, provide funding to repair and rehabilitate public housing, increase Housing Choice Vouchers, and make affordable housing developments eligible for any infrastructure bank or tax incentives. **For NLIHC's Housing Infrastructure Factsheet, see: <http://bit.ly/2fDBAIX>**

Senate Democrats released a \$1 trillion infrastructure blueprint that includes funding for affordable housing.

Please ask your Member of Congress to include affordable housing in any infrastructure spending bill.

On Our Radar...



House Republicans' *A Better Way* Anti-Poverty Plan

- Proposes [welfare reform-style changes](#) to housing programs, including work requirements and time limits that [could lead to deeper poverty](#). [Extreme poverty doubled under welfare reform](#).
- We may also see attempts to block grant housing programs to the states.
- Opportunities to improve voucher administration and mobility.

Attacks on Fair Housing

- Look out for language on spending bills that would prevent HUD from implementing its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule. Likely HUD Secretary Ben Carson called it "[social engineering](#)" and federal overreach.
- We need to educate Congress on why AFFH will help promote economic mobility by allowing more people to live in communities with access to good schools, jobs, and transit.

Threats/ Opportunities for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit

- The goal of tax reform is to lower corporate tax rates. To do so, Congress would need to eliminate nearly all tax expenditures, putting the Housing Credit at risk. It is critical to continue to build support—especially among Republicans—for [S.3237, introduced by Senator Cantwell \(D-WA\) and Hatch \(R-UT\), to expand and improve the Housing Credit so that it better serves people with the greatest, clearest needs](#).
- Opportunities through an Infrastructure spending bill.

Your Delegation



Senator Murray (D) – Appropriations, THUD Subcommittee

Senator Cantwell (D) – Finance Committee

Rep. DelBene (D-WA-01) – Ways and Means Committee

Rep. Larsen (D-WA-02)

Rep. Herrera-Beutler (R-WA-03) – Appropriations Committee

Rep. Newhouse (R-WA-04) – Appropriations Committee

Rep. McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05) – Republican Leadership

Rep. Kilmer (D-WA-06) – Appropriations Committee

Rep. Jayapal (D-WA-07)

Rep. Reichert (R-WA-08) – Ways and Means Committee

Rep. Smith (D-WA-09)

Rep. Heck (D-WA-10) – Financial Services Committee



Questions?

For More Information:



Sarah Mickelson, Public Policy Director

smickelson@nlihc.org

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