



Federal News

House Appropriations Committee Approves HUD Funding Bill, Raids National Housing Trust Fund

On May 13, the House Appropriations Committee [approved](#) the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill by a party-line vote. The bill cuts the appropriation for the HOME Program, going on to replace those funds with all the money designated for the National Housing Trust Fund. Furthermore, the legislation forbids Congress from directing any funds to the National Housing Trust Fund in the future. The White House released [fact sheets on state-by-state fact impacts](#) of the bill, which would cut and underfund many housing programs. In a letter to the Appropriations Chair, OMB Director Shaun Donovan raised numerous objections to the THUD bill, noting that the bill fails to provide sufficient funding to renew 28,000 existing housing choice vouchers and does not provide any funding for the 67,000 vouchers lost by the 2013 sequester not yet restored by Congress. Read the [NLIHC analysis](#) and [budget chart](#). No date has been set yet for the full House to consider the HUD funding bill.

Congress Passes Concurrent Budget Resolution with Sequester Spending Caps

The House and Senate passed a concurrent budget resolution for FY16, which is meant to set spending caps for the Appropriations Committees to follow in drafting spending bills.

The concurrent budget resolution continues sequester spending caps for FY16 but circumvents sequester spending caps for defense spending by putting nearly \$40 billion of off-budget funds in a Pentagon account. It also includes instructions to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Federal Reserve Seeks Applicants for New Community Advisory Council

The Federal Reserve Board of is accepting [Statements of Interest](#) from individuals who wish to serve on the Community Advisory Council. Statements must be received by June 12, 2015. The Board plans to fill the 15 seats on the advisory council with a diverse group of experts and representatives of consumer and community development organizations and interests, including from such fields as affordable housing, community and economic development, small business, and asset and wealth building who will provide a range of

perspectives on the economic circumstances and financial services needs of consumers and communities.

Economic Development Administration Launches Communities That Work Partnership

The Department of Commerce and the Aspen Institute launched the [Communities that Work Partnership](#) on April 27. The partnership will competitively select six teams around the country comprised of leaders in industry, government, education, workforce and economic development. These teams will receive technical assistance and participate in leadership development activities to strengthen regional skills development strategies that meet both businesses' and workers' needs. The results will inform and improve talent development efforts across the country. The deadline is June 5.

HUD and VA Announce \$65 Million in Rental Assistance for Homeless Veterans

HUD and the Veterans Administration announced nearly \$65 million to help more than 9,300 homeless veterans find permanent homes. The [rental assistance announced](#) on April 20 is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the VA.

NACEDA News

NACEDA Joins Tax Alliance for Economic Mobility

The Tax Alliance for Economic Mobility is a national coalition of more than 30 organizations who educate and engage their respective networks about why equitable, inclusive, and progressive tax reform is crucial to building the long-term security of families, communities, and the national economy. CFED and PolicyLink lead the coalition.

The U.S. tax system encourages Americans to save and invest through tax deductions, credits, exclusions, and other benefits that increase families' long-term financial security and strengthen the national economy. The Tax Alliance draws attention to the fact that the vast majority of these tax benefits accrue to wealthy households.

According to [CFED research](#) of some of the largest of these tax programs, the top one percent of households receives more benefits than the bottom 80 percent combined.

The Alliance recently submitted a [letter](#) to the Senate Finance Committee tax reform working groups with recommendations aimed at shrinking the wealth gap and helping lower-income households save and build assets. Proposed reforms include improving the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, establishing universal savings accounts at birth, creating a new Entrepreneurs Tax Credit, and bolstering the President's myRA proposal.

NACEDA and Partners Urge Congress Not to Steal Homes from Lowest Income Americans

NACEDA is active in the HOME Advocacy Coalition and the Coalition for Housing and Community Development Funding. Both national coalitions strongly oppose the diversion of funds from the National Housing Trust Fund to the HOME program and are advocating on Capitol Hill. HOME and the National Housing Trust Fund serve distinctly different populations and work together to provide a ladder of opportunity to the middle class. Read the [HOME Advocacy Coalition fact sheet](#) on the differences between the two programs. Watch for action alerts as the HUD funding bill progresses through Congress and the Senate.

Member News

Housing Developers in Seattle Area Focus On Their Own Racial Equity Practices

The [Housing Development Consortium](#) (HDC) in King County, WA developed the Racial Equity Initiative in order to help their members apply a racial equity lens to their practices. The program was born out of discussions with their Resident Services Affinity Group and made possible by a technical assistance grant from the Seattle Office of Civil Rights.

A primary component of the project is the [Racial Equity Toolkit](#), which includes guidelines, language, ideas, worksheets and exercises to:

- Educate on racial equity;
- Identify racial issues in organizations;
- Create a plan for change;
- Implement the tools for the future.

"This idea that the dominant culture runs and leads our affordable housing work, and people of color rent or buy the products is not just a perception. We are grateful that HDC members' front line staff, through our Resident Services Affinity Group, are helping all of HDC confront this structure and create movement toward racial equity in our work," write Marty Kooistra and Dan Cantrall of HDC in the forward to the toolkit.

DC Small Business Policy Project Launches DCSmallBizLoans.com

[DCSmallBizLoans.com](#) is a new customized web-based lending platform designed to make it easier for entrepreneurs to access the capital they need to grow successful businesses. Based on a customized lending platform developed by Biz2Credit, it expands the capacity of local community development financial institutions (CDFIs). The launch of DCSmallBizLoans.com is an important step in implementing recommendations made by the Small Business Policy Project to improve the environment for small businesses in Washington, DC. The project is co-convened by DC's Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) and the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development. Read the [CNHED press release](#).

Enterprise Launches Make Room Campaign to End Rental Affordability Crisis

One in four American families pay more than half their income in rent. That's the focus on the [Make Room Campaign](#) launched on May 1 by Enterprise and with support from the MacArthur Foundation. The campaign is staging concerts, convening forums, and sharing stories to deepen awareness of the impact of the affordability crisis is having on 11 million households. On the first of every month, when rent is traditionally due, the campaign will stage a concert in the living room of a family struggling to make their rent.

State Fact Sheets on Rental Assistance

The Center for Budget & Policy Priorities released new [state fact sheets](#) on federal rental assistance and Housing Choice Vouchers. The fact sheets provide data on the households they help, the households they don't reach due to limited funding, the impact of recent funding cuts, and figures on homelessness. The state fact sheets have graphics that can be easily shared on social media.

NLIHC Releases Out of Reach 2015 Report

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's [Out of Reach 2015 report](#) finds that the 2015 National Housing Wage is \$19.35, meaning that someone working full-time, 40 hours a week, would need to earn \$19.35 per hour in order to afford a modest two-bedroom rental unit while spending no more than 30% of household income on housing costs. In 13 states and the District of Columbia, the Housing Wage is more than \$20 per hour. The 2015 Housing Wage is now 2.7 times the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. There is no state in the country where someone earning either the state or federal minimum wage can afford even a one-bedroom apartment renting at the HUD Fair Market Rent. The [new interactive website](#) allows you to compare jurisdictions, find key facts on each state, and use report graphics.

Events and Educational Opportunities

Update on 2016 HUD Funding and Data You Can Use - May 21 webinar. [Center on Budget & Policy Priorities webinar](#) on Congressional actions, focusing on rental assistance programs.

Baltimore and Beyond: Creating Opportunity in Places - May 21 in Washington, DC + webcast. [Brookings event and webcast](#) from 9-11 am EDT.

Putting Families First Message Research Webinar - May 29. [Center for Community Change webinar](#) on how to talk about poverty is based on two years of messaging research and is part of the [Putting Families First](#) campaign. 12:30-2:00 pm EDT.

Leading Change Summit - September 13-16 in Washington, DC. [Apply for a scholarship](#)

by June 30. Applicants must be able to describe a technology project or strategic goal related to technology that they plan to design and develop further at the [summit](#) and implement in their organization.

Share your events with the NACEDA network. Contact sgunther@naceda.org

Funding Opportunities & Resources

Health Profession Opportunity Grants - HHS. For TANF recipients and low-income populations via nonprofits. May 29 deadline. [Announcement](#).

Community Partners Grants - Lowes. For upgrading buildings, grounds, technology and safety. May 30 and August 29 deadlines. [Application](#).

What Works Cities - Bloomberg Philanthropies. Accepting [Statements of Interest](#) from cities with populations of 100,000 to 1,000,000.

Affordable Housing Program Competitive Program - FHLBank Atlanta. [AHP Competitive](#) provides up to \$500,000 in real estate equity. July 2 deadline.

Lideres - Coors Light. \$25,000 grant towards a community project for Hispanic individuals. June 5 deadline. [Nomination](#).

Economic Development Assistance Programs - EDA. Promote regional economic growth through job creation and attracting private investment. June 12 deadline. Search opportunity #EDAP2015 on [grants.gov](#).

Empowerment Awards - Promontory. Recognize projects that provide or encourage safe and fair financial services for underserved communities. June 12 deadline. [Award](#).

Refugee Family Childcare Microenterprise Development Program - HHS. Economic self-sufficiency for refugees. June 15 deadline. [Application](#).

Farmer's Market SNAP Support Grants - USDA. Support participation of farmer's markets by providing resources to new markets and current participants. June 18 deadline. [Opportunity](#).

Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program - HUD. Identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible locations. June 23 deadline. [Opportunity](#).

Veteran Housing Grants - Home Depot Foundation. For the development and repair of veterans' housing. June 23 deadline. [Application](#).

Responsible Fatherhood Opportunities for Reentry and Mobility - Administration of Children and Families. Supportive services for transitioning fathers. June 7 deadline. [Information](#).

State Giving Program - Walmart Foundation. Career Opportunity, Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating. July 17 and September 18 deadlines. [Announcement](#).

Technical Assistance Scholarship Program - Center for Community Change. Seeds innovation to tackle vacancy and abandonment. June 30 deadline. [Application](#).

Open Meadows Foundation Grants for Women and Girls - OMF. Projects that promote gender, racial and economic justice. August 15 deadline. [Information](#).

Rural Business Enterprise Grants - USDA. Targeted technical assistance, training etc. for small and emerging private businesses. Rolling deadline. [Announcement](#).

Emerging Leaders Opportunity - SBA. Executive level training initiative for urban, small business owners. [Application](#).

Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program - EDA. - For the creation of regional economic development plans. Rolling deadlines. Search on grants.gov: EDAPLANNING2012

Publications

The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility: Childhood Exposure Effects and County-Level Estimates

Poor children who grow up in some cities and towns have sharply better odds of escaping poverty than similar poor children elsewhere, finds a major new [study](#) by Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren of Harvard University. By studying the earnings records of millions of families that moved with children, they found that every extra year of childhood spent in a better neighborhood seems to improve the child's chances of success. The study estimates of the causal effect of each county in the U.S. on a child's chances of success; however, some community development thought leaders are raising concerns about using county-wide data to draw conclusions at the neighborhood level. Read the [executive summary](#).

Building Sustainable Communities: Integrated Services and Improved Financial Outcomes for Low-Income Households

LISC [study](#) analyzed outcomes from 40,000 people who visited Financial Opportunity Centers. Data shows that those who took advantage of bundled services that focused on employment, income supports and financial management skills made significant, lasting progress-with incomes expanding by an encouraging 76 percent.

The GSEs' Shrinking Role in the Multifamily Market

This Urban Institute [report](#) finds that even though the GSEs (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) have met or exceeded their multifamily housing goals in recent years, financing for certain under-served segments of the market has fallen steeply. It recommend that policymakers and regulators consider maintaining or increasing the GSEs' footprint in the multifamily market, especially in under-served segments.

Employment Opportunities

Post a job opening in the NACEDA newsletter. A \$25 contribution is requested for each job posting. Contact Suzanne Gunther at sgunther@naceda.org and provide a URL link to the full job description.

National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations

email: info@naceda.org

phone: (202) 518-2660

web: <http://www.naceda.org>