



## 2019 Congressional Reception Federal Policy Priorities

The 2019 Annual Congressional Reception will take place on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Washington, D.C.

The theme of this year's Congressional Reception is *Opportunity Starts at Home: Building a Necessary and Secure Foundation for Healthy Communities*. The Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign, spearheaded by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), is designed to address the needs of renters and low-income households in our communities.

This year's Federal Policy Priorities are around the following key areas: Housing and Services, Medicaid, Affordable Homes, Fair Housing, and Housing Development.

Attendees will hear from speakers highlighting housing is a right, housing is health care, and housing creates healthy communities.

### Housing & Services

*We request that our elected officials support an increase of \$217 million to \$2.6 billion in funding for the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Grants.* The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants help Americans experiencing homelessness receive adequate outreach, shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, rent subsidies, and permanent housing. This increase will ensure that people impacted by homelessness receive necessary services in order to produce change.

### Medicaid

*We request that our elected officials oppose any replacement of the Affordable Care Act that eliminates Medicaid expansion which assists in ensuring that people experiencing homelessness receive critical healthcare services.* Medicaid provides health insurance to parents/caretakers and dependent children, pregnant women, and people who are aged, blind or disabled.

### Affordable Homes

*We request that our elected officials protect and expand the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program to help connect families to areas of opportunity with access to good schools, well-paying jobs, healthcare and transit.* Vouchers have proven to reduce child poverty, stabilize families, and contribute to healthy communities. Fully funding vouchers in use, increasing the number of vouchers, and incentivizing state and regional voucher administration are essential in ensuring accessible and affordable homes for all Americans.

### Fair Housing

*We request that our elected officials ensure effective fair housing enforcement and provide the necessary resources to assist jurisdictions in complying with the Fair Housing Act.* The Trump Administration has endangered fair housing. Increasing funding to ensure effective fair housing enforcement is necessary to ensure that jurisdictions comply with the Fair Housing Act.

Enforcement of and compliance with the Fair Housing Act includes the duty of jurisdictions to affirmatively further fair housing.

### **Housing Development**

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit)** - *We request that our elected officials expand and improve the Housing Credit to better target resources to households with the greatest needs and to increase the availability of safe and affordable housing.* The Housing Credit is responsible through financing for nearly all of the affordable housing built and preserved since the program was authorized through tax reform in 1986.

**National Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** – *We request that our elected officials fund a \$5 billion expansion of the national HTF in an infrastructure package. In this infrastructure package, \$3.5 billion should be dedicated to comprehensive housing finance reform.* The HTF is targeted towards the building, rehabilitating, preserving and operating of rental housing for extremely low-income people. Expanding funding for the HTF makes a broader commitment to access to and affordability of housing.