

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

ADVOCATES PLAN DAY OF ACTION ON JULY 29 TO CALL FOR GREATER FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOMES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For Immediate Release

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(June 12, 2017, Washington, DC) – The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) and other state, local, and national leaders call on advocates, elected officials, and concerned citizens to participate in the *Our Homes, Our Voices* Day of Action on July 29 to bring more attention to America’s affordable housing crisis. Coordinated activities will be held in cities across the nation to call for a greater investment in affordable homes and community development.

“No matter who you are, you have a right to a safe, affordable home,” said Maria Foscarinis, founder and executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. “For too long, America’s most vulnerable—low income and homeless families—have been ignored by our elected officials, and communities must come together now to demand affordable housing for all Americans.”

Far too many families—including low income seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and families with children—struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Nationwide, more people are renting their homes than ever before. But our investments in affordable housing have not kept pace. Today, three out of four families in need of federal housing assistance are turned away due to a lack of funding. As a result, millions of people do not have an affordable place to call home and half a million people live on the street, in shelters, or in their cars on any given night. Every state and community is impacted.

Even worse, many communities now make it illegal to sleep, sit or even eat in public places, even in the absence of any alternatives. Criminalizing homelessness harms people, wastes taxpayer funds, and doesn’t solve the problem. “Permanent housing is the most effective solution to homelessness and costs taxpayers less money than arresting and jailing homeless people,” said Foscarinis.

This year, federal investments in affordable housing face significant budget threats. In the name of deficit reduction, Congress has put in place low spending caps that starve low income families and communities of the resources they need to thrive. President Trump has proposed even deeper cuts in 2018, which would slash federal investments in affordable housing by \$7.4 billion or 15

percent. Instead of reducing our nation's investments in affordable housing, we should make a bold and sustained commitment to ensure that everyone has a safe, accessible and affordable home. This starts with Congress rejecting the President's 2018 budget proposal, lifting the spending caps equally for defense and domestic programs, and fully investing in affordable housing resources that help low income families keep a roof over their heads.

Organizations, elected officials, and individuals who would like to participate in the *Our Homes, Our Voices* Day of Action should contact ourhomes@nlihc.org.

The following national, state, and local organizations are partners for *Our Homes, Our Voices*: The National Low Income Housing Coalition, B'nai B'rith International, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, Enterprise Community Partners, Habitat for Humanity, Housing Assistance Council, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, National Network to End Domestic Violence, New York Housing Conference, and Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

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The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) is an education, strategy, and action hub for national organizations dedicated to preserving and expanding federal housing and community development funding for lower-income families and communities. CHCDF's members include a full continuum of national housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, nonprofit, private sector, financial/intermediary, public sector and advocacy groups.

The [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (NLCHP) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.