



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

Because of the evolving nature of public policy, Funders Together to End Homelessness will now provide bi-weekly updates to keep you abreast of current policy developments. These updates will also provide details on actions for philanthropy and how we can influence long-term change.

What's Happening: Eviction Moratorium Overturned

Late Thursday night, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that [blocked the new eviction moratorium](#), saying the CDC did not have the authority to issue it. The ruling, which puts approximately 3.5 millions individuals at risk of eviction, comes after an emergency petition by the Alabama and Georgia Associations of Realtors and National Association of Realtors. As of Thursday night, eviction protections are no longer active for individuals who are unable to pay rent due to COVID-19 hardships.

Funders Together is strategizing with our partners to [understand next steps](#) and where philanthropy can be most effective. Keep an eye on your inbox for additional updates and calls to action around this and how we protect those who are most at risk of housing instability.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

As communities grapple with the effects from this ruling, philanthropy can focus on:

- providing capacity to expedite emergency rental assistance to those in need, prioritizing individuals who are from communities that have been historically marginalized, and also provide flexible dollars for organizations on the ground for direct cash assistance.
- supporting [eviction diversion programs](#).
- funding community outreach and engagement to remind community stakeholders of services available to tenants and eviction moratoria in place in states that have issued one such as California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Washington State, and Washington, D.C.
- ensuring representation for tenants by supporting onsite legal assistance at the courts as well as onsite ERA support.

Funders can also share [resources with your grantee partners](#), which can be found in the Resource Round-Up below. The [notes and resources](#) from the [August 12 Philanthropy Eviction Prevention Strategy Session](#), hosted by Melville Charitable Trust, also provides some concrete action steps philanthropy can take to protect renters who are facing eviction.

As mentioned, Funders Together is working with our partners to strategize next steps around advocacy for federal, state, and local action to continue protections and distribute ERA funds as equitably and efficiently as possible.

What's Happening: New Historic Investments in Housing

On Tuesday, the [House approved the budget resolution](#) that paves the way for a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure and economic recovery package, including critical and unprecedented investments in affordable housing up to \$339 billion. Now, the Senate Banking Committee and Housing Financial Services Committee will begin drafting the allocations and dividing the resources between housing and transportation programs. We expect a vote on the bills in committee by mid-September so it is critical the field is prioritizing its policy and advocacy efforts around securing the most federal funds possible for housing and homelessness services.

Funders Together is advocating for robust federal resources to be allocated to housing and homelessness services and stressing the necessity of these investments. Through the [National Coalition for Housing Justice](#), we are working with partners to secure community, organizational, and policymaker [sign-ons](#) to call for Congress to:

- Expand Rental Assistance: \$180B Increase in Housing Choice Vouchers
- Preserve Existing Public Housing: \$70B in Public Housing Infrastructure Investments
- Increase Affordable Housing Production and Preservation: \$45B in the National Housing Trust Fund

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

If you can engage in direct lobbying, [sign on to and share the HoUSed Sign-On Letter](#) that urges Congress to enact bold, long-term solutions for housing that is universal, stable, and affordable. Funders Together and our partners are working to secure as many community and organizational sign ons as possible to show widespread support and need for these investments.

If you are unable to partake in direct lobbying activities, contact your federal policymakers to educate and inform them about what you are seeing in your community and hearing from grantee partners around housing needs and housing instability.

Remember: Public and private foundations may educate legislators about a broad range of issues without referencing or providing views on specific legislation. Public and private foundations can also provide capacity for grantee partners to contact their Representatives and Senators on behalf of their community.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Justice Requires Resources and Transformation

While the pandemic has brought much-needed attention to our nation's housing crisis, funding and resources alone will not rectify the decades of racist housing policies that led us here. And with the eviction moratorium overturned, more people, specifically those in communities that have been marginalized, will be impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Housing justice requires transformative action: moving power and decision-making away from institutions and systems that traditionally hold it and shifting it to people who are most impacted. Without changes in power structures, these federal resources will inevitably perpetuate racial inequity.

Equitable decision-making structures must supplant current ones that perpetuate white dominant culture and marginalize communities of color. The Biden Administration and Congress are making strides toward addressing racial inequity, particularly through their efforts to fund public services and housing supports at the necessary levels. However, more must be done. We need to transform the system and the way we work, an undertaking that can be made easier with both philanthropic and political support.

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together:**
 - [Opportunities to Invest in Housing Justice by Leveraging Federal Resources](#)
 - [Federal Resources, Local Impact: Q&A with National Policy Experts](#)

- [The Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities Information Session](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
 - [Introduction to Budget "Reconciliation"](#)
 - [Eviction Moratorium Twitter Thread by Ann Oliva](#)
 - [Federal Investment Needs Twitter Thread by Anna Bailey](#)
- **Melville Charitable Trust:**
 - [Philanthropy Eviction Prevention Strategy Session Notes and Resources](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:**
 - [National Alliance to End Homelessness Calls on State and Local Leaders to Distribute Emergency Rental Assistance Funds Immediately](#)
 - [What's New in the 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
 - [EHVs and Beyond: Fostering and Maintaining Collaboration Between CoCs and PHAs](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
 - [End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions](#)
 - [State and Local Rental Assistance](#)
 - [Supreme Court Lifts CDC Eviction Moratorium, Millions of Renters Immediately at Risk](#)
- **NPR:**
 - [House Narrowly Approved \\$3.5 Trillion Budget Blueprint](#)
- **True Colors Fund:**
 - [SCOTUS Blocks Eviction Moratorium: Here's What It Means](#)
- **Urban Institute:**
 - [Eviction Prevention and Diversion Programs: Early Lessons from the Pandemic](#)
- **USICH:**
 - [Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide for People At Risk of Eviction](#)

Please note: Access to Funders Together webinar and call recordings are only available to Full Members of Funders Together. If you are interested in joining to view these recordings as well as gain access to other Full Member benefits, contact Stephanie Chan, stephanie@funderstogether.org or visit our [Join Us page](#).

As always, we are here to answer your questions or provide insights on public policy developments and opportunities. Please reach out to me or [Amanda](#) at any time.

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