



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

Upcoming Policy Call: [Leveraging Federal Resources to Equitably Build Back Better](#)

Join us on Tuesday, November 30 at 3pm ET / 12pm PT to hear from Ann Oliva, Vice President for Housing at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Sarah Saadian, Vice President of Public Policy at the National Low Income Housing Coalition as they review what's happening with housing resources in the Build Back Better Act, next steps around the investments, and the importance of coalition work in public policy.

We'll also hear from Peggy Bailey, a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Jennifer Turnham, Director of HUD's Office of Policy Development as they discuss key findings from HUD's [Worst Case Housing Needs report](#) and the implications as we work towards housing justice.

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What's Happening: Build Back Better and \$150B in Housing Investments Expected to Be Voted on Next Week

Because of strategic coalition action and principled advocacy over the last several months, [\\$150B in affordable housing investments](#) were included in the most recent framework for the Build Back Better Act:

- **Permanent Rental Assistance:** \$25 billion to expand rental assistance to hundreds of thousands of additional households through Housing Choice Vouchers and project-based rental assistance with \$7.1B set aside for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness;
- **Public Housing Preservation:** \$65 billion to preserve public housing for 2.5 million residents, \$53 billion is provided for priority investments, \$10 billion is set aside for the Public Housing Capital Fund, and \$2 billion for green preservation of HUD multifamily housing; and
- **HOME and National Housing Trust Fund (HTF):** \$15 billion to build and preserve more than 150,000 homes for people with the greatest needs through the National Housing Trust Fund.

However, these investments are not secured until Congress votes on and passes the bill, which may come next week. Advocates are continuing to call on their Representatives and Senators to encourage their support for these investments in the Build Back Better Act and take up a vote soon.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

If you are a public foundation or United Way and can engage in direct lobbying, call on your Senators and members of Congress to [protect these investments in housing](#) in the Build Back Better Act. Below are the list of key offices for outreach:

- Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV);
- Senator Krysten Sinema (D-AZ);
- Representative Carolyn Bordeaux (D-GA);
- Representative Ed Case (D-HI);
- Representative Jared Golden (D-ME);
- Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ);
- Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL);
- Representative Scott Peters (D-CA);
- Representative Kathleen Rice (D-NY);
- Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR);
- Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-VA); and
- both House and Senate leadership.

If you are a private foundation or 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 affordable housing and housing instability. You can also encourage your trustees to advocate for the Build Back Better Act federal investments in housing and homelessness services. Here's an [overview of priorities necessary to advancing housing justice](#).

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.

If you need assistance or talking points, please [contact us](#) or view the [HoUSed campaign toolkit](#) with talking points.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: John Oliver's Last Week Tonight Segment on Homelessness



John Oliver succeeded in what many before him have failed to do: he told the truth and (almost) the whole truth about homelessness in the United States. While [his powerful Last Week Tonight segment on homelessness](#) didn't center the role of structural racism in shaping and perpetuating homelessness and failed homelessness policy, it was tremendously clear about the hypocrisy and nefarious nature of those policy choices, nationally and in communities across the country. In addition to highlighting data and evidence-based solutions for people experiencing homelessness, Oliver cut through decades of failed policy to highlight just how much work we have ahead to ensure our communities treat all of its residents with dignity and respect and realize the human right to housing.

Takeaways from watching the segment emphasize the [important work of narrative change and messaging](#) around who experiences homelessness and why. The field must be clear and strong in its voice around the root causes of homelessness and the racial inequities within our housing system. We won't effectively change policies to be rooted in housing justice and ending homelessness without public will and that starts

with shifting away from the misunderstanding and misconceptions about people experiencing homelessness.

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
 - [Build Back Better Legislation Would Cut Poverty, Boost Opportunity](#)
 - [BBB Includes Major Investments in Housing Affordability](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:**
 - [This Veterans Day, Let's Prioritize Ending Veteran Homelessness](#)
- **National Coalition for Housing Justice:**
 - [National Coalition for Housing Justice Calls on Congress to Enact Historic Housing Investments in Build Back Better Act](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
 - [Historic Housing Investments in the Build Back Better Act](#)

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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