



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

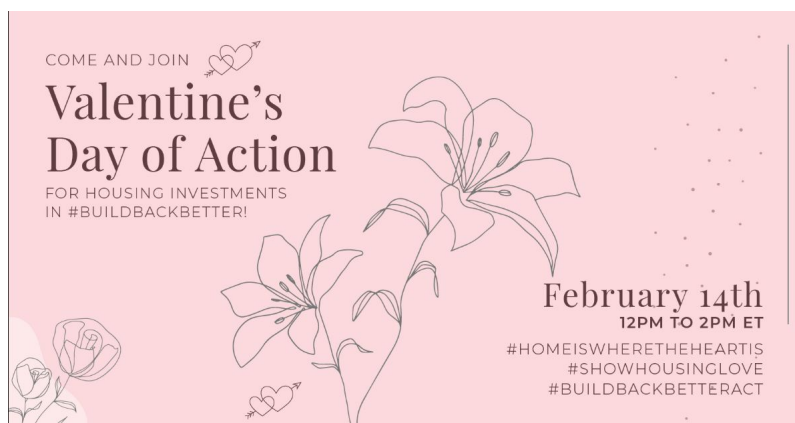
What's Happening: FY22 Federal Budget Framework Forthcoming; Monday 2/14 Day of Action

This week, the House passed another continuing resolution (CR) for the annual federal budget and leaders expect the Senate to do the same in the coming days, which will keep funding flat at FY21 levels in the short term, pushing the deadline for full-year appropriations from February 18 to March 11.

Lawmakers may be coming to an agreement on a framework for an omnibus appropriations bill, but our partners expect we will still need to advocate to ensure substantial increases to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on rates of housing insecurity and homelessness. Continuing resolutions, as opposed to full-year spending bills, destabilize an already difficult environment for community partners and service providers. Inconsistent funding for affordable housing and homeless services has [long-term impacts and creates shortfalls in our communities](#).

Meanwhile, housing investments are still at risk in Build Back Better. As negotiations continue, we are still hearing that resources for housing are likely to be cut in order to accommodate a smaller package. Between a CR with flat funding and the removal of housing resources from Build Back Better, it's critical that the voices of philanthropy and community partners be heard—not just in the halls of Congress, but in living rooms and on Main Streets across the country.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action



Next Monday, February 14, the National Coalition for Low Income Housing Coalition is leading a [Valentine's Day of Action](#) to continue calls for housing investments in the Build Back Better Act. More members of Congress have spoken out about the need to prioritize housing in the renegotiated bill in recent weeks and advocates hope to continue building on that momentum.

From **12-2pm ET / 9-11am PT on Monday**, funders who are able can join the conversation on social media using the hashtags above and encourage your colleagues and partners to participate and learn more about the need for housing advocacy.

In addition, we encourage you to consider using your voice in new or different ways, like through an op-ed as we outlined in our [last policy update](#).

Funders Together is here to help you with social media messaging and framing your op-ed or other media opportunity. If you need assistance or talking points, please contact us or review the [HoUSed campaign toolkit](#) with talking points.

Remember: Public and private foundations may educate legislators about a broad range of issues without referencing or providing views on specific legislation.

What's Happening: National Coalition for Housing Justice Welcomes Jeff Olivet as New USICH Executive Director

This week, the [National Coalition for Housing Justice \(NCHJ\)](#) welcomed the new US Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director, Jeff Olivet. In its statement, NCHJ expresses its support for Jeff and our eagerness to work with him in his new role as we pursue our shared vision of housing justice and a country where everyone has an affordable, safe, accessible, and stable home. We also name the lack of racial diversity and leadership with lived expertise within the field, including organizations within NCHJ, and the importance of reconciling this as a critical pathway towards housing justice. Because of Jeff's knowledge and expertise, we believe he is positioned well to be honest with the field about this critique while working towards transformational change that will end homelessness and lead to racial justice.

Read the full statement on the [NCHJ website here](#).

You can also view Funder Together's statement on Jeff's appointment [here](#).

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Learning from the Past for a More Just Future

As advocacy organizations press our community partners and federal leaders for more investments in housing and social services, we cannot ignore the [history of harm of colorblind policymaking and messaging](#).

Budget meetings and advocacy campaigns will not succeed in the long term if we're not also addressing the violent and harmful media portrayals of people experiencing homelessness in our communities. We all have a role to play in countering the narratives that are used to justify criminalization. Despite CDC guidance, cities are continuing and even increasing encampment sweeps without service connections and over-policing people experiencing homelessness.

As we strive to become more principled, better organized advocates for and with people experiencing homelessness, we cannot be selective in the avenues we choose to address and we must break down our own silos between partnerships, policy, and communication.

Question for our collective work: How can we deepen our relationships with city leaders and get honest about the harms of these policies? How can we leverage our media partnerships to amplify the voices of grassroots partners and activists? How can we support our partners in expanding their communications tools beyond fundraising?

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together to End Homelessness:** [Funders Together Statement on New USICH Executive Director, Jeff Olivet](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:** [Housing Investments in Build Back Better Would Address Pressing Unmet Needs](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:** [Exploring the Potential Impacts of COVID-19 Emergency Housing Resources](#)

- **National Coalition for Housing Justice:** [Statement on the Appointment of Jeff Olivet to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- **The Guardian:** [‘Homelessness is lethal’: US deaths among those without housing are surging](#)
- **University of Southern California Sol Price Center for Social Innovation:** [Who Are the Homeless? Centering Anti-Black Racism and the Consequences of Colorblind Homeless Policies](#)

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.

Lauren Bennett

Director of Communications and Policy

[Funders Together to End Homelessness](#)

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