



## NHC Member Brief



Weekly update from the National Housing Conference

### In this issue

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- You're the first to know: NHC announces 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Honorees
- NHC hiring a Policy Director
- Biden releases housing plan
- Trump announces nomination for Federal Housing Commissioner
- NYU Furman Center to host event on CRA modernization
- **Chart of the Week:** Right to counsel helped reduce evictions in New York

### COVID-19 and Housing

This week, I'm writing to you about a rapidly evolving situation that could have a significant impact on all of us, both personally and professionally: COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus. The latest update from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is direct and clear: "Americans should be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their community. The community can take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy... Until a vaccine is developed, community-based interventions such as school dismissals, event cancellations, social distancing, and creating employee plans to work remotely can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes." Regular updates from the CDC are available [here](#).

It is critical that we stay well-informed about the crisis and take responsible precautions to avoid exposure in our communities as much as possible. This includes the following steps recommended by the CDC, which are useful for avoiding all communicable diseases:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Frequently cleaning and disinfecting touched objects or surfaces, like banisters, countertops and door-handles;
- Staying home when sick, except to get medical care, and
- Washing your hands frequently, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.

[Continue here](#)

## News from Washington | By Tristan Bréaux and Quinn Mulholland

### NHC hiring a Policy Director

NHC Policy Director Tristan Bréaux is stepping down in March to join Representative Joe Cunningham's (D-S.C.) office as Chief of Staff. Tristan has served NHC ably for the past year and a half, and we thank him for all he's done and wish him the best of luck in his new position. We're currently looking for a new policy director, who will play a leading role in Washington, D.C., on housing issues on behalf of our

### Biden releases housing plan

Joe Biden became the latest major Democratic presidential candidate to release [a comprehensive housing platform](#) on Monday, ahead of the South Carolina primary. Biden's plan calls for a new Homeowner and Renter Bill of Rights, a First Down Payment Tax Credit of up to \$15,000, and a \$100 billion Affordable Housing Fund to construct and upgrade affordable housing. The plan also calls for

nearly 275 members, represent NHC in a wide range of housing forums, work with housing leaders from across the country, and manage relationships with policymakers from across the political spectrum. The policy director will play an important and unique role in leading NHC's effort to write and enact a National Housing Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. [Visit here](#) for more information on the position and how to apply, and feel free to share the posting among your networks.

fully funding the federal Housing Choice Voucher program to ensure that everyone who qualifies for vouchers gets one, as well as a host of measures to end homelessness, including ensuring the passage of House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters' Ending Homelessness Act. At the latest Democratic primary debate on Tuesday, several candidates [mentioned their housing proposals](#), including Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren.



## Join David for this #SolutionsComms session: **Telling the Story: Why housing is health care**

*Hear from David on the narratives he uses to emphasize how the integration of housing + health is important for communities.*

**Today is the last day for Early Bird registration!**

## Meet a #SolutionsComms speaker



**David Adame** is president and CEO of Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CLPC), one of the nation's largest Hispanic community development corporations.

## Trump announces nomination for Federal Housing Commissioner

President Trump recently [announced](#) his intent to nominate Dona T. Wade, the former Acting Federal Housing Commissioner and Assistant Secretary for Housing, as Federal Housing Commissioner. If confirmed, Wade would fill the position that Brian Montgomery vacated after Trump nominated him to be the deputy secretary of HUD. Montgomery's nomination [was approved](#) by the Senate Banking Committee in December, and he is now awaiting a full Senate confirmation. Until December 2019, Wade served at the Office of Management and Budget, where she oversaw HUD's budget. She previously served as deputy staff director of the Senate Banking Committee and the Republican deputy staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## NYU Furman Center to host event on CRA modernization

The New York University Furman Center [will host a panel discussion](#) on the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC's) recent proposal to modernize the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) on Tuesday, March 3 in New York. The panel will include **Hope Knight** of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, **Buzz Roberts** of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, **Jennifer Vasiloff** of the Opportunity Finance Network, and **Jaime Weisberg** of the Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development. The OCC [recently announced](#) a 30-day extension in the deadline for public comments [on its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) on CRA modernization, as [NHC had requested](#).

More information on the Furman Center panel and a link to the livestream can be found [here](#).

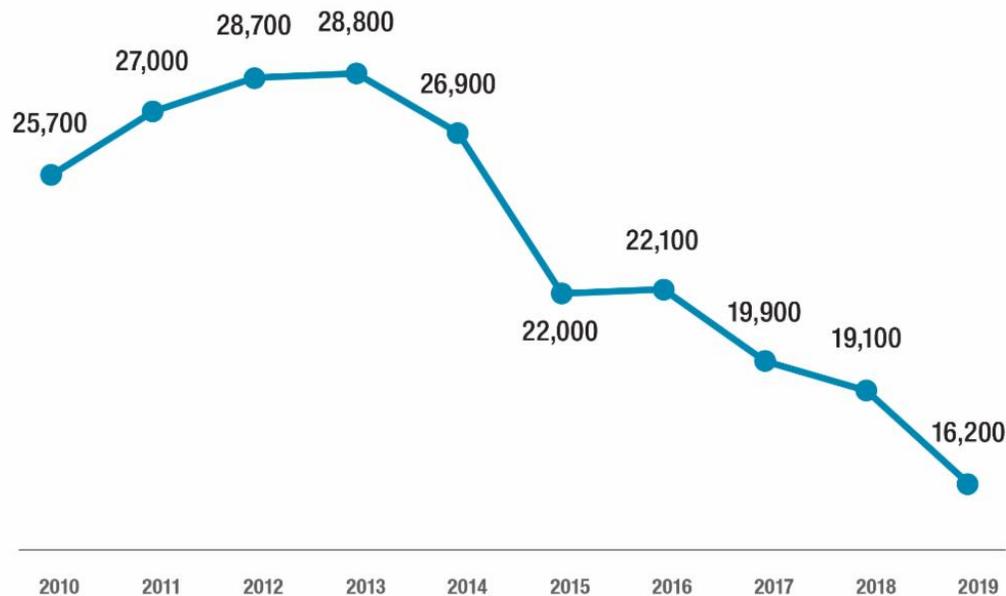
## Chart of the Week

### Right to counsel helped reduce evictions in New York

[An analysis](#) by the **Community Service Society** found that evictions have trended downward in New York City since 2014, as efforts to ensure legal representation for tenants facing eviction and other local

tenant protections have taken effect. According to the analysis, tenants in zip codes covered by a new Right to Counsel law experienced particularly dramatic declines in eviction rates, compared to zip codes not covered by the law.

**FIGURE 3. ORGANIZING, LEGAL SERVICES, AND STRENGTHENED TENANT PROTECTIONS LED TO EVICTION REDUCTIONS IN 2015 AND 2019**



Source: Office of Civil Justice reports and CSS analysis of DOJ eviction data.

## What we're reading

The **Center for American Progress** recently released a report on why the United States has failed to achieve equitable and inclusive communities. The report examines the history of economic development efforts in distressed communities, and solutions for equitable economic development moving forward. [Read the full report here.](#)

An **ABC News** investigation found that over 1 million people across America are living in federal-funded housing that doesn't meet federal standards on smoke detectors. These housing developments, many of which serve elderly and disabled residents, also have other hazards, including electrical hazards and blocked fire exits, according to the investigation. [Read the investigation here.](#)

In an article published on Tuesday, **Vox** dove deep into the prospects for a mortgage and foreclosure crisis caused by climate change. The article found that FEMA flood insurance premiums are soaring, increasing housing costs for many in disaster-prone areas. [Read the article here.](#)

## The week ahead

*Monday, March 2*

- [2020 Illinois Affordable Housing Forum](#), March 2-3

*Tuesday, March 3*

- [NYU Furman Center panel discussion on the proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act](#), 8:30-10 a.m. ET

*Wednesday, March 4*

- [Enterprise Community Partners event on resilient housing design in island communities](#), 9 a.m.-12 p.m. AST

*Thursday, March 5*

- [Smart Growth America course on placemaking with form-based codes](#), March 5-6
- [EPA webinar on rebuilding and resilience after disasters](#), 1-2 p.m. ET
- [Novogradac webinar on the Impact of the OCC-FDIC Proposed Rule on CRA](#), 1-3 p.m. ET
- [NLIHC webinar on effective advocacy](#), 2-3 p.m. ET

*Friday, March 6*

- [HousingWorks Austin summit on rethinking the built environment](#), March 6
- [Enterprise Community Partners event on resilient housing design in island communities](#), 9 a.m.-12 p.m. AST
- [House Financial Services Subcommittee field hearing on modern-day redlining](#), 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ET
- [Harvard Joint Center on Housing Studies event on aging in place](#), 12:12-1:15 p.m. ET

STAY CONNECTED



[www.nhc.org](http://www.nhc.org)

The National Housing Conference has been defending the American Home since 1931. We believe everyone in America should have equal opportunity to live in a quality, affordable home in a thriving community. NHC convenes and collaborates with our diverse membership and the broader housing and community development sectors to advance our policy, research and communications initiatives to effect positive change at the federal, state and local levels. Politically diverse and nonpartisan, NHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

[Join/Renew Today!](#)

*Defending our American Home since 1931*

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