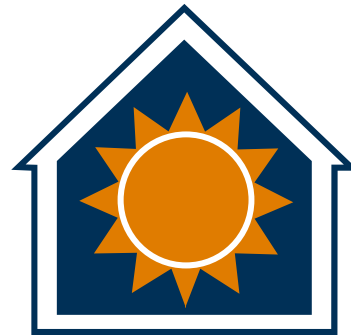


# **Federal Policy & Capitol Hill Day 2023 Overview**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**



**Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania**



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# Today's Agenda

1. Welcome and WHY Capitol Hill Day?
2. Preparing... What will happen BEFORE?
3. Doing... What will happen ON THE DAY?
4. Following Up... What will we do AFTER?
5. Next Steps and Questions

# Why Capitol Hill Day?



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.... Because increasing federal resources will benefit communities and people.

.... Because advocacy works when it is done right.



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# FY 24 Budget

- \$27.4 billion for Section 8 tenant-based vouchers
- Renewing all rental assistance and expanding resources to at least 200,000 additional households
- Fully funding public housing operation and repairs
- Fully funding homeless assistance grants
- Providing \$100 million for legal assistance to prevent evictions.
- Providing \$3 billion for a permanent emergency rental assistance program
  
- Continue to prioritize strengthening the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

# Key Legislative Priorities



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**Choice in Affordable Housing Act – Streamlining and improving the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.** It would reduce inspection delays, create landlord incentives, and facilitate recruitment efforts with local property owners.

- Introduced last session by Senator Cramer (R-ND) and Senator Coons (D-DE) in the Senate and Representative Katko (R-NY) and Representative Cleaver (D-MO) in the House

**Eviction Crisis Act – Would provide emergency, short-term assistance to help stabilize households in crisis – creates *a housing stabilization fund for renter***

- Introduced last session by Senator Portman (R-OH) and Senator Bennet (D-CO) in the Senate and Representative Torres (D-NY) in the House

**Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act – Strengthen the Housing Credit to maximize impact in communities facing the greatest need.**

- Introduced last session by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Todd Young (R-IN), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Rob Portman (R-OH) and Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Jackie Walorski (R-IN), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)



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# Messaging Framework

- Stay solution focused - We know what works;
- Know your representatives and their key concerns; thank them for their support on key issues
- Keep focus on how federal programs will help Pennsylvanians
- Need federal help, especially from elected officials, to stop evictions that will help stop homelessness and create more affordable housing
- Messaging focused beyond the pandemic while acknowledging the long-term and long-lasting effects of the pandemic.

**MAIN MESSAGE:** These solutions addressing evictions and affordable housing create a more economically stable Commonwealth for all of us.



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# Before The Day

The Housing Alliance will:

- Schedule appointments up until March 10th
- Prepare packets for meetings
- Organize teams
- Host planning meetings on:
  - Policy priorities
  - Schedule of the day
  - How to have an effective legislative visit
  - Individualize plans for each meeting
    - **Save the date for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11AM**



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# Contents of Packets

## What the Housing Alliance Provides

- Legislative Meeting Guide
- Talking Points (advocate packet only)
- Policy Priorities
- Fact Sheets
  - Policy Fact Sheets
  - County/State Fact Sheets
- Schedule of the Day

## What can you bring?

- Any information about your program or need

**Pennsylvania (Statewide)**  
**Housing Needs Snapshot**

We all need a safe and decent place to call home

A home is foundational to accessing quality jobs, education opportunities, maintaining good health, and has the power to break the cycle of poverty.

However, there is a critical shortage of affordable homes in Pennsylvania: for every **100** extremely low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities renting in PA, only **39** affordable rental homes are available to them.

An extremely low-income family lives on less than **\$24,300** a year and may be forced to sacrifice paying for food, healthcare, or education needs to keep the roof over their heads.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition The Gap Report (2021)

**Rent burdens are deeply inequitable**

The lack of affordable housing leads to deep rent burdens, and this burden is not felt equally. In Pennsylvania, renters of color are more likely to face unaffordable rents, with **55% of Latino renters** paying more than 30% of income on rent. Lessening the burden of paying for a home is a critical part of advancing racial equality.

Source: HUD OHAS (2014-2018), Table 9

Race	Percentage of renters paying more than 30% of income on rent
Black	55%
Latino	55%
White	40%

**We need more homes for essential workers**

Occupation	PA Average Wage
Teaching assistant	~\$10.5
Health aide	~\$10.5
Childcare worker	~\$10.5
Ambulance driver	~\$15.5

In Pennsylvania, a worker needs to earn **\$19.95** an hour to afford rent for a modest 2-bedroom home.

More affordable homes would help essential workers in PA give their families a stable foundation to build on, especially for workers in marginalized communities who are likely to earn less.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition Out of Reach Report (2021), PA DU tabulation of OCVS data (2020)

The Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition working to provide leadership and a common voice for policies, practices and resources to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, especially those with low incomes, have access to safe, decent and affordable homes. We promote common-sense solutions to balance Pennsylvania's housing market and increase the supply of safe, decent homes for low-income people. Visit us at <https://housingalliancepa.org/>





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# Schedule for the Day

- Congressman Deluzio (D17) - 10:00 AM
- Congressman Kelly (D16) - 11:00 AM
- Congressman FitzPatrick (D1) - 12:30 PM\*
- Senator Fetterman - 1:30 PM
- Senator Casey- 2:30 PM\*
- Congresswoman Dean (D4) -3:30 PM\*



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# What you can do to prepare

Prepare to have a few sentences on how housing resources are implemented in your community:

- How do you use Federal Housing and/or Rental Assistance funding in your community?
- What would you do with more resources like the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit?
- And Remember- You do not need to become an expert on tax credit or any other policies



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# How to Have an Effective Legislative Visit

- Team Leader opens the meeting with the reason you are visiting their office today
- Everyone goes around, introduces themselves, and states why they are at the meeting
- The Team Leader tells the staff or legislator what the group is asking for the legislator to support/do
- Hold a conversation around these issues
- Team Leader closes the meeting, restates the asks of the group, and thanks the staff/legislator for their time and support

# Next Steps



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- ✓ Prepare your story
- ✓ Please feel free to bring informational materials about your organization
- ✓ Please attend individual planning meetings on Wednesday, March 15th , at 11:00 am (invite to be sent out after today's webinar)
- ✓ Please remember that you have to register separately to attend Capitol Hill Day on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Washington D.C
  - ✓ Your registration must be completed by March 10<sup>th</sup> if you want us to schedule a meeting on your behalf.

## Questions?

# Contact information



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