



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

Action for Philanthropy: Write Op-Eds, Blog Posts, and Letters to the Editor

Now is the time for philanthropy to use your voice and influence through media opportunities, like op-eds, to emphasize the housing needs in your community. As housing investments are at risk of being cut from Build Back Better, blog posts and op-eds are powerful tools for funders to voice the need for robust federal resources and educate policymakers and the public on the solutions to housing instability and homelessness in your community.

Likewise, philanthropy is well-positioned to support grantees and local partners in getting their voices heard on why housing is necessary to Build Back Better. Service providers and people experiencing homelessness know better than anyone else that these federal investments are needed and necessary. Funders can offer media contacts, communications coaching, and even writing capacity to support service providers and people with lived expertise in placing op-eds, interviewing with local media, and turning up their advocacy on social media.

Remember: Both public and private foundations may educate legislators and the public via media outlets about a broad range of issues without referencing or providing views on specific legislation.

Resources to help you write your piece:

- [Contact Funders Together](#) for help with messaging and framing
- [Op-ed example](#) by FTEH member San Francisco Foundation
- Talking points in the [HoUSed campaign toolkit](#)

Why Action is Needed: Turning the Tide on Build Back Better

[Reports confirm](#) that the \$150B of historic **investments in housing are at risk of being cut from the Build Back Better Act** after months of advocacy and negotiations as the Biden administration looks to scale-back the package. Parts of the bill that do not make it into a scaled-back version could be repackaged into stand-alone bills. These would require support from all Senate Democrats and at least 10 Senate Republicans, as well as separate floor time during an election year, which likely means no chance of enactment this year.

As negotiations happen between Congressional leadership and the White House, it is critical that funding for our [top priorities](#) remain in the new framework. Last year, housing became a priority in the Build Back Better Act through relentless advocacy and coalition-building that brought the issue to the headlines. We can't stop now.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Reflecting to Look Forward and Work Differently

Funders Together and our partners in the [National Coalition for Housing Justice](#) worked together in a whole new way to make sure housing was prioritized in the Build Back Better Act. We know that our [principled](#)

[collaboration](#) moved us in the right direction.

We also know, in the words of W.E.B. DuBois, “a system cannot fail those it was never meant to protect.”

So while we fight for the resources we know our communities need, we must also build toward a future where this fight is not necessary, a future where systems and structures are designed to support every member of our community regardless of their challenges or perceived barriers. A future where housing justice is realized.

To get there, we need to continue changing the way we work together. We need to continue organizing and building power with historically marginalized communities. We need to focus just as much on the [transformative](#) as we do on the urgent. We cannot rely on the power structures that exist, we must create new ones.

As your organization closes the books on the first month of a new year, we invite you to consider what needs to change.

[Tell us:](#) How does philanthropy need to work differently to build the world we want? How do we use our position and leverage to move power to those who have been intentionally disempowered?

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **A Way Home America:**
 - [A Roadmap Towards Transformation](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
 - [Housing Investments Made During the Pandemic Are Effective, But More Is Needed](#)
- **CNN**
 - [Democratic failures to pass Biden agenda force party to rethink 2022 strategy](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness**
 - [What Congress Can Do for Homelessness and Affordable Housing in 2022](#)
- **Wall Street Journal:**
 - [Democrats start to sketch out revived Build Back Better](#)

Please feel free to reach out to me or [Lauren Bennett](#) for op-ed guidance or with any questions you have related to these policy developments.

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[Funders Together to End Homelessness](#)

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