



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

What's Happening: Inflation Reduction Act Ends Build Back Better Hopes for Housing

On Tuesday, President Biden signed the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#), a reconciliation package that takes important steps forward to address climate change, improve healthcare affordability, and improve the tax code. The bill does not include provisions to address the role of housing in driving inflation and instability for families and individuals across the country despite more than a year of principled, cross-sector advocacy.

At the same time across the country, there is a growing backlash against evidence-based solutions to homelessness. As election season comes underway, cities and states are facing harmful policy proposals to criminalize homelessness, further displace individuals, and destroy people's tents and belongings, all without prioritizing the housing and support our communities need to thrive. It is critical that advocates and our partners are unified in pushing back against these counterproductive and dehumanizing efforts.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

Support your local partners and community organizers in advocating for the resources and policies your community needs to pursue housing justice. Members of Congress are on recess and in their home districts through September 5th. This recess presents an opportunity for advocates to voice concerns and demands around the lack of support and resources to support people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity and the insufficient response to skyrocketing housing costs during the pandemic.

The HoUSed Campaign created an [August Recess 2022 Toolkit](#) for advocates for universal, stable, affordable housing. The toolkit includes strategies for engagement during the recess, short- and long-term advocacy priorities, and talking points. Members of philanthropy can revisit our COVID-19 response and recovery guidance as you think more about how to [build and broker community relationships](#) in this moment.

If you are a public foundation or United Way and can engage in direct lobbying, call on members of Congress to weigh in directly with committee members and leadership [to support these investments in housing](#) and [sign your organization](#) on to this letter with the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, supporting the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources in FY23.

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, especially in relation to rising inflation. You can also encourage your trustees to advocate for these levels of 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.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Showing Up in Solidarity During August Recess and Beyond

With hopes for substantial housing investments through the Build Back Better framework finally put to bed, our sector and our partners must come together to stand firm in our principles and priorities and advocate to advance them at every level of government.

This year has brought a significant uptick in violent, degrading, harmful policy approaches that obstruct our path toward housing justice. People experiencing homelessness face threats and even violence from neighbors, frequent displacement enforced by police, property damage and loss through “sweeps,” all while our human rights and the right to housing and safety are debated through campaign messaging.

Service providers and local advocates shouldn’t be left to push back against bad policy alone. As this year’s election season highlights the state of housing insecurity and the challenges that poses to our states and cities, members of philanthropy can and should work with people with lived expertise, policymakers, grantees, and other community partners to ensure that [policies to address homelessness are equitable](#), insulated from political pressure and focused on evidence-based, dignifying care.

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Housing Narrative Lab:** [Conclusion of national research project identifies messages that mobilize, persuade and neutralize](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, National Low Income Housing Coalition:** [Webinar Series on Homelessness and Housing First](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
 - [Senate Passes Budget Reconciliation Bill That Excludes Essential Housing Investments](#)
 - [HoUSed August Recess Toolkit](#)
- **NPR:** [Housing prices soar with rising inflation](#)

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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