

Funders Together

FOR HOUSING JUSTICE



Policy & Advocacy Post

At Funders Together for Housing Justice, we prioritize the well-being of ourselves and each other, especially now. We know the world is heavy, so please take a moment to close your eyes, ground yourself, and breathe. We are in this together.

What You Need To Know

Government Shutdown

We are on Day 3 of the federal government shutdown and the impacts are already being felt across the country. While housing programs and homelessness services support is not impacted in the short-term, an extended shutdown could cause funding to be delayed which could disrupt programs and services. The last government shutdown lasted 35 days under the Trump Administration in 2018-2019. [Read more about the impacts of the shutdown on housing and homelessness programs.](#)

Federal Takeovers

The Trump Administration continues to threaten invasions of cities across the country by sending in the National Guard and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which has devastating and harmful impacts on immigrant communities and unhoused neighbors. Most recently, Portland, Oregon, and Memphis, Tennessee, are being subjected to

targeted takeovers by the federal Administration. [Read more about the federal invasions.](#)

Continuum of Care (CoC) and Permanent Supportive Housing Funding

More than \$2 billion in permanent supportive housing federal funding is at deep risk of being cut through a possible notice of funding opportunity for the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. This policy change would only allow 30 percent of the funds to be used for permanent supportive housing. These cuts would result in more than 170,000 people losing their housing and being at risk of becoming homeless. [Read more about the CoC notice of funding opportunity.](#)

HUD Mixed Status Proposed Rule

ProPublica recently reported the proposed HUD “Mixed Status” rule is expected to drop soon. Under this rule, “mixed-status” families would be prohibited from accessing public and subsidized housing. These families consist of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who may have a member that is ineligible for housing assistance due to their immigration status. While these families are currently pro-rated to only provide assistance for those members who are eligible, these proposed changes would instead require the family to remove the ineligible member (which is most likely a parent or income provider) or be evicted from their home. [Read more about the proposed rule.](#)

Presidential Memorandum on Investigating Nonprofits and Philanthropy

On September 25, the White House issued a National Security Presidential Memorandum on “Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence” which calls for a federal strategy to investigate nonprofits, foundations, and individual funders who they perceive, without evidence, as supporting political violence. While this is likely to face many legal challenges, we know this brings a heightened sense of concern. Philanthropy must not back down from [investing in racial justice efforts](#) and protecting our neighbors because Black, Indigenous, and communities of color will bear the brunt of disinvestment. Instead, philanthropy needs to be bold by providing cover for vulnerable leaders, nonprofits, and impacted people. [Read more about the memorandum and what it means for philanthropy.](#)

What Philanthropy Can Do Now

- Make creative and new investments in [unconditional direct cash transfers](#) and local mutual aid groups who know the community best as a short-term response to cuts to critical federal programs and services.
- Resource physical space and meals to convene community partners and BIPOC organizers leading anti-authoritarianism efforts together to help them strategize meeting short-term needs and plan for long-term opportunities as we face ongoing uncertainty from the federal government. Then fund those opportunities.
- In addition to increasing flexible funding for grantees, provide cover and support by being bold in your communications and actions, even in the face of threats. Targeted attacks from the federal government are likely to continue, but philanthropy has an added layer of protection due to its proximity to resources and power. Funders cannot acquiesce in advance by abandoning [commitments to racial and housing justice](#). Philanthropy must take action when vulnerable organizations and people cannot.
- Amid target attacks, bolster security for nonprofits leaders and people on the ground through flexible funding for safety and security software, planning, and services.
- Invest in local legal funds for grantee partners and [share resources to help them navigate](#) how to protect themselves if targeted for investigation.

Join Funders Together and Fund for Housing and Opportunity for our [next policy call on Wednesday, October 8 at 2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT](#) as we learn from the Greater Washington Community Foundation about how it prepared and responded to community needs during the federal invasion. We'll also discuss the latest around the government shutdown, the Continuum of Care funding for permanent supportive housing, and the ongoing attacks on nonprofits and philanthropy through a housing justice lens.

Policy & Advocacy Resources

Funders Together for Housing Justice:

- [Actions for Philanthropy: Protecting Unhoused Persons in Cities Targeted by the Federal Government](#)
- [Federal Administration Action Resources for Philanthropy](#)

- [Learning Recap: Rapid Response Funder Call: White House Executive Order on Forced Treatment and Incarceration to Address Homelessness](#)

ABFE:

- [ABFE Black Communities Funders Network: Investing in Black-Led Funds to Advance Equity and Justice](#)

Lightbox Collective:

- [Crisis Comms Tools for White House Attacks on Nonprofits](#)

National Housing Law Project:

- [Do You Live in HUD or USDA Housing? Know Your Rights During the Government Shutdown](#)

Protect Democracy:

- [Nonprofit Toolkit: Resources for organizations facing government investigations](#)

Public Citizen:

- [HUD Homepage is Blatant Violation of Hatch Act, New Complaint Alleges](#)

United Philanthropy Forum:

- [Government Actions Threaten the Independence of the Philanthropic Ecosystem](#)

In the News:

- [Millions Could Lose Housing Aid Under Trump Plan](#) (ProPublica)
- [Trump's Order to Investigate Liberal Groups Is Likely to Face Legal Challenges](#) (Chronicle of Philanthropy)

We are always here to answer questions or provide additional thought-partnership as it relates to current policy and advocacy developments and opportunities. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

In Partnership,

Lauren Bennett, Chief of External Affairs
[Funders Together for Housing Justice](#)

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Funders Together for Housing Justice is a national virtual organization.
Mailing Address: 89 South St, Suite 603, Boston, MA 02111, United States

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