



Federal News

House and Senate Approve Budget Resolutions

The House and Senate both passed budget resolutions and are now negotiating the differences between the two budget resolutions. The House and Senate budgets have some major differences, particularly around defense spending. The implications for housing in budget reconciliation could be far-reaching, depending on what tax, spending or other provisions individual committees address.

White House Report Compares Effects of Republican Budget Resolution vs. President's Budget

Titled [Republican Budget Resolutions: Same Failed Top-Down Economics](#), the report details the effect that Republican budget resolutions including sequestration would have on states. The report notes that there would be \$2.1 billion less funding for Housing Choice Vouchers, resulting in 133,000 fewer families getting help. A [fact sheet](#) and [interactive map](#) provide state-by-state impacts on a range of issues including affordable housing, healthcare, education, job training and employment services.

Legislation to Protect Tenants At Foreclosure Introduced In Both Houses

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced the [legislation](#) to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA). Enacted in 2009, the law was the only federal protection for renters living in foreclosed properties. It expired in 2014. PTFA provided most renters with the right to at least 90 days' notice before being required to move after foreclosure. Now, renters, who often have no idea that their landlords are behind on mortgage payments, can be evicted with just a few days' notice in most states. Only nine states and the District of Columbia have laws that match or exceed the provisions that PTFA provided; 19 states have no specific protections for renters faced with

eviction due to foreclosure; eight states provide notice of three to 30 days before eviction; and eight states allow for the immediate eviction of renters.

Bill to Reform the Mortgage Interest Deduction Introduced In House

Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced the [Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2015](#) on March 26. The bill would cap the amount of a home mortgage eligible for a tax break at \$500,000, down from the current cap of \$1 million. Only 4.5% of all mortgages taken out from 2011 to 2013 were for over \$500,000. The bill would also convert the Mortgage Interest Deduction to a non-refundable mortgage interest tax credit. These two changes would expand the number of homeowners who would receive a tax break on their mortgages from 39 to 55 million. Virtually, all the 16 million additional homeowners who would benefit have incomes under \$100,000 a year. The bill would generate more than \$200 billion in revenue over ten year. The new revenue would be invested in expanding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Section 8 rental assistance and the public housing capital fund, and providing a source of permanent funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Senate Finance Committee Seeks Input on Tax Reform

The Senate Finance Committee announced a bipartisan effort to solicit ideas from the public and stakeholders "on how best to overhaul the nation's broken tax code to make it simpler, fairer, and more efficient" in a March 11 [press release](#), which provides submission information. The deadline is April 15. The Senate Finance Committee formed five tax reform working groups to examine portions of the tax code and make recommendations. The Low-Income Housing and New Markets Tax Credits fall under the jurisdiction of the Community Development and Infrastructure Working Group.

Housing Finance Reform Legislation Re-Introduced in House

Representatives John Delaney (D-MD), John Carney (D-DE), and Jim Himes (D-CT) re-introduced the [Partnership to Strengthen Homeownership Act](#), which would expand affordable housing programs including the National Housing Trust Fund and Capital Magnet Fund. The legislation would replace Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac with a new system of government-backed mortgages insured by Ginnie Mae. In the new insurance program, private investors would take losses before taxpayers and the private sector would determine pricing.

Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Low Income Housing Tax Credit Introduced In

House

Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Richard Neal (D-MA) introduced legislation (HR 1142) to create permanent minimum Low-Income Housing Tax Credit rates, which would allow states to allocate credits effectively and make affordable housing development more financially feasible. Read ACTION's [bill summary](#).

Minimum LIHTC Credit Rate Legislation introduced in Congress

Equity available through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit has been decreasing and has not held up to the amounts originally envisioned by Congress. To address this issue and with bipartisan support, Representatives Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Richard Neal (D-MA) have introduced legislation (H.R. 1142) to create permanent minimum Low-Income Housing Tax Credit rates. To learn more about the LIHTC credit rates and the need for this legislation read ACTION's [bill summary](#).

HUD Awards \$150 Million to State Agencies to Prevent Homelessness

HUD awarded \$150 million in rental assistance to [25 State Housing Agencies](#) to prevent people with disabilities from being institutionalized or falling into homelessness. The state agencies will provide permanent affordable rental housing and needed supportive services to nearly 4,600 households of extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom are hoping to transition out of institutional settings and back into the community. HUD's support of state housing agencies is made possible through the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program, which enables persons with disabilities who earn less than 30 percent of their area's median income to live in integrated, affordable housing. State housing agencies and their state Medicaid and HHS partner agencies identify, refer, and support target populations of persons with disabilities who require community-based, long-term care services to live independently. This is one of several recent collaborative efforts between HUD and HHS.



National Networks Convene for the Most Diverse & Inclusive Community Development Conference In Over a Decade

Community-based organizations from across America came together to share local solutions to poverty, disinvestment, and inequality at the People & Places Community Conference March 4-6 in Washington, DC. The peer-learning event was part of an ongoing partnership between the four host organizations. More than 100 community developers showcased models for advancing opportunity and prosperity in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color at the conference, which had nearly 500 registrants. U.S. Assistant Deputy Secretary for Economic Development Jay Williams delivered the keynote remarks. "The conference was diverse not just in terms of race, but also represented an incredible diversity of locations, approaches, and points of view. The partners are committed to working together to advance community-based solutions," stated NACEDA Executive Director Frank Woodruff.

Shelterforce Magazine published the first three in a series of Rooflines blogs on the conference: [People and Places 2015: Not Your Average Community Development Conference](#), [What If Community Developers Held a Conference and Everyone Showed Up?](#) and [Community Development and Hot Markets](#).



Conference Partners

(Left to right) Noel Poyo of National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders; Frank Woodruff of the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations; Seema Agnani of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development; Naomi Gendler Camper of the JPMorgan Chase Office of Nonprofit Engagement; and Cy Richardson of the National Urban League

SPONSORS

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.



Partner



Local Host



Help Wanted: NACEDA Summer Policy & Communications Intern

NACEDA interns work closely with the Executive Director and Communications Director and have the opportunity to attend high-level strategy meetings, join national advocates on Hill visits, attend meetings with key administration officials, and participate in major advocacy forums. Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to sgunther@naceda.org. To learn more, view the [internship announcement](#).

Learn About Discounted GrantStation Membership and Watch the Webinar

The [GrantStation tour](#) demonstrates how to use GrantStation's extensive funder database to identify the right grant makers for your programs and projects. If you belong to a [state or regional association](#) in the NACEDA network, get full access to GrantStation for the highly- discounted rate of \$75 per year. [Register](#) for GrantStation. NACEDA members have free access to GrantStation.

Member News

CEDAM Nurtures Lansing SAVE Program to Enroll Kids in Education Savings Accounts

The Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) led the development of the Lansing SAVE program, which recently provided kindergarten students in the Lansing School District with a [seed investment](#) in their future. The students were automatically enrolled in education savings accounts by the City of Lansing. As the first universal, automatic savings education platform in Michigan, Lansing SAVE is a joint venture of the City of Lansing, the Lansing School District, and the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union. Every future entering class of kindergartners in the Lansing School District will be enrolled in restricted education savings accounts, which research shows greatly increases the likelihood that students will attend and complete college.

CEDAM led the development of Lansing SAVE through over two years of in-kind staff support by Megan Kursik, Coordinator of the Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment. Now the the program has launched, Megan continues to provide guidance to the program manager and is curenly working with Barry County to develop a similar program. View the [Lansing SAVE kickoff video](#) and the [Lansing SAVE website](#).

Joe McNeely To Step Down from Central Baltimore Partnership

After nine years leading the Central Baltimore Partnership, Founding Director Joe McNeely has announced that he will step down in June. Formed in 2006, CBP works to galvanize the

renaissance of Central Baltimore by partnering with neighborhood organizations, non-profits, educational institutions, businesses and city government agencies. More than \$800 million has been invested in CBP's area of focus with 1,100 units added since 2006.



Photo by Barbara Haddock Taylor, Baltimore Sun.

"There's a remarkable amount of movement in a short period of time because of the model that we've created," Joe stated in a recent interview with the [Baltimore Business Journal](#).

Joe was one of the founders of the community development movement back in the 1970s, working as a community organizer in Baltimore, then at HUD. A recent [Baltimore Sun article](#) pays tribute and chronicles his career. Joe continues to serve on the NACEDA Board of Directors.

Partner News

Home Matters Videos Spotlight the Connection Between Home, Success and Safety



Two compelling personal stories highlight how Home is more than four walls and a roof. These stories tell the importance of Home through the lens of two individuals' unique experiences. These videos are meant to educate and create a conversation about a much needed [New American Dream](#) and re-definition of Home in America. [Maurice's video](#) illustrates how mentorship can have a lasting effect on the lives on young people and the community as a whole. [Asia's video](#) shows how Home became a safe haven for her family to escape domestic violence and succeed.

NDC Academy Community Development Award Semi-Finalists Announced

The National Development Council (NDC) announced the [25 semi-finalists](#) for the NDC Academy 2015 Awards, recognizing the top projects in the nation in the categories of community development, creative financing, housing development, and job creation. Winners will be announced at the NDC Academy, a biennial conference focused on providing community development professionals from

around the nation with the latest on policy changes and best practices affecting federal, state and local development finance tools that are critical to the achievement of urban and rural job creation, affordable housing and community development goals. One project in each category will be awarded the top honor at the NDC Academy 2015 Awards on May 14.

Events and Educational Opportunities

Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference - April 2-3 in Washington, DC. The conference sold out, but will be [live streamed](#).

Solutions for Housing Communications 2015 Convening- Apr 7-8 Seattle, WA. Join the National Housing Conference and over 200 affordable housing developers, advocates, funders and policy officials in Seattle to discuss challenges and opportunities regarding community acceptance. [Register](#).

Self-Help Community Development Banking Seminar - Apr 13-14 Durham, NC. Attend this focused seminar with Self-Help Credit Union to get the inside scoop on community development banking such as commercial lending, home mortgage lending, bridging service gaps and more. Find out more and [register](#).

FHLBank Atlanta's 2015 Affordable Housing Program Competitive Webinars - Apr 14 and May 14. Learn how to be a successful applicant for the FHLBank Atlanta's 2015 grants. [Register](#) and [learn more](#).

Funding Opportunities & Resources

Enterprise Notice of Request for Letters of Interest - Pass-through grant funding is available for organizations advancing Enterprise's initiatives in Boston, Denver, Detroit, Gulf Coast, Illinois, Minnesota, Mid-Atlantic, New YorkNorthern California, Ohio, Pacific Northwest, Pennsylvania, Southern California, Southeast, Vermont. April 8 deadline. [Learn more](#).

Community Economic Development Healthy Food Financing Initiative Projects - Department of Health and Human Services has up to \$800,000 per CDC to address food and economic needs of people in low-income situations. April 24 deadline. [Learn more](#).

Foundation for Financial Planning Grants - Grants available between \$5,000 to \$300,000 for nonprofit organizations for pro bono financial advice and outreach activities to underserved communities. April 30 deadline. [RFP](#).

HHS Health Profession Opportunity Grants - Provides education and training opportunities to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families recipients and other low-income populations via nonprofit organizations including community action agencies. May 29 deadline. [Announcement](#).

Kresge Foundation Grants for Multi-Service Organizations - Operating and project support for organizations providing assistance to individuals and families living in poverty. [Learn more](#).

Walmart Foundation State Giving Program - Grants for organizations serving low-income needs. Focused giving areas: Career Opportunity, Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating. Deadlines: May 1, July 17 and September 18. [Announcement](#).

FY 2015 Economic Development Assistance Programs - Economic Development Administration is offering grants to promote regional economic growth by fostering job creation and attracting private investment. Jun 12 Deadline. Learn more by searching opportunity number "EDAP2015" on [grants.gov](#).

FHLBank Atlanta's 2015 Affordable Housing Program - Will award up to \$500,000 per project in real estate equity for member financial institutions and their community housing partners. Applications open June 1. July 2 deadline. View the [program information](#) and [register for webinars](#).

USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants - Rolling deadline. [Announcement](#).

Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program - Applications accepted on a continuing basis. Search on [grants.gov](#): EDAPLANNING2012

Publications & Resources

Housing Landscape 2015 - National Housing Conference [Report](#) finds that one in four working renter households are severely cost burdened and as the difference between homeownership and rental costs decrease, renters experience higher costs.

The Democracy Collaborative: 2014 Impact Report - The Democracy

Collaborative. [Report](#) examines The Democracy Collaborative's programs and initiatives that work to better the community wealth building movement in 2014.

The Power of Rent Reporting Pilot - Credit Builders Alliance. [Report](#) demonstrates that on-time rent payments can be an effective way to raise credit scores for low- income renters who are not homeowners.

Employment Opportunities

Chief Executive, Central Baltimore Partnership - Baltimore, MD

Groundbreaking collaborative seeks entrepreneurial leader eager to take on the challenges of a complex, consensus driven new model of urban revival.

[Announcement.](#)

Organizing Director, Center on Policy Initiatives - San Diego, CA

Research and action institute in search for a director committed to social and economic equity to collaborate with diverse communities, conduct effective organizing and promote a comprehensive policy program. [Announcement.](#)

Executive Director, East Bay Housing Organizations - Oakland, CA

Accomplished and innovative affordable housing coalition nonprofit seeks dynamic leader for executive director position. [Announcement.](#)

Policy and Research Specialist, Delaware Housing Coalition - Dover, DE

Assists the Executive Director in the implementation of the agency's mission by researching and presenting relevant information and data that may be used for advocacy and in agency publications, and by helping to develop advocacy positions and strategies. [Announcement.](#)

National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations

email: info@naceda.org

phone: (202) 518-2660

web: <http://www.naceda.org>