



UPDATE – 12-17-2008

Ask the Governor and your legislators to maintain the Washington State Housing Trust Fund at \$200 million per biennium. → [Take action now](#) Now is not the time to turn back our commitment to affordable housing because:

The Housing Trust Fund, like other public works, stimulates the economy:

- Every 1,000 units developed by the Housing Trust Fund generates \$77 million in local revenue and \$9 million in taxes and fees for local governments.
- According to the National Association of Home Builders, the development of a typical 100-unit multifamily apartment complex generates 116 jobs, \$8,670,900 in income from all affected industries and \$3,349,400 in tax revenue.
- A recent Oregon study found that for every job created on site by creating or renovating affordable housing an additional 1.5 jobs are created off site. For every \$1 invested in affordable housing, an additional \$10-\$15 of economic benefit was generated for the surrounding community.

The Housing Trust Fund leverages other resources:

- Every \$1 invested by the state in the Trust Fund draws in more than \$5 of investment in affordable housing from other public, private, and philanthropic sources.

The need is greater than ever:

- Thousands of Washington residents-renters and homeowners-are facing the loss of their homes due to foreclosure, unemployment, and other reasons. In October, Washington had foreclosure 4,278 filings last month, up 119 percent from September and up 95 percent from October 2007.
- The risk of homelessness is increasing as more families are competing for scarce and expensive rental housing. Cities around the country are seeing sharp increases in homelessness, especially for families.
- Across the state, more than 350,000 renters and 450,000 homeowners pay more for their rent or mortgage than is affordable. Each month many of these families have to make hard choices between putting food on the table or buying medicine and paying for housing.

The Housing trust Fund is a success story:

- Since 1989, the Housing Trust Fund has created nearly 36,000 units of housing and is the state's single greatest tool for construction, acquisition, and improvement of affordable housing for low-income families and individuals.
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2009 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit Now Available

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is pleased to announce the availability of the 2009 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit. This resource is intended to provide community groups, housing and social service agencies and employers with the materials and information needed to conduct community outreach efforts promoting the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). (EITC payments do not affect rent obligations in the federally-assisted housing programs.)

Today the United States is confronting the most serious economic downturn in many decades. As we head into 2009, an increasing number of low- and moderate-income working families and individuals are struggling financially and, more than ever before, are likely to need help from two federal tax benefits, **the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC)**. This year, eligible families can get as much as \$4,824 from the EIC, and more if they also qualify for the CTC. Many will need to rely on these credits to help them keep up with household bills and even to help stave off more dire situations, such as mortgage foreclosure. Workers who have been holding jobs that have long provided security for their families may now be grappling with unemployment and do not know where to turn. They may not realize they could qualify for the credits. These and other pressing circumstances have pushed to the forefront the need for effective outreach to ensure that eligible workers know about the credits and how to claim them.

In 2007, 23.1 million eligible families and individuals claimed EICs worth \$44.6 billion. Yet, despite this impressive showing, millions more eligible individuals did not file for the credits and ended up forgoing millions of dollars for which they qualified. Now, when the stakes are so high for struggling families, your involvement in outreach can help ensure that these vital benefits do not go unclaimed.

In addition to exploring six key elements of an effective Outreach Campaign, the Kit contains full-color posters, flyers, fact sheets, a full stock of outreach strategies and examples of where they are being used successfully, and a guide to finding even more information on our Tax Credit Outreach Campaign website, <http://www.cbpp.org/eic2009/>.

A free copy of the Kit can be ordered by email at eickit@cbpp.org or by calling the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at 202-408-1080. The Center is eager to work with organizations to enable Kits to be distributed to their own networks and is ready to help facilitate that process. The Center can provide technical assistance and training to help you start or bolster an Outreach Campaign. Please contact the Center's Tax Credit Outreach team at 202-408-1080 if you have any questions or would like to order additional materials.

National Low Income Housing Coalition - 12-12-2008

Full Report: <http://www.nlihc.org/pubs/issue.cfm>

OBAMA TRANSITION

- NLIHC Applauds Choice of Shaun Donovan for HUD Secretary

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

- NLIHC Proposes Housing Component for Economic Recovery Plan

CAPITOL HILL

- Congress Recesses
- Congress Holds Hearing on GSE Heads' Knowledge of Riskier Loans

HUD

- **Advocates Seek Withdrawal of NOFAs on Vouchers for People with Disabilities**

HURRICANE RECOVERY

- **Gulf Coast Advocates Sue HUD for Diversion of CDBG Funds**

FROM THE FIELD

- **Housing First Task Force in NM Develops State Housing Plan**

RESOURCES

- **Three-Year Estimates from American Community Survey Now Available**
- **Commission Releases Report on Future of Fair Housing**

FACT OF THE WEEK

- **Nearly Half of Renters Were Burdened by Housing Costs From 2005-2007**

NLIHC NEWS

- **Save the Date: NLIHC Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day**
- **Submissions Requested for 2008 Annual Media Awards**
- **NLIHC Seeks Spring Interns**

AHC Membership Renewal

Within a week you should received an invoice for 2009 membership dues for the Consortium. The amount of the invoice is based on your 2008 dues; please adjust your dues amount if necessary based on the schedule on the invoice. Note that we are offering you the option to spread payment of dues over 4 quarterly payments (January, April, July, and October).

For more affordable housing information and resources please go to:
www.affordablehousingconsortium.org

AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEWS TO SHARE? → Send your stories, events, insights for our AHC Newsletter. Please email connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org
