

# Endorse the Opportunity Starts at Home National Policy Agenda

## Take Action!

Leading national organizations from the housing, education, health, civil rights, anti-hunger, anti-poverty, and faith-based sectors have joined together through *Opportunity Starts at Home*, an unprecedented multi-sector campaign to advocate for more robust and equitable federal housing policies.

The campaign's National Policy Agenda, entitled "*Within Reach*," argues that stronger federal action is long-overdue to ensure that the most vulnerable low-income households can afford safe, decent rental homes. The campaign identifies three long-term policy strategies that are essential for Congress to act upon:

- **Dramatically expanding rental assistance**, such as housing vouchers or renters' tax credits, to bridge the growing gap between rent and income;
- **Dramatically expanding the supply** of housing affordable to the lowest-income renters, which requires larger investments in production programs like the national Housing Trust Fund; and
- **Creating a new national program that provides temporary financial assistance** to help cover rent for households experiencing unexpected economic shocks (e.g., loss of work hours, unreimbursed medical bill, broken car). Coupled with stability services, such as counselors and legal aid, this program would extend an emergency cushion to families in crisis, helping them avert the downward spiral of housing instability and homelessness.

The campaign is advised by a Steering Committee including: Catholic Charities USA, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Children's Defense Fund, Children's HealthWatch, Community Catalyst, Food Research & Action Center, NAACP, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Social Workers, National League of Cities, National Education Association, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and UnidosUS.

Research shows that housing is a critical driver of outcomes in many other areas of life: education, health, civil rights, food security, poverty reduction, and more. Stakeholders from these different sectors are increasingly recognizing the importance of affordable housing to their own priorities and goals, and through the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign, powerful new partners are working shoulder-to-shoulder to broaden the housing movement.

**TAKE ACTION NOW BY FILLING IN THIS FORM!**

<https://www.opportunityhome.org/take-action/endorse-the-opportunity-starts-at-home-national-policy-agenda/>