

For over 50 years, NHLP has worked to advance housing justice for low income people — by increasing and preserving the nation’s supply of decent affordable housing, expanding and enforcing the rights of tenants and homeowners, and increasing housing access and opportunity for underserved communities. Our primary areas of emphasis are policy advocacy, training and technical assistance, and high-impact litigation. We work on housing issues that most affect low income people, including challenges faced by special needs populations such as domestic violence survivors, people re-entering from jail or prison, immigrants and people with limited English proficiency, the elderly and people with disabilities.

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Champion of Tenants’ Rights
Policy Leader
Housing Advocates’ Partner & Guide



Support NHLP
Together, We Stand for Housing Justice.

For over 50 years, NHLP has provided national leadership and support to legal services and housing advocates in responding to the housing challenges of the day. Policy makers at all levels of government seek the wise counsel and expertise, which is NHLP’s hallmark. Our country’s housing environment is continually evolving, often spurred by changes in Administrations. NHLP’s success has been grounded in its ability to turn challenges into opportunities by finding common ground, the place at every level where solutions and improvements reside.



Hundreds of thousands of homes preserved.



Creation of basic tenants’ and homeowners’ rights.



Priorities reflected in federal housing programs and policies.



Increased understanding of the intersectional nature of housing with pressing social issues.



Countless thousands of attorneys and advocates armed with knowledge and resources.



High impact litigation.



Working at Every Level to Change Challenges Into Opportunities

Working With Local Partners to Strengthen Housing Opportunity & Stability

NHLP will partner locally-based allies to expand adoption of ordinances that give people reentering the community a fair chance at a place to live, allow survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities to seek emergency assistance without risking evictions. We will also work with communities in promoting the use of universal tenant screening reports, which result in reduced out-of-pocket costs of apartment searches for prospective residents and consequently, expanded housing opportunities and choices for low income people. We will support legal services in upholding growing numbers of jurisdictions adopting eviction protections and bans on source of income discrimination.

Litigating to Uphold the Right to Housing

NHLP will continue its national leadership, advocating on behalf of immigrant families who have been targeted under HUD’s proposed Mixed Status Families Rule and we are preparing to litigate against this rule. We will monitor the legal processes following the recent national injunction against Trump’s proposed Public Charge rule that targets families seeking basic services such as food and housing and will continue to serve as housing leaders in opposition. We are co-counsel in groundbreaking litigation that will establish tenant screening companies’ need to incorporate fair housing considerations in the structuring of their eligibility screening practices, which currently discriminate against people of color and those with disabilities.

In 2020, NHLP will lead policy advocacy and litigate groundbreaking cases to advance housing rights.



Preserving Homes and Protecting Tenants

NHLP recently settled two cases in Washington that returned USDA Section 515 units to the affordable inventory and we have active preservation efforts going on at sites in Florida, North Dakota, and Oregon. NHLP has teamed with local advocates in St. Louis County, Missouri; Miami, Florida; and elsewhere to preserve public housing that is deemed unsuitable for RAD conversions and which HUD is discreetly signaling should be demolished. NHLP is supporting local legal services in Fremont, California where existing tenants at four housing complexes are being displaced by a new owner due to misguided flaws in tax credit policy and we and local advocates are engaged in litigation over a tax credit property case in Cleveland.

Improving Federal Housing Policy

Responding to the eviction epidemic, NHLP is working with law makers on legislation to study and quantify evictions on a national level as well as to support at-risk families through emergency rental assistance and other means. We are working for healthier homes through two federal bills - one that will ensure federally assisted properties are inspected for working carbon monoxide detectors and the other that will protect voucher families with children from lead-based paint poisoning. NHLP provided key guidance on creation of the Fair Chance at Housing Act and will continue to press for its passage. In the meantime, we are helping the bill’s supporters respond to the concerns raised by housing authority industry advocates and other groups. NHLP will continue negotiating with property managers and owners’ associations to secure consensus on improved rights for survivors in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.