

# Colorado Opportunity Starts at Home Priorities



The Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) campaign brings organizations from various sectors and issue areas together to advocate for more robust and equitable federal housing policies. Our vision is that the nation's historically marginalized households and those with the lowest incomes live in safe, accessible, affordable homes in neighborhoods that are free from discrimination and where everyone has opportunities to thrive.

## **FY24 Appropriations**

We urge Congress to provide the highest level of investment possible for federal housing and homelessness programs and reject budget cuts, additional work requirements, and reduced time limits. The OSAH campaign's top appropriations priorities for FY 2024 include:

- Renewing all rental assistance and expanding resources to at least 200,000 additional households,
- Fully funding public housing operations and repairs, and
- Providing \$3 billion for a permanent Emergency Rental Assistance program.

## **National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF)**

- The NHTF is the only federal housing production program exclusively focused on serving households with the lowest incomes and most acute housing needs.
- Funding must be increased by \$40 billion annually.
- Legislative efforts like the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act from the 117th Congress would have made robust investments in the NHTF.

## **Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (H.R.3776/S.1257)**

Representatives Joe Neguse (D-CO) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Todd Young (R-IN)

- Creates an additional 250,000 housing vouchers over five years for low-income, high-need families with young children under the age of 6.
- Households qualify for these new vouchers if they have a history of homelessness or housing instability, live in an area of concentrated poverty, or are at risk of being pushed out of a well-resourced area.
- Provides households with customized counseling and mobility-related services to help families move to neighborhoods of their choice, including areas with high-performing schools and/or high quality childcare and early education programs.

## **Fair Housing Improvement Act (S.1267/H.R.2846)**

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), Representative Scott Peters (D-CA)

- Expands the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to prohibit housing discrimination based on "military status," "veteran status," and "source of income."
- Protects housing and service programs designed to serve veterans and low-income households such as HUD-VASH or Tribal HUD-VASH.

## **Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) Legislative Housing Package**

### **Housing Crisis Response Act (H.R.4233)**

- Provides \$150 billion in critical investments, including \$24 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers and supportive services; \$1 billion for the first new project-based rental assistance contracts since 1983; and \$65 billion to preserve and improve more than 500,000 public housing units.
- Creates nearly 1.4 million affordable and accessible homes, helps 294,000 households afford their rent, and addresses the racial wealth gap through the first-ever national investment in homeownership for first-time, first-generation homebuyers.

### **The Ending Homelessness Act of 2023 (H.R.4232)**

- Makes the Housing Choice Voucher program a federal entitlement; appropriates \$10 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund and McKinney-Vento homeless assistance grants; and permanently authorizes the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the “McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.”
- Funds the development of 410,000 new rental homes, lifts 9 million people out of poverty, reduce child poverty by more than one third, and decrease racial disparities in poverty rates.

### **The Downpayment Toward Equity Act (H.R.4231)**

- Provides \$100 billion in direct assistance for downpayments, closing costs, and to help buydown mortgage interest rates. to help first-time, first-generation homebuyers.

### **Eviction Crisis Act (S. 2182)/Stable Families Act (H.R.8327)**

Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Rob Portman (R-OH), Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

- Creates a permanent grant program to provide emergency assistance to people at risk of eviction at \$3 billion annually.
- Creates a national database to track formal and informal evictions.
- Introduced in 117th Congress and not yet in the 118th.

### **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2023 (H.R.3238/S.1557)**

Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Todd Young (R-IN), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), along with Representatives Darin LaHood (R-IL), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Don Beyer (D-VA), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

- Expands and reforms the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), the largest national affordable housing production program in the U.S.

### **Visitable Inclusive Tax Credits for Accessible Living (VITAL) Act (S.1377)**

- Increases overall funding and incentivizes development of accessible housing
- Requires that at least 40% of the units constructed under LIHTC are adaptable/accessible for people with disabilities

### **The Source of Income Discrimination Act (S.1267/H.R.2846)**

- Prohibits landlords from denying housing to individuals who use Section 8 and HUD-VASH vouchers to pay for rent.

### **The Homelessness Health Care and Coordination Act (H.R.773)**

- Makes it easier for local homelessness systems to access behavioral health care services for people experiencing homelessness who have mental health or substance use problems