Greetings!

National Housing Call-In Day -
Thursday, July 27, 2017
(Capitol Switchboard - 202.224.3121)

Part of the "National Housing Week of Action," July 22-29

On Thursday, July 27th, MHC Urges You to Call Your Elected Officials -
Tell Them to Oppose HUD Budget Cuts and Restore Federal Investment in Affordable Housing

MHC needs YOU!
Your membership advances safe, fair, and affordable housing for our community!

Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!

Each new member and every donation makes possible MHC's critical work for our community.

Become a recurring monthly donor for as little as $1 per month to provide ongoing support of MHC's work or consider gift to MHC in the name of a loved one.

Contact Michael Kolodziej at michael@metropolitanhousing.org or 502 584-6858 regarding donations & gifts.

To make an online donation, visit us on the web at www.metropolitanhousing.org or Mail your donation to: Metropolitan Housing Coalition P.O. Box 4533

Federal affordable housing programs have a proven track record of lifting
millions of families out of poverty and reducing homelessness. These resources are more important than ever - 11 million families spend more than half of their income on rent and struggle to pay for groceries, healthcare, and other basic needs.

The problem is getting worse in every state. But, instead of increasing investments, Congress is poised to pass deep spending cuts. The President's 2018 budget proposal would slash $6 billion from HUD's budget (already at historically low funding) to help pay for an increase in defense spending. The cuts contained in the House budget bill are not as deep as the President's - but they would still significantly cut funding for critical affordable housing resources that provide lifelines for extremely low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, veterans, and other vulnerable populations.

Families in our communities cannot afford any further cuts to housing programs that put a roof over their heads.

(For more information on the House budget proposal, you can click on http://nlihc.org/article/draft-2018-house-budget-further-cuts-housing-investments)

Instead of reducing already-tight resources that help millions of the poorest families afford a place to call home, Congress should expand federal investments to ensure that everyone has a safe, accessible home they can afford. To do so, Congress must lift the low spending caps for non-defense programs and fund affordable housing and community development programs.

On Thursday, July 27th, during the "National Housing Week of Action," July 22-29, MHC encourages you to contact your Senators, your Congressperson, and your state Governor. (You can just call the Capitol Switchboard 202.224.3121 or find contact information for your federal representatives at http://cqrcengage.com/nlihc/lookup).

Here are some talking points you can use:

- There is a severe shortage of affordable rental housing in our communities - a shortage that slows economic growth, reduces mobility, drives up healthcare costs, and traps families and communities in poverty. This shortage is the direct result of underfunded federal housing programs that don't meet the national need.
- As a country, we must invest more in programs that make housing affordable for all members of our community.
- Further cuts in affordable housing are unacceptable.
- Despite their proven track record, HUD and USDA affordable housing programs have been chronically underfunded. Today, of the families who qualify for housing assistance, only a quarter will get the help that they need.
- Low federal spending caps required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 have decreased funding for affordable housing and community development programs. This has only made it more difficult to ensure low income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other vulnerable populations are stably housed.
- These spending caps will push housing assistance spending to their

Louisville, KY 40204-4533
Metropolitan Housing Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax deductible within IRS regulations.

Community Calendar
Fair Housing Coalition
meets 2pm
each 2nd TUE at New Directions,
1000 E. Liberty

Louisville Vacant Property Campaign
meets 5:30pm
each 3rd Tuesday at Shelby Park Community Center
600 E. Oak St.

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Free Tax Preparation
Free tax preparation May 15 -
October 13, 2017. By Appointment
only: Call LABC 502.814.2715

Tuesdays: Louisville Asset
Building Coalition
1126 Berry Blvd

Wednesdays: Louisville Urban
League
1535 W Broadway

Thursdays (every other week)
10 am - 2 pm:
Sun Valley Community Center
6505 Bethany Lane
United Crescent Hill Ministries
150 State St.

Thursdays evenings (5 - 8pm)
Americana Community Center
4801 Southside Dr.

For taxpayers with Household Income of $65,000 or less
Visit https://www.labcservices.org/ for more information and on what info to bring
lowest level in 40 years. Unfortunately, the need for housing assistance programs continues to far outpace supply.

- Budget cuts threaten affordable housing and community development investments and millions of low income families. More than 85% of HUD's budget goes directly to renewing housing assistance already in place. When HUD's resources are cut, families lose access to stable housing, putting them at increased risk of homelessness.
- While we must work to reduce our nation's deficit over the long-term, balancing our budget should not be done on the backs of our nation's low-income families who are already struggling to get by.
- Congress must lift the low spending caps on non-defense programs required by the 2011 Budget Control Act and ensure the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing programs.

For more information on the National Housing Call-In Day, click on https://www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org/call-in-day.

As always, MHC thanks you for your support for fair and affordable housing!

**Give for Good Louisville is on the horizon: Thursday, September 13th!**

* A new name but still the biggest day of local giving by Michael Kolodziej

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**River City Housing Needs Help!**

River City needs help, and not in the usual way. In the "we're hiring" way. We have a reputation for good work because we have good workers doing the work. Things are hopping. We're adding a crew leader and a laborer in the near future.

If you have builder skills, send your contact information to info@RiverCityHousing.org. And pass the word along to any really great subcontractors you know.

We've got work for them, too.

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**Financially In Tune for Life**

A comprehensive, classroom based consumer education curriculum that in only two hours provides the building blocks to sound financial management. F.I.T. is a required class to participate in Louisville Urban League’s Center Housing & Financial Empowerment series, including Home Ownership Counseling.

Learn about:
- How to take control of your financial resources & planning how to use them
- S.M.A.R.T. Goal Setting
- How to analyze your whole financial picture
- The 4 C’s of credit
- How to understand & maximize credit scores
- Important Consumer Laws & more

**Upcoming Dates:**

Tuesday, July 25, 5:30 pm

All classes are held at Louisville Urban League at 1535 W Broadway, and thanks to our generous sponsors there is no charge for this class.
Please consider giving to us on September 13th. You can help even further by becoming a Peer-To-Peer Fundraiser! If you already plan on giving to MHC this year, sign up to become a Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser and help us cultivate more donors. You can sign up on by contacting me at michael@metropolitanhousing.org or 502.584.6858. The advantage of this fundraising approach is you can craft and send out messages to potential donors (for example your selected list of contacts). This is a new feature to Give for Good Louisville and could make a large impact! Please think about becoming a Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser!

In the mean time, keep a look out in your emails, e-blasts, and on social media for updates on Give for Good Louisville and spread the word to your friends and family. There are a lot of great organizations that you can support during the biggest day of local giving. Let’s make this year even more successful than the last!

**Honoring David Armstrong**

*by Cathy Hinko*

David Armstrong, former Mayor, Kentucky Attorney General, chair of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC), and MHC board member passed away in June. Dave was the person who recommended that I be the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Housing Authority because our staff thought to have the appointments at the home location of people who were being relocated from a complex that was deteriorated. He also took the risk of letting us begin the Section 8 for home ownership program even before HUD created rules. Then County Judge Armstrong had that commitment to people.

It was Chair Armstrong who institutionalized local outreach meetings of the PSC for significant changes to LG&E rate cases. MHC worked with many others to ensure that local voices came and presented when these opportunities arose.

MHC was thrilled when Dave agreed to serve on the MHC board, and he only left because his new job at the PSC presented a conflict when MHC started to Intervene in cases before the PSC.

His legacy, just in in our one area of advocacy, was tremendous.
Improving Energy Efficiency in your home with resources to assist you with paying your utility bills

Over the years, MHC has worked with LG&E to help create a brochure on resources that help manage utility costs. Below is the newest iteration of the brochure. You can click on the link to download it as a PDF or click on the images to get each page as a JPEG. We will also be uploading it to our website under MHC Reports http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/mhc-reports/.

Please share this with as many people as possible!
Earn money for MHC just by shopping Kroger

Have a Kroger card in your wallet or keychain?
Then you’re almost ready to help support MHC!
If you don’t yet have a Kroger Plus card, just ask a cashier for one.

Here’s how to get started or re-enroll:
For those who DO have a Kroger Plus card, go to www.kroger.com

If you already HAVE a Kroger.com account:
1) At the top of the main webpage, find & click on "Community" on the top right of the screen, just below the "Sign In" box.

2) On the Community page, click on "Kroger Community Rewards". This will take you to the Community Rewards page.

3) At the bottom of the Kroger Community Rewards page, you will see a box for "ENROLL NOW". Click on the box.

4) On the next page, you can find MHC by typing our name, "Metropolitan Housing Coalition", in the search box.

5) When Metropolitan Housing Coalition appears on the list, select us by clicking the circle next to our name. Then click "Save".

6) Confirm that MHC is selected as your Community Rewards organization by checking your account profile.

That’s it! Now every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus card, you’ll be earning rewards for MHC.

If you DO NOT have a Kroger.com account, click the "Register" button at the top right of Kroger.com. Simply follow the instructions on the website to set up your account & then follow the above instructions.

Want to get involved but need more knowledge on the issues?

MHC will come to you!

We’re happy to present on the issues and our work to your group, whatever the size and wherever the location.

Contact MHC at (502) 584-6858 or michael@metropolitanhousing.org
to find out how you and your organization can learn more and get active.
Both our printed newsletter and our e-newsletter are made possible by the generous support of PNC Bank.

MHC would like to thank Louisville Metro Government for its continuing support of our outreach efforts.