

SLIHC Report

October 29, 2019

A Publication of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium

Working together to promote the long-term availability and maximum use of safe, affordable housing in greater Spokane.



NLIHC has launched Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020, a non-partisan project to urge presidential candidates to address the affordable housing crisis and its solutions and to engage more low-income renters in voting. Initially focusing on the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, NLIHC will work with partners across the country to encourage all presidential candidates to put forward robust solutions to the nation's affordable housing crisis. With the crisis having reached historic heights, most harming the lowest-income renters, it is time for all presidential candidates to prioritize this critical issue.

Through a new [Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020 website](#), NLIHC is [tracking all candidates' proposals and comments](#) on the housing affordability crisis and sharing an [Our Homes, Our Votes 2020 toolkit](#) for NLIHC's members, partners and allies across the country to similarly engage and capture candidate positions on ending homelessness and housing poverty in America and to engage more low-income renters and their advocates in the electoral process.

Here locally, ballots for the current election are due November 5th. Your vote is your voice – so remember to use it!

Member Spotlight

Dan Sigler – Pioneer Human Services



1) What is your role at Pioneer?

I am the Regional Director for our Spokane region programs. Pioneer Human Services is a social enterprise nonprofit that administers a range of programs encompassing workforce development, supportive housing, reentry services, behavioral health, and more. We operate in over 50 locations across Washington State. In Spokane, Pioneer has nine locations and serves about 500 people per day, and our work has focused on the relationships between homelessness, incarceration, and behavioral health. We work within the systems of homeless crisis response, corrections, and behavioral health to advance positive outcomes for those who are marginalized due to substance use disorders or criminal histories. Our treatment services, flexible housing, counseling services, and peer support help participants forge new paths to a brighter future. Specific to housing, Pioneer operates 152 units of supportive housing in Spokane.

2) Why are you involved with SLIHC?

I love being involved with SLIHC for a number of reasons. First, SLIHC gives the opportunity for me to meet and collaborate with other

organizations and community stakeholders around issues that are important for the people we serve, such as creating more low-income housing options. SLIHC gives me the chance to meet people from a varied range of organizations. Being a SLIHC member also helps me stay informed on the various resources and issues related to LIH.

3) What is one thing that people don't know about you?
I'm big on family, and I have a big family. I have seven kids that range from elementary age to college, and am currently the father of 5 teenagers.

Sarah Brede – ZBA Architecture



1) What is your role at ZBA?
My title is "Associate." As an architect, I provide design and project management services from funding stages all the way through construction.

2) Why are you involved with SLIHC?
ZBA has been a longtime member of SLIHC. I personally enjoy participating in SLIHC because the people are really great and I love the sense of shared purpose.

3) What is one thing that people don't know about you?
People may not know that one of my favorite things to do is camping in a Fire Lookout. We even took our infant son last June!

Lindsey Ruivivar – CHAS Health



1) What is your role at CHAS?
CHAS Health Director of External Affairs. I oversee grants and donations, public policy, and community relations.

2) Why are you involved with SLIHC?
I am involved with SLIHC to facilitate partnerships between CHAS Health and housing providers. Housing is essential for our patients. It is foundational to improve whole-person health outcomes.

3) What is one thing that people don't know about you?
I am a buckeye! I was born and raised in Ohio, and am a graduate of The Ohio State University – Go Bucks!

Take Action: Call Your Senators on Key Amendments to the FY20 Spending Bill!

The Senate is now considering a four-bill spending package for fiscal year (FY) 2020 that includes funding for affordable housing and community development programs at HUD and USDA, as well as several key amendments.

Background

The Senate spending bill provides modest funding increases for affordable housing programs, clearly rejecting President Trump's

call for deep cuts to and even the elimination of affordable housing investments. Overall, the bill provides HUD programs with more than \$11.9 billion above the president's FY20 request and \$2.3 billion above FY19 enacted levels – an amount likely sufficient to renew all existing rental assistance contracts and to provide level funding or modest increases to most other programs. For more information, see NLIHC's [analysis](#) of the Senate bill and [updated budget chart](#).

Congress already passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through November 21. Lawmakers will need to pass final spending bills, or extend the CR, to avoid a government shutdown.

Advocates should continue to urge Congress to fund affordable housing programs at the highest level possible in any final bill.

SUPPORT:

- Any amendment to increase investments in affordable housing for low-income households;
- Any amendment to prevent HUD from moving forward with its cruel proposal to force mixed-status immigrant families to separate or face evictions and, in worst cases, homelessness;
- Any amendment to prevent HUD from eliminating anti-discrimination protections for transgender people experiencing homelessness and seeking shelter;
- An amendment offered by Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) that would allow owners of properties financed through USDA Section 514 and 515 loans to extend affordability provisions an additional 20 years;
- An amendment offered by Senator Smith prioritizing maintenance of USDA rural housing properties through capital repairs, staffing provisions, and enforcement; and

- An amendment offered by Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) and Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) that would require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing;

OPPOSE:

- Any amendment to reduce funding for HUD programs.

To contact your senator's offices by phone, call the congressional switchboard at [\(202\) 224-3121](tel:(202)224-3121).

Upcoming Events

November 6-7 WA Low Income Housing Alliance Conference on Ending Homelessness at the Spokane Convention Center. This is an annual event that brings together over 600 people from across the state who are working to end homelessness for learning, networking, advocacy, and community building opportunities. <https://www.wliha.org/conference>

November 20, 1:30-3 SLIHC meeting at Sisters Haven 1935 N. Holy Names Ct. Emily Grossman from the WA State Department of Commerce will present updates on 1406 funding passed by legislators last session, allowing local jurisdictions to retain a portion of sales tax they collect and to use it for affordable housing.

December 17, noon SLIHC year-end meeting at SNAP, 3102 W Fort George Wright Dr. Join us to hear from newly elected local officials and learn what our organizations have accomplished in 2019.

January – membership renewals are due. Watch your email for your invoice.

The SLIHC Report is published by the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium, PO Box 9231, Spokane WA 99209, www.slihc.org. Address your comments to Kay Murano at, kay@slihc.org or 509-263-0883.