

# NAHC e-Update



## NAHC E-Update Summer 2008

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1. HOPWA FY 2009 Appropriations Update

Before Congress left for the summer recess, both houses registered strong support for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS program (HOPWA) with an FY2009 recommendation of \$300.1 million in the House HUD Appropriations subcommittee and \$315 million in the full Senate Appropriations Committee. Most observers anticipate that a continuing resolution will govern federal spending until a new administration is in place in January 2009. Nevertheless, the strong demonstration of congressional support for HOPWA will be important when work resumes to finalize the FY2009 federal budget. The Senate appropriators noted the program's success in reducing costs and contributing to improved health outcomes as demonstrated in preliminary results of recent research (see NAHC Research Summit) and recent research in improving health outcomes and observed encouragement with preliminary results of the HUD- CDC Housing and Health suggesting stable housing's role in better health outcomes for people with HIV/AIDS.

To view the Senate Appropriations Committee report 110-418 to accompany S. 3261, 7/10/08) [click here](#)

- .2. Housing takes centerstage at the International AIDS Conference/ Endorse the Housing Declaration Now!

NAHC, joining with member partners Housing Works, Inc. and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, along with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, co-sponsored a housing satellite meeting at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, August 3.

During the meeting, more than 150 participants learned about the state of Global HIV/AIDS housing

from participants from Nepal, the US and Latin America and shared information about HIV/AIDS housing issues confronting their communities across the globe. The housing satellite coincided with the sobering announcement from the Centers for Disease Control of new estimates of 56,300 new HIV infections in 2006, the most recent year for which data are available, an amount about 40% higher than CDC's long-standing estimate of 40,000 for each of the last several years. The new estimates fueled discussion of stable, affordable housing in prevention efforts.

A declaration asserting housing for people with HIV/AIDS as a human right was presented and discussed in a facilitated discussion with representatives from South Africa, Mexico, Peru and the US among other places. [Click here to view and endorse the declaration.](#)

The declaration, signed by meeting participants, was presented to and accepted by International AIDS Society official Ron McGinnis. The meeting signaled the beginning of a week of action by HIV/AIDS housing advocates to keep homelessness and poverty and housing's implications for HIV/AIDS healthcare in the forefront at the International Conference.

To view Housing Works AIDS Aug. 8, 2008 Issues Update on the IAC [click here.](#)

3. National Housing Trust Fund implementation call scheduled for August 19 at 2PM eastern.

On the heels of the long-awaited enactment of the national Affordable Housing Trust Fund as part of P.L. 110-289, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, signed into law by the President last month, the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign will host a call for Tuesday, August 19 to lay out the details of the trust fund and discuss further implementation. [click here for call details.](#)

4. McKinney-Vento Reauthorization update.

On July 31, the House Financial Services Committee reported to the full House, H.R. 840, the HEARTH Act, moving forward the long-awaited reauthorization of the McKinney -Vento Homeless Assistance program. The measure was approved as a manager's amendment on a voice vote. Up until the votes, homeless advocates debated broadening the definition of homelessness. The Committee, under the leadership of Housing and Community Opportunity Chairperson Maxine Waters and full Committee chair Barney Frank, concluded with adoption of a useful modification of the current definition in addition to expanding funds for assistance to those, who while not meeting the technical definition of homelessness, are unstably housed. For an update on the reauthorization provided by NAHC member the National Alliance to End Homelessness [click here.](#)

5. Other news. On July 28 NAHC hosted a preconference meeting -- Moving from Policy to Action: Examining the Evidence on the Impact of Housing on HIV Prevention and Care - -at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC. More than 40 participants, including 14 consumer advocates from across the country supported through a grant by the Fannie Mae Corporation, discussed how to use research to influence housing policy for people with HIV/AIDS and other chronic disabilities. HIV/AIDS housing advocates participated in two days of workshops, plenaries, including presentations by Chairperson Maxine Waters of the House and Community Opportunity Subcommittee and new HUD Secretary Steven Preston. The final day included visits to Capitol Hill to stress with their congressional delegations the important role of HIV/AIDS housing in preventing homelessness.

HIV/AIDS housing has been high on the agenda for new HUD Secretary Steven Preston in recent days. The Secretary participated in events in Chicago and Los Angeles during the week of August 11 to announce HOPWA competitive grants. For more information about the Los Angeles grant [click here.](#) For press coverage of the Secretary's visit to Chicago where he was hosted by NAHC

board member Arturo Bendixen, AFC Vice President, [click here](#)

The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) will convene the fourth Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit June 3rd through 5th, 2009, in Washington, DC. NAHC will continue its collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and will be joined for the first time by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) as a co- convening organization, to expand the scope of the Summit Series to bring together researchers, policy experts, consumers and providers of HIV/AIDS housing from across North America. More details, including a Call for Abstracts, available soon!!

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**About National AIDS Housing Coalition:** *The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in February 1994. NAHC believes that persons living with HIV/AIDS have a fundamental right to decent, safe, affordable housing and supportive services that are responsive and appropriate to their self-determined needs. The purpose of the NAHC is to ensure that the diverse voices of those infected and affected by HIV are heard and their needs are met.*

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