



National Low Income
Housing Coalition

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
National Low Income Housing Coalition
Washington, D.C.

"The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice."

The Opportunity

[The National Low Income Housing Coalition \(NLIHC\)](#) is a relentless advocate for affordable housing policy, championing the rights of the most marginalized—those with the lowest incomes and the greatest challenges. For more than 50 years, NLIHC has been at the forefront of the battle for housing justice. Its goals are to preserve existing federally assisted homes and housing resources, expand the supply of low-income housing, and establish housing stability as the primary purpose of federal low-income housing policy. While numerous organizations concentrate on federal housing policy, NLIHC is unique in its focus on the needs of extremely low-income people, including those without homes.

Affordable housing is the foundation of thriving communities. Yet, the affordable housing gap is staggering:

- There is a shortage of more than 7 million homes available for the 10.8 million extremely low-income families across the country.
- A full-time minimum wage worker cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in every state and county.
- 70% of extremely low-income families are forced to spend over half of their income on rent.

With a powerful combination of cutting-edge research, policy expertise, coalition-building, and grassroots mobilization, NLIHC leads the charge for impactful racially and socially equitable public policy. It educates lawmakers, raises awareness among the public, and galvanizes supporters nationwide to demand real change. Above all, NLIHC is dedicated to amplifying the voices of those who have lived the harsh realities of housing insecurity, ensuring their experiences guide every policy recommendation and advocacy effort.

Thanks to the strategic leadership of NLIHC and other advocates, affordable housing was a key issue in the recent presidential election.



For more than 50 years, NLIHC has been at the forefront of the battle for housing justice.



This is a transformational opportunity to lead the fight for housing equity at a moment when bold leadership has never been more crucial.

Critical housing programs must be protected to make lasting progress, and new initiatives must be implemented to advance housing justice. NLIHC is at the forefront of leading this essential movement, ensuring that those who have been left behind are heard, seen, and prioritized.

Diane Yentel, the former CEO of NLIHC, departed the organization in January 2025 after a successful nine-year tenure. The Board seeks a new CEO to continue and advance the vital work. The next CEO will inherit an organization with a solid financial foundation, a respected brand with a rich history of success, and a dedicated team of board members, staff, and supporters. NLIHC is primed for continued impact and leadership in the housing justice movement. This is a transformational opportunity to lead the fight for housing equity at a moment when bold leadership has never been more crucial.

The Mandate

The next President & CEO of NLIHC will be a dynamic and visionary leader passionate about ensuring racially and socially equitable housing policies for people with the lowest income. Success in this role means expanding NLIHC's national influence while delivering tangible policy victories for low-income communities.

The next CEO will combine strategic vision with practical execution, diplomatic skill, and unwavering commitment to housing justice. The new CEO will:

Provide Courageous Strategic Leadership

- Drive organizational agility to capitalize on opportunities and manage crises
- Build and leverage relationships with The White House, Congress, federal agencies, and key stakeholders
- Expand NLIHC's sphere of influence beyond traditional housing sectors

- Drive thought leadership to shape housing policy for those most in need
- Convene diverse stakeholders to inform evidence-based advocacy
- Apply strategic pressure across the political spectrum to achieve results

Attract and Grow Resources

- Champion NLIHC's mission to secure essential funding
- Cultivate and expand donor relationships
- Forge strategic partnerships to amplify impact

Provide Policy Leadership and Advocacy

- Navigate complex political landscapes to advance bipartisan housing solutions
- Represent NLIHC in policy forums and coalitions
- Serve as the public spokesperson for NLIHC to the media and before legislative and agency staff
- Transform technical housing policy into actionable solutions
- Mobilize grassroots networks effectively
- Build strategic alliances that elevate marginalized voices
- Monitor and respond to legislative developments

Drive Organizational Excellence

- Lead and develop a high-caliber team
- Build and empower strong leaders aligned with organizational vision
- Ensure fiscal health through diverse revenue streams and sound financial management
- Foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, equity, and measurable impact
- Partner with the Board to advance NLIHC's mission



The new CEO will mobilize grassroots networks effectively.





The ideal President & CEO will be an innovative and collaborative leader who can drive strategic direction while amplifying marginalized voices through evidence-based advocacy.

The Candidate

The ideal President & CEO will be an innovative and collaborative leader who can drive strategic direction while amplifying marginalized voices through evidence-based advocacy.

Professional Requirements

- Deep expertise in policy and advocacy leadership, preferably in the area of housing and anti-poverty initiatives
- Proven track record advancing equity and inclusion initiatives
- Demonstrated understanding of low-income and unhoused communities' needs
- Executive leadership experience managing high-performing teams
- Strong board partnership and governance experience
- Financial acumen with proven business management success
- Commitment to research-driven decision-making

Leadership Qualities

- Strategic vision coupled with tactical execution ability
- Bias for urgent, decisive action
- Unwavering commitment to tenant leadership and racial equity
- Willingness to engage in conflict and lead on controversial matters
- Politically savvy with coalition-building expertise
- Ability to seize opportunities in dynamic environments
- Skill in translating complex concepts into actionable plans

Personal Attributes

- Exceptional communication and persuasion skills
- Collaborative leadership style that inspires diverse stakeholders
- Resilient fighter mentality in pursuit of mission
- Strong emotional intelligence and active listening skills
- Grace under pressure with sound judgment
- Problem-solving orientation
- High energy tempered by humility

The Organization

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is a leading advocacy organization ensuring decent, affordable housing for all through the preservation of federal housing resources, expansion of low-income housing supply, and promotion of housing stability in federal policy. NLIHC is a respected voice in Washington, D.C. It maintains a steady pulse on housing needs and housing policy, operates with a sense of urgency, and can quickly mobilize its broad tent coalition to impact policy and support those in need.

At the beginning of the pandemic, NLIHC successfully orchestrated and advocated for \$46.5B for the federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) program. The ERA, disbursed through the Treasury Department, established more than 500 state and local programs and prevented more than 1 million evictions. NLIHC worked with the Treasury Department throughout the program to ensure that ERA was distributed to households most in need, particularly BIPOC households who were disproportionately impacted by evictions.

NLIHC's Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition of 900+ members provides rapid community response, which staff note is "faster than FEMA."



NLIHC maintains a steady pulse on housing needs and housing policy, operates with a sense of urgency, and can quickly mobilize its broad tent coalition to impact policy and support those in need.



Their 46-person team is described by staff as "happy warriors" who are "strategic and unapologetic" in their advocacy, fostering a culture where they get things done in a way that values people.

NLIHC's research, including ["Out of Reach"](#) and ["The Gap,"](#) drives evidence-based advocacy and shapes policy. Its work is informed by a diverse spectrum of affordable housing stakeholders and 1,200 members, including 69 state and tribal partners across 46 states and the District of Columbia. Membership includes homeless service providers, local and state government agencies, public and assisted housing residents, and faith-based organizations.

Operating on a \$12M budget from private donations, its annual Policy Forum and Leadership Reception, and member dues, NLIHC has earned Charity Navigator's 4-star Rating for Financial Health and Transparency. NLIHC fosters a positive organizational culture that promotes collaboration, equity, inclusivity, and belonging among staff and stakeholders.

Their 46-person team is described by staff as "happy warriors" who are "strategic and unapologetic" in their advocacy, fostering a culture where they get things done in a way that values people.

The Relationships

Report to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board of Directors
Manage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 Direct Reports and a Team of 46• VP Operations and Finance• SVP Equity, Diversity, Inclusion• SVP Public Policy and Field Operations• VP External Affairs• SVP Research• VP State and Local Innovation

The Location

The National Low Income Housing Coalition office is in Washington, D.C., as is most of the staff. The staff works hybrid, with two days in the office. The desired location for the next CEO is Washington, D.C.

The Compensation

A competitive compensation package of salary and full benefits will be offered to attract an outstanding candidate. The anticipated range for compensation is \$300,000 to \$350,000.

For potential consideration or to suggest a prospect, please email:

NLIHC@BoardWalkConsulting.com

or call Crystal Stephens or Diane Westmore at
404-BoardWalk (404-262-7392).



The National Low Income Housing Coalition office is in Washington, D.C., as is most of the staff.