

National Headquarters
1667 K Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 835-3054

Southern Regional Office
916 St. Andrews Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 524-8751

The NPACH Report, Vol. 1 No. 1

Welcome to The NPACH Report, the newsletter of the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness. In our debut issue, we hope to bring you up to date on our activities and provide a forum which highlights regional, state, and local efforts to end homelessness. Please feel free to submit your news and perspective to info@homelessnesscouncil.org

What is NPACH?

Founded in December 2003, NPACH is dedicated to ending homelessness through grassroots advocacy driven by the experiences, insights, and data of local communities, and through inclusive partnerships with anti-poverty organizations. Read about the founding of NPACH:
<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/pr1.htm>

NPACH responds to President Bush's FY 2005 Budget

"President Bush's budget is one of tragically misplaced priorities--sending a mission to Mars may be the nation's pride, but the hunger, homelessness, and poor health of our most vulnerable citizens are its shame."
<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/budget05.html>

NPACH Perspective: A New Housing Internationalism?

"Shortly before leaving office, HUD Secretary Mel Martinez finally acknowledged what advocates, bipartisan commissions, people living in poverty, service providers, and public officials have known since the Bush Administration came into office: that the nation faces a 'critical housing shortage.'"
<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/np001.html>

UN-HABITAT launches important study on rental housing

As the culmination of a two years research project UN-HABITAT has published a 250 page study entitled "Rental housing: An essential option for the urban poor in developing countries". The study notes that despite the fact that a large proportion of residents in cities and towns of developed and developing countries are tenants, the number of governments actually trying to support rental housing development is rather small. In fact, the important role played by the rental sector is barely, if at all acknowledged in many national housing policies. A major reason for this bias against rental housing is the general ideology that homeownership is essential for housing development and that owners are better citizens than renters.
<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/07jan04.html>

Unemployment Insurance bill before Congress

NPACH joins in urging Congress to extend unemployment insurance: "Every week since December 21 2003, 90,000 long-term unemployed workers have lost federal benefits because Congress failed to extend the expiring federal unemployment compensation. This has come at a time when there are 1.9 million long-term unemployed. The proportion of jobless workers who have been unemployed for more than half a year has been rising sharply – it now exceeds one in five. The only year comparable for sustained long-term unemployment over the last 50 years is 1983, when there was double-digit unemployment."
<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/chnui.html>

NPACH Announces Opening of Southern Regional Office

The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness formally opened its Southern Regional Office (NPACH-SRO) on January 7th. NPACH-SRO will work to coordinate Southern regional efforts with national strategies to end homelessness, including work on federal legislative initiatives such as the Bringing America Home Act (BAHA) and the National Housing Trust Fund. NPACH aims to challenge the policies and perception that homelessness operates independent of the larger issues of poverty and occurs in geographic isolation from national policy.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/pr010704.html>

NPACH-SRO:

Support Grows for National Housing Trust Fund

On February 5, the City of New Orleans passed a resolution in support of the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund, and urged the Louisiana Congressional delegation to support its enactment. New Orleans joins Terrebonne Parish Council among local governments in the state supporting the Trust Fund. Close to 5,000 national, state and local organizations have now endorsed the NHTF campaign.

NPACH People & Events:

Executive Director Dr. Brad Paul appeared before the COSCDA/NCSHA Homelessness and HOMEstrengths workshops held in Washington, DC, January 12-15.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/pr011204.html>

Board Member Barbara Duffield spoke to Congressional Progressive Caucus staffers at their annual retreat on January 13th to outline NPACH's 2004 legislative and policy agenda.

<http://www.homelessnesscouncil.org/pr011304.html>

Brad Paul represented NPACH at the annual Donald Driver Foundation Awards Banquet in Houston, Texas on December 22 2003. The Foundation and KB Home presented a local family the keys to a new home during the event. Also in attendance was a representative from 18th District Representative Sheila Jackson Lee's office.

Board Member Barbara Duffield gave the keynote address at the National Head Start Association's Leadership Institute evening reception. Ms. Duffield discussed the early childhood education needs of pre-school children experiencing homelessness, pending amendments to the Head Start Act that would increase access and services, and the critical importance of grassroots advocacy.

NPACH Needs Your Support

If you would like to support the efforts of NPACH in the ongoing battle to end homelessness, please contact Rob Wilbanks, Director of Development, via e-mail at rwilbanks@homelessnesscouncil.org, or by telephone at (202) 835-3054.