Negotiations on Federal Stimulus Package Remain Uncertain

Congress departed for August recess earlier this month without reaching a deal to provide much-needed stimulus aid to the economy, and the outlook for negotiations when Congress returns after Labor Day remains unclear. In addition to contending with the public health and economic crises resulting from the pandemic, Congress must also pass legislation to fund the government before fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding expires on September 30. It is possible that Congress will attempt to reach an agreement next month that combines stimulus provisions and an extension of government funding, although disagreements on process and substance – as well as the looming November elections – may ultimately hinder a final deal.

LIIF and our partners continue to emphasize the urgent need for federal resources to support renters, child care providers and families, and CDFIs. Most recently, LIIF joined a group of 31 housing organizations on a letter urging Congress and the Administration to “immediately return to the negotiating table and reach compromise on stimulus legislation to protect our nation's renters, property owners and the stability of our nation’s rental housing stock.”

Build Up CA Sends Letter to Governor Newsom on Environmental Health Threats Facing Family Child Care Providers

As California faces a convergence of various environmental health hazards – from the COVID-19 pandemic to the recent heatwave and devastating wildfires – Build Up CA sent a letter to Governor Newsom articulating the disproportionate impact on family child care providers.

In response to the pandemic, many small business owners invested in adapting their facilities for outdoor learning and care. Now, however, unhealthy air quality has forced many of them to bring children indoors all day long where they are unable to open windows or doors for ventilation because of the extremely poor air quality caused by smoke and ash. Further, many providers in California do not have air conditioning. In a field where entrepreneurs are just trying to survive on razor-thin profit margins, many do not have adequate space and means to acquire the proper equipment to ensure a healthy indoor environment.

Build Up CA offers three recommendations to state government:

1. Assign one dedicated liaison at the state level for public health issues related specifically to early care and education in our current environment;
2. Allocate funding to licensed programs for emergency upgrades, including the acquisition of equipment such as air conditioners, air filtration systems, fans, handwashing stations, and ice machines;
3. Designate cooling centers in at least one location per city or county affected by heatwaves for child care providers who can safely bring the children under their care to these facilities.

Coordinated by LIIF, Build Up California is a statewide collaborative dedicated to sustaining, improving, and expanding early care and learning facilities. Contact Ericka Erickson (eerickson@liifund.org) for questions about Build Up CA.
New LIIF Paper Calls on the Community Development Industry to Be Intentional About Safety and Policing

Earlier this month LIIF released a new paper titled “Toward Equity, Opportunity and Well-Being: How the Community Development Industry Can Approach Safety and Policing.” The paper explores how redlining and housing segregation disinvested from Black communities in ways that have justified and perpetuated inequitable and often violent policing tactics. The paper shares a review of existing literature and conversations with partners to suggest three areas in which the community development sector can be intentional about community safety:

1. Inclusive and accessible community-led planning;
2. Place-centric revitalization that supports a healthy and safe community ecosystem; and
3. Policy advocacy that explicitly acknowledges and incorporates community safety.

The police officers who violently shot and critically injured Jacob Blake earlier this month remind us of the urgency of our work.

LIIF Submits Comments to Tacoma Housing Authority on Proposed Changes to Criminal Background Screening Policies

LIIF submitted a comment letter to the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) supporting proposed changes to its criminal background screening policies. In explaining the need to consider changes to its policies, THA notes that “criminal screening excludes persons of color, particularly black applicants, at a higher rate than others. If these exclusions are unnecessary, they are particularly unjust.” LIIF commends THA for considering proposed changes that offer a real opportunity to advance systems change and move housing policy towards justice. As Kim Latimer-Nelligan wrote in the comment letter, housing policies that move toward justice stand at the center of achieving LIIF’s vision of creating and supporting communities of equity, opportunity and well-being.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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