



HCDWEBNEWS

Department of Housing and Community Development



May 18, 2018

TODAY'S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

[CityLab: The American Housing Crisis Might Be Our Next Big Political Issue](#)

By Benjamin Schneider [5-16-18] // Several new advocacy groups have sprung up to push for better housing policies at the state and national level. Their first job: Communicating how significant the problem really is.

[NCSHA: Representatives Duffy and Cleaver Introduce Voucher Mobility Demonstration Bill](#)

By Althea Arnold [5-17-18] // The [Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2018, HR 5793](#), would encourage Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (voucher) recipients to move to lower poverty neighborhoods to expand access to opportunity areas.

[Bakersfield: Report: Despite Strong Demand, Low-income Housing in Kern Still on Decline](#)

By Joseph Luiz [5-17-18] // Kern County has seen an 85 percent reduction in low-income housing production just since 2016, according to a new report from the California Housing Partnership Corporation.

[Curbed L.A.: How Much Affordable Housing Does LA Need?](#)

By Elijah Chiland [5-17-18] // Nearly 600,000 units, according to a new report.

[East Bay Express: Kaiser to Invest \\$200 Million for Affordable Housing](#)

By Kathleen Richards [5-18-18] // Oakland-based Kaiser Permanente announced today it will invest \$200 million to help preserve and create affordable housing and mitigate homelessness in the Bay Area and other locations. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf asked Kaiser CEO Bernard Tyson to make the investment as part of the new Mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment group...

[ABC News: Making It in San Diego: Region Needs 143,000 Affordable Homes Now, Report Says](#)

By Jonathan Horn [5-16-18] // (Video and text) The average rent in San Diego county is now up to \$1,992, and about the city's lowest income renters are

spending 70 percent of their money on housing. The report also finds a direct relationship between lack of state bond funding and an increase in homelessness, [reports Ginger Jeffries of KUSI](#) (Video).

[**Senator Holly J. Mitchell: Bay Area Senators Want to Spend \\$5 Billion on Housing, Homelessness**](#)

By John Wildermuth (S.F. Chronicle) [5-17-18] // A group of state senators wants to spend \$5 billion over the next four years on a range of programs to provide more affordable housing and deal with California's growing homelessness problem.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

[**KRON: In-Depth: Oakland Entrepreneur Converts Shipping Containers into Affordable Housing**](#)

By Gabe Slate [5-15-18] // (Video and text) Feeling the demand for these tiny affordable houses, Luke Iseman launched a startup named Boxouse, converting shipping containers into tiny homes and selling them for \$8,000.

[**PD&R Edge: Factory Construction in Homebuilding**](#)

By HUD [5-14-18] // Neither the homebuilding industry nor potential homebuyers have demonstrated a willingness to step away from the traditional housing construction model, despite factory-built construction being more time-efficient and cost-effective.

LAND USE / PLANNING / REGULATION

[**Next City: Mapping the Spread of Inclusionary Housing Policies**](#)

By Rachel Kaufman [5-17-18] // This week, Grounded Solutions Network launched the Inclusionary Housing Database Map, an [inclusionary zoning tool](#) that lets leaders explore IZ policies around the country.

[**Easy Reader News: Hermosa Beach Planning Commission Rejects “Granny Flats” Ordinance**](#)

By Ryan McDonald [5-17-18] // Commissioners asked staff to return with a revised ordinance next month, saying that the current proposal had the potential to transform neighborhoods.

HOUSING MARKETS / REAL ESTATE

[**CALmatters: What a \\$500,000 Home Looks Like around California—and How It Shapes Where We Move**](#)

By Matt Levin [5-17-18] // Can't decide between the Cape Cod or the mid-century Craftsmen? Move to the Midwest and buy both! For **Friday Fun**, test your home-pricing accuracy with the interactive quiz!

[**L.A. Times: Southern California Home Prices Jump to a Record High**](#)

By Andrew Khouri [4-23-18] // Southern California's median home price jumped 8.4% in March from a year earlier, setting a new all-time high, as hopeful buyers engaged in bidding wars over a limited supply of homes on the market.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CityLab: The Problem with Opportunity Zones

By Timothy Weaver [5-16-18] // The latest federal effort to revitalize impoverished parts of the country using tax incentives is beginning to take shape. Unfortunately, if history is a guide, it won't work.

NCSHA: Joint Economic Committee Hearing on the "Promise of Opportunity Zones"

By Katelynn Harris [5-18-18] // On May 17, the congressional Joint Economic Committee (JEC) held a [hearing](#) to consider the potential positive impacts that Opportunity Zones tax incentives could have for low-income communities. Testimony focused on the need for guidance from the IRS and Treasury Department, including how this tax incentive can be used in conjunction with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) and the New Market Tax Credit.

HOMELESSNESS

PD&R Edge: Learning from Efforts to Address Youth and Family Homelessness

By Marge F. Martin [5-14-18] // We've long known that many mainstream shelters were not designed around the needs of families and youth and that many people avoid shelters if they feel they are unsafe or too restrictive. The navigation centers program model offers an interesting new option.

CALmatters: The Only City in California to Solve Veteran Homelessness Is on a Mission to Go Bigger

By Amita Sharma [5-10-18] // "We have the success stories to prove that Housing First is the right policy for ending homelessness," Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey said.

Legal Solutions Blog: Homeless and Housed Clash in California

By Kelsey Gilmore [5-18-18] // There has been a lawsuit filed by the residents of Venice against the City of Los Angeles over [laws enacted](#) by City Council intended to ease requirements for sheltering homeless people.

Yahoo News: How These Women Crochet Sleeping Mats for Homeless People out of Plastic Bags

By Asia London Palomba [5-17-18] // On Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., women from Winter Valley senior housing in the Boston suburb of Milton, Mass., gather around a table to chat, snack on baked goods, and crochet. Except these women aren't making hats and scarves out of soft yarns. They're creating six-foot-long, water-resistant sleeping mats for homeless people.

ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT

Next City: Creating a Black-Led Credit Union in Response to Police Violence

By Deonna Anderson [5-18-18] // Following the 2016 murder of Philando Castile in Minnesota, community conversations revealed an overwhelming desire to develop a Black-led financial institution on the north side of Minneapolis. The Village Trust Financial Cooperative is now on schedule to open in 2019.

Multibriefs: Report: Underinvestment in Higher Education Harms California's Economy

By Seth Sandronsky [5-16-18] // Under the California Master Plan for Higher Education, free public higher education for state residents to attend community colleges, state colleges and public universities began in 1960. Ten years later, Republican Gov. Ronald Reagan would cut higher education spending and set the stage for tuition-based funding. Now, "Per student spending at the CSU and UC are well below pre-recession levels and are significantly below the funding request from each institution," according to Amy Rose of the California Budget & Policy Center.

PR Newswire: Asm. Autumn Burke Proposes Sustainable Economic Opportunity

[5-16-18] // In her ongoing effort to create jobs and economic opportunity for all Californians, Asm. Burke introduced AB 2700 today that creates an incentive for businesses in California to partner with educational institutions to develop and promote a skilled work force.

TRANSPORTATION / TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Smart Cities Dive: Transit Leaders: Lack of Funding Leads to Negative Economic Consequences

By Chris Teale [5-18-18] // On the conference call, leaders from five public transportation systems across the U.S. bemoaned the lack of investment that has left a major maintenance backlog, preventing cities from expanding services to keep up with explosive population growth.

Next City: The Steep Price of Short-Changing Public Transit

By Rachel Kaufman [5-17-18] // In winter 2015, record snowfall in Boston shut down the MBTA. The city's transit agency couldn't run any [subways, trolleys or commuter rail for days](#), and it took [weeks for the subway](#) to return to full service. Amid the chaos, MBTA general manager Beverly Scott resigned, [citing aging equipment and disabled trains](#).

FAIR HOUSING

[N.Y. Daily News: The Fair Housing Act Accomplished a Lot Actually: But Here's How to Combat Segregation That Remains](#)

By Richard H. Sander [5-17-18] // The case against the Fair Housing Act has two parts. First, the intense, pervasive segregation of black and white neighborhoods slackened only slightly in the 1970s. Second, political compromises made in the Senate to pass the FHA — in particular, eliminating the ability of the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") to bring enforcement actions — fatally weakened the law. However...

DEMOGRAPHICS / QUALITY OF LIFE

[KALW: A New Anthology Showcases San Francisco's Diversity in the Face of Gentrification](#)

By Jenee Darden [5-15-18] // (Audio) Gentrification may be changing the racial demographics of San Francisco. But [census data](#) show people of color make up over half of the city's population. A group of artists and writers of color want to remind people about the city's diversity.

POPULATION / CENSUS

[Sacramento Bee: California Birth Rate Falls Again to Record Low](#)

By Phillip Reese [5-17-18] // California's birth rate fell to its lowest level in at least 100 years during 2017, even dipping below rates seen in the Great Depression, according to [new figures](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

[Chicago Reporter: EPA's Superfund Site Policy Could Advance Gentrification in Communities of Color](#)

By Darrius Atkins and Kevin Carlson [5-15-18] // [With more than half of the city's Superfund sites](#) on the South Side and more than a third on the West Side, maybe this injustice can be best addressed if we call it by its true name: **environmental racism.**

[S.F. Chronicle: The Clean-energy Home of the Future...Outside Fresno](#)

By David R. Baker [5-17-18] // Fresno-area developer Brandon De Young is building an entire neighborhood of 36 homes capable of generating as much energy as they use in a year, a concept known as [zero net energy](#).

COVERAGE INFORMATION:

California Department of Housing & Community Development WEB NEWS service coverage:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week includes electronic format articles retrieved from newspapers or news services that report housing and community development

news in California and some national services. Coverage is for California newspapers that are available electronically via the Internet – and any significant related breaking news.

(C) Copyright 2018, California Department of Housing & Community Development
Links to web sites do not constitute an endorsement from The California Department of Housing and Community Development. These links are provided as an information service only. It is the responsibility of the user to evaluate the content and usefulness of information obtained from these sites. HCD does not provide full text articles – user must access expired articles via newspaper archives online or local public library.