

DIANE YENTEL

## SENIOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEADER

Highly motivated and thoughtful executive with two decades of expertise in federal, state, and local affordable housing and community development policy and advocacy. Political strategist with proven success in local, state, and national campaigns. Creates effective and lasting change through grassroots and grassroots organizing and coalition building. Maintains a broad network of progressive organizations and advocates. Forges and fosters bipartisan relationships with senior staff at HUD, in Congress, and at The White House. Shares expertise at conferences, in Congress, and through both traditional and social media: Politico, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *USA Today*, *Reuters*, *AP*.

## EXPERIENCE

**National Low Income Housing Coalition** — Washington, D.C. March 2015 - Present

### President and CEO

Responsible for directing the programs, policy, fundraising and operations of all aspects of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a membership organization dedicated to achieving socially just public policy that ensures that the lowest income people have decent, accessible and affordable homes.

**Enterprise Community Partners** — Washington, D.C.

**Vice President – Public Policy and Government Affairs** 2013 – Present

**Senior Director – Public Policy** 2012-2013

**Director – Public Policy** 2011-2012

- Manages a \$3.6 million budget and a staff of 17 to successfully execute ECP's broad policy and advocacy agenda
- Ensures that policy efforts across the team are progressing in concert to provide the greatest collective impact
- Directs advocacy and policy development on key public policy priorities including all HUD and USDA appropriations, tax, housing finance, and housing-preservation policy initiatives; achieving significant wins
- Spearheads strategic meetings with key members of Congress and the White House, and mobilizes thousands of community-based organizations to support and advocate for key legislative priorities
  - Key legislative achievements include:
    - In struggling economy and divided Congress, led a coalition to secure full funding for key community development capacity building program, despite the Administration's proposed 47% cut
    - Helmed pay-for-success energy retrofit pilot program from conception through landslide passage in the House of Representatives, as well as inclusion in multiple Senate bills, in less than two years
    - Formed and successfully led coalition of more than 3,000 key stakeholders to Lift the RAD Cap, enabling an additional 120,000+ units of public housing to convert to more secure financial footing
- Directs data-backed research and reports to advance policy agenda, including [Projecting Trends in Severely Cost Burdened Renters](#), a paper with Harvard's Joint Center on Housing Studies
- Provides thought leadership through publication of issue briefs, blog posts, reports and other publications
  - Recent examples include: [Fair Housing and Community Development, the Both/And Approach](#); [After Show Me a Hero, Let's Keep the Conversation Going](#); [Ending America's Architecture of Segregation Requires a New Approach to Housing Policy](#); and *An Investment in Opportunity: A Bold New Vision for Housing Policy in the US* (draft attached; to be published in January).
- Serves in leadership roles on key coalitions working to preserve and expand critical programs, including the steering committee of NLIHC's Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding
- Directs philanthropic and fundraising efforts to support the work of the team.

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**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** — Washington, D.C.

**Director – Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division**

2010 – 2011

**Senior Housing Program Specialist**

2009 – 2010

- Directed the division dedicated to the development, implementation, and ongoing review of all policies and initiatives for the Public Housing program
- Supervised a staff of 17, led weekly team meetings, and provided one-on-one mentoring to cultivate leadership
- Served on the senior HUD leadership team that developed the Transforming Rental Assistance proposal, a key Secretarial initiative to improve and consolidate HUD-subsidized housing programs
  - Led the department’s efforts to ensure robust resident awareness of and participation in the development of the Rental Assistance Demonstration program
- Coordinated and facilitated a series of a first-of-their-kind forums of residents from all of HUD’s major rental assistance programs to discuss their recommendations with the Secretary and other senior HUD staff
- Provided leadership and creative solutions on issues related to resident rights and participation, which led to key policy revisions in the Department’s legislative proposal
- Ensured outstanding quality in all division work products including: development of income and rent policies for both the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs; development of management policies for the Public Housing program; formulation of energy-conservation and energy-financing policies; guidance to assist Public Housing agencies in the reduction of routine energy consumption; and communication with industry and key stakeholders through newsletters, guidebooks, and fact sheets

**Oxfam America** — Washington, D.C.

2008 – 2009

**Senior Domestic Policy Advisor**

- Developed, coordinated, and led Oxfam America’s domestic advocacy efforts in areas including affordable housing, Gulf Coast recovery, disaster preparedness, and climate-change adaptation
- Managed multiple concurrent and complex projects related to presidential campaign engagement, including coordinating more than 120 organizations to draft a common recovery message for inclusion in the 2008 Democratic and Republican platforms as well as a collective set of Gulf Coast recovery policy proposals
- Managed all planning and logistics for major events at the Democratic and Republican conventions
- Advocated for domestic policy priorities with senior staff in Congressional committee offices and offices of key Senators and Representatives
- Directed the efforts of coalition leaders and grassroots activists to secure \$2 billion in additional funding for Gulf Coast low-income-housing rebuilding
- Lobbied Congress to enact critical policy improvements in disaster-response and recovery-housing programs
- Secured invitations for advocates to testify before Congress at several hearings; wrote testimony and prepared witnesses; provided relevant questions to committee and members’ offices

**National Low Income Housing Coalition** — Washington, D.C.

2005 – 2008

**Policy Analyst**

- Co-created and led the Katrina Housing Group (KHG), a coalition of more than 150 national and Gulf Coast organizations working to ensure an appropriate federal response to the disaster
  - Managed and coordinated KHG’s efforts to shape and implement public policy responses to short- and long-term low-income-housing crises created by the 2005 hurricane season
  - Led weekly KHG coalition meetings; established legislative priorities; planned and executed Congressional briefings; drafted policy briefs; drafted and circulated sign-on letters; and coordinated lobby visits

- Influenced content for two major pieces of disaster-recovery-related legislation; saw key provisions through to enactment including the creation of a National Disaster Housing Strategy as part of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
- Monitored the impact of disaster-response programs on displaced peoples, developed suggested program improvements, and successfully advocated for such improvements with Congress and federal agency staff
- Tracked, analyzed, and actively advocated for adequate appropriations for all low-income-housing-related line items in the federal budget, including those related to the Section 8, Public Housing, and Multifamily programs
- Provided in-depth analysis of federal low-income-housing appropriations to membership and lawmakers

**Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless** — Boston, Massachusetts

2001 – 2005

**Housing Policy Coordinator**

- Coordinated and facilitated regional monthly membership meetings in three areas of the state, and provided updates on a broad range of policy issues affecting low-income people; organized and coordinated annual Legislative Action Day and Legislative Breakfasts to bring both members of the coalition and Massachusetts residents to the Statehouse to speak with their legislators; wrote, designed, developed, and produced six comprehensive training manuals on topics ranging from Housing 101 to Eviction Prevention; submitted oral and written testimony on behalf of the agency and its members at all state, legislative, and other public hearings related to extremely low-income housing and homelessness

**Center for Social Work Research** — Austin, Texas

2000 – 2001

**Ethnographer**

- Tracked and interviewed families living in public housing and receiving TANF; interview topics ranged from support systems to safety and security in public housing; interviews contributed to three-city study of child well-being after welfare reform

**United States Peace Corps** — Zambia

1995 – 1998

**Community Development Worker**

- Conducted needs-assessment surveys in 50 villages to determine healthcare priorities; recruited, trained, and supervised 25 village health workers in disease surveillance, treatment, and prevention; organized and assisted four community groups responsible for translating a 300-page health manual into the local language; trained 25 Community Health Workers in the use of the manual; recruited, trained, and supervised representatives from eight schools to form “child-to-child” clubs; coordinated and facilitated monthly meetings with students, headmasters, and teachers to evaluate program effectiveness

**Women In Development (WID) Committee** — Zambia

1996 – 1997

**Founder and Chairperson**

- Generated interest in and formed the country’s first Women in Development Committee; actively worked to generate funds, both nationally and internationally, for future WID projects; worked together with local counterparts to create and promote WID’s first annual Girls’ Career Day; worked together with leaders and media of all levels – village, town, provincial, and national – to carry out the project successfully

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**George Mason University** — Fairfax, Virginia – Adjunct Professor and Field Instructor

**The Change Agent** — Boston, Massachusetts – Editorial Board Member

**Boston University School of Social Work** — Boston, Massachusetts – Field Instructor

**Howard University School of Social Work** — Washington, D.C. – Field Instructor

**University of Southern California School of Social Work** — Los Angeles, California – Field Instructor

**Homeless Empowerment Project** — Cambridge, Massachusetts – Board of Trustees

**Social Welfare Action Alliance, Austin Chapter** — Austin, Texas – Facilitator

## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Texas** — Austin, Texas

- Master of Science – Social Work
  - Phi Alpha Phi Graduate Honor Society; Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society

### **State University of New York** — Stony Brook, New York

- Bachelor of Arts – Psychology and Women’s Studies
  - Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society