

# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

**COVID-19 has shed a national spotlight on the long standing systemic inequities linking housing and racial justice. During the pandemic, when we were advised to stay at home, the country seemed to awaken to the reality that some of our neighbors don't have access to homes, and our Black and brown neighbors in particular face deliberate barriers to accessing opportunity. This leaves these community members at greater risk for contracting COVID-19 and suffering negative outcomes. Our meetings with United States House and Senate candidates focused on these issues.**

In the Commonwealth, constituents advocated for eviction moratoria; the Department of Housing and Community Development and Virginia Housing stood up the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) with \$50M in CARES Act funding; and advocates wrote letters and social media posts to members of both the state and federal delegations, asking for more funding for housing programs and housing relief.

During the Virginia General Assembly special session, advocates pushed to maintain 2020 General Assembly session budget gains in housing programs. They were pleased with the \$25M increase in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund and partial reallocation of funds for permanent supportive housing as well as eviction prevention and diversion.

Our CHACE campaign was a little different this year due to COVID-19. Our usual in-person meetings were turned into video conferences, and we did not offer affordable housing community property tours with candidates due to health and safety concerns. **The pandemic really illustrated the connection between housing and health**, and many congressional candidates with whom we met were eager to learn about ways to alleviate the housing challenges faced by their constituents. Despite the curve ball COVID threw us, we were happy with the outcome of our 2020 campaign and greatly appreciate the support of our district partners who helped arrange and participate in meetings with candidates.



## CHACE 2020 Accomplishments By the #s

11	<u>Housing Fact Sheets</u>
4	<u>Issue Briefs*</u>
12	Candidate Meetings
11	Housing Highlight Social Media Graphics

\*rental assistance, homelessness,  
Low Income Housing Tax Credit,  
homeownership

## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2021 we will focus on **gubernatorial and state House races.**

We will do the following in preparation for 2021:

- Continue to grow our partnerships with district housing organizations and expand our coalition beyond the housing sector (health, education, transportation, social justice, etc.).
- Re-implement our voter engagement efforts by partnering with organizations already involved in voter mobilization and registration.
- Determine how we can incorporate tenants into our conversations with candidates; work together with the Lived Expertise subcommittee of VHA's Legislative Committee.