



# THE COST OF BEING A WOMAN

## HOUSING AND COST OF LIVING

CAPSULE ONE

SECTION 3

FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> - FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### OVERVIEW

Our third policy focus for our first capsule, The Cost of Being a Woman, centers on Housing & Cost of Living. Since its establishment, NOW has been focused on economic justice, from advancing pay equity to leading anti-poverty efforts and advocating for fair and affordable housing.

### FOUNDATIONS

In the late 1960's, NOW launched its work on women's economic insecurity by creating the Women in Poverty task force at its founding conference.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

We have continued to address the rising cost of living and its disproportionate impact on women, including through opposition to policies that undermine access to food, income, and safe housing.

- In the 1990s, NOW organized direct action and legislative advocacy to challenge punitive welfare "reform" efforts that threatened to deepen poverty among women and children.
- In 1996, NOW launched Hungry for Justice, a 17-day hunger strike in front of the White House to protest cuts to cash assistance, food aid, and child care. These programs are essential to support families and their ability to remain housed and meet basic needs.
- In 1997, NOW helped secure passage of the Domestic Violence Option, protecting women fleeing violence from losing income and housing assistance at critical moments.
- In 2009, NOW advocated for recession recovery federal funding for jobs traditionally held by women in response to the economic downturn caused by the 2008 financial crisis.



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### LEGISLATION

Today, NOW is translating this commitment into action through legislative support of the following bills:

- S. 2651 – ROAD to Housing Act of 2025
- S. 1527 – Housing Affordability Act
- S. 3071 – Keep SNAP and WIC Funded Act of 2025
- H.R. 2512 – Hot Foods Act of 2025
- H.R. 6088 – Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act of 2025
- H.R. 6986 – COLAs Don't Count Act of 2026

### TODAY

Ensuring safe, affordable, and accessible housing, as well as addressing the rising cost of living for all women and families, has long been central to our work on Economic Justice, and we remain committed to advancing this fight for the next 60 years and beyond.

Legislation