



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

Working to ensure maximum federal resources for housing and community development.

May 20, 2014

Chairman Hal Rogers
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Tom Latham
THUD Appropriations Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Ed Pastor
THUD Appropriations Subcommittee
1001 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor,

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition of 74 national groups representing a broad spectrum of housing and community development organizations in all 50 states and territories, are deeply concerned that the funding allocated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the FY2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill recently passed out of Subcommittee is inadequate to protect the most vulnerable populations in the country. We are concerned that the bill's funding levels for multiple HUD programs will halt the progress being made to reduce homelessness, create more affordable housing opportunities and preserve existing affordable rental housing.

This bill would provide \$769 million less for HUD programs than FY 2014. Underfunding HUD programs undermines the goals of helping low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and many others to live in safe, stable, affordable housing and to revitalize their communities. The Committee recognizes that targeted investments can yield exceptional results, as demonstrated by its continued investment in HUD-VASH housing vouchers over the past five years, which has reduced the number of homeless veterans by 24 percent since 2010. Yet, the bill fails to provide adequate funding to fully renew in 2015 these and all other Housing Choice vouchers currently used by low-income families.

The House bill also cuts funding for HOME by \$300 million, which will result in less affordable housing targeted to low- and extremely low-income households across the country; flat funds the Homelessness Assistance Grants program, which will mean no new permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless individuals will be funded by the program; reduces funding to repair and rehabilitate public housing back to the sequestration level; and puts the properties relying on the Project-Based Section 8 program in jeopardy next year if the Committee does not provide at least an additional \$1.2 billion in FY2016. We were also very concerned to see that fair housing programs were cut by 30 percent when there continue to be an estimated four million acts of housing discrimination annually.

Investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and community development initiatives improves child well-being, enhances educational achievement, improves health, lowers crime and increases employment access and stability. HUD's programs play a crucial role in preventing hardship among seniors and people with disabilities and fostering economic recovery, as they address the basic needs of our nation's residents. Therefore, CHCDF urges the Committee to provide additional resources to HUD's programs in the FY2015 THUD Appropriations bill.

The underfunding of HUD programs is particularly distressing in light of recent attention to economic inequality in the United States, and expressions by members of both parties of a commitment to address poverty. HUD may be the agency in the federal government whose programs are most targeted to ameliorating hardship faced by Americans with the lowest incomes. Yet the 302(b) allocations released by the House Appropriations Committee, after taking into account CBO's projections of decreased receipts, impose a disproportionately deep reduction on the T-HUD bill.

CHCDF members represent a full continuum of national affordable housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediaries, civil rights and advocacy groups. These groups work to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and homeowners in urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities, including the elderly, people with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
CSH
Enterprise Community Partners
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Housing Assistance Council
Innovative Housing Institute
Leading Age
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association

Rebuilding Together

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future

The Arc of the United States

The Community Builders

