



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chair Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Price:

The undersigned organizations, representing the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, wish to express our deep gratitude for the nearly 10% increase provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's fiscal year 2018 appropriation, compared to fiscal year 2017.

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding is an education, strategy and action coalition. The Campaign is comprised of more than 70 national organizations working to ensure the highest allocation of resources possible to support affordable housing and community development.

While a February 2018 agreement increased overall spending limits imposed by the Budget Control Act, we enthusiastically acknowledge your successful efforts to ensure HUD receive its fair share of this increase. Indeed, the Omnibus bill includes significant funding increases for HUD programs that are critical to state and community efforts to meet housing and community development needs.

Families in need of affordable housing and communities in need of funding for development opportunities will benefit from:

- The bill's significant, \$959 million increase for public housing. The overall level of public housing funding is now at its highest since 2010.
- A \$130 million increase to Homeless Assistance Grants. In addition to continuing existing efforts, the funding will allow an additional 20,000 to 25,000 people to move from homelessness to housing.

- The largest investment in new affordable rental housing for people with disabilities in years, including \$385 million for Section 811 Mainstream vouchers and \$82.6 million for new Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PRA). This will produce as many as 45,000 new units housing for non-elderly people with disabilities.
- The most significant new construction and project-based rental assistance funding for very low income older adults since 2010. The new funding could result in 760 new homes to help older adults age in community.
- A significant increase to the HOME program after years of cuts and insufficient funding. The \$412 million increase to HOME will allow for new homes through rehabilitation, new construction, and acquisition and provide tenant-based rental assistance to families with low incomes.
- Increased funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program to renew all existing tenant-based rental assistance and provide new, targeted vouchers for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (approximately 5100 new vouchers) and the Family Unification Program (approximately 2500 vouchers).
- Increased funding to fully renew Project-Based Rental Assistance contracts. The \$700 million increase to this account will ensure stable, affordable housing in 2018 for residents benefiting from this program.
- A \$300 million increase to Community Development Block Grants, which flexibly provide state and local governments the ability to respond to community development needs and opportunities.
- An increase to the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which helps revitalize distressed public housing and communities, to \$150 million, the highest funding the program has received since its inception in 2010.
- Restored \$55 million in funding for HUD Housing Counseling Assistance, allowing counseling agencies to assist homebuyers, homeowners, and renters.

In addition to your work to secure needed funding increases in the HUD bill, we also wish to thank you for rejecting the deep cuts to HUD's programs sought by the Administration for fiscal year 2018.

We are hopeful that the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act 2018 represents a turning point for HUD's critical housing and community development programs and look forward to working with you toward a strong fiscal year 2019 HUD funding bill.

Sincerely,

American Association of Service Coordinators
 American Planning Association
 The Arc of the United States
 B'nai B'rith International

Catholic Charities USA
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Fundors Together to End Homelessness
Grounded Solutions Network
Habitat for Humanity
Homes For All Seniors Campaign
Housing Assistance Council
Housing Partnership Network
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Low Income Investment Fund
Lutheran Services in America
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Development Council
National Disability Rights Network
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Housing Conference
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
PolicyLink
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Public Housing Authority Directors Association
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
True Colors Fund