

**Statement by Conrad Egan
President and CEO of the National Housing Conference**

Prepared in Response to to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

“The National Housing Conference (NHC) applauds the Administration for providing increased support to affordable housing and community development programs through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposal. This new request reflects the Administration's commitment to solving the nation's affordable housing crisis through a community development approach.

The level of funding included in the Budget for existing HUD housing and community development programs speaks to the importance of these programs in providing assistance to low- and moderate-income families across the country. Given the current economic crisis, greater reliance upon these programs will play a key role in recovery efforts by establishing stable housing and strong communities for all Americans.

The Administration's new proposals including the Sustainable Communities, Choice Neighborhoods and Transformation Initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget take a strong step forward in the application of creative and innovative solutions in our communities and in the scope and the administration of HUD programs.

NHC stands ready to work alongside the Administration to develop and implement these programs in the coming months.”