

September 7, 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 Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, 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 David Price  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Collins and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members Reed and Price:

As you consider funding levels for HUD's programs in fiscal year 2019, the undersigned organizations encourage you to support the Senate-passed provision that **increases the funding for service coordinators for HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program from \$75 million to \$80 million.**

As you likely know, FSS is the largest asset building program for low-income families in the country. FSS offers financial coaching to residents of assisted housing plus escrow accounts that capture their increased rent payments due to increased earnings. Participating families can use these savings to meet their goals when they graduate from the program. Currently, there are 75,000 families enrolled in FSS, a fraction of the families receiving HUD rental assistance.

We appreciate your subcommittees' efforts in recent years to expand this effective, voluntary program from public housing and vouchers to properties with Project Based Rental Assistance. In May, authorizing legislation was signed into law that makes the FSS expansion to PBRA families permanent. This opens up a new universe of residents who could benefit from the asset building benefits of FSS.

This expansion plus the administrative improvements that HUD has made to FSS mean that the time is right to increase the funding for FSS service coordinators. Please support the Senate's proposed increase in FSS service coordinator funding so that additional families benefit from the way FSS leverages stable housing to help families build assets. Please contact Kristin Siglin at [siglin@housingpartnership.net](mailto:siglin@housingpartnership.net) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Compass Working Capital

Housing Partnership Network

National Association of Housing and  
Redevelopment Officials

National Housing Conference

National Housing Trust

Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the  
Future

The Caleb Group