

June 28, 2012

Secretary Shaun Donovan  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

Re: HOME program funding in FY 2013 and FY 2014

Dear Secretary Donovan,

Thank you for the work you and your staff have done to support the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), especially in light of the negative media attention from last year's *Washington Post* stories and the subsequent House Financial Services Committee hearings. We are pleased that the House Appropriations Committee increased funding for HOME to \$1.2 billion in its FY 2013 HUD appropriations bill and are writing to urge you to support at least that amount as the FY 2013 appropriations process continues and to ask for your help in further restoring HOME funding in FY 2014.

We recognize that you and your staff were faced with difficult decisions due to the constraints of the FY 2013 Budget. However, the HOME Coalition is concerned that unless the Administration shows its support for increased HOME funding in FY 2013 and FY 2014, our efforts to convince Congress to restore HOME funding will not be enough.

The HOME Coalition, which includes the undersigned affordable housing and community development organizations, has worked with both the Senate and the House this year to advocate for increased HOME funding. We believe we have made progress educating members about HOME's value to states and localities through its flexibility, high leverage rate, strong track record, and importance to overall affordable housing production. Our progress was best exemplified by the success of the House and Senate dear colleague letters supporting HOME funding and the proposed \$200 million increase in funding included in the FY 2013 House Appropriations Committee-passed bill.

However, a consistent response we hear from congressional offices, representing both parties, is "Why should we increase funding above the President's request?" Overall, congressional members saw the Administration's \$1 billion request for HOME in FY 2013 not as a product of the current fiscal environment, but as a signal that the Administration agreed with Congress' decision to severely cut HOME funding in FY 2012. This perception persists even with HOME's successful production of more than one million units and the positive statements about HOME's contributions to affordable housing and job creation made by you and your staff during various hearings and included in HUD's Budget documents.

We need your support to maintain the increased HOME funding level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for FY 2013 and to further restore HOME funding in FY 2014. We ask that HUD communicate its support for an FY 2013 HOME funding level of at least the \$1.2 billion included in the House Appropriations Committee-passed bill. Further, a request by HUD of at least \$1.6 billion for HOME in FY 2014 would only go partway to restoring the nearly 50 percent reduction from HOME's FY 2010 funding level, but it would send a strong message of support for the program to Congress. We therefore request that HUD, working with the Office of Management and Budget, include a request of at

least \$1.6 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships program in its FY 2014 Budget. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in making sure that all communities have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing.

With sincere appreciation,

Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Housing Assistance Council  
Housing Partnership Network  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Mercy Housing, Inc.  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials  
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies  
National Community Development Association  
National Council of State Housing Agencies  
National Housing Conference  
National League of Cities  
National Leased Housing Association  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Rural Housing Coalition  
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future  
The Community Builders, Inc.  
U.S. Conference of Mayors

cc: Yolanda Chavez  
Jonathan Harwitz  
Mark Johnston  
Peter Kovar