

December 19, 2012

Dana Hyde, Associate Director for General Government Programs
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Associate Director Hyde,

We greatly appreciate the recent opportunity to meet with members of your housing staff to discuss the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME). The HOME Coalition, which includes the undersigned organizations, has been working for the past couple of years to increase awareness about the uses of HOME and its importance to the development and provision of affordable housing. Authorized in 1990, the HOME program has successfully produced more than 1 million affordable homes, in addition to making homes affordable for another 250,000 families through rental assistance.

HOME provides grants to state and local governments to produce affordable housing for low-income families. HOME funds are a vital and unique source of financing for numerous affordable housing developments—many of which would not be possible without HOME assistance. HOME uniquely empowers states and localities to respond to the housing needs they judge most pressing, including affordable housing production and rehabilitation, preservation, rental and homeownership assistance, and disaster recovery response.

HOME flexibly works with and supports many critical federal housing programs and uniquely empowers states and localities to respond to the whole spectrum of need, from homeless to ownership, from urban to rural areas, and all low-income populations, including families with children, the elderly, and persons with special needs.

Each dollar of HOME leverages an additional four dollars in other public and private resources, and enables for-profit and nonprofit developers to provide affordable housing in their communities. To date, HOME has leveraged more than \$88 billion. Despite HOME's successful record and the growing need for affordable housing, the HOME program has been severely cut in the past few years. At \$1 billion in FY 2012, HOME's funding level was down 38 percent from its FY 2011 funding level of \$1.6 billion, and down almost 50 percent since FY 2010. HOME funding is at its lowest level since FY 1993.

We believe we have made progress in educating and reminding congressional 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. However, the HOME Coalition is concerned that unless the Administration shows its support for increased HOME funding in FY 2014, our efforts to convince Congress to restore HOME funding will not be enough.

A request of at least \$1.6 billion for HOME in the FY 2014 Budget would only go partway towards restoring HOME program funding, but would send a strong message of support for HOME to Congress. We therefore request that OMB, working with HUD, include no less than \$1.6 billion for HOME in the FY 2014 Budget.

Sincerely,

Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
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 Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Rural Housing Coalition
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Community Builders, Inc.

cc: Michelle Enger
Jessica Lee
Tyler Curtis