



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

March 14, 2011

Mr. Jared Bernstein
Office of the Vice President
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of 72 national organizations representing low-income individuals and families in all 50 states and territories, is actively defending HUD programs against harmful cuts in the fiscal year 2011 budget continuing resolution (CR). We are deeply concerned that the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 would disproportionately harm the most vulnerable Americans.

During his January 2011 State of the Union Address, President Obama stated that we must make sure that we do not balance the federal budget “on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens.” CHCDF members wholeheartedly agree and urge you to ensure that these values are not lost in the negotiation of the CR for the remainder of fiscal year 2011. We recognize that the nation must reduce its deficit, but slashing critical domestic discretionary programs that serve vulnerable families will not solve our long-term fiscal problems. H.R. 1 would harm the most vulnerable households at a time when they can least afford it. In fact, on February 1 of this year, HUD released its Worst Case Housing Needs Report to Congress, revealing that the number of households with worst case housing needs increased by 20 percent from 2007 to 2009.¹

The cuts proposed in H.R. 1 would severely impact millions of people served by vital HUD programs that prevent households from losing their homes, stabilize communities, and promote economic mobility and job creation. These are exactly the investments that must be made in light of the economic uncertainty our nation still faces. Though we recognize that the Senate has restored many of the House’s cuts in its latest version of the CR, we remain concerned that any substantial cuts to housing and community development programs would undermine the very economic recovery that the country so desperately needs.

At this critical juncture in the negotiations to finalize a responsible 2011 spending bill, we urge the Administration to reject any bill that unduly or disproportionately harms vulnerable families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Similarly, we ask that you reject any bill that undermines progress to restore the nation’s economy by reducing or eliminating housing and community development programs which can facilitate the recovery through job creation and by stimulating local economies. Members of CHCDF stand ready to work with you to find responsible ways to continue to address our nation’s housing and community development needs. You can contact any CHCDF member via Melissa Quirk at National Low Income Housing Coalition who can be reached at 202-662-1530 x230 or melissa@nlihc.org.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Human Needs
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Community Action Partnership

¹ HUD defines worst case needs as very low-income renters with incomes below 50 percent of the Area Median Income who do not receive government housing assistance and who either paid more than one-half of their income for rent or lived in severely inadequate conditions, or who faced both of these challenges.

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners
Jesuit Conference
Housing Partnership Network
LeadingAge (*formerly AAHSA*)
Local Initiatives Support Coalition
Lutheran Services in America
National Community Development Association
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Center on Family Homelessness
National Disability Rights Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network to End Domestic Violence
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
National Housing Conference
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rebuilding Together
RISE, America!
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The National Center on Family Homelessness
Travelers Aid International