



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

December 10, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of 74 national organizations representing all 50 states and territories, are deeply concerned that negotiations to address our nation's fiscal challenges have ignored the affordable housing crisis facing families and communities.

Federal housing and community development programs are efficient and have powerful impacts on individuals and community well-being by supporting economic growth, education, employability, community health, and job creation, particularly for those who have been hardest hit by the recession. Last month, the Census Bureau revealed that federal housing subsidies decreased the child poverty rate by 1.4% in 2011. Yet despite these benefits, housing assistance is available for only 25% of those households that need it.

Unfortunately, the Budget Control Act (BCA), which relied almost entirely on cuts to discretionary spending, reduced funding for discretionary programs by approximately \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. These cuts alone could result in hundreds of thousands of households losing assistance, and could lead to increases in homelessness and poverty. Housing programs having sustained additional funding cuts even before the BCA; the lowest income Americans must not be asked to sacrifice any more - whether through a "grand bargain" or through sequestration, which threatens the housing security of an additional two million Americans.

CHCDF urges Congress and the Administration to negotiate a responsible deal that maintains an adequate level of investment in affordable housing and community development programs by:

- Ensuring low-income families and individuals are not made worse off by deficit reduction actions;
- Cancelling sequestration and replacing it with a balanced package of responsible mandatory savings and significant revenue increases;
- Crediting the already enacted \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts toward any package;
- Opposing inflexible spending mechanisms such as spending and/or revenue caps; and
- Protecting tax provisions that facilitate community development investments and expand the availability of affordable housing for low-income households.

Low-income individuals and families struggling to live in dignity did not cause our country's current fiscal problems; they should not be called upon to bear a disproportionate burden in a solution.

Sincerely yours,

Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of State Community Development Associations
Enterprise Community Partners
Housing Assistance Council
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Coalition
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Agencies
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Disability Rights Network
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rapoza Associates
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
Technical Assistance Collaborative
The Arc of the United States
The Community Builders, Inc.
The Jesuit Conference
Travelers Aid International

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi