

National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force

8 July 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Murray and Latham, and Ranking Members Collins and Olver:

We, the members of the National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force, are writing to express our support for the restoration of federal funding for the Housing Counseling Assistance Program in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) fiscal year 2012 budget.

Convened in November 2007, the National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force is a cross-industry group of local and national organizations working to address the impacts of the foreclosure crisis on communities. Our mission is to bring together advocates, practitioners, and other experts from across the country around foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization efforts to exchange critical information and to help craft policy, legislative, and programmatic initiatives that primarily support low and moderate-income individuals and families.

In the wake of the foreclosure crisis, it is critically important that potential buyers are well-informed and prepared for the responsibility of homeownership. Pre-purchase counseling can help reduce the likelihood of default and foreclosure by helping individuals determine if they are

ready for homeownership, and by connecting them with safer and more affordable mortgage products. According to the Center for Housing Policy, most research studies have found that pre-purchase counseling leads to positive results, reducing delinquency anywhere from 19 to 50 percent. Ultimately, this will lead to fewer foreclosures and more stable neighborhoods, as families choose the housing that is right for them and their situation.

Therefore, we request that you please restore funding to the HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program in the FY2012 budget.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations and localities of the National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force:

Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force
Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership
Center for NYC Neighborhoods
Columbus Housing Partnership
Detroit Office of Foreclosure Prevention & Response
Enterprise Community Partners
Greater Rochester Housing Partnership
Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake
Housing Partnership Network
HousingWorks Rhode Island
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Na Hale O Maui Community Land Trust
National CLT Network and the Diamond State CLT
National Community Stabilization Trust
National Consumer Law Center
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Housing Conference
National Housing Institute
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
Neighborhood Housing Services, New Orleans
Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix
Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida
Maryland ABCD Network
The Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development, Inc.