



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

July 30, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chair
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Subcommittee Chairman Latham, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Pastor:

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of 75 national organizations representing all 56 states and territories, call on you to protect low income Americans by providing strong funding for programs under the purview of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in FY14. We are deeply troubled by the significant cuts and underfunding of affordable housing and community development programs that are proposed in the Committee-passed FY14 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, H.R. 2610. These proposed funding levels, some of which are at historic lows, resulted from an FY14 302(b) allocation for the THUD Subcommittee that is substantially lower than both its FY 2013 302(b) allocation and the enacted FY13 level, post-sequestration cuts.

We urge you to protect HUD programs from these proposed cuts and instead provide strong funding in FY14. At present, the 15% decrease in the House 302(b) Subcommittee allocation compared to FY13 would result in cuts of up to 56% for some HUD programs. The Senate 302(b) allocation of nearly \$10 billion more, with \$6.6 billion more for HUD programs, does not fully address the need for HUD programs but would avoid the majority of the significant negative impacts that are unavoidable at the House proposed funding levels. The HUD programs that would be cut by the House bill have important positive impacts on the wellbeing of Americans, particularly those who face poverty, disability, and other vulnerabilities. These are not the people upon whose backs the federal budget should be balanced.

HUD's work also has a broader positive impact for all Americans. Investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and more vibrant communities improves child well-being, enhances educational achievement, improves health, lowers crime, and increases employment access and stability. In both the short and long term, funding of housing and community development programs decreases costs for federal, state and local governments. HUD's programs are crucial to preventing hardship and fostering economic recovery, as they address basic needs of our nation's residents.

Hundreds of news reports from around the country have already demonstrated that sequestration of HUD programs is harming many low income vulnerable Americans. The frequency and gravity of these impacts will continue to increase as sequestration cuts are further implemented in the coming months. CHCDF members urge you to prevent further harm to these vulnerable Americans and provide strong funding for HUD programs in the final THUD FY 2014 funding bill.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
CSH
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
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
National Network to End Domestic Violence
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rebuilding Together
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
The Community Builders
Union for Reform Judaism

cc: Hon. John Boehner
Hon. Nancy Pelosi
