



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

June 1, 2012

The Honorable Thomas Latham
Chair
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Chair Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

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, call on you to protect low income Americans by preserving funding for programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We are deeply troubled that the FY 2013 302(b) allocation for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations subcommittee is substantially lower than the FY 2012 allocation and urge you to protect HUD programs from further cuts in FY13. Drastic cuts to HUD programs would further negatively impact many vulnerable low income households in your communities and across the country. Many HUD programs were already cut deeply in FY 2012 or been underfunded for multiple years in a row; we cannot afford to continue on this path.

CHCDF members urge you to abide by the principle that low income households should not be made worse off by spending reductions, including not increasing housing or other cost burdens for these households. Underfunding HUD programs would harm vulnerable households at a time when they can least afford it and would not solve our long-term fiscal problems.

In both the short and long term, underfunding of housing and community development programs would increase costs for federal, state and local governments. Cost increases will result from evicting households from federally supported housing who will then be forced to access emergency shelter and other services, eliminating employment opportunities for low income households, allowing affordable housing to deteriorate, and halting economic growth of neighborhoods. Education, public safety and other related public expenditures would also be impacted by a decrease in HUD funding.

In contrast, 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. HUD's programs are crucial in preventing hardship and fostering economic recovery, as they address the basic needs of our nation's residents.

Therefore, CHCDF members urge you to provide strong resources for HUD programs in the THUD subcommittee FY13 spending bill, despite the significant cut to the subcommittee 302(b) allocation.

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. CHCDF members represent a full continuum of national affordable housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediary, civil rights, developer, and advocacy groups. These groups work to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and homeowners in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. Please let us know how we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing, Inc.
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center on Family Homelessness
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence

Rebuilding Together
Reconnecting America
Robert A. Rapoza Associates
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
The Community Builders, Inc.
U.S. Conference of Mayors

cc: Hon. John Boehner
Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Hon. Harold Rogers
Hon. Norm Dicks