



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

October 4, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, and Urban
Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran, Rogers, Collins and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members Mikulski, Lowey, Reed and Price:

As you begin to negotiate final spending bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) urges you to provide the highest funding level possible for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill.

CHCDF promotes strengthening existing affordable housing and community development programs in order to expand and preserve affordable housing options for low and moderate income families. As America is in the midst of a growing affordable housing crisis, these goals have never been more important.

We appreciate that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have proposed increases for affordable housing and community development programs administered under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, given the affordable housing crisis our nation is facing, we ask that you adopt the funding level in the Senate's FY17 THUD bill, which provides an additional \$1.5 billion to HUD programs over FY16 enacted levels. The Senate was able to increase HUD funding by reclaiming unused federal dollars through a rescission of unobligated Highway Trust Fund contract authority from previous years. Overall, the Senate would provide \$39.2 billion in funding to HUD, while the House would provide \$38.7 billion. We urge you to include this transportation rescission in the final FY17 THUD spending bill so housing and community development programs are adequately funded.

The need for safe and affordable housing far outpaces the available supply in the United States. We thank the Committees for taking steps to address this urgent situation through a reasonable increase in funding proposed in the THUD spending bill. This action is crucial to helping secure the well-being for some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens and ensuring that communities have the means to thrive.

Federal housing and community development programs are effective. In the past 20 years alone, HUD programs have provided housing assistance to more than 35 million households that would otherwise not have had access to safe and decent housing. These programs have historically provided Americans and their communities with the foundations on which to build a better future, and we cannot emphasize enough the importance of their continued support and funding.

CHCDF is cognizant that policy riders offered as amendments could derail the positive bipartisan work that went into drafting the THUD appropriations bill. We therefore urge you to pass the bill without harmful riders. We thank you for considering this as the THUD spending bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Low Income Housing Coalition
