



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

September 18, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Mikulski, Vice Chair Shelby, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition of 74 national groups representing a broad spectrum of housing and community development organizations in every state and territory of the U.S., are writing to encourage Congress to pass a full FY2015 THUD Appropriations bill. The undersigned members of CHCDF are concerned about the continuous cuts housing and community development programs have taken and the negative impact that underfunding these critical programs has on low-income people including those with disabilities, seniors, families with children, and people experiencing homelessness.

Further, while CHCDF understands the timing and budget challenges currently facing Congress, a long-term or year-long Continuing Resolution at FY14 funding levels for HUD's programs will not adequately address the growing housing needs of millions of low-income households. Underfunding HUD programs undermines the goals of helping low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and many others to live in safe, stable, affordable housing and to revitalize their communities. Funding HUD's housing programs at FY14 levels could force cutbacks in assistance in the near future, given increasing rents and stagnating incomes for the poorest households. The underfunding of HUD programs is particularly distressing in light of recent attention to economic inequality in the United States, and expressions by members of both parties of a commitment to address poverty. HUD may be the federal agency whose programs are most targeted to ameliorating hardship faced by Americans with the lowest incomes.

It is essential that Congress understand the important role that housing and community development programs have in supporting local economies and improving the lives of low-income households across the country. CHCDF urges

Congress to pass a full FY2015 THUD Appropriations bill this fall with funding levels sufficient to enable states and communities to continue to create more affordable housing options for the most vulnerable populations and stimulate more community revitalization.

CHCDF members represent a full continuum of national affordable housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediaries, civil rights 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.

Sincerely,

Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Innovative Housing Institute
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 Housing and Child Welfare
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for the Homeless
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 and Poverty
National Low Income Housing Coalition
Poverty and Race Research Action Council
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rebuilding Together
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
