



# PROTECT PUBLIC HOUSING FUNDING: A LIFELINE AT RISK

## *Public Housing Strengthens Community and Economic Stability*

Across the country, 3,300 Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) serve as a critical safety net for millions of families facing rising housing costs. Rents have **surged 30% since 2019, outpacing wage growth by 10%** and making affordable, subsidized housing opportunities more vital than ever. As rent grows more unaffordable for working families, public housing is one of the last defenses against displacement and homelessness.

## THAT DEFENSE IS CRUMBLING

95% of CHA's operating budget comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The President's budget proposal would cut \$32 billion from HUD including \$26.7 billion from rental assistance programs. Rental assistance funding would be replaced with state-based block grants.

### **The consequences are clear:**

- Fewer homes
- Stalled developments
- Lost jobs
- Deeper instability in communities already struggling to stay afloat

*This is not budget efficiency - It's throwing gasoline onto a smoldering housing crisis.*



The Chicago Housing Authority supports over 135,000 individuals—1 in 20 Chicago residents—delivering affordable housing for 65,300 low-income families, 83% of whom earn less than 30% of the Area Median Income.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT: RENTAL MARKET



Nationwide, 600,000 private property owners participate in the Section 8 voucher program.

- In 2024, CHA paid \$650M to private rental landlords for 47,000 voucher-supported households, contributing to a total of \$800M in rent payments. This is economic infrastructure, not just aid. Dismantling it would have far-reaching consequences for the public and private sectors.

*Funding cuts this deep will lead to evictions, mortgage defaults, and economic fallout, when the economy is already on shaky ground.*

## ECONOMIC IMPACT: CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Through partnerships with private developers, PHAs are not only managing housing, but also building futures and fueling local economies.

In Chicago, Lathrop Homes Redevelopment is a perfect example of how a public-private partnership utilized \$69 million in federally based loan investment to catalyze local housing production, economic activity, and job creation.



### Since 2010 at Lathrop Homes:

- 487 new homes have been built; 179 dedicated to public housing
- \$205M total community investment
- \$165M in direct construction spending
- 3,724 construction jobs
- 20 permanent jobs
- Backed by \$69M in federal loans

*The work is not done. The next phase will add 309 more homes, new jobs, contracts and deepened community investment—but only if federal support continues.*

## ECONOMIC IMPACT: FAMILIES

The administration proposes to eliminate self-sufficiency funding, including the elimination of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. The FSS program empowers motivated families to build wealth, achieve financial goals, and ultimately transition off public assistance, making it a proven pathway to long-term self-sufficiency.

- In 2024, through CHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, 80 CHA graduates received average payouts of \$7,300 to support education, transportation, and homeownership

*Cutting self-sufficiency funding would erase futures, derail progress and undermine the very goals of federal housing policy for generations.*



2024 LevelUP Graduation



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP US PROTECT PUBLIC HOUSING FUNDING

### Call your legislators

Tell them “Protecting public housing means protecting families, jobs and our economy”

### Stay informed. Stay Engaged.

Subscribe to our newsletter for updates and visit our Transparency & Impact Hub to learn how public housing supports Chicago. Visit [thecha.org/transparency-action-cha-data-impact-hub](https://thecha.org/transparency-action-cha-data-impact-hub).



The future of public housing is the future of Chicago. It fuels economic growth, stabilizes families and builds stronger communities.

Let's protect it—together. | [www.thecha.org](https://www.thecha.org)