



October 5, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the Public Housing Authority Directors Association (PHADA), the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA), the Moving to Work Collaborative (MtW), and the Local Housing Administrators Coalition (LHAC), we urge you to retain the housing provisions from the Build Back Better Act. The nation is in the middle of a housing crisis and retaining these direly needed resources in Build Back Better will help millions of families across the country.

In January 2020, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported at least 580,466 people were homeless, which represents a 2.2 percent increase from 2019. Despite these growing needs, only 1 in 5 eligible families currently receive assistance.

Public housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers play a critical role in our nation's infrastructure and social safety net, providing families with a stable home and assisting them in opportunities for upward mobility. Across the United States, public housing provides almost 1 million units of housing to over 1.8 million people, including 800,000 children, and more than half the population in public housing is elderly and disabled. The 2.3 million Section 8 housing choice vouchers house an additional 5.2 million people including 2.2 million children. In many cities and towns across the nation, seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities and families with children rely on public housing, now perhaps more than ever before. In some instances, no other source of housing could take its place more readily or affordably.

An investment in public housing capital needs will spur local economic growth, as occurred with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Government Accountability Office found that 99.9% of all public housing ARRA capital funds were obligated and expended under accelerated time frames. With \$4 billion in capital funds, researchers found that

agencies invested in over 245,000 affordable units, created 26 jobs for every \$1 million spent on capital projects, and generated nearly \$12.5 billion in national economic activity.¹

Please make this transformational investment in the lives of low-income and vulnerable Americans and in our communities. Preserve the housing provisions in Build Back Better.

Sincerely,

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA)
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA)
MTW Collaborative
Local Housing Administrators Coalition

¹ Public Housing Stimulus Funding: A Report on the Economic Impact of Recovery Act Capital Improvements, Commissioned by PHADA, CLPHA and NAHRO with funding from the Housing Authority Insurance (HAI) Group, 2011