



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

September 6, 2018

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

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

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members Reed and Price:

The undersigned organizations, representing the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, wish to thank you for your work to advance an appropriations bill for FY 2019 that renews most of the strong funding levels provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act and includes several other provisions that will help states, localities, individuals, families, and seniors to meet their housing and community development needs. As you begin to negotiate a final spending bill, CHCDF urges you to maintain the highest funding levels possible for the HUD title of the bill.

CHCDF, a coalition of more than 70 national organizations representing faith-based, private sector, financial/intermediary, public sector and advocacy groups, promotes strengthening affordable housing and community development programs to expand and preserve affordable housing options for low and moderate income families. With millions of American families, seniors, and people with disabilities struggling to pay rent and make ends meet, these goals have never been more important.

Federal housing and community development programs are effective and play an essential role in communities across the country. Affordable and accessible housing has broad, positive impacts on children and adults, as well as the economy. Federal housing programs significantly reduce homelessness, poverty, and related hardship, help seniors and people with disabilities to live independently and with dignity, and can provide families with stability and access to opportunities that improve their chances of economic success. In addition, the community development aid that HUD administers is vital for rural, urban and suburban communities to revitalize distressed neighborhoods, address urgent community needs, provide critical public services, and promote economic development.

Following years of cuts to housing and community development programs after the 2008 recession, CHCDF is very grateful to see Congress begin to restore funding to these programs, as evidenced by the nearly 10% increase provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's fiscal year 2018 appropriation, compared to fiscal year 2017. While this increase came as a result of a February 2018 agreement to increase overall spending limits imposed by the Budget Control Act, we gratefully acknowledge your successful efforts to ensure HUD received its fair share of this increase. This action was 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.

We appreciate that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have proposed increases or level funding 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 fund affordable housing and community development programs at the higher of the levels proposed in the House or Senate bills.

Additionally, we encourage you to adopt in the final bill an important provision included in the House version of the bill, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration program. This demonstration, recently approved by the full House with wide bipartisan support, will go a long way in achieving the full promise of the HCV program in addressing intergenerational poverty by improving families' access to safe neighborhoods with quality schools and other opportunities. We urge you to consider the inclusion of \$50 million for the demonstration, which will fund an additional 2,000 vouchers for families and provide critical services that help families move to areas of opportunity.

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
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Enterprise Community Partners
Fundors Together to End Homelessness
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Housing Trust
National Low Income Housing Coalition
Steward of Affordable Housing for the Future

CC: The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Nita Lowey
