



Strengthening Neighborhoods.
Improving Lives.

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

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July 5, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA), I am writing to express our support for certain funding levels in your respective FY17 THUD appropriations bills for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) public housing and related programs.

For many families, the public housing and housing voucher programs are the gateway to housing stability, self-sufficiency, and economic independence. To accomplish these objectives, housing authorities are developing transformational partnerships with important and committed stakeholders to benefit children, seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans and homeless persons. For many housing authorities, this means coordinating with the education, workforce development, health care, transportation, and social services systems at the local level to provide supports and opportunities to residents. However, over the years, public housing has suffered devastating cuts to its programs, placing these very same innovations and transformational partnerships serving low-income residents at risk.

We know the funding decisions recommended by your respective committees were made in a difficult, constricted funding environment, and we appreciate the work of you and your staff in attempting to balance competing demands and budgetary objectives. In light of these budget realities, and acceding to the funding levels and proposals reflected in your respective versions of the FY17 THUD funding bills, we therefore recommend:

- \$4.675 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund;
- \$1.925 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund;

- \$4 million for the Rental Assistance Demonstration, and raise the unit cap to 250,000;
- \$18.355 billion for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Tenant-Based Voucher Renewals;
- \$1.769 billion for HCV Administrative Fees;
- \$100 million for Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, with not less than \$50 million dedicated to public housing authorities as the lead applicant;
- \$50 million for HUD-VASH vouchers;
- \$35 million for the ROSS program;
- \$21.5 million for Emergency Capital Needs;
- \$75 million for the Family Self Sufficiency Program;
- \$110 million for Tenant Protection Vouchers;
- \$15 million for the Jobs Plus Initiative;
- \$10.901 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance;
- \$2.487 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants;
- \$11 million for a HCV Mobility Demonstration program;
- \$20 million for the Family Unification Program

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations, and we look forward to supporting your work on these issues as the FY17 THUD funding bill works its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Sunia Zatterman
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
The Honorable David Price