



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

HOUSING TASK FORCE REPORT 2007 Activities and Priorities

The Housing Task Force focuses on authorizing and appropriations legislation; implementation of existing housing laws; and implementation and enforcement of fair housing laws – all with respect to the needs of people with a full range of disabilities and housing needs.

FY 2008 HUD Budget: Much of the Task Force's efforts focused on HUD FY 2008 appropriations. We succeeded in securing the following:

- A restoration of the Administration's proposed \$112 million cut to the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program;
- \$30 million in new funding for incremental vouchers targeted to non-elderly persons with disabilities;
- A \$503 million increase for Section 8 project-based vouchers; and
- A \$146 million increase for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Authorization Legislation

In collaboration with the National Low Income Housing Coalition we worked on the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 (H.R. 2895) which passed the House by an overwhelming margin. We spent considerable time working with House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank to develop a Section 811 reform bill which is expected to be introduced early in 2008. In addition we monitored the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007 (SEVRA – H.R. 1851) which contained several provisions to improve the Section 8 rental voucher program for persons with disabilities. The bill passed the House and is awaiting action by the Senate.

Priced Out in 2006

In collaboration with the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), we published our bi-annual report, *Priced Out*, which compares the monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) of people with serious and long-term disabilities to local U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rents for modestly priced one bedroom and studio/efficiency rental units. The report, which included a forward by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, demonstrated how the housing crisis

facing people with disabilities has escalated over the past two years. A copy of the report was delivered to each Member of Congress.

CCD Housing Task Force Anticipated Activities for 2008

We expect that our efforts will focus on:

Appropriations:

We will seek to secure additional funding for incremental Section 8 rental vouchers targeted to non-elderly people with disabilities. In addition, we anticipate another Administration proposal in the FY 2009 budget to cut the Section 811 Supportive Housing Program for Persons with Disabilities.

Authorization legislation:

Much of our time will be focused on the new Section 811 reform bill which is expected to be introduced in the House early in the year. We will also seek Senate sponsors to introduce a companion version.

In addition we will work on the Senate version of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act which was recently introduced in the Senate.

HUD Oversight

We believe it is very important to work with HUD to ensure that policies are developed and disseminated to Public Housing Agencies to ensure that the new Section 8 incremental vouchers targeted to non-elderly persons with disabilities will stay with individuals with disabilities upon turnover.

We continue to hear that the lack of decent, safe, affordable, and accessible housing is one of the major barriers to living in the community. We urge CCD members to join the Housing Task Force in addressing this critical issue.

Co-Chairs

Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Kathy McGinley, National Disability Rights Network
Liz Savage, The Arc and UCP Disability Policy Collaboration