



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

December 12, 2019

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Financial
Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Financial
Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Fair Housing Initiatives Program Funding

Dear Senator Crapo, Senator Brown, Representative Waters and Representative McHenry:

We are writing as Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force to raise our concerns that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has yet to release the FY19 Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). CCD is a working coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider, and professional organizations working together with and on behalf of the millions of children and adults with disabilities and their families living in the United States. CCD advocates for national public policy that ensures full equality, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The CCD Housing Task Force is contacting your offices as we are nearing the end of the first quarter of FY20, and the FY19 FHIP NOFA continues to be delayed, though 22 NOFAs have been published during FY19. We are particularly concerned as housing discrimination against people with disabilities continues to make up the majority of housing complaints,¹ as has been the trend for the past several years, and the unmet need for affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities is at crisis levels. FHIP funds enable fair housing organizations to address housing discrimination, including via education, testing, and policy work. This funding is critical to help enforce federal fair housing laws and address housing discrimination complaints nationwide.

¹ See, e.g., National Fair Housing Alliance, "Defending Against Unprecedented Attacks on Fair Housing: 2019 Fair Housing Trends Report," available at: <https://nationalfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Trends-Report.pdf>.

HUD has continued to delay the release of the FHIP NOFA for FY19, so this situation is not new, but the repeated delays in FHIP make the current circumstances dire, as a significant percentage of all FHIP enforcement grantees will experience a serious gap in funding. The growing delay will force fair housing organizations to halt services for people experiencing prohibited discrimination, and lay off or furlough needed and highly trained fair housing specialists.

FHIP should be a priority, and we ask that you contact HUD and demand it immediate release the FY19 FHIP NOFA or explain the reason for the delay. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Burgdorf, The Arc of the United States
Co-Chair, CCD Housing Task Force

Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Co-Chair, CCD Housing Task Force