



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

July 18, 2011

Hon. Thomas Latham, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Olver, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of 74 national organizations representing all 50 states and territories, call on you to protect low income Americans by preserving funding for programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We are deeply troubled by the significant cuts to HUD programs that are likely to result in a Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations subcommittee mark-up as a result of the low 302b allocation. Such drastic cuts would negatively impact many vulnerable low income households in your communities and across the country.

CHCDF members recognize the fiscal pressures on your committee, but slashing housing and community development programs that serve vulnerable families will not solve our long-term fiscal problems. Underfunding HUD programs would harm vulnerable households at a time when they can least afford it. Therefore, CHCDF members urge the Committee to abide by the principle that low income families and individuals should not be made worse off by spending reductions; this includes ensuring that low income households do not experience increased housing or other cost burdens from spending cuts.

In both the short and long term, underfunding of housing and community development programs will increase costs for federal, state and local governments. Cost increases will result from evicting households who will then be forced to access emergency shelter and other services, eliminating employment opportunities for low income households, allowing affordable housing to deteriorate and halting economic growth of neighborhoods. Investment in education will be impacted and public safety costs will grow.

In contrast, investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and more vibrant communities improves child well-being, enhances educational achievement, improves health, lowers crime, and increases employment access and stability. HUD's programs are key to preventing hardship and to continuing economic recovery as they address the basic needs of our nation's residents.

Therefore, we urge you to ensure that HUD programs are maintained, despite the significant cuts to the T-HUD subcommittee allocation. Members of CHCDF stand ready to work with you to find responsible ways to continue to address our nation's housing and community development needs. Please let us know how we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community and Economic Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Jesuit Conference
LeadingAge (*formerly AAHSA*)
Lutheran Services in America
Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Washington Office
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network for Youth
National Network to End Domestic Violence
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
RISE, America!
Rebuilding Together
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Community Builders
The Jewish Federations of North America
Travelers Aid International

cc: Hon. John Boehner
Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Hon. Harold Rogers
Hon. Norm Dicks