



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

May 27, 2011

Hon. Harold Rogers, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Hon. Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

We the undersigned are organizations concerned with the housing needs of low and moderate income Americans and the community development needs of our nation's cities, suburbs, towns, tribal communities and rural areas. We are deeply concerned by the significant cut in the Appropriations Committee's FY12 302b allocation for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) subcommittee. The allocation is \$27 billion below the President's requested budget authority for the two departments and \$7 billion below the FY11 enacted level. Achieving such cuts would negatively impact many vulnerable low income households in your communities and across the country.

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) members recognize that the nation must reduce its deficit 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. In fact, in February 2011, HUD released its Worst Case Housing Needs Report to Congress, revealing that the number of households with worst case housing needs increased by 20 percent from 2007 to 2009.¹ CHCDF members urge the Committee to abide by the principle that low income families and individuals should not be made worse off by spending reduction actions; 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 community infrastructure 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.

We know Congress is seeking to scale back discretionary spending, however, insufficient funding for housing and community development programs will cause more people to lose their jobs, make additional poor

¹ HUD defines worst case needs as very low-income renters with incomes below 50 percent of the Area Median Income who do not receive government housing assistance and who either paid more than one-half of their income for rent or lived in severely inadequate conditions, or who faced both of these challenges.

families struggle to pay their rent, and increase homelessness. We urge you to ensure that funding for HUD programs is maintained.

We hope that you will call on any or all of us to work with you to support this request, and we look forward to a day in the near future when HUD once again has the resources to do its full part to solve the housing and development problems of our nation's communities.

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
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
LeadingAge (*formerly AAHSA*)
Local Initiatives Support Coalition
Lutheran Services in America
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center on Family Homelessness
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 Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network for Youth
National Network to End Domestic Violence
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Rebuilding Together
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Jewish Federations of North America
Travelers Aid International

cc: Hon. John Boehner
Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Hon. Tom Latham
Hon. John Olver