NCDA Washington Report

June 30, 2016

Ask Your Senators to Oppose S. 3100; CDBG Funding at Stake

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) introduced S. 3100 – Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act – earlier this week. The measure would withhold CDBG and other federal funding from so-called “sanctuary cities,” which are cities and counties that have policies in place to bar local law enforcement officials from cooperating with federal immigration (e.g., turning over illegal immigrants to federal officials). The proposal, if approved, would take effect on October 1, 2016. Last year, NCDA and the CDBG Coalition fought off similar attempts by Senator Vitter (R-LA) and Senator Toomey. Toomey is in a tough re-election fight and this bill is seen as a way to bolster his numbers in his home state of Pennsylvania.

The bill could go to the Senate floor as early as Wednesday, so it is important for you to contact your Senators before this date and ask them to vote NO on S. 3100.

Contact Your Senators Regarding Problematic Amendments to the CJS Spending Bill

Two problematic amendments have been filed to the FY17 Commerce-Justice-Science and Related Agencies spending bill. Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) filed an amendment to cut $148 million from the Census Bureau, essentially eliminating the funding needed to ramp up for the 2020 Census. The proposed cut would force the Bureau to abandon plans to modernize the census, including eliminating the American Community Survey, which federal agencies and communities rely on to determine federal funding allocations. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) filed an amendment to add questions on legal status and citizenship to the 2020 Census Form in order to exclude undocumented residents from population totals to determine Congressional apportionment. This is unconstitutional since the 14^{th} amendment requires a full count of everyone, including undocumented residents. It would also unfairly affect cities and counties with large numbers of undocumented residents from receiving their fair share of CDBG, HOME and other federal funding, as these programs use population as factors in annual formula allocations. Contact your Senators and ask them to oppose these amendments.

The Senate will take up the CJS bill next week.

Companion Bill to H.R. 3700 introduced in the Senate

Senate Banking Committee Chairman, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), and Ranking Member, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), introduced legislation last week to streamline HUD’s rental assistance programs. H.R. 3083 – Housing Opportunity Modernization Act – aligns with H.R. 3700, a similar bill introduced in the House in February. The measure would amend the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 to modify HUD’s Section 8 and public housing programs and make changes to other program areas including the following.

•Expand access to higher opportunity areas through project-based vouchers.
•Allow PHAs to use more project-based vouchers to help the homeless, veterans, and the elderly.
•Allow PHAs the flexibility to use operating funds for capital improvements.
•Expedite the inspection process to allow units to be rented more quickly to voucher holders.
•Delay rent increases for tenants who start work or whose earnings rise.

•Impose housing assistance limits for households with incomes above 120% of the poverty level.
•Update the HOPWA formula to ensure the funds are targeted to areas with the greatest need.
•The bill would make more condominiums eligible for FHA insurance.
•Increase access to homeownership for low-income families in rural areas by expediting the loan process under USDA's single-family guaranteed loan program.

Senate Bill Would Gut HUD's Programs
The Welfare Reform and Upward Mobility Act (S. 3047), introduced by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), would eliminate nearly every HUD program, if enacted. A companion bill, H.R. 5360, was introduced in the House by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) earlier this month. The bill would prevent Congress from funding the following programs in FY17: Housing Choice Voucher Program, Public Housing, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance Program, HOME program, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, Native American Housing Block Grant, Section 101 Rent Supplement Program, Section 236 Rental Assistance Payments Program, Rural Housing Insurance Fund, and other programs provided through the Rural Housing Service. Only a few programs were spared, including CDBG.

The bill recommends combining all of the programs into a single block grant that would be distributed directly to States. Over a ten-year period, funding for the block grant would be reduced by 50%. States would be required to provide a 20% match of non-federal funds.

The bill will likely not pass Congress.

House Republicans Release Anti-Poverty Platform
House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and the Republican Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility released an anti-poverty report titled, "A Better Way: Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility." The report focuses on four areas: (1) conditioning welfare assistance on work; (2) providing incentives to move people from welfare to work; (3) measuring results; and (4) providing support to people with the greatest need.

In a nutshell, the report recommends that recipients of welfare benefits be required to work or be preparing for work in order to receive benefits. The report recommends aligning housing benefits with welfare benefits. Work-capable individuals receiving housing assistance would be required to work or prepare to work by developing self-sufficiency plans with a case worker.

The report also supports greater housing choice through the use of enhanced vouchers to allow residents to move to areas with greater opportunity – jobs, education, etc. The report also recommends moving beyond PHAs to administer housing assistance to more efficient models such as local non-profit and other service providers. The reports also recommends consolidating USDA's Rural Housing Service rental assistance program into HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program, since they are nearly identical programs.

2016 CoC Competition is Now Open
HUD announced yesterday the opening of its 2016 Continuum of Care competition. The electronic application, *e-snaps,* is not open yet. HUD anticipates that *e-snaps* will be available after July 6. In its notice, HUD reiterated the need for communities to thoroughly read through the NOFA to understand what has changed from last year and to begin to plan local competitions based on the information provided in the FY 2016 NOFA.

Changes in the FY 2016 NOFA:
•Tier 1 is now 93% of the CoC's ARD amount; up from the 85% amount in the FY 2015 NOFA;
•The amount available for the Permanent Housing Bonus is 5 percent of the CoC's Final Pro Rata Need.
•Tier 2 project-level scoring has been revised to include the following:
    Up to 50 points based on CoC Application score;
    Up to 35 points based on where the CoC ranks a project in Tier 2 in the local ranking process;
    Up to 5 points based on the type of project in Tier 2; and
    Up to 10 points based on each Tier 2 project's commitment to a Housing First approach.

•CoCs will be rated for submitting system performance measures which will be worth 10 points.

Income Calculator Updated with FY 2016 HOME Program Income Limits
HUD's CPD calculator has been updated to include the FY 2016 HOME program income limits.

HUD Issues Proposed Rule on Small Area Fair Market Rents
HUD has issued a proposed rule to use Small Area Fair Market Rents (Small Area FMRs) instead of the 50th Percentile FMRs to attempt to deconcentrate the use of Housing Choice vouchers in some metropolitan areas. Small Area FMRs drill down to the zip code level while traditional FMRs provide a rent standard for an entire metropolitan region. The proposed Small Area FMRs would apply only to HUD's Voucher program – both tenant-based and project-based. The intent of the proposed Small Area FMRs is to provide a more realistic rent standard at the neighborhood level, resulting in higher subsidies in neighborhoods with higher rents and greater opportunity for residents. Go here to see if your metropolitan area will be affected by the proposed change to Small Area FMRs.

NCDA will form a working group to comment on the rule. If you directly administer the Housing Voucher program and are interested in participating in the working group, please contact Vicki Watson at vwatson@ncdaonline.org.

Harvard Releases State of the Nation's Housing 2016
Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies released the "State of the Nation's Housing 2016" last week. The report found that the number of severely cost-burdened renters has reach a record high at 11.4 million households. The study also found that while rents increased by over 3.6 percent in 2015, incomes increased only 1.2 percent.

NHC Provides Information on Opportunity Mapping
The National Housing Conference recently released a brief on opportunity mapping that provides information on the relevance of opportunity mapping to federal policies and discusses resources for communities to use in conducting opportunity mapping.

CFBP Issues Rule to Provide Protections on Payday and Other Loans
The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection has issued a proposed rule aimed at providing greater consumer protections on payday loans, vehicle title loans, and high-cost installment loans. The rule will require lenders to assess a person's ability to repay a loan as well as crack down on lenders' withdrawal of payments from consumers' accounts. Comments are due on September 14, 2016.

NCDA Selects 2016-2017 Slate of Officers
The NCDA membership at the annual business meeting on June 25, 2016 approved the following slate of officers for the 2016-2017 term.

Bonnie Moore, President, Shreveport, LA
Patrick Sullivan, Vice-President, New Bedford, MA
George Mensah, Secretary, Miami, FL
Dale Cook, Treasurer, Palm Springs, CA
Michael Look, Past President, Seattle, WA

Bonnie Moore, NCDA's new President, serves as Director of the Community Development Department with the City of Shreveport, LA. The department oversees the Bureau of Administration, Bureau of Housing and Business Development, and Bureau of Workforce Development. She has served as Co-Chair of the NCDA Housing Subcommittee and has served on the Board for many years.

We welcome all of the new officers. Please see the attached press release for more information.

NCDA Region 1 Develops CoC Policy Brief
NCDA's New England Region has developed a set of recommendations aimed at making the Continuum of Care application process more efficient and transparent. NCDA supports the recommendations put forward in the brief and will share the material with Congressional Members in future Hill visits. We urge you to review the attached brief and share it with your Congressional Members as well.

AFFH and Public Health
As you move forward with implementing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule and developing the Assessment of Fair Housing Tool, please remember to include your local public health agency in your discussions. Los Angeles County recently held a meeting with various representatives from their public health agency and agreed to share the following documents with NCDA members: (1) Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: A Platform for Public Health Advocates (attached); and (2) Social Determinants of Health: Housing and Health in Los Angeles County available here.

2016 NCDA Annual Conference Presentations Available
The presentations from the 2016 NCDA Annual Conference have been posted to the NCDA website and are available here for viewing. NCDA would like to thank all of the presenters and moderators for their contribution to the conference and thank the City of Milwaukee staff for being such wonderful hosts.

Update Your NCDA Username and Password
In our effort to upgrade our website and database we need you to please go to the link below to create a new password to access the Members Only sections of the website. Please contact Vicki Watson at vwatson@ncdaonline.org with any questions.

http://ncdaonline.org/membercredential.asp

NCDA is on Facebook and Twitter
Thanks to the efforts of Melissa Horr Pond (Quincy, MA) NCDA is now on Facebook and Twitter. We are seeking content to add to the Facebook page, such as photos (with captions) and videos. Please feel free to e-mail those items to Melissa at mhorr@quincyma.gov.

https://www.facebook.com/NCDAonline/

Twitter: @NCDAonline

NCDA HOME and CDBG Training Available
Please see below NCDA's CDBG and HOME training schedule. Both the CDBG and HOME basics courses provide a comprehensive overview of the programs through lecture and in-class exercises. The courses are filling up quickly, so we advise you to register immediately. Go here to register for a HOME course and go here to register for a CDBG course.

HOME Basics Course
August 24-26
Santa Rosa, CA (Host: Sonoma County)

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners
September 21-23
Santa Rosa, CA (Host: Sonoma County)

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners
September 28-30
Philadelphia, PA

HOME Basics Course
October 24-25
Albuquerque, NM

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners
November 1-3
Lexington, SC (Host: Lexington County)

If you would like NCDA to provide on-site CDBG and HOME training to your staff, please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org.

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Budget Chart

Program	FY16 Enacted Funding Level	President's FY17 Budget Request	Senate FY17 Request	House Appropriations Committee FY17 Request
CDBG Formula Grants	$3.0 billion	$2.8 billion	$3.0 billion	$3.0 billion
HOME Formula Grants	$950 million	$950 million	$950 million	$950 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	$2.25 billion	$2.664 million	$2.330 billion	$2.487 billion
Section 108	$300 million	$300 million	$300 million	$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	$125 million	$200 million	$80 million	$100 million
HOPWA	$335 million	$335 million	$335 million	$335 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	$110 million	$110 million	$135 million	$130 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	$433 million	$505 million	$505 million	$505 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	$151 million	$154 million	$154 million	$154 million
Housing Counseling	$47 million	$47 million	$47 million	$55 million
Housing Choice Vouchers	$19.629 billion	$20.854 billion*	$20.432 billion**	$20.189 billion***
Project-Based Section 8	$10.62 billion	$10.816 billion	$10.901 billion	$10.901 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	$1.9 billion	$1.865 billion	$1.925 billion	$1.900 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	$4.5 billion	$4.569 billion	$4.675 billion	$4.500 billion

*includes $18.447 billion for voucher renewals, $110 million for tenant protection vouchers, $2 billion for administrative fees, $88 million for new/restored vouchers, and $110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers

**includes $18.355 billion for voucher renewals, $110 million for tenant-protection vouchers, $1.769 billion for administrative fees, $20 million for new/restored vouchers, and $110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers

***Includes $18.312 billion for voucher renewals, $110 million for tenant-protection vouchers, $1.650 billion for administrative fees, $7 million for new Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers, and $110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers.