



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

Field Talking Points FY14 Budget Conference Committee

Top Line Messages

Sequestration is bad policy that is exacerbating hardships for tens of thousands of low-income families.

States and local communities rely on HUD and USDA resources to develop and preserve affordable housing, as well as to help more than 5 million low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children to rent housing they can afford. Indiscriminate sequestration cuts are sharply reducing the number of low income families they assist, exacerbating the effects of poverty and increasing homelessness.

Any budget agreement that reduces sequestration for defense programs must also restore funding for nondefense discretionary programs, dollar for dollar. Since 2010, HUD and USDA programs have been cut severely, some by nearly 50%. Nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs – the category that includes most HUD and USDA housing and community development programs – have absorbed a disproportionate share of the spending cuts made by Congress since 2010. NDD programs — particularly those that assist the most vulnerable Americans — should not bear the brunt of deficit reduction efforts. Congress can prevent further nondefense discretionary spending cuts by including revenue in a budget agreement.

A budget agreement that cancels sequestration is needed to prevent further cuts in HUD and USDA housing assistance. Many state and local housing agencies are taking one-time steps – such as spending their modest program reserves – to mitigate the effects of sequestration cuts this year. These temporary measures will be exhausted in 2014, and cuts in assistance to low-income families will worsen dramatically if sequestration remains in place. A budget agreement would enable Congressional appropriators to craft 2014 spending bills that would avoid further cuts in the number of low-income households served by HUD and USDA programs. You can help prevent further cuts by advocating for sequestration relief and ensuring that the conference comes to agreement on an FY14 budget.

Background on the National Affordable Housing Crisis

- Earlier this year, the [Department of Housing and Urban Development reported](#) that in 2011, approximately 8.5 million households had worst case housing needs--the highest number ever recorded.
- This is a staggering 44% increase in worst case housing needs since 2007-- a startling trend of insecurity that shows no signs of letting up. Congress must reverse this trend.
- Only one in every four eligible households receives rental assistance and on any given night, over 600,000 people are experiencing homelessness.

How this Shortage Affects Our State and Local Communities

- In [STATE], the lowest income households face extraordinary housing affordability challenges while local communities and organizations that serve these families and individuals have fewer and fewer resources.
- For instance, here in [STATE], we have a shortage of [INSERT FIGURE: <http://nlihc.org/library/SHP>] rental units for the lowest income households. Sequestration has undoubtedly added to that shortage.
- In our state, housing and community development funds have made a significant impact. Rental assistance has [INSERT EXAMPLE OF PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT] and community development funding has [INSERT EXAMPLE OF IMPROVEMENT TO YOUR CITY/TOWN]. Without sufficient funding for HUD and USDA housing programs, our state will not be able to continue this excellent work for your constituents.

Impacts of Cuts

- Section 8 Housing Vouchers have already been lost in [STATE] due to sequestration cuts. If sequestration is not replaced, between [XXX] and [XXX] [INSERT NUMBERS: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/11-6-13hous.pdf>] fewer families will be housed through Tenant-Based Rental Assistance;
- Congress failed to provide sufficient FY13 to maintain local Homeless Assistance activities – meaning homelessness instead of housing for 111,000 Americans. If FY13 post-sequestration funding is continued, this would mean homelessness instead of housing for over a quarter of a million Americans compared to 2012, and an additional 32,000 even compared to 2013 after sequestration.
- Public housing is also being put at risk by underfunding. We have lost \$[XXX] in Public Housing Operating and Capital funds, \$[XXX] since FY10. [INSERT FIGURES FROM : <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3993>]
- Nationwide, [XXX] units supported by Project-Based Rental Assistance are being put at risk. [INSERT FIGURE FROM: <http://www.nhtinc.org/downloads/pbs8bystate2.pdf>]
- Fewer affordable housing units are being developed for our state because HOME Investment Partnerships funds have been cut by [XXX] since FY10. [INSERT FIGURES FROM : <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3993>]
- \$[XXX] in Community Development Block Grant funds have been cut since FY10 resulting in fewer services provided. [INSERT FIGURES FROM : <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3993>]