

Support USDA Rural Housing Programs In FY 2014

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST

Deadline is COB Monday, April 1st
Support Funding for USDA Rural Housing Programs
Current co-signers: Grijalva, Negrete McLeod

Dear Colleague:

Join us in urging Congressman Robert Aderholt, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and Ranking Member Sam Farr to provide funding levels for key USDA rural housing programs that will benefit our rural constituents, rural economies, our districts, and the U.S. economy.

Please take the time to review the following report released by the National Rural Housing Coalition detailing just how important these programs are to rural America:

[Opening Doors to Rural Homeownership: Opportunities to Expand Homeownership, Build Wealth, and Strengthen Communities](#)

The USDA Section 502 Direct Loan Program and the Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program have successfully overcome unique barriers to affordable housing in rural America, including higher, more persistent poverty rates, higher rates of substandard housing, and a lack of affordable mortgage credit. Over the past 60 years, more than 2.1 million low-income rural families have accessed affordable mortgages under the Section 502 Direct Loan program, which is credited with building more than \$40 billion in wealth for the nation's rural poor. The Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing program is the only federal homeownership program of its kind; small groups of six to twelve rural families join together on nights and weekends to build each other's homes, reducing construction costs, earning equity, and making lasting investments in their communities. Other important rural housing programs provide opportunities to improve and preserve rental housing for senior citizens, low-income families, persons with disabilities, and migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

We urge you to join this effort by co-signing the accompanying letter which requests the following funding levels for USDA Rural Housing Programs in Fiscal Year 2014:

- (1) \$900 million for Section 502 Direct Loans;
- (2) \$28 million for Section 504 Home Repair Loans;
- (3) \$29.5 million for Section 504 Home Repair Grants;
- (4) \$26 million for Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Program Loans;
- (5) \$9 million for Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants;
- (6) \$64.5 million for Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program;
- (7) \$907 million for Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Housing Rental Assistance Program;
- (8) \$30 million for Section 523 Self-Help Housing Program;
- (9) \$3.6 million for Section 533 Rural Rental Preservation Grants;

- (10) \$150 million for Section 538 Rural Rental Housing Guaranteed Loans;
- (11) \$27.8 million for the Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program;
and
- (12) \$6.12 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative.

To co-sign the letter or obtain additional information or clarification, **please contact Holly Bullard at 226-8010 or Holly.Bullard@mail.house.gov. Deadline is COB Monday, April 1st.**

Sincerely,

Rubén Hinojosa
Chairman
Congressional Rural Housing Caucus