



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

November 2, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Cochran, Vice Chair Mikulski, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The undersigned members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition of national groups representing a broad spectrum of housing and community development organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories, call on you to protect low income Americans by preserving and increasing funding for programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by increasing the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) to the highest possible level in fiscal year (FY) 2016.

The THUD allocation uniquely promotes the well-being of our communities by providing essential capital and program funding that enables public and private partners to build critical transportation infrastructure, spur economic development in communities, and help more than five million seniors, people with disabilities, and other families afford stable and safe housing. The THUD allocation should be a top priority.

Given the increase in funding available now under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, appropriators should set a THUD 302(b) allocation that addresses the inadequacies of the earlier proposed House and Senate Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bills and makes progress toward important goals, like ending homelessness and helping children grow up in vibrant communities. A 302(b) funding allocation at the highest level possible would allow appropriators to fully fund the HOME program; protect the National Housing Trust Fund; provide sufficient funding for Section 8 Project Based Rent Assistance; and restore funding to the Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, and lead hazard programs. Appropriators should also aim to help more vulnerable households by funding additional supportive housing through homeless assistance grants and Section 811, and restoring the Housing Choice Vouchers that were lost due to sequestration.

The failure to take advantage of this opportunity to sufficiently fund HUD programs would hurt low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children, who want to live in safe, stable, affordable housing and to revitalize their communities. Investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and community development improves child health and well-being, enhances educational achievement, and prevents unnecessary use of hospitals, nursing homes, and other expensive institutional settings. It also lowers crime, and increases employment access and stability. HUD's programs address the basic needs of our nation's residents.

As members of the Appropriations Committees, and more importantly as elected representatives of your state and local communities, we urge you to invest in the success of America's communities by increasing the 302(b) allocation to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to the highest possible level in FY 2016.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

CSH

Enterprise Community Partners

LeadingAge

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Council of State Housing Agencies

National Housing Trust

National Low Income Housing Coalition