

Support the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

Deadline: COB March 31

Please join me in a letter urging the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee to restore funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME) to \$1.2 billion in FY 2018.

For over 20 years, HOME has proven to be one of the most effective, locally driven tools to help states and communities address their most pressing housing challenges. Overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HOME is vital to communities working to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals in need of supportive housing, including veterans, persons with disabilities, seniors and persons experiencing homelessness.

HOME is the only federal housing program exclusively focused on addressing such a wide range of housing activities. States and local communities use HOME to fund new production where affordable housing is scarce, rehabilitation where housing quality is a challenge, rental assistance when affordable homes are available, and provide homeownership opportunities when those are most needed. Moreover, this flexibility means that states and communities can quickly react to changes in their local housing markets.

Despite this success, HOME has been cut in half in recent years from more than \$1.8 billion in 2010 to \$900 million in 2015. These funding cuts have translated into a 60 percent drop in affordable housing units built or preserved through HOME at a time when recent studies have found that almost half of renter households are cost-burdened and more than a quarter spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent. Last year, HOME saw a modest increase in funding to \$950 million, but funding levels are still not robust enough to meet the critical need for affordable housing. Demand for HOME funds far outstrip the supply –on average, HOME grantees are only able to finance one-third of shovel-ready projects intended to help vulnerable members in their communities, according to a recent HOME Coalition survey.

The housing industry has and will continue to play a major role in our economic recovery. HOME funding needs to be restored to improve our economy and ensure Americans have access to affordable housing. Please contact Félix Muñoz (Felix.Muniz@mail.house.gov) at 5-7032 in my office to sign on to the letter.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2018 appropriations process, we respectfully request your consideration of the needs of the millions of low-income households across the United States without access to affordable housing. Specifically, we ask the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee to restore HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding to at least \$1.2 billion for fiscal year 2018.

For over 20 years, HOME has proven to be one of the most effective, locally driven tools to help states and communities address their most pressing housing challenges. Overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HOME is vital to communities working to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals in need of supportive housing, including veterans, persons with disabilities, seniors and persons experiencing homelessness. HOME is the only federal housing program exclusively focused on addressing such a wide range of housing activities. States and local communities use HOME to fund new production where affordable housing is scarce, rehabilitation where housing quality is a challenge, rental assistance when affordable homes are available, and provide homeownership opportunities when those are most needed. Moreover, this flexibility means that states and communities can quickly react to changes in their local housing markets.

HOME funds serve as a critical resource for communities in all 50 states and in every congressional district. Since 1992, HOME has helped to create over 1.23 million housing units and provided tenant-based rental assistance to over 324,000 families. The HOME Program has demonstrated the remarkable ability to attract other monies to its affordable housing projects, leveraging \$4.26 of private and public dollars for every \$1 of HOME funding expended. According to the HOME Coalition's recent report, this investment has supported an estimated 1.6 million jobs and generated \$105 billion in local income.

Despite this success, HOME has been cut in half in recent years from more than \$1.8 billion in 2010 to \$900 million in 2015. These funding cuts have translated into a 60 percent drop in affordable housing units built or preserved through HOME at a time when recent studies have found that almost half of renter households are cost-burdened and more than a quarter spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent. Last year, HOME saw a modest increase in

funding to \$950 million, but funding levels are still not robust enough to meet the critical need for affordable housing. Demand for HOME funds far outstrip the supply –on average, HOME grantees are only able to finance one-third of shovel-ready projects intended to help vulnerable members in their communities, according to a recent HOME Coalition survey.

Restoring HOME funding to at least \$1.2 billion must be a part of any effort to address the growing need for affordable housing by the one-in-four working renter households and the one-in-five working homeowners who spend more than half their incomes on housing costs each year.

The housing industry has and will continue to play a major role in our economic recovery. We urge you to restore HOME program funding to at least \$1.2 billion in order to help improve our economy and ensure every American has access to affordable housing.

Sincerely,

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress