



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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*Founded in 1974 by
Cushing N. Dolbeare*

October 21, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
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

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Mikulski, Vice Chair Shelby, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I urge Congress to pass a full year FY15 THUD appropriations bill. NLIHC is dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. HUD's housing programs that serve the lowest income households, such as the public housing, housing choice voucher, project-based rental assistance, HOME, and homeless assistance programs are key to the stability of the currently served households and those families that will be served by them in the future.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

We are concerned that a long term or year-long continuing resolution will lead to the loss of housing assistance as housing authorities and local housing providers have to cut costs to meet flat funding levels provided for in a continuing resolution. Funding HUD's housing programs at FY14 levels could force cutbacks in assistance in the near future, given increasing rents and stagnating incomes for the poorest households. Continued underfunding of HUD programs will not allow the United States to meet its goal to end family, children, and youth homelessness by 2020.

NLIHC is a member of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition of national affordable housing and community development groups. CHCDF members include faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediary, civil rights, developer, and advocacy groups. These groups work to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and homeowners across the country.

It is essential Congress make its FY15 HUD funding decisions with the knowledge of the critical role affordable housing has in improving the lives of low income households, and the role community development programs have in supporting local economies. NLIHC, with CHCDF, urges Congress to pass a full FY15 HUD appropriations bill before December 11 with funding levels sufficient to allow states and communities to maintain and expand affordable housing options for the most vulnerable populations and stimulate community revitalization.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Sheila Crowley
President and CEO