

Support Section 8 Housing Program!

Deadline: March 30 COB

2016 Signers: *Jerrold Nadler, Joyce Beatty, Xavier Becerra, Don Beyer, Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Madeleine Bordallo, Robert A. Brady, G.K. Butterfield, Lois Capps, Michael Capuano, Tony Cárdenas, André Carson, Joaquin Castro, Matt Cartwright, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine Clark, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Steve Cohen, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Costa, Joe Crowley, Elijah E. Cummings, Danny K. Davis, John Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan DelBene, Mark DeSaulnier, Debbie Dingell, Eliot Engel, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Chaka Fattah, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, John Garamendi, Al Green, Raúl M. Grijalva, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Alcee L. Hastings, Brian Higgins, Jared Huffman, Hakeem Jeffries, Sheila Jackson Lee, Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr., William R. Keating, Joseph P. Kennedy, III, Dan Kildee, Ann Kirkpatrick, Ann McLane Kuster, Jim Langevin, Rick Larsen, John Larson, Barbara Lee, Sander Levin, John Lewis, Zoe Lofgren, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Stephen F. Lynch, Carolyn Maloney, Doris Matsui, Jim McDermott, James P. McGovern, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Gwen Moore, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Donald M. Payne, Jr., Ed Perlmutter, Scott Peters, Chellie Pingree, Stacey E. Plaskett, Mark Pocan, Charles B. Rangel, Kathleen M. Rice, Cedric Richmond, Linda T. Sánchez, Jan Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Albio Sires, Adam Smith, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takai, Mark Takano, Mike Thompson, Niki Tsongas, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia Velazquez, Maxine Waters, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Peter Welch, Frederica Wilson.*

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in requesting a total of \$21.2 billion for the Tenant-Based “Section 8” Rental Assistance program, including \$19.3 billion to renew all current vouchers, in the FY 2018 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. That funding level will ensure that every single voucher currently in circulation will be renewed for FY 2018 and the program continues to function. Acknowledging current limits on discretionary spending, the letter also asks the committee to consider an additional \$88 million for 10,000 new vouchers if spending caps are lifted.

Section 8 helps 2.2 million low-income families afford modest housing in the private rental market. Assisted households have incomes of just \$13,800, on average, well below the federal poverty line, and nearly all of them include the elderly, people with disabilities, or children. Rigorous research shows that housing vouchers reduce poverty, homelessness, and other hardships, and can provide a platform for low-income children to improve their lives over the long term.

This letter requests a total of \$21.2 billion, including \$19.3 billion to renew every current voucher while accounting for rent inflation and \$1.8 billion for administrative fees.

With current spending caps, we could not ask for additional funding without hurting other programs we care about. However, the letter requests that if the Committee reaches an agreement to raise the caps, they also provide an additional 10,000 new vouchers for homeless families with

children. Those new vouchers would cost \$88 million, or \$20 million less than providing a year of security for Trump Tower in New York.

If you have any questions, or you would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Melissa Connolly in my office at melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov or at ext. 5-5635.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member:

We respectfully ask that the Committee provide *at least* \$21.2 billion for Tenant-Based “Section 8” Rental Assistance program, including \$19.3 billion for voucher renewals, in the FY 2018 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. This funding level will ensure that every existing voucher is renewed in FY 2018 accounting for rent inflation.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) helps 2.2 million low-income households rent modest homes in the private market at an affordable cost. On average, households receiving assistance have incomes of \$13,800, well below the federal poverty line, and nearly all include children, seniors, or people with disabilities. Research consistently demonstrates that the TBRA program is effective in reducing poverty, housing instability and homelessness, and in helping families — particularly minority families — to live in communities that are safer and healthier. Despite this success, only one in four eligible low-income families receives federal rental assistance, and there are long waiting lists for vouchers in nearly every community, even as the number of families struggling to afford housing has surged over the past decade.

The Committee must at least fund Section 8 at \$21.2 billion for FY 2018. That total includes \$19.3 billion for renewals and \$1.8 billion for administrative fees. Providing \$19.3 billion would ensure that every voucher currently being used by families around the country is renewed in FY 2018 at current rent levels. As advocates for Section 8 and other critical affordable housing programs, we strongly support increasing funding for Section 8 and providing additional vouchers for the hundreds of thousands of families sitting on waitlists around the country. However, we recognize that under the current budget caps, asking for an increase beyond \$19.3

billion would severely undercut other critical programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

To that end, we also respectfully request that should any agreement be reached on raising caps for Non-Defense Discretionary spending, the Committee provide additional funding to create at least 10,000 new vouchers for homeless and at-risk families with children. In FY 2017, those vouchers cost approximately \$88 million. The rigorous Family Options Study released in 2015 found that housing vouchers reduce family homelessness more effectively than any other intervention; as a result, children in homeless families receiving vouchers were also less likely to miss school days or to be placed into foster care.

We appreciate the ongoing bipartisan efforts of the Committee to prioritize Section 8 renewals, support agencies' efforts to restore vouchers during recent budget cycles, and fund additional vouchers to address homelessness. It is our sincere hope that with some additional funding, we can achieve the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness strategic goal of ending child homelessness by 2020.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,