

Support HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program

Sending Office: Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
Sent By: Alison.Share@mail.house.gov

Request for Signature(s)

Support FY20 Funding for HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program

Deadline April 1, 2019

Current Signers: Beatty, Beyer Jr., Blumenauer, Anthony G. Brown, Cárdenas, Carson, Casten, Castor, Castro, Cohen, Courtney, Dean, DeFazio, DeGette, DeLauro, Delgado, DeSaulnier, Doyle, Foster, Gabbard, Green, Grijalva, Hastings, Heck, Higgins, Holmes Norton, Khanna, Krishnamoorthi, Kuster, Langevin, Lee, Lipinski, Loeb sack, Sean Patrick Maloney, Matsui, McGovern, McNerney, Morelle, Omar, Payne, Jr., Perlmutter, Phillips, Pingree, Plaskett, Raskin, Sarbanes, Schakowsky, Scott, Sewell, Speier, Takano, Talib, Thompson, Tonko, Veasey, Velázquez, Waters, Welch, Wilson, Young

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to join me in urging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies to include \$65 million for HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Dear Colleague:

Housing counseling is the primary source for millions of prospective and current homeowners, renters and seniors to receive pre-purchasing counseling for those purchasing their first home. It also provides post-purchase foreclosure prevention counseling, renter and homeless prevention counseling and reverse mortgage counseling.

This program provides a critical service for millions of Americans, especially those from low and moderate incomes, and communities of color. For families affected by natural disasters, housing counselors also provided access to resources and assisted with the decision whether to rebuild or relocate.

Independent studies have repeatedly demonstrated that counseled consumers benefit from increased savings, higher credit scores, fewer delinquencies and a higher probability of foreclosure avoidance. Housing counselors play an important role in helping consumers avoid the types of mistakes that led to the last housing crisis.

To sign onto this letter, please contact Alison Share (Alison.share@mail.house.gov or 5-0932) in my office.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee

April 4, 2019

The Honorable David Price

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart

Chairman

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing

and Urban Development, and Related

and Urban Development, and Related

Agencies

Agencies

House Committee on Appropriations

House Committee on Appropriations

United States Congress

United States Congress

2358-A Rayburn Housing Office Building

1016 Longworth Housing Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, (THUD) and Related Agencies appropriation, we request that you support the critical HUD Housing Counseling Assistance program at the \$65 million funding level. This program supports high quality, independent non-profit housing counselors working directly with consumers to empower them to make informed financial decisions surrounding homeownership.

HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance program is the primary source for millions of prospective and current homeowners, renters and seniors to receive pre-purchasing counseling for those purchasing their first home. It also provides post-purchase foreclosure prevention counseling, renter and homeless prevention counseling and reverse mortgage counseling.

In FY 2018, HUD-approved counseling agencies assisted over one million households across the country, with over 50 percent being racial minorities and nearly 60 percent having low to moderate income. For families affected by natural disasters, housing counselors also provided access to resources and assisted with the decision whether to rebuild or relocate.

The success of federal housing counseling programs proves that they are one of the most effective and cost-efficient solutions that the federal government can use to help homeowners. Independent research by organizations like the Philadelphia Federal Reserve, the Urban Institute and Freddie Mac demonstrates that consumers who work with a HUD-approved housing counseling agency have significantly better outcomes than those who are not counseled.

These studies demonstrate that counseled consumers benefit from increased savings, higher credit scores, fewer delinquencies and a higher probability of foreclosure avoidance. Housing counselors play an important role in helping consumers avoid the types of mistakes that led to the last housing crisis. But demand for services far outpaces resources.

Increased funding for the HUD Counseling Assistance Program would allow housing counseling organizations to address issues of access, improve availability of services and ultimately serve more families. Strong federal funding will ensure that HUD-approved counseling agencies remain independent and provide consumers with accurate and unbiased financial information.

Thank you for considering this request. The millions of families that benefit from working with a counselor hope they can count on your support for this important work.

Sincerely,