



# NATIONAL COALITION **FOR** HOUSING JUSTICE

April 13, 2021

Dear President Biden, Ambassador Rice and Secretary Fudge:

Thank you for your leadership on the American Rescue Plan. Because of it, we are one step closer to a future where all communities thrive. Like you, we believe that a vibrant, healthy, and prosperous America means that every person in every zip code has a safe, stable, affordable, and accessible place to call home.

The American Jobs Plan, the American Families Plan, and the FY 2022 President's Budget Request provide additional opportunities to advance the bold housing solutions that will help us make our shared vision a reality. If we act now, we can achieve the aspirations of Build Back Better by putting rents and home ownership within reach of every American and by addressing the structural failures in our current systems and programs that disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and other people of color and that continue to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people. This moment is an opportunity to model and advance a dignity-based approach to expanding housing access and thereby ending homelessness by centering racial justice and equity and focusing on housing for all.

As you roll out these plans, we urge you to act on the following priorities:

- 1) **Ensure universal housing for all.** Housing is a human right and must be universally accessible for all. Housing is the underpinning of safe communities and a thriving America. As we build the on-ramp toward universal housing access, we urge you to take immediate action by including the below in the American Jobs Plan:
  - **Guaranteeing Housing Choice Vouchers** for all income-eligible people and people engaged with or exiting from mainstream systems;
  - **Investing \$70 billion to repair the nation's public housing** infrastructure and helping to ensure that these investments create pathways to employment, training, education, and quality jobs for people experiencing homelessness and housing instability within communities; and
  - **Investing \$40 billion in the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** to build and preserve deeply affordable homes and help end homelessness.
- 2) **Strengthen partnerships with federal agencies and invest \$9 million in the capacity of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).** This will allow the agency to rapidly strengthen its ability to build additional expertise and coordinate federal partners around the goals of ending homelessness and ensuring housing justice.

We hope that we have more opportunities to work with you as you advance racial, housing, and economic justice. We urge you to take advantage of this catalytic moment to invest in these solutions that will create a platform for all Americans to succeed.

Sincerely,

National Coalition for Housing Justice