

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We, the 598 undersigned organizations, write to urge you to address in the next coronavirus relief package the urgent health and housing needs of America's lowest-income renter households – 8 million of which were struggling to pay rent and make ends meet before the current coronavirus pandemic and who now are facing increased risks of evictions and homelessness. To avert a surge in evictions and homelessness, we urge you to include in any comprehensive coronavirus relief package the *Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act* proposed by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Congressman Denny Heck (D-WA), and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) to provide \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance to help keep America's low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, low-wage workers, and others stably housed during this crisis.

The “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)” included \$12 billion in housing and homelessness resources and other critical protections for low-income renters. This bill was an important first step, but far more resources are needed to protect those individuals living on the brink. While the CARES Act's stimulus checks and expanded unemployment benefits will certainly help, they only last a short duration, many people with the greatest needs are facing challenges in accessing these resources, and even those who were successful in receiving these benefits will still be severely rent-burdened and at risk of homelessness unless Congress provides targeted emergency rental assistance. Research from the National Low Income Housing Coalition [estimates](#) that at least \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance is needed.

Even before the pandemic, people of color were significantly more likely than white people to experience evictions and homelessness, the result of centuries of institutional racism and economic inequity. People of color will also likely experience greater burdens in the aftermath of the acute crisis. In addition to facing higher mortality rates in their communities, the economic impact of COVID-19 will likely increase rates of job insecurity, food insecurity, housing instability and homelessness.

Emergency rental assistance provides direct support to people who have lost jobs to help them shelter in place and avoid housing instability during and after the pandemic. Temporary moratoria on evictions offer temporary protections for some renters, but rent arrears will accumulate. People who have lost income as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak will struggle to cover large sums of back-rent once it comes due. Without emergency rental assistance, these households will face the destabilizing impacts of evictions and, in worst cases, homelessness, with enormous negative consequences for individuals, their communities, and our economy. Emergency rental assistance is

also necessary to ensure the continued viability of our country's essential affordable housing infrastructure.

If enacted, the *Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act* would provide states, localities, territories, and tribes with flexible resources to provide direct support to households in need with short- and medium-term rental assistance or to cover up to 6 months of back rent and late fees. The funds may also be used to stabilize households by helping to address the cost of security deposits and utility deposits and payments, among other expenses. These funds are designed to reach people in need quickly and directly; half of the funds must be allocated to states and local governments within 7 days. The Emergency Solutions Grants program utilized in this legislative proposal was modelled by Congress on the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) program created and used successfully in the aftermath the 2008 financial crisis.

We urge you to include in any comprehensive coronavirus relief package the *Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act* to prevent evictions and homelessness and promote housing stability among those individuals with the greatest needs during and after this crisis.

Sincerely,

National and Multistate Organizations

Acacia Network, Inc.

ADAPT

African American Health Alliance

American Association of Service Coordinators

American Civil Liberties Union

American Kidney Fund

American Public Health Association

Avesta Housing

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

BRIDGE Housing

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families & Communities

Center for Community Progress

Center for Disability Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Public Representation

Center for Responsible Lending

Cheyenne Gastrointestinal Associates

Children's Defense Fund

Church World Service

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Change

Community Economics

Community Housing Partners

Community Preservation Corporation

Community Restoration Partners

Community Solutions

Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd - U.S. Provinces
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Consumer Credit and Budget Counseling, Inc. dba National Foundation for Debt Management
Consumer Federation of America
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
EAH Housing
Enterprise Community Partners
Equitable Housing Institute
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Family Promise
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Fundors Together to End Homelessness
Gary E. Hanes & Associates LLC
Grounded Solutions Network
Health Justice Innovations LLC
Heartland Alliance
HELP USA
Homeless Advocacy for All
Housing Assistance Council
Housing Development Corporation MidAtlantic
Housing Partnership Network
IDP Properties
Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Network of Street Papers North America
Islamic Center of North America Council for Social Justice
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) - Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA
LeadingAge
Legal Action Center
Leviticus 25:23 Alternative Fund, Inc.
Living and Aging with Pride
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Low Income Investment Fund
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Muslim Caucus Education Collective
NAACP
National Action Network
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Safe Housing
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance of HUD Tenants
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for County Community & Economic Development
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Real Estate Brokers
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of Latinxs with Disabilities
National Community Development Association
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Community Stabilization Trust
National Consumer Law Center
National Council of Churches
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Housing & Rehabilitation Association
National Housing Conference
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Housing Trust
National Innovation Service
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National League of Cities
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Manufactured Home Owners Association
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NewWest Community Capital
NID Housing Counseling Agency
Oxfam America
Partnering for Change
PolicyLink
Polygon Education Fund
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness
Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.
Prosperity Now

R.J.H. & A., Inc.

RESULTS

Rocky Mountain Community Reinvestment Corporation

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Saint Alphonsus

Saint Alphonsus Health System

Sconiers Homeless Preventive Organization, Inc.

Seedco

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

Sound Thinking LLC

Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future

Strong, Prosperous, and Resilient Communities Challenge

Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.

The Arc of the United States

The Caleb Group

The NHP Foundation

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Treatment Communities of America

UnidosUS

Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UNITE HERE

Up for Growth Action

Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho

Volunteers of America Northern New England

Wasatch Residential Group

Wesley Housing

World Institute on Disability

Youth Collaboratory

State Organizations

Alaska

RESULTS Anchorage

Arizona

Arizona Housing Coalition

Crisis Response Network

Newtown Community Development Corporation

Arkansas

City of Little Rock Homeless Services

Family Promise of Pulaski County

California

Abode Services
Affordable Housing Advocates
All Home
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation
California Coalition for Rural Housing
California Housing Parnterhsip
CareOutLOUD
Community Corporation of Santa Monica
Community Housing Improvement Program
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Disability Services and Legal Center
Downtown Women's Center
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
East Bay Community Law Center
Fair Housing Napa Valley
Family Violence Law Center
Fred Finch Youth & Family Services
GLIDE
Hello Housing
Housing California
Housing for All Alliance
Housing on Merit
Jamboree
Linc Housing
Lincoln
Long Beach Residents Empowered
Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative Homeless and Housing Working Group
MAJ Event Staffing, Inc.
Monterey Peninsula Renters United
Mutual Housing California
NID Housing Counseling Agency Los Angeles
NID Housing Counseling Agency Oakland
NID Housing Counseling Agency Palmdale
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Orange County United Way
PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)
Public Law Center
PYATOK Architects
Results Domestic San Diego
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness
San Bernardino County Community Development and Housing
Self-Help Enterprises
Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing
SV@Home
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
U.S. Vets Homeless Feeding & Housing Services
Union Station Homeless Service

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Colorado

American Planning Association Colorado
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Family Promise of Greater Denver
RESULTS Aurora
The Springs Echo

Connecticut

Coastal Connecticut RESULTS
Columbus House, Inc.
Connecticut Legal Rights Project
Fairfield County Center for Housing Opportunity
Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.
Liberty Bank
Partnership for Strong Communities

Delaware

Better Homes of Seaford, Inc.
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.
Delaware HIV Consortium
Housing Alliance Delaware

District of Columbia

Miriam's Kitchen
RESULTS DC
RESULTS Kitsap
Save Us Now, Inc.
Street Sense Media
Tzedek DC

Florida

22nd Avenue Apartments Cordoba Tenants Association
Community Justice Project
Florida Alliance of Community Development Corporations, Inc.
Florida Housing Coalition
Florida Keys Community Land Trust
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition
Homelessness and Housing Alliance
Housing Authority of the City of New Smyrna Beach
RESULTS Miami
The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Treasure Coast Homeless Services

Georgia

Atlanta Coalition for LGBTQ+ Youth
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia
The Thomas Agency LLC
Trans Housing Atlanta Program, Inc.

Hawaii

Habitat for Humanity Hawai'i Island
HOPE Services Hawai'i

Idaho

Housing Alliance and Community Partnerships
Housing Authority of the City of Pocatello
Idaho Asset Building Network
Intermountain Fair Housing Council, Inc.
The Silver Valley Community Resource Center

Illinois

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Civil Litigation Clinic - Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Coalition for Equitable Community Development
Community Action Partnership of Lake County
Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Grass Roots Organizing Works
Guardian Angel Community Services
Housing Action Illinois
Impact Behavioral Health Partners
Madison County Community Development
Manufactured Home Owners Association of Illinois
Metropolitan Planning Council
Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice
South Suburban Housing Center
South Suburban PADS
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
Supportive Housing Providers Association
Valerie S. Kretchmer Associates, Inc.
Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council

Indiana

Back Home in Indiana Alliance
City of East Chicago Department of Redevelopment
RESULTS Indianapolis U.S. Group
Rush County Victims Assistance, Inc.

Iowa

East Central Intergovernmental Association
Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority
Humility Homes and Services, Inc.
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Polk County Housing Trust Fund
Shelter House

Kentucky

Central Louisville Community Ministries
Coalition for the Homeless
Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
Lexington Community Land Trust
Louisville Coalition for the Homeless

Louisiana

A Community Voice - ACORN
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
HousingLOUISIANA
HousingNOLA
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans

Maine

3i Supportive Housing LLC
Avesta Housing
Community Concepts, Inc.
Community Housing of Maine
GrowSmart Maine
Housing Authority of the City of Westbrook
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council on Aging
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition
Maine Together
MaineStream Finance
Mayors Coalition
Penquis
Phoenix Management Corporation

Maryland

Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership
Disability Rights Maryland
Healthcare for the Homeless
Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition
RESULTS Metro Maryland
Social Action Committee - Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Massachusetts

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness
American Consumer Credit Counseling
Disability Resource Center

Greater Boston Legal Services
Heisler, Feldman, & McCormick
Homeless Prevention Council
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
Pine Street Inn
RESULTS Greater Boston
Rosie's Place
Roxbury Community College Project Access

Michigan

Ann Arbor RESULTS Group
Community Economic Development Association of Michigan
Grand Rapids Homes for All
Grand Rapids United Progressives
Groundcover News
Housing Resources, Inc.
Messiah Lutheran Church
Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
Michigan Disability Housing Work Group
Michigan League for Public Policy
Red Maple Resources, Inc.
RESULTS Detroit

Minnesota

Aeon
All Parks Alliance for Change
HOME Line
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Twin Cities Nonviolent

Mississippi

Myers-Edwards LLC

Missouri

Empower Missouri

Montana

Action, Inc.

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Housing Developers Association
RESULTS Lincoln

Nevada

Nevada Housing Coalition

New Hampshire

Granite State Organizing Project
New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness

New Jersey

Anchor House, Inc.
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey
Bridges Outreach, Inc.
Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
Communication Workers of America Local 1081
Fair Share Housing Center
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
Housing Initiatives of Princeton
Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Manufactured Homeowners Association of New Jersey
Mercer County Department of Human Services
New Jersey Association on Correction
NID Housing Counseling Agency Plainfield
The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey
York Street Project

New Mexico

Abode, Inc.
ABQ FaithWorks
BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico
Casa Program for Unstably Housed Youth and Families - Monte del Sol Charter School
Childhaven
El Valle Women's Collaborative
Esperanza Shelter
Greater Albuquerque Housing Partnership
La Casa, Inc.
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
New Mexico Coalition To End Homelessness
RESULTS - Santa Fe Chapter
Saint Elizabeth Shelters & Supportive Housing
Santa Fe County Housing Authority
Santa Fe Recovery Center
Self Help, Inc.
Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico
The Samaritan House, Inc.
Veterans For Peace - Santa Fe Chapter

New York

334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association
Barb Lamphere Consulting
Barrier Free Living, Inc.
Breaking Ground

BronxWorks
CAMBA
CAMBA Housing Ventures
Catholic Charities Housing Office
Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc.
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
CitiLeaf Housing
Coalition for the Homeless
Community Counseling and Mediation: Housing Division
Community Service Society of New York
Comunilife, Inc.
Concern for Independent Living, Inc.
Gateway Housing
Geel Community Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties
HANAC, Inc.
Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo
Housing and Services, Inc.
Hudson River Housing
Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc.
Institute for Community Living
JCTOD Outreach, Inc. dba Johnson Park Center
Lantern Community Services
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Margert Community Corporation
Mercy Haven
New Destiny Housing Corporation
New York University Langone Health
Partnership for the Homeless
Property Resources Corporation
ProtoCall Services, d.b.a. New Mexico Crisis and Access Line
Providence House, Inc.
Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network
Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation
Rutgers Resident Association
Saint Francis Friends of the Poor
Services for the Underserved, Inc.
Supportive Housing Network of New York
Tenants & Neighbors
The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.
Tompkins Community Action, Inc.
Town of Brookhaven
Urban Pathways
VOCAL (Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders) New York Action Fund
Warren Washington County Homeless Youth Coalition, Inc. dba WAIT House
Women In Need (Win)
YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County
YWCA of the Greater Capital Region

North Carolina

Charlotte Housing Authority dba INLIVIAN
Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership
DHIC, Inc.
Family Crisis Council Rowan
Financial Pathways of the Piedmont
Greensboro Housing Coalition
Life Village, Inc.
North Carolina Housing Coalition

North Dakota

North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance

Ohio

Adams Brown Community Action Partnership
Advocates for Ohio's Future
Alliance for Children and Families, Inc.
Anderson Consulting Group
Bethany House Services
City of Cleveland Heights Department of Planning and Development
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati
Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addition and Mental Health Board
Haven of Portage County
Hope Whispers Community Organization
Humility of Mary Housing
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Springfield
Jones Rehab, Inc.
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield
NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio
NID Maple Heights
NID Stoudermire
Ohio Community Development Corporation Association
RESULTS Columbus
South Side Thrive Collaborative
Star House
The Homeless Families Foundation
YMCA of Central Ohio

Oregon

DevNW
Housing Oregon
Human Solutions
League of Oregon Cities
Mustard Seed Enterprises
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Pilot Project

Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Alliance
Residents Organizing for Change (ROC)
Sponsors, Inc.
Street Roots
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Portland

Pennsylvania

Health, Education and Legal assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership
Hill District Consensus Group
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Inglis
Northside Coalition Fair Housing Organization
Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
RESULTS Philadelphia
Voices for Independence

Rhode Island

Amos House
Brown University NAACP
Church Community Housing Corporation
Community Care Alliance
HousingWorks Rhode Island
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project
Sojourner House
South Providence Neighborhood Association

South Carolina

Community First Land Trust

Tennessee

RESULTS Oak Ridge
The Contributor, Inc.

Texas

Accessible Housing Resources, Inc.
Bell County Indigent Health Care
Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
East Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center
El Paso Coalition for the Homeless
Ending Community Homelessness Organization
Family Promise of Irving
Housing Opportunities of Fort Worth, Inc.
Keller Williams Arlington
New Hope Housing, Inc.

NID Cooksey
NID Housing Counseling Agency Dightman
RESULTS Dallas Global
Texas Homeless Network
Texas Housers
Texas Tenants' Union
The Beacon
United Way of Lamar County

Utah

Community Rebuilds
Crossroads Urban Center
Friends of the Coalition
Habitat for Humanity of Summit and Wasatch Counties
Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah
Journey of Hope, Inc.
Moab Solutions
Pioneer Park Coalition
Red Gate Properties
Restore Utah
Salt Lake Downtown Alliance
Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
The INN Between
Tooele County Housing Authority
Utah Housing Coalition
Volunteers of America - Utah
YWCA Utah

Vermont

Another Way
Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing Corporation
Lamoille Housing Partnership
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Housing Finance Agency

Virginia

Charlottesville Low Income Housing Coalition
Legal Aid Justice Center
Piedmont Housing Alliance
Prince William NAACP
Shelter Alternatives, Inc.

Washington

350 Seattle
Association of Manufactured Home Owners
BarrientosRYAN
Center For Independence
Community Action Center - Whitman County

Council for the Homeless
Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association
Edmonds College Foundation
Everett Housing Authority
Frontier Behavioral Health
Habitat for Humanity of Washington State
Homes First
Housing Authority of Snohomish County
Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County
Imagine Housing
InterIm Community Development Association
Lenny and the Dreamakers
Mercy Housing Northwest
Multi-Service Center
Office of State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Office of State Senator Liz Lovelett
OPAL Community Land Trust
Partners for Rural Washington
Paul Schissler Associates
Resident Action Project
RESULTS Tacoma
Roosevelt Neighborhood Association
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Snohomish County Music Project
Spokes of a Wheel, Inc.
Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium
Volunteers of America of Western Washington
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

West Virginia

Tug Valley Recovery Shelter
West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness

Wisconsin

IndependenceFirst
Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.
Pillars, Inc.
RESULTS Milwaukee

Wyoming

RESULTS Cheyenne