



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

Working to ensure maximum federal resources for housing and community development.

May 28, 2010

Hon. Daniel Inouye, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

We the undersigned are organizations concerned with the housing needs of low and moderate income Americans and the community development needs of our nation's cities, suburbs, towns, and rural areas. As such, we write to urge you, as you consider FY 2011 Budget allocations, to provide adequate funding for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that address these needs. We believe a substantial funding increase is necessary to allow HUD to do its part to address crisis-level housing and community development problems faced by families and communities across the country.

The recent economic crisis has demonstrated to all Americans the importance of affordable housing and strong communities. HUD's programs are key to preventing hardship and to continuing the recovery as they address the basic needs of our people. Failing to meet those needs further undermines the economy, particularly the housing and building sectors which in previous recessions have been crucial to recovery. Safe, decent, and affordable housing and more vibrant community infrastructure equate to improved child well-being, enhanced educational achievement, better health, lower crime, and more successful employment.

Rigorous research establishes that stable housing and strong neighborhoods are central to the well-being of families, seniors, and communities. Stable housing promotes educational achievement for children. It contributes to steady employment. It makes our communities stronger and safer. Housing and community development programs, administered by HUD, create jobs, fill vacant housing units, expand local tax bases, and leverage significant private investment in communities.

While Congress has recently made important progress in addressing the serious deterioration in HUD funding that had occurred in the previous several years, the unmet need for these programs remains substantial. Homelessness is expanding across the country and the number of Americans who receive rent subsidies remains stuck at approximately one-fourth of those eligible. The stock of housing affordable to the most vulnerable populations continues to deteriorate.

Shortages of federal funding for the building blocks of community development and affordable housing threaten the future sustainability of many communities and deter critically needed private-sector

investment. Congress must maintain a serious effort to build these important resources. We urge you to provide an allocation to the T-HUD subcommittee that will allow for a substantially larger HUD budget. While we understand Congress is seeking to scale back discretionary spending, insufficient funding for housing and community development programs will cause more people to lose their jobs, make additional poor families struggle to pay their rent, and increase homelessness.

We hope that you will call on any or all of us to work with you to support this request, and we look forward to a day in the near future when HUD once again has the resources to do its full part to solve the housing and development problems of our nation's communities.

Sincerely yours,

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rural Community Assistance Program, Inc.
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
Travelers Aid International
United Cerebral Palsy

cc: Hon. Harry Reid
Hon. Mitch McConnell
Hon. Patty Murray
Hon. Christopher "Kit" Bond