



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

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

January 16, 2014

Director Sylvia Matthews Burwell
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Secretary Shaun Donovan
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Director Burwell and Secretary Donovan,

The undersigned organizations are members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of more than 70 national groups representing all 56 states and territories, dedicated to strong federal housing and community development funding for lower-income families and communities. As you finalize the FY15 budget, we urge you to provide funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to address the critical needs of America's low and moderate income families and communities by increasing housing and community development funding from the FY14 levels.

Funding for HUD's programs has been declining since 2010, while the need for safe, affordable housing has hit a historical high. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, the number of renters paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent has hit an unprecedented high of 21 million households. As housing needs continue to grow, the number of families assisted by federal rental assistance programs has remained stagnant or declined over the past several years and affordable rental housing stock is steadily declining and aging. Cuts to HUD programs, through sequestration, specific Congressional appropriations decisions, or insufficient funding requests have increased this gap between need and resources. This trend is very concerning to CHCDF members.

HUD's work also has a broader positive impact for all Americans. Investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and more vibrant communities improves child well-being, enhances educational achievement, improves health, lowers crime, and increases employment access and stability. In both the short and long term, funding housing and community development programs decreases costs for federal, state and local governments. It is important that the FY15 budget recognizes the critical role that HUD plays, and the need for HUD to play an even greater role, in alleviating hardship and achieving economic stability and advancement for low and moderate income households as well as saving the federal government money in

other areas. HUD's programs are crucial to maintaining and increasing the supply of affordable housing and spurring private investment through community revitalization efforts.

CHCDF members represent a full continuum of national affordable housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediary, civil rights, developer, and advocacy groups. These groups work to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and homeowners in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. We urge the Administration to support HUD's critical investments that support those low and moderate income households that CHCDF members work on behalf of by including increased funding for HUD's housing and community development programs in the President's FY15 budget request to Congress.

Sincerely,

Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
CSH
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing, Inc.
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Disability Rights Network
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
Rebuilding Together
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
The Community Builders, Inc.
