

# Elderly Housing Coalition

September 6, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Price  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chair Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of the Elderly Housing Coalition and its partners, the organizations below reiterate our appropriations priorities for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. EHC is a coalition of mostly national organizations interested in meeting the affordable housing needs of the nation's older adults.

As you are aware, the need for affordable housing among older adults is significant and expanding. Today, only one of every three older adults eligible for rental assistance receives it because the programs are too small to meet the need. HUD documented that older adult households comprise 66% of the latest increase of 582,000 households categorized as worst-case housing needs. Further, the share of older adults experiencing homelessness nearly doubled from 4.1% in 2007 to 8% in 2017, a sharper rise than the share of all U.S. individuals 62 or older.

Thankfully, HUD has excellent programs on hand to respond to the need for affordable senior housing.

The EHC appreciates the House-passed FY2020 HUD appropriations bill and urges the Senate to protect these investments in affordable housing for older adults. The EHC also urges the Senate to adopt:

- \$600 million for new Section 202 housing to bring the program on par with its funding in the mid-2000s and build more than 4,300 new homes for older adults with low incomes. We are grateful that Congress has revived new construction funding for HUD's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program in recent fiscal years.
- Full, 12-month funding for all Section 202/PRAC and PBRA contract renewals (amounts to be determined), as well as Service Coordinator grant renewals. Ensure timely funding to protect residents and communities from disruptions.

- An additional \$30 million investment to expand Service Coordinators to 500 additional affordable housing communities.
- \$5 million for the Emergency Capital Repair Grant program one-time assistance to communities for issues that present an immediate threat to the health, safety, and quality of life of tenants.
- Preservation of housing provided by the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs, which together assist almost 800,000 older adult households.
- Adequate funding for Homeless Assistance Grants to help prevent and end homelessness among older adults.
- Support for the HUD-administered home modification program.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Couch, [lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org).

Thank you for considering our views. We appreciate Congress coming together in July to reach a bipartisan budget agreement. As the Senate embarks on its appropriations process, we look forward to building upon recent successes and working with you on a strong HUD appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

AHEPA Management Company (AMC)  
 American Association of Service  
 Coordinators  
 B'nai B'rith International  
 Catholic Charities USA  
 Council of Large Public Housing Authorities  
 CSH  
 Elderly Housing Development & Operations  
 Corporation  
 Enterprise Community Partners  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Hearth, Inc.  
 Housing Assistance Council  
 Jewish Federations of North America  
 Justice in Aging  
 LeadingAge  
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
 Lutheran Services in America  
 National Affordable Housing Management  
 Association  
 National Asian Pacific Center on Aging  
 (NAPCA)

National Association of Area Agencies on  
 Aging (n4a)  
 National Association of Local Housing  
 Finance Agencies  
 National Association of Nutrition and Aging  
 Services Programs (NANASP)  
 National Church Residences  
 National Coalition for the Homeless  
 National Housing Trust  
 National Leased Housing Association  
 National Low Income Housing Coalition  
 National Network to End Domestic Violence  
 Stewards of Affordable Housing for the  
 Future  
 Volunteers of America  
 WISER