



## **Fiscal Year 2021 Priorities: HUD-Assisted Affordable Senior Housing**

### **EXPAND THE SUPPLY**

**PROBLEM:** While funding for new Section 202 homes restarted in 2017, annual funding is still far below historic levels for this successful program and the program is too small to meet communities' needs.

**SOLUTION:** Provide \$600 million for new Section 202 homes in fiscal year 2021. This could result in up to 6,700 affordable homes for older adults.

### **MORE SERVICE COORDINATORS**

**PROBLEM:** Despite much research on the value of service coordinators to residents, only about one-half of HUD Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Communities have a Service Coordinator. Service Coordinators in HUD-assisted housing help residents age in community by connecting them to needed health and wellness services.

**SOLUTION:** Support \$75 million to provide a Service Coordinator in 300 HUD-assisted communities currently without one.

### **PRESERVE EXISTING HOUSING**

**PROBLEM:** Increased resources are needed each year to preserve existing HUD-assisted homes. HUD's programs currently serve more than 5 million households, including 1.6 million older adult households. These homes must be preserved.

**SOLUTION:** Support full funding for Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contracts and Project-Based Rental Assistance renewals. Oppose proposals to freeze contract rents.

### **INTERNET ACCESS**

**PROBLEM:** Most HUD-assisted senior apartments do not have wireless internet access because residents cannot afford it. This inhibits access to telehealth, programs to combat social isolation, and interacting with community resources.

**SOLUTION:** Treat the installation and service fees for residents' apartments as a utility, like electricity, and include in project and operating funds.

### **SUPPORT HUD HOUSING PROGRAMS**

**PROBLEM:** The need for affordable housing is so severe, full funding for all HUD and USDA programs is needed. Public housing, Homeless Assistance Grants, Housing Choice Voucher, HOME, the national Housing Trust Fund, and USDA Rural Housing Service programs must be adequately funded.

**SOLUTION:** Support strong funding for all housing programs.

### **EXTEND IWISH DEMONSTRATION**

**PROBLEM:** HUD's three-year IWISH demonstration will end on September 30, 2020 without an extension. HUD's Integrated Wellness in Supportive Housing demonstration is evaluating a promising model to help residents age in community.

**SOLUTION:** Extend the IWISH demonstration by two years so as not to disrupt critical aging in community services assisting residents today.