



Relief and Support of Low Income Seniors in Federally-Assisted Housing

\$1.2 billion package

- There are several thousand federally-assisted, affordable senior housing communities for older adults with low incomes in the United States. Residents in these communities have more chronic conditions than their peers without housing assistance.
- These communities are independent living environments where residents are very successfully encouraged to age in community. Residents of federally-assisted senior communities have networks of resident-coordinated and building-coordinated service providers coming and going from their buildings 24 hours a day to achieve the goals of aging in community.

These communities need help for significant COVID-19 related costs:

\$295M for staffing support in HUD-assisted senior housing communities. This would provide such affordable senior housing communities needed resources to hire replacement staff as regular and full time staff may not be able to work because of the pandemic.

\$150M for HUD-assisted senior housing communities to secure supplies / disinfection / preparedness / personal protective equipment. Without proper supplies, senior affordable housing communities have no way to safely enter resident apartments for needed health and safety repairs, or to screen service providers and other visitors to these independent living apartment buildings.

\$400M for rent supports. These resources are needed to make up for decreased rents from HUD- and USDA-assisted older adult residents, emergency housing assistance to ensure housing affordability older adult residents of Low Income Housing Tax Credit housing, etc.

\$300M for Service coordinators. Fewer than half of HUD-assisted senior housing communities have the resources they need to employ a service coordinator. A \$300 million investment of emergency funds would ensure that some communities without a service coordinator grant could employ one and to pay for COVID-19-related services for residents.

\$50M for WiFi for federally-assisted senior housing. There is a need to install WiFi in federally-assisted housing communities, and to help residents pay for internet in their units. Most federally-assisted senior housing communities do not have building-wide WiFi, which would allow for telehealth services in common spaces, in individual apartments, and to help residents from outside the building. WiFi would also help Service Coordinators assist and engage residents, and help combat social isolation.

\$5M to support mandatory meal programs in HUD-assisted senior housing communities. Provide \$5 million in financial relief to HUD senior housing communities with mandatory meal programs which have become much more expensive, complicated, and difficult to administer during the pandemic.

March 27, 2020