

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cindy Hyde Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

The undersigned 40 national organizations urge you to support robust funding to meet the affordable housing needs of older adults.

Full and Timely Renewal Funding for Currently Assisted Households

We urge Congress not to stray from its commitment for full and timely renewal funding for the 1.9 million older adult households currently assisted by HUD's Project-Based Rental Assistance, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Public Housing, and Housing Choice Vouchers programs. Meeting funding needs for the uninterrupted provision of quality affordable housing for currently assisted residents is of utmost importance.

Funding to Expand the Supply of Affordable Senior Housing

We urge Congress to expand the supply of housing affordable to older adults with very low incomes by providing \$600 million for new capital grants and operating subsidies for approximately 5,400 new Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly homes. Residents of HUD's Section 202 program have average annual household incomes of \$15,208 and the program's nonprofit providers often maintain waiting lists of two to five years, or more, to live in Section 202 communities. In addition to serving a predominantly extremely low income population (77% of Section 202 households are ELI), the Section 202 program has a strong emphasis on connecting residents, through Service Coordinators, to the services they need to age in community. In support of this proven model, we urge Congress to also provide \$100 million for 400 new three-year Service Coordinator grants in HUD-assisted housing for older adults.

Housing Needs and Homelessness Among Older Adults

In 1991, Congress directed HUD to provide a biannual report on "worst case housing needs," to ensure Congress understood and could adequately respond to the nation's most pressing housing needs. In HUD's most recent Worst Case Housing Needs: 2021 Report to Congress, data show an alarming 68% increase of "worst case housing needs" among older adult households between 2009 and 2019, including a 16% increase between 2017 and 2019.

Older adults are one of the fastest-growing groups of people experiencing homelessness and single adults over 50 now make up half of the homeless population, according to March 2023, testimony from U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness executive director Jeff Olivet.

We urge with you to protect and increase funding for housing programs for older adults.

Sincerely,

AHEPA Senior Living
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association of Service Coordinators
B'nai B'rith International
Center for Disability Rights
Coalition on Human Needs
Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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 Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National CAPACD- National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Caucus and Center on Black Aging
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
National Community Development Association
National Council on Aging
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Housing Trust
National Leased Housing Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
SAGE
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)
The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
The Jewish Federations of North America
USAgging