



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 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 Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation Housing, and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 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

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Cole, Ranking Member Quigley, Chair Murray, Vice Chairman Collins, Chair Schatz, and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

As you work to finalize the fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), please provide the highest possible funding for HUD's affordable housing programs. HUD's programs serve more than two million older adult households, including through HUD's flagship Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program and the Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance programs.

In August 2023, the HUD released 2021 data showing "the number of elderly people with chronic patterns of homelessness increased by an alarming 73%" between 2019 and 2021. Also, during this same two-year period, the number of people aged 65 and older experiencing sheltered homelessness increased by 10,000. Older adults are the fastest-growing age group of those experiencing homelessness, composing nearly half of the homeless population.

As described in HUD's 2023 recent report to Congress on worst case housing needs, 2.35 million older adult renter households with very low incomes spent more than half of their incomes on housing in 2021, an increase of 60% since 2011. These households are on the precipice of homelessness without Congressional action to preserve and expand the nation's affordable housing supply.

HUD's programs, including HUD's multifamily programs, are critical to preventing and ending homelessness and to meeting the nation's severe shortage of affordable housing.

In the fiscal year 2024 HUD appropriations bill, LeadingAge urges Congress to:

- Provide at least the Senate committee bill's \$1.08 billion for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program to fully renew all Project Rental Assistance Contracts and provide \$152 million for new Section 202 homes funding. The House committee bill would cut Section 202 funding by 15% compared to 2023.
- Provide at least the Senate committee bill's \$120 million for the full renewal of grant-funded service coordinators, as well as additional funds for new service coordinators.
- Provide at least \$6 million for rent increases for Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contracts undergoing preservation conversion in the Rental Assistance Demonstration.
- Provide at least the Senate committee bill's \$15.79 billion for Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance renewals, including a new pool of \$32.9 million for rent adjustments to certain properties with health, safety, or operational deficiencies.
- Provide at least the Senate committee bill's \$3.9 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants.

Finally, we urge Congress to not enact any year-long continuing resolution, which would fund HUD programs at fiscal year 2023 levels for the entirety of fiscal year 2024 and thereby jeopardizing housing for nearly 700,000 HUD-assisted households.

Thank you for your work, and please reach out to me, [lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org), if you need anything or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Couch  
VP, Housing and Aging Services Policy

*LeadingAge represents more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-minded organizations that serve millions of lives every day. Alongside our members and 36 state partners, we use applied research, advocacy, education, and community-building to make America a better place to grow old. Our membership, which now includes the providers of the Visiting Nurse Associations of America, encompasses the continuum of services for people as they age, including those with disabilities. We bring together the most inventive minds in the field to lead and innovate solutions that support older adults wherever they call home. For more information visit [leadingage.org](http://leadingage.org).*