

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on
Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, U.S. House Committee on
Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on
Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on
Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As final spending bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 are negotiated, the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) urges you to support funding levels that at least match those in the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) and Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Agriculture) appropriations bills that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee in July 2024.

CHCDF is an education, strategy, and action hub for national organizations dedicated to adequate federal housing and community development funding for lower income families and communities. CHCDF's members represent a full continuum of national housing and community development organizations, including more than 70 faith-based, private sector, financial/intermediary, public sector, and advocacy groups.

The increased funding included in the Senate bills is needed to help people afford a safe, stable home and allow communities to meet the needs of their residents. This includes maintaining existing rental assistance through Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Rural Housing Service (RHS) programs; providing additional support to public housing agencies as they administer their public housing programs; supplying critical resources to community development programs that support affordable housing creation and preservation; supporting services that help address the alarming rise in homelessness; and funding fair housing education and enforcement to ensure equitable access to all these resources. Funding levels included in the House's FY 2025 THUD appropriations bill would reduce existing assistance, needlessly perpetuating housing instability and hardship.

CHCDF promotes strengthening existing affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs to expand and preserve affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income families. With the U.S. in the midst of a growing affordable housing crisis, these goals have never been more important. As such, Congress should not abide by the arbitrary spending caps created by the *Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023* that place families at risk of housing instability. Chronic underinvestment in affordable housing funding directly contributes to the nation's growing housing needs. Years of insufficient funding for housing and community development programs exacerbate this crisis by limiting adequate options for low- and middle-income families. Lack of housing supply, rising rents that outpace wages, tight rental markets, and increased operating costs, including insurance, all

contribute to the growing need for additional federal support of housing, homelessness, and community development programs.

CHCDF also urges Congress to pass final FY 2025 appropriations bills as quickly as possible. Longer-term continuing resolutions have [significant impacts](#) on housing, homelessness, and community development programs and can cause shortfalls since they maintain the same level of funding as the previous fiscal year. Because the cost of many housing, homelessness, and development programs are tied to market rates, which rise every year, flat funding acts as a cut, reducing the number of people that can be served.

Continuing resolutions cause delays for states and localities that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and other formula grants since allocations are calculated only after a full-year appropriation is enacted. This, in turn, causes delayed submissions, reviews and approval of grantees' action plans, and access to grant funds. Continuing resolutions also impact Housing Choice Vouchers — if policymakers fail to provide the additional funding needed to cover rising costs year-to-year, fewer people in communities across the country, including many older adults, families with children, and people with disabilities, would receive the assistance they need to stay safely housed.

We urge you to support – at minimum – the funding levels included in the Senate FY 2025 THUD and Agriculture appropriations bills and pass timely, responsible funding for HUD and RHS programs in FY 2025. Federal housing, homelessness, and community development programs are effective, but the success of these programs depends on a reliable and fully operating HUD and RHS, which is disrupted by uncertain funding, continuing resolutions, and government shutdowns. Thank you for investing in our nation's affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs and being a partner in helping people afford the home they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC)
B'nai B'rith International
Church World Service (CWS)
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Opportunity Alliance – formerly NACEDA
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Fahe
Grounded Solutions Network
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
Justice in Aging
The Kelsey
LeadingAge
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National CAPACD – National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
National Community Development Association
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Homelessness Law Center
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Women’s Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
PHADA (Public Housing Authorities Directors Association)
RESULTS Educational Fund
SAGE
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)