

The Message to Banking Committee Members

When meeting with members of the House Financial Services and Senate Banking Committees:

- Stress the importance of and the state or district benefits of:

- The housing government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs).
- The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (voucher) program.
- Affordable housing preservation.

- On the GSEs:

Tell them the housing GSEs – Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks – play a critical role in our housing finance system, making mortgage funds available and supporting HFAs, lenders, and other housing providers.

- Urge Congress to continue the GSEs' important affordable housing role in any GSE-restructuring legislation it considers.
- Urge Congress to direct the GSEs to advance their affordable housing mission by fully employing the HFA affordable housing delivery system and by providing HFAs low-cost capital and liquidity on reasonable terms through, among other means, purchasing Housing Credits, Housing Bonds, and HFA loan products.

- On Rental Assistance:

Describe how the voucher program is bound by unnecessary rules that reduce its efficiency and limit voucher administrators' flexibility to respond to their most pressing needs.

- Ask them to provide states flexible rental assistance resources they can project-base or tenant-base to make Housing Bond, Housing Credit, HOME, and other rental housing affordable to some of our lowest-income and most vulnerable families.
- Urge them to enact voucher reform legislation that will help states and localities assist more families with the funds they have and help families achieve self-sufficiency. Cite one or two reforms that would be most helpful to you. (See voucher reform fact sheet for specific proposals.)
- Urge them to ensure that successful HFA voucher and project-based contract administrators continue in and are adequately compensated for these critical roles.

- On Preservation:

Remind them that even the highly successful Housing Credit, Housing Bonds, and HOME programs do not begin to meet our affordable housing production needs.

- Urge them to support legislation that strengthens and expands affordable housing preservation tools and incentives, including Housing Credits, Housing Bonds, HOME, the Housing Trust Fund, Section 8, and other programs that support preservation.