

## The Message to Appropriations Committee Members

When meeting with House and Senate Appropriations Committee members, especially HUD Subcommittee members:

- Stress the importance of and the state or district benefits of:
  - The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program.
  - The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (voucher) program and Project-Based Section 8 rental assistance program.
  - The Housing Trust Fund.

- On HOME:

Tell them Congress has cut HOME funding 9 percent since FY 2004, despite its undisputed success. Explain how HOME's flexibility and leveraging capacity help address the unique housing needs in your state.

Tell them the President's FY 2011 and FY 2012 Budgets propose to fund HOME at \$1.65 billion, a 10 percent decrease from FY 2010 and an 18 percent decrease from its FY 2004 funding level.

Urge them to:

- Resist making further cuts to the HOME program.
- Fund HOME at a minimum of \$2 billion in FY 2012.

- On Rental Assistance:

Tell them vouchers and project-based Section 8 provide an indispensable housing safety net to some of your state's lowest income families. Remind them that many more families are eligible for vouchers than get them.

Urge them to:

- Fund all authorized vouchers.
- Fund as many new vouchers as possible to help families still waiting.
- Provide enough funding to renew all expiring Section 8 project-based rental assistance contracts for a full year.
- Allocate new flexible rental assistance to state HFAs.

- On the Trust Fund:

Tell them these new production funds are needed to extend the reach of your current resources.

Urge them to:

- Identify a dedicated funding source for the Trust Fund.
- Provide state administrators funding to support the operation of the newly created affordable units.