



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

Working to ensure maximum federal resources for housing and community development.

March 2, 2010

Hon. Kent Conrad, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Judd Gregg, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. John M. Spratt, Jr., Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Paul Ryan, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen:

The members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) are a diverse group of organizations concerned with the housing needs of low and moderate income households and the community development needs of our nation's cities, suburbs, towns and rural areas. As you develop a FY 2011 Budget Resolution, we urge you to provide increased funding, above the President's request, for budget lines that support affordable housing and community development programs (including budget functions 600 and 450).

The nation's recent economic downturn has highlighted the critical importance of affordable housing and strong communities. Investing in housing and community infrastructure is crucial not only to alleviating the severe hardships that many Americans are now experiencing, but also to spurring the country's overall economic recovery. Affordable housing and strong community infrastructure contribute to better health, lower crime, and successful employment, among other benefits to communities. Programs administered by HUD and USDA also create and sustain jobs in the hard-hit residential housing sector of the economy.

While the FY 2010 budget made important progress in restoring funding for many affordable housing and community development programs that have been depleted of resources in recent years, the need for assistance in FY 2011 still far outstrips the capacity of these vital programs. Elevated rates of homelessness continue to

plague communities. The number of households receiving rent subsidies remains stuck at about one fourth of those eligible. The stock of housing affordable to households with the lowest incomes due to disability, poor education or disappearing jobs continues to diminish. While CHCDF supports the sustained increases in funding proposed for many programs in the FY 2011 HUD budget, several notable programs are severely under funded or eliminated. Each of these programs has positively addressed the severe economic hardships faced by too many Americans and the communities in which we live.

Congress has the opportunity to make a tremendous impact by sustaining funding for housing and community development programs that improve the lives of Americans. CHCDF believes the Budget Resolution should set the discretionary spending cap at a level that will allow for not only continued funding for all of HUD's programs, but increased funding to meet growing needs. A strong budget resolution would avoid cuts to effective HUD and USDA programs that have a high impact in communities across the country. It is crucial to rebuild and sustain the building blocks of community development and affordable housing that ensure community sustainability and encourage critically needed private sector investment and business growth.

Please call on CHCDF or any of the member organizations to help support you with this request. CHCDF looks forward to working with both Congress and the Administration to ensure that adequate resources will be available in order to solve the housing and development problems of our nation's communities.

Sincerely yours,

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Agencies
Council of State Community Development Authorities
Housing Assistance Council
Jesuit Conference
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Disability Rights Network
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Neighborworks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Poverty and Race Research Council
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Rural Community Assistance Program, Inc.
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
The Arc of the United States
Travelers Aid International
The Jewish Federations of North America
United Cerebral Palsy