



October 13, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As Congress continues to consider the Build Back Better Act, we, as members of the [HOME Coalition](#), strongly urge you to ensure that the legislation maintains significant funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. Investing in HOME is one of the most cost-effective ways to address the array of affordable housing supply challenges our nation faces for both renters and homeowners. Failure to tackle the affordable housing crisis in the Build Back Better Act will jeopardize the bill's laudable goals of decreasing poverty and improving social welfare.

Demand for housing consistently outweighs available units across urban, rural, and suburban settings. The need is evident—especially for low-income households, who increasingly spend more than a third of their incomes on housing. Without sustained federal investment, the affordable housing supply will continue to shrink, increasing rents for working households, decreasing the amount of income available for other needed expenses and leading to more housing insecurity.

HOME has a nearly 30-year track record of successfully supporting affordable housing. Since 1992, the program has built and preserved over 1.33 million units of affordable housing. Based on previous HOME activity, the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) estimates that the \$34.77 billion appropriated for HOME through the reconciliation legislation reported by the House Financial Services Committee will help state and local governments develop nearly 107,000 new affordable housing units, while also providing tenant-based rental assistance to over 300,000 low-income families and helping more than 26,000 low- and moderate-income families purchase a home.

The Build Back Better Act provides Congress with a generational opportunity to materially improve the lives of working families and build a more equitable economy. For these efforts to succeed, it is paramount that Congress takes significant action to address the nation's supply of affordable housing. Consequently, we ask that the final version of the Build Back Better Act include the maximum amount of funding possible for the

HOME Investment Partnerships program.

If we can provide further information about HOME's key support to affordable housing, please reach out to Greg Zagorski (gzagorski@ncsha.org) with the National Council of State Housing Agencies.

Sincerely,

National Council of State Housing Agencies
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Partnership Network
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA)
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
National Housing Trust
National Urban League
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)
The Corporation for Supportive Housing