



OUR HOMES, OUR VOICES

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THE ISSUE

Far too many families are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Nationwide, more people are renting their homes than ever before, but the federal government's investments in accessible, affordable homes have not kept pace with demand. Nearly 11 million families spend more than half of their income on rent, and the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased nationally over the past few years. Rents are increasing, while housing infrastructure is deteriorating. The need for more affordable housing is felt in every state and congressional district, but despite the growing need, only one in four people who qualify for housing assistance actually receives it.

MOBILIZING TO PROTECT AND EXPAND HOUSING INVESTMENTS

Lawmakers should protect and expand federal housing resources to end homelessness and housing poverty in the U.S. Advocates can encourage Congress to act through the annual funding process, prioritization of housing in special spending packages, or new legislation focusing on particular programs or policies that preserve, expand, or protect.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) urges Congress to ensure that affordable housing and community development programs receive the highest allocation of funds possible. The two-year bipartisan budget agreement signed last summer only allows for a relatively small funding increase for all non-defense programs in FY 2021 compared to current levels. In order to cover rising costs, HUD's budget will need a significant increase over FY 2020 levels just to maintain assistance to the current number of households. President Trump's budget request proposed cutting funding for HUD by 15%, or \$8.6 billion.

The ASK: Congress should reject the president's cuts and provide increased funding for affordable housing and community development programs in FY 2021.

HOUSING AS INFRASTRUCTURE

The president and leaders in Congress have identified a significant investment in infrastructures as a top priority. The connection between affordable housing and infrastructure is clear: like roads and bridges, affordable housing is a long-term asset that helps communities and families thrive. An infrastructure bill presents a critical opportunity to build and preserve accessible, affordable homes and provide new resources for community development.

The ASK: Any infrastructure package should include new resources for affordable housing and community development programs.

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) introduced the "Housing Is Infrastructure Act" (H.R. 5187), which includes investments in numerous affordable housing and community development programs. Learn more about this proposal [here](#).

EXPANDING RESOURCES FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING

Due to decades of underfunding, much of the federally assisted housing stock, such as public housing and USDA Section 515 homes, requires substantial investments to preserve these homes. Without new resources, the country will lose more than 10,000 affordable homes every year.

The ASK: Congress should invest in the preservation of federally assisted housing, which provides safe, decent, and accessible homes to millions of low-income people.

PRESERVING TENANCY

Ensuring tenants can stay in their homes is an important part of preventing homelessness and addressing the affordable housing crisis. Whether this is through a housing stabilization fund, anti-rent gauging laws, measures to bridge incomes and rents, or other tenant protections, Congress can help prevent low-income people from being displaced or evicted.

The Ask: To ensure renters can stay in their homes, lawmakers should ensure tenants have the strong protections and additional resources that keep them in their homes.

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1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

202-662-1530 | www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org