



November 4, 2011

Advocating quality affordable housing development, ownership, management and investment in Maryland

ACTION ALERT

-- CONTACT THESE MID-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS TODAY! --
They are Conferencing the HUD Appropriations Bill Now
and Need to Hear from You!
If you work, live or do business in their state, please contact them.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD) 202- 224-4654 or staffer aaron_edelman@mikulski.senate.gov

News from the From the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)

The Senate just passed H.R. 2112, the minibus bill incorporating the FY12 appropriations bills for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (T-HUD- S. 1596), Agriculture, Rural Housing, and Food and Drug Administration (H.R. 2111), and Commerce, Justice, and Science (H.R. 2596). The Senate did not vote on any of the remaining HUD amendments before passing the bill.

House and Senate Appropriators are expected to negotiate the final spending bills immediately. Appropriations staff have already started discussing the final levels of funding for the bill. Your Senators and Representatives need to hear from you **NOW** that critical changes need to be made in the final T-HUD and Agriculture bills. Please urge them to do three things:

1) Increase the allocation for HUD programs:

- The Senate bill is lower than the House HUD allocation and rescinds more than \$1 billion from HUD accounts, bringing funding to dangerously low levels. HUD programs must have sufficient reserves to operate smoothly.
- Urge Appropriators to increase HUD's allocation by:
 - Using the House HUD allocation which is the higher than the Senate's.
 - Allocating the unused House Appropriations funding to HUD programs.
 - If any HUD funds are rescinded, allocating them to increases in HUD programs.

2) Increase funding for the following key programs:

- **Tenant Based Rental Assistance / Housing Choice Voucher renewals.** The House level would cause 40,000 vouchers to be lost and the Senate level would cause 25,000 vouchers to be lost in FY12. The Senate will would also rescind voucher reserves to a level too low to ensure smooth operation of the program. Good news: The Senate bill includes funding for expanding the reach of Tenant Protection vouchers and also for new Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers (VASH).



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- **Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) / Section 8 contract renewals.** The Senate and House bills would both underfund PBRA, likely meaning that renewal contracts will be for less than 12 month terms. The Senate bill would also rescind hundreds of millions of dollars from the Housing Certificate Fund, which HUD uses to supplement PBRA contracts.
- **Public Housing. The public housing capital fund would be cut** in the House bill by 36% and in the Senate by 22% below the President's request, causing valuable public housing units to be lost. The House would also prevent funding for state public housing that had been converted into federal public housing.
- **Homeless Assistance Grants.** Both the House and Senate would level fund the program, 20% below the President's request, which would prevent HUD from fully implementing the HEARTH Act.
- **HOME Investments Partnership Program.** The Senate would cut the program 39% below the President's request and the House 27% below the request.
- **Section 202 Housing for the Elderly.** The Senate would fund the program at 51% below the President's request and the House 21% below the request.
- **Section 811 Housing for People with Disabilities.** The House would fund the program at the President's requested level and the Senate would cut it by 23% below the President's request.
- Other key differences include the Senate funding of the Housing Counseling program (the House did not provide funding), and House's higher funding of the **Housing Opportunity for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program.**
- **Section 515 Rental Housing program.** The House would cut the program by 38% below the President's request and the Senate 32% below the request. This decrease in funding could cause over 60,000 households in rural areas with average annual incomes of \$11,000 to lose their housing.
- **Section 521 Rural Rental Assistance.** The House would cut the program by \$17 million below the President's request and the Senate would cut the program by a few million below the request. The President's request is nearly \$50 million below the FY11 level.

[For more detail, click here to view NLIHC's budget chart.](#)

3) Keep positive policy provisions in the Senate bill:

- Rental Assistance Demonstration for preserving public housing,
- Savings from Section 8 voucher administrative changes,
- Reauthorization of HUD's Mark to Market program.



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Urge your Representative or Senator to tell the House and Senate Appropriations Chairs and Ranking Members and the T-HUD and Agriculture Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members that these changes must be made in the final T-HUD and Agriculture bills.

Thank you for your continued support and action!