

HOME Coalition Statement to the Senate Appropriations Committee on the FY 2016 THUD bill

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Reject Draconian Cuts to the HOME Investment Partnership Program

The HOME Coalition, with its more than 35 national and regional member organizations representing all aspects of affordable housing activity, calls on Senate appropriators to reject the THUD Subcommittee's severe reduction in funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program for FY 2016. The Subcommittee-reported bill reduces HOME funding by a shocking 93 percent, leaving only \$66 million to be divided by approximately 650 participating jurisdictions. Such a cut would, in effect, eliminate the program.

We understand that the Subcommittee developed its program funding levels under the constraints imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), which has proven to be too limiting. These constraints, and the severe HOME cut specifically, would have a drastic, negative impact on our nation's ability to provide housing for those most in need at a time when housing markets and the broader economy continue to struggle, and the need for affordable housing continues to grow.

HOME has already suffered disproportionate funding cuts in recent years. Since FY 2011, Congress has reduced HOME funding by 44 percent, to a record low of just \$900 million in FY 2015. To cut the program to just \$66 million is an effective elimination.

HOME is a highly successful locally driven affordable housing program that provides flexibility to states and localities so that they can address their most pressing affordable housing challenges, both rental and homeownership. HOME is important to the success of other housing programs, such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and rural housing programs, because it often provides essential soft funding to fill financing gaps and make affordable housing developments financially feasible.

The HOME Coalition calls on Congress to restore HOME funding to no less than \$1.06 billion, as requested by the Administration for FY 2016. We ask that this funding occur without harming other critical housing programs. We understand that doing so may require Congress to provide funding in excess of the 302(b) allocation made pursuant to the Senate's budget resolution and driven by the BCA. However, these harmful proposed cuts to HOME illustrate that the overall allocation for the THUD bill is simply insufficient to fund our nation's housing and infrastructure priorities.

[Click here](#) for more information on the HOME Coalition and its membership.

About the HOME Coalition

The HOME Coalition works to increase awareness about the HOME Investments Partnership Program (HOME), its importance to the development and provision of affordable housing, and the need for funding.

HOME provides grants to state and local governments to produce affordable housing for low-income families. Since 1990, over 1.1 million units of housing have been produced with HOME funds. HOME funds have helped an additional more than 283,000 families through tenant-based rental assistance.

HOME funds are a vital and unique source of financing for numerous affordable housing developments—many of which would not be possible without HOME assistance. HOME uniquely empowers states and localities to respond to the housing needs they judge most pressing, including affordable housing production and rehabilitation, preservation, rental and homeownership assistance, and disaster recovery response.

HOME Coalition Members

Corporation for Supportive Housing	National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
Community Land Trust Network	National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing	National Community Development Association
Council of State Community Development Agencies	National Council of State Housing Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners	National Housing Conference
Habitat for Humanity International	National Housing Trust
Housing Assistance Council	National League of Cities
Housing Partnership Network	National Leased Housing Association
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	National Low Income Housing Coalition
Low Income Investment Fund (LIFF)	National Multi Housing Council
Mercy Housing Inc.	National Rural Housing Coalition
National Affordable Housing Management Association	New England Housing Network
National Alliance of Community and Economic Development Associations	Nixon Peabody LLP
National Alliance to End Homelessness	PLACE: Practitioners Leveraging Assets for Community Enhancement
National Apartments Association	Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
National Association of Counties	The Community Builders, Inc.
National Association for County Community and Economic Development	U.S. Conference of Mayors
National Association of Homebuilders	