

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Mario Díaz-Balart
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Díaz -Balart, Ranking Member Price, Chairman Frelinghuysen and
Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the more than 1,600 local, state, and national organizations supporting the HOME Coalition, we would like to thank your Committee for supporting the proven outcomes of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. The recent funding increase in fiscal year (FY) 2018 was a significant step in restoring funding to one of the most effective, flexible and locally-driven tools to help states and communicates increase access to safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income households.

The HOME Coalition specifically would like to thank the Subcommittee for including a technical—yet significant—fix in the FY 2019 THUD Appropriations Bill which would suspend the 24-month commitment deadline for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). A suspension of the deadline has been included in enacted appropriations legislation since FY 2017, but the suspension has not been applied to CHDOs. As it was not the intent to exclude CHDOs, the HOME Coalition thanks the Subcommittee for this common-sense fix.

As you conference on the final legislation with the Senate, we hope you will consider the great need for flexible investments to expand the supply of affordable housing and create homeownership opportunities for low-income households. Communities across the country are facing increased demand for HOME funding, including providing additional gap financing in Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) deals impacted by lower corporate tax rates enacted as part of tax reform; financing more Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) conversions as the FY 2018 omnibus more than doubled the cap of eligible public housing units; and redirecting their HOME funds to respond and rebuild after natural disasters. This is why the HOME Program must receive at least level funding at \$1.362 billion for FY 2019.

Thank you again for your bipartisan leadership. We look forward to working with you to ensure Congress continues to restore funding for the HOME Program. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Althea Arnold (aarnold@ncsha.org) with the National Council of State Housing Agencies or Clay Kerchof (ckkerchof@enterprisecommunity.org) with Enterprise Community Partners.

Sincerely,

The HOME Coalition