



March 14, 2018

The Honorable Scott Peters  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1122 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable U.S. Representative Peters,

Additional funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 federal budget for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program is essential to meet the housing needs of low-income families and to address homelessness in the City of San Diego and across the country.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) provides federal rental assistance, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to 15,000 households in the City of San Diego. Of these, more than 3,500 rental housing vouchers are committed to addressing homelessness.

However, more than 86,000 families are on the waiting list to receive rental assistance from SDHC, and the 2017 Point in Time Count showed 5,619 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.

It is crucial that HUD's programs receive full funding in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget to support rental assistance, which has proved to be effective in helping low-income individuals and families pay rent for the residence of their choice, within certain cost limitations.

With passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 increasing federal budget caps last month, SDHC also urges you to support funding for additional rental housing vouchers that SDHC, as a Moving to Work agency, may commit to providing rental assistance with supportive services for homeless San Diegans. Rental housing vouchers are an important part of SDHC's HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO homelessness action plan. The programs of the first three years of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, which launched on November 12, 2014, are on track to have a positive impact on the lives of close to 3,000 homeless San Diegans. The current phase of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO launched on July 1, 2017, and directs \$79.7 million in federal, City of San Diego and SDHC resources, including vouchers, over the next three fiscal years to six programs to create permanent housing opportunities for another 3,000 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in San Diego.

In addition, SDHC administers HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds awarded by HUD to the City of San Diego. HOME funds support rental housing production, first-time homebuyer assistance, property rehabilitation, and tenant-based rental assistance that households can receive for a maximum of 24 months. For example, SDHC invested \$2.6 million in HOME funds as a loan toward the development of Talmadge Gateway, which created 59 new affordable rental apartments for homeless seniors in the Talmadge neighborhood of City Heights. SDHC also awarded federal rental housing vouchers to provide rental assistance to the residents of Talmadge Gateway, which was supported by HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO.

According to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), of which SDHC is a member, adequate funding for the FY 2019 HUD budget is recommended at the following amounts:

<b>Discretionary Programs (\$ Millions)</b>	<b>FY 2017 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2019 Proposed</b>	<b>FY 2019 NAHRO</b>
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4,400	\$2,841 <sup>1</sup>	\$5,018
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$1,941.50	--	\$5,000
<i>Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency</i>	[\$35]	--	\$35
<i>Emergency Capital Needs</i>	[\$21.5]	[\$10] <sup>1</sup>	\$22
<i>Jobs Plus Pilot</i>	[\$15]	[\$10] <sup>1</sup>	\$15
<i>PH Financial and Physical Assessment Activities</i>	[\$10]	[\$14] <sup>1</sup>	\$10
Choice Neighborhoods Initiative	\$137.5	--	\$138
Section 8 Tenant-Based HCV HAP Renewal	\$18,355	\$17,514	\$20,429
Section 8 Ongoing Administrative Fees	\$1,640	\$1,530	\$2,440
<i>Additional Administrative Fees</i>	\$10	\$20	\$25
Tenant Protection Vouchers	\$110	\$140	Fully Fund
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$10,816	\$10,866	\$11,927
Consolidated Family Self-Sufficiency Program	\$75	\$75	\$95
Choice Neighborhoods Initiative	\$137.5	--	\$138
Community Development Block Grant	\$3,000	--	\$3,300
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$950	--	\$1,200

However, under President Donald Trump's proposed FY 2019 budget, funding for HUD would be \$6.8 billion, or 14.2 percent, less than the annualized funding levels per the current continuing resolution for FY 2018.

Funding for these HUD programs will support continuing efforts to provide housing opportunities for low-income families and homeless San Diegans.

Thank you for your leadership and long-standing commitment to affordable housing and funding for programs to address homelessness in San Diego.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at 619-578-7606 or [jeffd@sdhc.org](mailto:jeffd@sdhc.org).

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis  
Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff  
San Diego Housing Commission

<sup>1</sup> The President's Proposed Budget would fund current Capital Fund Program set-asides through the Operating Fund