



Housing Assistance Council  
HAC News

**HOUSE ACTS ON HUD FUNDING.** The House Appropriations Transportation-HUD

Subcommittee on April 29 approved a bill to fund HUD and other programs in fiscal year 2016, beginning October 1. The bill would reduce appropriations for HOME from \$900 million in 2015 to \$767 million in 2016, but would make up the difference by channeling receipts from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to HOME rather than to the National Housing Trust Fund, where current law requires them to go. The bill has level funding for CDBG, Native American housing, public housing operating funds, fair housing, and housing counseling. Some other reductions and increases would also occur, as the table below indicates. A full committee mark-up is the next step in the process and will probably occur soon. The Senate committee has not yet scheduled its action on a T-HUD bill. Also not yet clear is when a final appropriations act will pass and what the impact of a required budget sequester could be.

HUD Program (dollars in millions)	FY13 Approp. <sup>a</sup>	FY14 Approp.	FY15 Approp.	FY16 Admin. Budget Proposal	FY16 House Subcmte. Bill
Cmty. Devel. Fund	3,308	3,100	3,066	2,880	3,060
CDBG	2,948	3,030	3,000	2,800	3,000
HOME	1,000	1,000	900	1,060	767
SHOP setaside	b	b	b	10	-
Self-Help Homeownshp. (SHOP)	13.5	10	10	b	10
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	18,939.4	19,177.2	19,304	21,123	19,919
VASH setaside	75	75	75	c	-
Project-Based Rental Asstnce.	9,339.7	9,516.6	9,330	10,360	10,254
Public Hsg. Capital Fund	1,886	1,875	1,875	1,970	1,681
Public Hsg. Operating Fund	4,262	4,400	4,440	4,600	4,440
Choice Neighbrhd. Initiative	120	90	80	250	20
Native Amer. Hsg. Block Grant	650	650	650	660	650
Homeless Assistance Grants <sup>d</sup>	2,033	2,105	2,135	2,480	2,185
Hsg. Opps. for Persons w/ AIDS	334	330	330	332	332
202 Hsg. for Elderly	377	385.3	436	455	414
811 Hsg. for Disabled	165	126	135	177	152
Fair Housing	70.8	66	65.3	71	65.3
Healthy Homes & Lead Haz. Cntl.	120	110	110	120	75
Housing Counseling	45	45	47	60	47
Local Housing Policy Grants	-	-	-	300	-

a. Figures shown do not include 5% sequester.

b. Recent Obama budgets have proposed making the SHOP program a setaside in HOME. Congress has rejected that proposal.

c. VASH vouchers for homeless veterans are not funded. The President's budget proposed making VASH part of a new account of incremental rental vouchers for families, veterans, and tribal families experiencing homelessness and for victims of domestic violence.

d. Includes the Rural Housing Stability Program, which is not yet operational.

**USDA RD ISSUES FINAL 502 PACKAGING RULE.** Revisions to the rule proposed on August 23, 2013 (see *HAC News*, 8/28/13) will strengthen qualification requirements for intermediaries, require all loans to go through intermediaries unless a packaging organization gets a USDA waiver, cap fees at \$1,500 initially, exempt self-help loans from packaging, and make other changes. The final rule is effective July 28. Contact Brooke Baumann, RD, 202-690-4250.

**RD REVISES UL ON TENANT NOTIFICATIONS FOR LOAN PAYOFFS.** An Unnumbered Letter dated April 28, 2015 supersedes one issued on January 15, 2015 (see *HAC News*, 2/4/15) and includes sample notifications for borrowers and tenants. Contact a USDA RD state office.

**HUD OFFERS ICDBG FUNDS TO ADDRESS MOLD.** Tribes and tribal organizations can apply by June 22 for Mold Remediation and Prevention grants to be used for housing units owned or operated by tribes and TDHEs or previously assisted with HUD funding. Contact Roberta Youmans, HUD, 202-402-3316.

**HUD HAS TENANT PROTECTION VOUCHERS FOR LOW-VACANCY AREAS.** Property owners can apply on a rolling basis for either enhanced vouchers or project-based vouchers for tenants in listed low-vacancy counties whose rents rise when a HUD-insured, HUD-held or Section 202 loan matures; a rental assistance contract

expires; or HUD affordability restrictions expire. Contact HUD's Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, 202-708-0477.

**CONTINUUM OF CARE REGISTRATION OPENS.** CoC Collaborative Applicants (not project applicants) must register by May 18 in order to compete for FY15 funds. Contact a HUD CPD field office.

**VA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM.** Comments are due May 26 for the Veterans Choice Program interim final rule, which uses driving distance rather than straight lines to measure the distance from a veteran's residence to the nearest VA medical facility. Contact Kristin Cunningham, VA, 202-382-2508.

**HUD CHANGES DISTRESSED ASSET STABILIZATION PROGRAM.** Loan servicers must now delay foreclosure for a year and evaluate borrowers for loss mitigation programs. Other changes are intended to increase HUD's first 2015 sale is planned for June.

**BROADBAND COMMENTS REQUESTED.** The Rural Utilities Service and National Telecommunications and Information Administration seek input by June 10 about federal actions to promote broadband deployment, adoption, and competition, including by identifying and removing regulatory barriers. Contact Denise Scott, RUS, 202-720-1910.

**HUD REVISING TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY.** Comments are due June 8 on changes to HUD's government-to-government policy, which intended to enhance communication and coordination between HUD and federally recognized Indian tribes, and to outline guiding principles and procedures under which all HUD employees are to operate with regard to federally recognized tribes. Contact Rodger Boyd, HUD, 202-401-7914.

**HUD REQUIRED TO USE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS FOR SECTION 8 FUNDING.** On April 20 the Supreme Court denied an appeal petition, leaving standing a lower court's ruling that HUD cannot continue to use cooperative agreements with states and PHAs to run the Project-Based Rental Assistance (voucher) program. HUD must now use the federal procurement process, and has said it will need 18-24 months to implement the decision.

**ADMINISTRATION ADDS NEW PROMISE ZONES.** As PZs, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and the South Carolina Low Country, along with six cities, will receive technical assistance and some funding preferences.

**GAO RECOMMENDS CHANGES IN HOPWA FUNDING FORMULA.** Persons with HIV: Funding Formula for Housing Assistance Could Be Better Targeted, and Performance Data Could Be Improved recommends revising the funding formula to better reflect the number of living persons with HIV.

**HUD RELEASES RENTAL MARKET DYNAMICS 2009-2011 REPORT.** The report finds that while the number of afford-able units increased nationally, their percentage of the overall rental stock decreased.

**HAC BLOGS ON ENDING RURAL VETERAN HOMELESSNESS.** "Accounting for Our Sometimes Hidden Homeless Veterans" highlights strategies to ensure rural veterans are included in VA efforts to end veteran homelessness in 2015.

**VETERANS AND LIHTC SUBJECTS OF HAC WEBINARS.** "Access to Health and Homeless Services for Rural Veterans" is set for May 6. "Utilizing Low Income Housing Tax Credits: An Introduction" will be on May 13; follow the discussion online at #ruralLIHTC. Both will be at 2:00 eastern time and are free; registration is required. Contact Shonterria Charleston, 404-892-4824.

**HAC CONFERENCE ON "SERVING VETERANS IN RURAL AMERICA" SET FOR MAY 20.** Cosponsored by HAC and The Home Depot Foundation, this event in Washington, DC will provide information on housing, health, and employment needs and programs for rural veterans, with a special focus on successful local projects. There is no charge, but registration is requested. To register or for more information, email janice@ruralhome.org.

