



**Senate adopts FY17 HUD funding measure, House releases bill.** The Senate passed its Transportation-HUD appropriations bill on May 19, after adopting an amendment lifting until 2019 the two-year commitment deadline for HOME funds, and rejecting an amendment that would have stopped HUD implementation of its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulations. The Administration has threatened a veto of the Senate bill, listing numerous objections including the funding levels for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and for Homeless Assistance Grants. The House version of the bill would keep many programs at FY16 levels, with decreases in tenant vouchers and an increase in housing counseling. The House T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee approved it on May 18, and the full committee will take it up on May 24. Updates will be posted on HAC's website when available.

<b>HUD Program (dollars in millions)</b>	<b>FY16 Approp.</b>	<b>FY17 Budget Proposal</b>	<b>FY17 House Subcmte. Bill</b>	<b>FY17 Senate Cmte. Bill H.R. 2577</b>
Cmty. Devel. Fund	3,060	2,880	3,060	3,000
CDBG	3,000	2,800	3,000	3,000
HOME	950	950	950	950
Self-Help Homeownshp. (SHOP)	10	10 <sup>a</sup>	10	10
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	19,628	20,854	20,189	20,432
VASH setaside	60	7 <sup>c</sup>	7 <sup>c</sup>	57
Project-Based Rental Asstnce.	10,622	10,816	10,901	10,901
Public Hsg. Capital Fund	1,900	1,865	1,900	1,925
Public Hsg. Operating Fund	4,500	4,569	4,500	4,675
Choice Neighbrhd. Initiative	125	200	100	80
Native Amer. Hsg. Block Grant	650	700	655	647
Homeless Assistance Grants <sup>b</sup>	2,250	2,664	2,487	2,330
Hsg. Opps. for Persons w/ AIDS	335	335	335	335
202 Hsg. for Elderly	432.7	505	505	505
811 Hsg. for Disabled	150.6	154	154	154
Fair Housing	65.3	70	65.3	65
Healthy Homes & Lead Haz. Cntl.	110	110	130	135
Housing Counseling	47	47	55	47
Local Housing Policy Grants	-	300 <sup>d</sup>	-	-

**a.** The FY17 Administration budget, like past budget requests, proposes to make SHOP a setaside in HOME. Congress has consistently rejected that proposal. **b.** Includes the Rural Housing Stability Program, which is not yet operational. **c.** Tribal VASH setaside. **d.** Proposed as mandatory spending.

**USDA FY17 funding consideration begins in Senate.** The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee approved a spending bill on May 17 and the full committee will consider it on May 19. A press release says the bill includes \$900 million for Section 502 loans, \$24 billion for Section 502 loan guarantees, and \$1.4 billion for Rental Assistance. The bill's text has not yet been released. The House committee passed its version, H.R. 5054, in April (see HAC News, 4/20/16).

**Some Continuums of Care see renewal funding cut.** As a result of changes to HUD's FY15 homelessness funding competition, some CoCs received increases but a number of others had funding for ongoing projects reduced. HUD emphasized rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, while awards for transitional housing fell. HUD acknowledges that some grantees now "face the difficult task of finding alternative funding for, downsizing, or closing down longstanding programs," but says the total number of people served nationwide will increase. The National Alliance to End Homelessness's blog offers analysis and suggestions. Find an area CoC here.

**Correction: streamlined refinancing applies to Section 502 direct loans also.** The May 4, 2016 HAC News reported that USDA RD adopted amendments to the regulations for Section 502 guaranteed loans but did not note that one of them, a new refinance option, is available for Section 502 direct borrowers also. Contact Lilian Lipton, RD, 202-260-8012.

**Sexual orientation and gender protection proposed for Native American programs.** A proposed rule would require HUD's Native American and Native Hawaiian programs to be open to all regardless of sexual

orientation, gender identity, or marital status. HUD promulgated this rule for other programs in 2012. Comments are due July 8. Contact Camille E. Acevedo, HUD, 202-708-1793.

**HUD seeks comment on broadband and on climate change hazards.** Comments are due July 18 on two proposed rules. One would require installation of broadband infrastructure at the time of new construction or substantial rehabilitation of multifamily rental housing funded or supported by HUD, with limited exceptions. Contact people vary by program and are listed in the proposed regulation. The second would require jurisdictions to include broadband and natural hazard risks in their Consolidated Plans. They would have to describe existing broadband access in low- and moderate-income housing, and consider providing access where there is none. They would also have to “consider incorporating resilience to natural hazard risks, taking care to anticipate how risks will increase due to climate change.” Contact Lora Routt, HUD, 202-402-4492.

**Stakeholder calls on Section 515 to continue.** To register for announcements of upcoming quarterly calls on the Section 515 program, contact Timothy James, RD, 919-873-2056. Those who have registered in the past do not need to register again. (These are separate from the Section 538 calls announced in the HAC News, 5/4/16.)

**RD corrects environmental regs.** The changes apply to a rule issued in March (see HAC News, 3/4/16).

**Guidance on implementation of Section 502 packaging available.** RD published an Unnumbered Letter (dated May 6, 2016) that provides guidance on the implementation of the certified loan application packaging process, which becomes effective on May 19. Contact Tammy Repine, RD, 360-753-7677.

**Rural child poverty increased as income inequality grew.** A USDA Economic Research Service report, Understanding the Rise in Rural Child Poverty, 2003-14, and an article based on the report, explain that nonmetro child poverty rates rose 2003-2011 during economic growth and recession periods, then fell 2012-2014 but remained well above 2003 levels. ERS determined that growth in income inequality accounted for most of the increase in rural child poverty.

**HAC report describes older veterans.** Over two-thirds of U.S. veterans are age 55 and older and their numbers are rising, according to Aging Veterans in the United States, an analysis of data on the older veteran population. The majority are homeowners, and more than half of older veteran renters are cost burdened.