



Housing Assistance Council
HAC News

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE KEEPS MOST USDA SPENDING AT FY15 LEVELS.

Approved by the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on June 18, the FY16 agriculture appropriations bill holds funding for Section 523 self-help at \$27.5 million and increases Rental Assistance funds slightly to \$1.167 billion, the amount the Administration said will be needed to keep up with inflation. It does not include minimum rent for tenants and does not provide vouchers for tenants in maturing mortgage properties. Details are on HAC's website. The full House Appropriations Committee postponed a June 25 markup, and the Senate has not yet released an agriculture funding bill.

USDA Rural Dev. Prog. (dollars in millions)	FY13 Approp. ^a	FY14 Approp.	FY15 Approp.	FY16 Budget Proposal	FY16 House Subcmte. Bill
502 Single Fam. Direct Self-Help setaside	\$900 5	\$900 5	\$900 5	\$900 0	\$900 5
502 Single Family Guar.	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
504 VLI Repair Loans	28	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3
504 VLI Repair Grants	29.5	28.7	28.7	26	28.7
515 Rental Hsg. Direct Lns.	31.3	28.4	28.4	42.3	28.4
514 Farm Labor Hsg. Lns.	20.8	23.9	23.6	23.9	23.9
516 Farm Labor Hsg. Grts.	7.1	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
521 Rental Assistance ^b	907.1	1,110	1,089	1,172	1,167
523 Self-Help TA	30	25	27.5	10	27.5
533 Hsg. Prsrv. Grants	3.6	3.5	3.5	0	3.5
538 Rental Hsg. Guar.	150	150	150	200	150
Rental Prsrv. Demo. (MPR)	17.8	20	17	19	17
542 Rural Hsg. Vouchers	10	12.6	7	15	7
Rural Cmnty. Dev't Init.	6.1	6	4	4	4

a. Figures shown do not include 5% sequester or 2.5% across the board cut.

SENATE COMMITTEE ADVANCES HUD BILL WITH LARGE CUT IN HOME. On June 25 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a HUD funding bill for FY16 (not yet available online). The measure cuts the HOME program by 93%, from \$900 million in FY15 to \$66 million. An amendment to restore HOME funding was offered by Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE) but was defeated. The bill does not make changes to the National Housing Trust Fund.

HUD Program (dollars in millions)	FY13 Approp. ^a	FY14 Approp.	FY15 Approp.	FY16 Budget Proposal	FY16 House Bill (H.R. 2577)	FY16 Sen. Approps. Cmte. Bill
Cmty. Devel. Fund	3,308	3,100	3,066	2,880	3,060	2,900
CDBG	2,948	3,030	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,900
HOME	1,000	1,000	900	1,060	767	66
SHOP setaside	b	b	b	10	b	b
Self-Help Homeownshp. (SHOP)	13.5	10	10	b	10	10
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	18,939.4	19,177.2	19,304	21,123	19,919	19,934
VASH setaside	75	75	75	c	-	75
Project-Based Rental Assntnce.	9,339.7	9,516.6	9,330	10,360	10,254	10,426
Public Hsg. Capital Fund	1,886	1,875	1,875	1,970	1,681	1,743
Public Hsg. Operating Fund	4,262	4,400	4,440	4,600	4,440	4,500
Choice Neighbrhd. Initiative	120	90	80	250	20	65
Native Amer. Hsg. Block Grant	650	650	650	660	650	650
Homeless Assistance Grants ^d	2,033	2,105	2,135	2,480	2,185	2,235
Hsg. Opps. for Persons w/ AIDS	334	330	330	332	332	330
202 Hsg. for Elderly	377	385.3	436	455	416.5	420
811 Hsg. for Disabled	165	126	135	177	152	137
Fair Housing	70.8	66	65.3	71	65.3	69.5
Healthy Homes & Lead Haz. Cntl.	120	110	110	120	75	110
Housing Counseling	45	45	47	60	47	47
Local Housing Policy Grants	-	-	-	300	-	-

a. Figures shown do not include 5% sequester. b. In FY13, FY14, and FY15 SHOP was funded under the Self-Help & Assisted

Homeownership Opportunity Program account. Recent Obama budgets have proposed making the program a setaside in HOME. Congress has rejected that proposal. **c.** VASH vouchers for homeless veterans would be part of a new \$177.5 million 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.

SUPREME COURT APPROVES USE OF DISPARATE IMPACT FOR FAIR HOUSING CLAIMS. On June 25 the court ruled in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.* that a Fair Housing Act claim may be based on a disproportionately adverse impact on minorities even where there is no discriminatory intent.

INDIAN COUNTRY NEEDS CAPITAL, WITNESSES TELL SENATE PANEL. "Accessing Capital in Indian Country." an oversight hearing by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, focused on business financing, but touched on housing as well. Witnesses spoke favorably of HUD's Section 184 program, CRA, and the Native American CDFI program. One recommended allocating Low Income Housing Tax Credits directly to tribes.

FUNDS FOR HOUSING AND HEALTH RESEARCH OFFERED. Nonprofits, for-profits, tribes, PHAs, state and local governments, and others can submit preapplications by July 16 for Healthy Homes Technical Studies grants. Contact Dr. Peter Ashley, HUD, 202-402-7595.

REMINDER: USDA HAS EMAIL LISTS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING LOAN PROGRAMS. Sign up for a list that distributes information about Section 502 direct, 504, and 523, or for others covering the Section 502 guarantee program, at <http://www.rdlist.sc.egov.usda.gov/listserv/mainservlet>.

RD ALTERS MULTIFAMILY RESERVE ACCOUNT COUNTERSIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS. A final rule provides that when a property has both a Section 515 or 514 loan and also a Section 538 loan, USDA's countersignature will not be required to draw funds from the reserve account. (See *HAC News*, 8/20/14.) The rule also requires guarantee fees to be paid from operating accounts, not reserve accounts. Contact Tammy S. Daniels, RD, 202-720-0021.

HUD RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION CHANGED. A notice in the June 26 Federal Register will expand and amend RAD, which allows some public housing to convert to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance. Comments will be due in 30 days. Contact rad@hud.gov.

FEDERAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN REVISED. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness updated its "Opening Doors" strategy and added an operational definition of ending homelessness: "An end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. . . . [It] means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience." USICH also says chronic homelessness can be ended in 2017 (rather than the original 2015 goal) if Congress funds new permanent supportive housing.

HOMEOWNERSHIP DOWN, RENTERS' COST BURDEN RATES INCREASING, HARVARD REPORTS. In its annual *State of the Nation's Housing* study, the Joint Center on Housing Studies says that in 2013, almost half of all renters had housing cost burdens, including more than a quarter who were paying more than 50% of income for housing). The report notes that cuts in federal funds and increases in subsidy costs add to the problem, and that expiring affordability requirements will be a serious issue over the next decade.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES EXPAND FOR HOUSING AND HEALTH PROVIDERS. *Affordable Housing's Place in Medicaid Reform: Opportunities Created by the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Reform* examines how changes in health care law create the potential for affordable housing providers to collaborate with health care providers and others. The report, published by the National Housing Conference, includes examples of programs already underway.

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