



Housing Assistance Council  
**HAC News**

**USDA RD leader encourages full use of 502 direct funds.** With ten weeks remaining in the fiscal year, Anne Hazlett, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, has asked single-family program directors in RD state offices to “establish a high priority” for spending all available Section 502 direct funds. She encouraged RD staff to reach out to partners for assistance, and promised additional guidance on tools and resources. For more information, contact state office single-family program directors.

**USDA funding moves to Senate.** The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an FY18 spending bill for USDA on July 20. The bill has not yet been released to the public. Funding levels for a few of the rural housing programs are available in statements released by the subcommittee, and would keep most rural housing programs at current levels, somewhat higher than the levels in the House bill. The committee included a provision requiring USDA to have an Undersecretary for Rural Development. Watch www.ruralhome.org for updates on the Senate bill’s contents.

The House Appropriations Committee completed work on its FY18 USDA bill on July 12. It adopted one housing-related change to its subcommittee’s bill, making H-2A visa holders eligible for Section 514/516 farmworker housing.

<b>USDA Rural Dev. Prog. (dollars in millions)</b>	<b>FY16 Approp.</b>	<b>FY17 Approp.</b>	<b>FY18 Trump Budget Proposal</b>	<b>House Bill</b>	<b>Senate Bill</b>
502 Single Fam. Direct Self-Help setaside	\$900 5	\$1,000 5	0 0	\$900 5	\$1,000 <sup>d</sup>
502 Single Family Guar.	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000 <sup>d</sup>
504 VLI Repair Loans	26.3	26.3	0	24	e
504 VLI Repair Grants	28.7	28.7	a	a	e
515 Rental Hsg. Direct Lns.	28.4	35	0	28.4	35 <sup>d</sup>
514 Farm Labor Hsg. Lns.	23.9	23.9	(-11) <sup>b</sup>	15	23.9 <sup>d</sup>
516 Farm Labor Hsg. Grts.	8.3	8.3	0	6	8.3 <sup>d</sup>
521 Rental Assistance	1,390	1,405 <sup>c</sup>	1,345	1,345	1,345 <sup>d</sup>
523 Self-Help TA	27.5	30	(-4) <sup>b</sup>	25	e
533 Hsg. Prsrv. Grants	3.5	5	0	a	e
538 Rental Hsg. Guar.	150	230	250	230	e
Rental Prsrv. Demo. (MPR)	22	22	(-4) <sup>b</sup>	15	e
542 Rural Hsg. Vouchers	15	19.4	16	20	19.4 <sup>d</sup>
Rural Cmnty. Dev’t Init.	4	4	0	0	e

**a.** Would become part of Rural Economic Infrastructure Grant program. **b.** Budget proposes to rescind unobligated funds from three programs: \$11 million from Sec. 523 self-help, \$4 million from Sec. 514/516 farm labor housing, and \$4 million from MPR. **c.** Includes \$40 million in advance funding for FY18, so total available in FY17 is \$1.365 billion and total available in FY18 would be \$1.385 billion. **d.** Preliminary, pending release of bill text. **e.** Unknown as of press time, pending release of bill text.

**House takes up HUD funding bill.** On July 17 the House Appropriations Committee approved an FY18 HUD funding bill that would cut most HUD programs. HOME and CDBG would both be reduced. The bill also would eliminate the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. The National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimate that the House bill would eliminate at least 140,000 vouchers in FY18 because its funding levels for Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance are inadequate. The committee did adopt an amendment to the bill expanding the Rental Assistance Demonstration to include Section 202 Rental Assistance Contracts. The Senate has not yet begun work on its HUD bill.

<b>HUD Program (dollars in millions)</b>	<b>FY16 Approp.</b>	<b>FY17 Approp.</b>	<b>FY18 Trump Budget Proposal</b>	<b>FY18 House Bill</b>
CDBG	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,900
HOME	950	950	0	850
Self-Help Homeownshp. (SHOP)	10	10	0	10
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	19,628	20,292	19,318	20,487
VASH setaside	60	40	0	577 <sup>a</sup>

<b>HUD Program (dollars in millions)</b>	<b>FY16 Approp.</b>	<b>FY17 Approp.</b>	<b>FY18 Trump Budget Proposal</b>	<b>FY18 House Bill</b>
Tribal VASH	0	7	7	7
Project-Based Rental Asstnce.	10,622	10,816	10,351	11,082
Public Hsg. Capital Fund	1,900	1,942	628	1,850
Public Hsg. Operating Fund	4,500	4,400	3,900	4,400
Choice Neighbhrhd. Initiative	125	137.5	0	20
Native Amer. Hsg. Block Grant	650	654	600	654
Homeless Assistance Grants	2,250	2,383	2,250	2,383
Hsg. Opps. for Persons w/ AIDS	335	356	330	356
202 Hsg. for Elderly	432.7	502.4	510	573
811 Hsg. for Disabled	150.6	146.2	121	147
Fair Housing	65.3	65.3	65	65.3
Healthy Homes & Lead Haz. Cntl.	110	145	130	130
Housing Counseling	47	55	47	50

a. The House bill specifies that its entire VASH appropriation is for renewals.

**House leaders propose budget resolution.** The House resolution released by the House Budget Committee on July 18, would set caps for FY18 spending at the levels the House is currently using as it develops its versions of FY18 appropriations bills. That limit is below the cap required by the Budget Control Act. In later years, funding for domestic programs – both discretionary and mandatory – would drop sharply. The budget resolution also includes significant tax cuts and may become the vehicle for tax reform legislation.

**Congressional committee holds field hearing on NAHASDA.** On July 21, the House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance will hold a hearing in Wisconsin titled “NAHASDA: 20 Years On.” HAC will submit written testimony for the record.

**USDA requests comments on improving its regulations.** The department requests ideas on modifying, streamlining, expanding, or repealing regulations, guidance documents, or any other policy documents. Comments are due July 17, 2018. USDA will review comments in four batches: those submitted by September 15, 2017, then by November 14, 2017, then February 12, 2018, and finally July 17, 2018. For more information, contact Michael Poe, USDA, 202-720-5303. The Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity is also still accepting comments on legislative, regulatory, and policy changes (see HAC News, 6/22/17).

**Comment on new HUD veterans rehab and modification pilot.** HUD requests input by September 11 on the design of a new pilot program that will make grants to nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or statewide programs serving primarily veterans or low-income individuals. The grants may be used to modify or rehabilitate eligible veterans' primary residences or to provide grantees' affiliates with technical, administrative, and training support in connection with those services. Email comments to rhed@hud.gov. For more information, contact Sylvia Y. Purvis, HUD, 877-787-2526 (toll-free) or 202-708-2290.

**Committee reviews HUD nominations.** On July 18 the Senate Banking Committee considered several nominations, including three for HUD positions: J. Paul Compton, Jr. as General Counsel; Anna M. Farias as Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and Neal J. Rackleff as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. The Committee has not yet voted whether to recommend Senate confirmation of these nominees.

**Programs, including housing, help children succeed, report says.** “Economic Security Programs Help Low-Income Children Succeed Over Long Term, Many Studies Find,” from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, summarizes the findings of numerous researchers. Economic security programs such as housing subsidies, food assistance, and working-family tax credits not only help families afford basic needs, but also help children do better in school and increase their earning power as adults.

### **Housing Assistance Council**

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