# THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG FY18 FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## THE ISSUE

Far too many families are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Nationwide, more people are renting their homes than ever before, but our investments in affordable homes have not kept pace with demand. As affordable rents are rising across the nation, while housing infrastructure deteriorates. Every state and congressional district is impacted.

Further, low federal spending caps required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) have decreased funding for housing and community development programs, impacting the ability of Congress to invest in these solutions. HUD funding was 8.4% lower in 2016 than in 2010, adjusted for inflation.

As a result, more than 11 million families now spend the majority of their income on rent, and family and young adult homelessness rates are rising in many communities.

## THE FY18 BUDGET

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development funding (CHCDF) urges Congress to work together to provide relief from the austere BCA spending cap, equally for defense and nondefense programs, and to ensure affordable housing and community development programs receive the highest allocation of funds possible.

**ON A SINGLE NIGHT IN 2016, 549,928 PEOPLE WERE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING:**

**194,716** people in families with children

**77,486** chronically homeless individuals

**39,471** veterans

**35,686** unaccompanied homeless youth

**TO CONTINUE HELPING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AT CURRENT LEVELS IN FY18,**
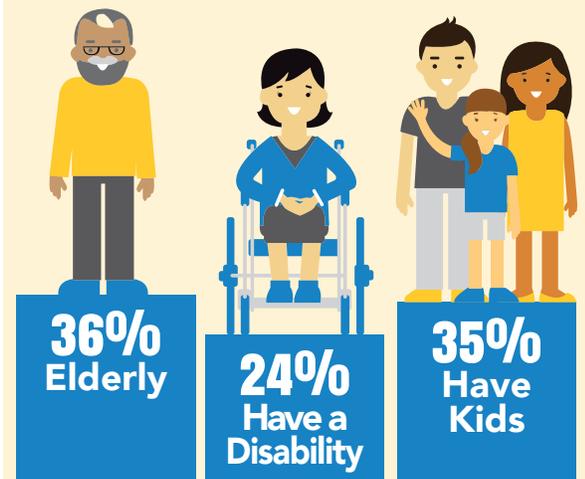
## HUD NEEDS $2.3 BILLION

AND

## USDA NEEDS $24 MILLION

**FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OVER FY17 SPENDING LEVELS.**

**ONLY 1 IN 4 PEOPLE WHO QUALIFY FOR HUD ASSISTANCE ACTUALLY RECEIVES IT.**

**WHO ARE THE LUCKY 1 IN 4?**

**36% Elderly**

**24% Have a Disability**

**35% Have Kids**

# OUR HOMES, OUR VOICES

# WHY AFFORDABLE HOMES MATTER

Federal investments in affordable housing have widespread and significant benefits in communities across the country. From employment and economic mobility to health and education, all areas of life are improved when individuals and families have access to a decent and stable home.

## Homelessness and Poverty Reduction

Rental assistance has demonstrably reduced homelessness for people with low incomes. It's also proven that providing housing assistance is one of the most effective ways to help families, children, and youth escape poverty.

### IN 2012 ALONE, HOUSING ASSISTANCE LIFTED:

### 4 MILLION PEOPLE

### OUT OF POVERTY, INCLUDING

### 1.5 MILLION CHILDREN

## Strengthening the Economy

Investing in affordable housing infrastructure has numerous benefits for the economy—job creation, boosting families' incomes, and encourages further development. The shortage of affordable housing in major metropolitan areas costs the U.S. economy about $2 trillion a year in lower wages and productivity.

### BUILDING 100 AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOMES GENERATES:

**$11.7m in local income**

**161 local jobs in the 1st year alone**

**$2.2m in revenue for local govt.**

## Educational Success

A child's neighborhood and home life have a significant impact on their performance in school. For every additional year a child spends in a better neighborhood environment, their economic outcome as an adult improves, as indicated by measures such as income, likelihood of college attendance, and probability of avoiding teenage pregnancy

### LOW INCOME KIDS LIVING IN A STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOME ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

**Thrive in school** → **Attend college** → **Earn more as adults**

## Physical and Mental Health

Safe, decent and affordable housing is critical to an individual's physical and mental health. When housing is affordable, quality medical care and healthier foods are more within reach for low-income families. Additionally, affordable housing provides a useful platform for delivering health services to vulnerable populations.

### PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN AFFORDABLE HOME ARE ABLE TO SPEND:

**5X MORE** On Healthcare

**3X MORE** On Nutritious Food