

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2025

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn:

We respectfully request the Committee increase funding for the Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) program, also known as Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, in the FY2026 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill. Specifically, we request that the Committee provide at least \$40.927 billion to renew all vouchers currently in use, provide additional tenant protection vouchers, increase administrative funds for public housing authorities (PHAs), and create 200,000 new housing vouchers in a first step towards making vouchers available to all eligible households. We also request that the committee provide sufficient funding to ensure that none of the 59,000 households currently receiving rental assistance through the Emergency Housing Voucher program are allowed to fall back into homelessness when the original funding allocations are fully depleted.

Rental assistance is critical to helping families cope with rapidly rising rent and utility costs, reducing homelessness, improving outcomes for children and families, and lifting people out of poverty. In 2023, rental assistance—including HCVs—lifted more than 2.7 million people out of poverty, including 702,000 older adults and 885,000 children.¹ Over the past decade, Congress' investment in housing vouchers has reduced veterans' homelessness by more than 50 percent and helped tens of thousands more people with disabilities live independently in their communities.² For families with children, research has found that vouchers reduce homelessness by 75 percent and reduced housing instability by 80 percent, which has a direct result on children's behavioral health and overall well-being.³ The past few years of rapidly increased rental costs and economic uncertainty has emphasized the importance of affordable, safe, and stable housing and shown the need for a comprehensive housing safety net, including rental assistance such as vouchers.

¹ Emily A. Shrider, "Poverty in the United States: 2023," U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, September 2024, <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/p60-283.pdf>.

² Anna Bailey, Raquel de la Huerga, and Erik Gartland, "More Housing Vouchers Needed to Help People with Disabilities Afford Stable Homes in the Community," July 2021, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/more-housing-vouchers-needed-to-help-people-with-disabilities-afford-stable-homes>.

³ Michelle Wood, Jennifer Turnham, and Gregory Mills. "Housing Affordability and Family-Well Being: Results from the Housing Voucher Evaluation." Housing Policy Debate, 2008.


It is imperative that Congress expand HCV funding to meet the increased cost of renewing vouchers and ensure that current families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities may remain in stable, affordable homes, including those receiving assistance through Emergency Housing Vouchers. But simply renewing all existing vouchers will not be enough. We must take action to create new vouchers and help more eligible individuals and families obtain affordable, stable housing. Currently, only one in four eligible households receive a voucher, and the families that do receive one are first on a waitlist for an average of two and a half years.⁴ Expanding the number of vouchers would reduce poverty and homelessness and expand families' housing options in areas with quality schools and other community resources. As part of that expansion, Congress must provide more adequate PHA Administrative fees to ensure PHAs can efficiently administer the program.

With this in mind, we ask that the Committee provide at least \$40.927 billion for housing vouchers, including:

- \$34.64 billion to renew 100 percent of the vouchers that low-income families, veterans, older adults, and others are currently using to afford modest, stable homes;
- \$1.9 billion to fund 200,000 new housing vouchers to begin addressing the long waitlist of eligible families not receiving vouchers;
- \$385 million for tenant protection vouchers to replace public and assisted housing units that exit federal programs;
- \$800 million to fully renew Mainstream vouchers for individuals with disabilities; and
- \$3.202 billion for PHA Administrative Fees.

This proposal and the preservation of current Emergency Housing Vouchers will take critical steps towards our shared goal of reducing poverty, ending homelessness, and ensuring that every family has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Greg Casar
Member of Congress

⁴ Sonya Acosta and Erik Gartland, "Families Wait Years for Housing Vouchers Due to Inadequate Funding," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 2021, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/families-wait-years-for-housing-vouchers-due-to-inadequate-funding>.



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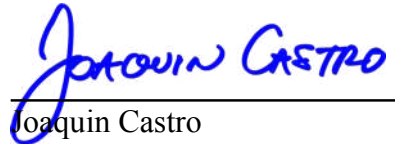
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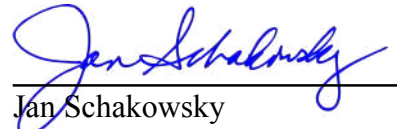
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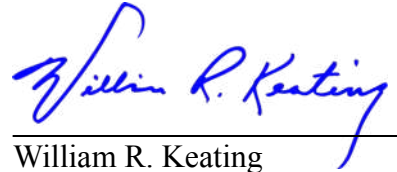
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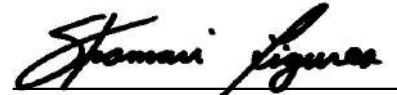
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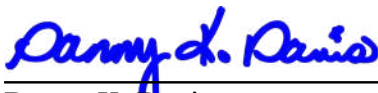
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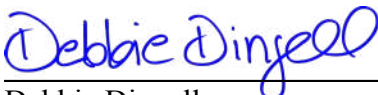
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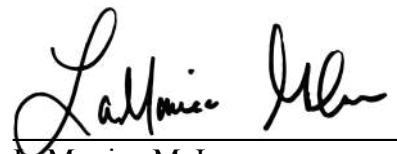
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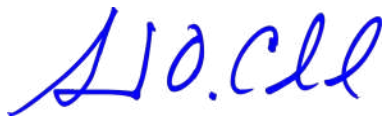
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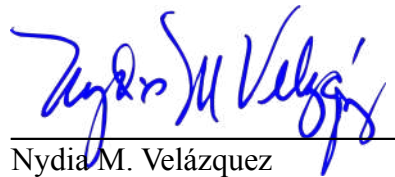
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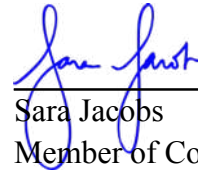
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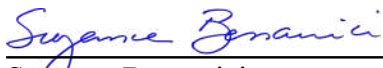
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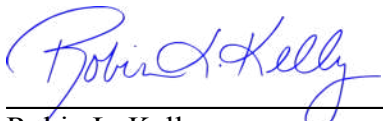
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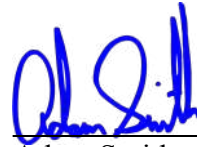
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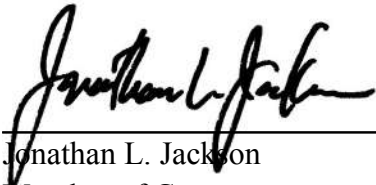
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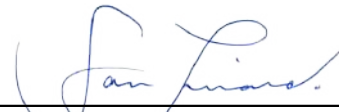
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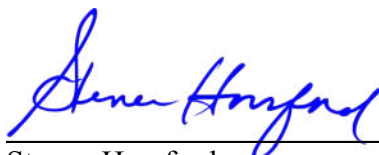
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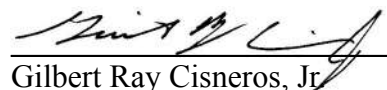
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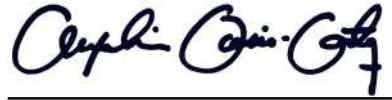
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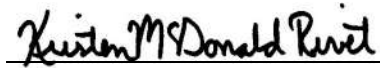
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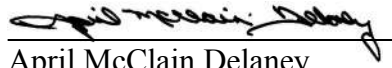
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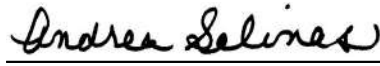
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