

Dear Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and Senators Nelson, Sanders, Leahy, Wyden, Brown, Cantwell and Carper:

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) thanks you for your efforts to make the United States a more vibrant and healthy nation through your proposed *Blueprint to Rebuild America's Infrastructure*. We are grateful for your recognition that safe, decent, and accessible affordable housing is a vital part of our nation's infrastructure, and commend you for your leadership in advocating for the housing needs of low income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other vulnerable populations. Investing in America's economic future should be a priority for lawmakers of any party.

As you continue to develop your proposal, we ask that you ensure affordable housing programs administered by the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Treasury receive dedicated funding to expand and preserve housing options for low and moderate income families. We also ask that you work with your colleagues when any final infrastructure package is nearing enactment to ensure it includes dedicated funds for affordable housing programs. These programs bolster productivity and economic growth, connect workers to communities of opportunity, improve health and educational outcomes and support local job creation and increased incomes.

CHCDF is an education, strategy and action hub for national organizations dedicated to preserving and expanding federal housing and community development funding for lower income families and communities. CHCDF's members include a full continuum of national housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, nonprofit, private sector, financial/intermediary, public sector and advocacy groups.

As you know, increasing and preserving affordable housing stock and community development resources in communities connected to good schools, jobs, healthcare and transportation, helps families prosper financially and ensures workforce needs are being met. In contrast, high housing costs constrain opportunities for families to increase earnings, causing slower GDP growth. Right now, the lack of safe and accessible affordable housing in major metropolitan areas is costing Americans approximately \$2 trillion a year in lower wages.<sup>1</sup> The lack of accessible affordable housing prevents lower income households from moving to communities with more economic opportunities and makes it difficult for businesses to attract and retain the workers they need.

Each dollar invested in affordable housing infrastructure boosts local economies and creates public-private partnerships that lift resident earnings and local tax revenue, as well as support job creation and retention. In fact, building 100 affordable rental homes generates \$11.7 million in local income, \$2.2 million in taxes and other revenue for local governments, and 161 local jobs in the first year.<sup>2</sup>

Federal affordable housing and community development programs also help ensure children grow up in safe and healthy environments. An investment in affordable housing infrastructure is a direct investment in America's families.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as move towards introducing legislation based on the blueprint. Furthermore, we hope you will work with your Republican counterparts to ensure that

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<sup>1</sup> <http://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/chang-tai.hsieh/research/growth.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nahb.org/~media/Sites/NAHB/Economic%20studies/1-REPORT\\_local\\_20150318115955.ashx?la=en](https://www.nahb.org/~media/Sites/NAHB/Economic%20studies/1-REPORT_local_20150318115955.ashx?la=en).

affordable housing investments are included in their infrastructure proposal. We know we can count on you to put forward and advocate for proposals to preserve and expand our country's affordable housing infrastructure so that low income families have a place to call home.

Sincerely,