

National Group SignOn Letter for FY24 Affordable Senior Housing

Please join this sign on letter for national groups to support HUD affordable senior housing funding by COB March 30.

The letter:

(TO: House and Senate Appropriations and THUD leadership)

The undersigned national organizations urge you to support robust funding to meet the affordable housing needs of older adults.

Full and Timely Renewal Funding for Currently Assisted Households

We urge Congress not to stray from its commitment for full and timely renewal funding for the 1.9 million older adult households currently assisted by HUD's Project-Based Rental Assistance, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Public Housing, and Housing Choice Vouchers programs. Meeting funding needs for the uninterrupted provision of quality affordable housing for currently assisted residents is of utmost importance.

Funding to Expand the Supply of Affordable Senior Housing

We urge Congress to expand the supply of housing affordable to older adults with very low incomes by providing \$600 million for new capital grants and operating subsidies for approximately 5,400 new Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly homes. Residents of HUD's Section 202 program have average annual household incomes of \$15,208 and the program's nonprofit providers often maintain waiting lists of two to five years, or more, to live in Section 202 communities. In addition to serving a predominantly extremely low income population (77% of Section 202 households are ELI), the Section 202 program has a strong emphasis on connecting residents, through Service Coordinators, to the services they need to age in community. In support of this proven model, we urge Congress to also provide \$100 million for 400 new three-year Service Coordinator grants in HUD-assisted housing for older adults.

Housing Needs and Homelessness Among Older Adults

In 1991, Congress directed HUD to provide a biannual report on "worst case housing needs," to ensure Congress understood and could adequately respond to the nation's most pressing housing needs. In HUD's most recent Worst Case Housing Needs: 2021 Report to Congress, data show an alarming 68% increase of "worst case housing needs" among older adult households between 2009 and 2019, including a 16% increase between 2017 and 2019.

Older adults are one of the fastest-growing groups of people experiencing homelessness and single adults over 50 now make up half of the homeless population, according to March 2023, testimony from U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness executive director Jeff Olivet.

We urge with you to protect and increase funding for housing programs for older adults.

Sincerely,