



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 21, 2022

Chairman Patrick Leahy
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Vice-Chairman Richard Shelby
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Kay Granger
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby and Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force, thank you for working to pass the FY 2022 budget and urge you to work with your colleagues to ensure affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs receive the highest allocation of discretionary funds possible in fiscal year (FY) 2023.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for Federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society, free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance. The Housing Task-Force of CCD focuses on ensuring accessible, affordable, equitable housing is available for all people with disabilities in communities of their own choosing. We ask you to ensure that all affordable housing & community development programs are funded at the highest levels possible, including but not limited to HUD Section 811. This is

essential because since rents and other market rates generally rise each year, appropriations for housing and community development need to increase in order to maintain the current number of assisted households and provide funding for private owners and public housing agencies to make vital repairs. Flat funding for housing and community development programs would act as a cut and reduce the number of people served.

Before the pandemic and as we continue to combat COVID19, people with disabilities remain at outsized risk of institutionalization, homelessness and housing insecurity. Over seven million renters with disabilities are moderately or severely cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income on housing. For many disabled renters, these burdens can be particularly costly, due to additional medical and services expenses, disproportionate rates of unemployment and low wages, and limited ability to earn or save without threatening essential supports and benefits¹. These cost burdens, in addition to widespread housing discrimination and severe lack of accessible units, leaves renters with disabilities at a much greater risk of facing eviction and homelessness. These burdens fall especially hard on women with disabilities and people of color with disabilities, with disabled women of color facing by far the greatest risk of homelessness. Overall, the nation's federally assisted housing stock and rental assistance has not kept up with the need for affordable, accessible and integrated housing for people with and without disabilities². Along with fulfilling this housing need, Congress must also include the highest funding possible in FY23 for Medicaid Home & Community Based Services, to ensure that extremely low and low income people with disabilities of all ages can remain in their homes or transition from institutional settings into affordable, accessible and integrated housing with the services they need at home in order to thrive.

In conclusion, CCD Housing Task Force urges that you and your colleagues pass a FY23 spending bill that funds HUD and USDA Rural Development affordable housing, homelessness, and community development programs at the highest levels possible to ensure much needed support for the millions of low and extremely low income people with and without disabilities.

Sincerely,

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¹<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/recognizing-addressing-housing-insecurity-disabled-renters/#:~:text=Overall%2C%207%20million%20renters%20with,more%20likely%20to%20face%20eviction.>

² <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/federal-rental-assistance-fact-sheets#US>

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