

## Dear Congress: Please Fully-Fund Rural Affordable Housing Programs

*Our membership of managers and owners have the very important responsibility of preserving and advancing quality affordable rental housing for millions of residents. The funding provided by lawmakers in Congress to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Housing Service (RHS) is essential in this mission. Through programs such as Section 521 Rural Rental Assistance, RHS provides the difference necessary to allow low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities to secure access to housing in rural communities. Additionally, through programs such as Section 515 Rental Housing Loan and the Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization (MPR), RHS is able to preserve and develop affordable units when the private market cannot adequately meet demand. For Fiscal Year 2017, NAHMA urges Congress to provide full-funding to RHS programs that will allow the Department to continue these endeavors and ensure housing for our nation's most vulnerable living in rural communities.*

### How Can Representatives/Senators Support Affordable Housing?

- The most recent Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Agriculture) Appropriations bills in the House and Senate (H.R.5054 & S.2956) provided full-funding for nearly all affordable housing programs – however, these bills were not enacted into law.
- NAHMA requests that you personally contact the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of full-funding as they begin to compile new appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018.

Appropriations Subcommittee	House	Senate
<b>Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies</b>	Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL) Ranking Member Sanford Bishop, (D-GA)	Chair John Hoeven (R-ND) Ranking Member Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

### Appropriation Amounts Necessary to Provide Full-Funding

NAHMA urges all lawmakers to pursue the following funding levels for affordable housing in FY 2017:

- **Section 521:** *Renew Rural Rental Assistance contracts at \$1.4 billion for FY17 to serve an estimated 270,000 households.*
- **Section 515:** *Fund the Multifamily Mortgage Program at \$33 million. Over the next eight years, approximately 11,500 RD section 515 MFH apartments will have their mortgages mature. As these mortgages mature, the property is no longer eligible for rental assistance, and the families in those apartments risk the loss of the housing.*
- **Preservation and Revitalization:** *Fund MPR Program and Rural Housing Vouchers at \$37 million.*