



News from Washington
Changes to Programs and Funding

Presented by

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Introduction



- The Connecticut Fair Housing Center
- Overview of HUD programmatic changes
- Overview of HUD budget changes
- Other changes that will impact housing
- What to do next

HUD Programmatic Changes



- Elimination of Small Area FMRs
 - Small area FMRs promote integration
 - Implementation on hold
 - May be a legal challenge
- The Effect of DACA and increased ICE raids
 - Immigrants, refugees reluctant to come forward
 - Effect on domestic violence victims

HUD Programmatic Changes, cont'd



- Fair housing
 - Threat to grants for enforcement
 - Threat to the way enforcement cases are processed
 - Proposed threat to repeal of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule
 - Proposed threat to repeal of disparate impact regulation
 - Threat to withdraw data from HUD website and others

HUD Budgetary Changes



- Administration Proposal for FY2018
 - Housing voucher program
 - Increase minimum rent to \$50
 - Increase tenant rent payments from 30% to 35%
 - Prohibit tenants from receiving utility reimbursements
 - Public housing
 - 68% cut in capital funding for public housing improvements
 - Operating fund cut by \$4.4 billion
 - CDBG program eliminated

USDA Budgetary Changes



- Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans eliminated
- Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Loans eliminated
- Section 512 rental assistance level funded
- Multifamily preservation reduced by 46%
- Section 542 vouchers level funded

Where is the budget right now



- Democratic agreement with Trump extended current CR to December 8, 2017
 - CR level funds all programs until expiration
- Senate and House have passed an appropriations bill
- Conference Committee must meet to iron out differences
 - Probably will meet starting in mid-October

Other Changes Affecting Housing



- DOJ
 - Enforcement priorities changing
 - Nominee for head of Civil Rights Division
 - Coming in on the other side of trans* issues in the courts
- HUD is understaffed

Other Changes Affecting Housing



- Natural disasters may divert funds from other programs
- Or, could result in a delay in implementing bad programmatic changes
- <http://nlihc.org/article/take-action-sign-letters-support-equitable-housing-recovery-after-devastating-hurricanes>

Recent Congressional meetings



- Met with staff of entire delegation the week of 9/8/2017
- Focus on budget
- Need information on how budget will help/hurt their constituency

Congressional Committees



- Blumenthal
 - Interested in civil rights and consumer protection issues
 - Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, Judiciary
- Murphy
 - Served on the Connecticut Banking Committee while in State Legislature
 - Senate Appropriations, Health, Education, Labor, and Foreign Relations

Congressional Committees



- Himes
 - Was a non-profit developer before joining Congress
 - House Committee on Financial Services, NSA and Cybersecurity, Select Committee on Intelligence
- Larson
 - Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee
 - Democratic leadership

Congressional Committees



- Courtney
 - House Armed Services Committee, Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, House Education and Workforce Committee, Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions
 - Willing and can work across the aisle because of work on defense issues

Congressional Committees



- Esty
 - Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- DeLauro
 - House Appropriations Committee focusing on Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education
 - Very interested in USDA issues

Next Steps



- Who to talk to
 - Better chance of meeting with Representative or Senator in the district
 - Make friends with staff members
- When to call/visit/contact
 - NOW
 - Conference committee will decide if there is a budget and what is in it

Next Steps



- What to say
 - Outline issue in one or two sentences
 - Tell Congressperson what you want them to do
 - Explain how your solution will help their constituents
 - Know what opposition will argue
 - OFFER TO HELP THEM
 - Explain what you do and know how you might help them
 - E.g. give them stories from constituents, help constituents, etc.