



## Federal News

### **Congressional Budget Deal Preserves Affordable Housing Funding and Tax Credits**

Republicans and Democrats reached an agreement late last night on a \$1.1 trillion bill to fund the government until October 2016, including a package of "tax extenders" that would make expired tax provisions permanent. If enacted, the current bill would boost FY 2016 funding for most affordable housing programs over the FY 2015 levels. The House and Senate are expected to pass the legislation by the end of the week.

Highlights from the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:

- HOME Program - funding increased to \$950 million from \$900 million in FY 2015
- National Housing Trust Fund - preserved
- Vouchers - funding for renewals appears to be short by about \$369 million; the only new vouchers are VASH vouchers for veterans
- Homeless Assistance Grants - funding increased to \$2.250 billion from \$2.135 billion in FY 2015
- Project-Based Rental Assistance - appears short on renewal funding by about \$200 million
- Public Housing Operating and Capital Funds - small increases for both
- Moving to Work - reduces the Senate's proposed expansion from 300 to 100 agencies and adds research protocols, as well as some modest reforms
- Amendments to weaken federal fair housing law were not included.

The accompanying tax extenders bill makes permanent the 9 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit rate and a five-year extension of the New Markets Tax Credit at \$3.5 billion.

### **Congress Passes Bill to Prevent Service Members from Losing Their Homes**

The Senate and House voted unanimously to extend legislation that gives military service members who have recently returned from active duty added protection from foreclosure. The bill also provides service members and their families with some protection from being evicted from rental housing and having their vehicles repossessed. [DS News](#) provides details about the Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act.

## FHFA Issues Proposed Rule on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Duty to Serve Underserved Markets

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) [seeks comments](#) on a proposed rule that details how Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should serve three underserved markets: manufactured housing, affordable housing preservation and rural markets. The proposed rule would require the government-sponsored entities to adopt plans to improve the distribution and availability of mortgage financing for residential properties that serve very low-, low- and moderate-income families in the three specified markets.

## NACEDA News

### New Partners for Smart Growth Conference Features NACEDA Members and Director

Are equitable development and smart growth at an impasse? NACEDA's Frank Woodruff will join NACEDA members Beth McConnell of the [Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations](#) and Marla Newman of the [Louisiana Housing Alliance](#) to address the issue on a panel at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference February 11-13 in Portland, OR. On a panel with Elisa Harrigan of the Meyer Memorial Trust and Cat Goughnour of Radix Consulting, they will discuss the three-legged stool of practitioners, funders, and advocates that is needed for equitable development and smart growth to succeed.

The [New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#) brings together people from across the U.S. who work in different professions and are committed to the common goal of building safer, healthier and more livable communities.

## Member News

### West Coast Members Launch Campaign to Address #HomelessEmergency in U.S.

The [Oregon Opportunity Network](#), [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#), [Housing California](#), [Street Roots](#), and [Center for Community Change](#) Housing Trust Fund Project have launched a campaign to urge federal, state and local governments to take emergency action to build seven million homes to end the nation's homeless emergency. Motivated by the affordability and homelessness crisis on the west coast, the campaign seeks to raise up the issue across the country. It's called the [Bring America Back Home](#).

Why seven million homes? Michael Anderson of the Center for Community Change explains. "The 7 million homes ask is deliberately not tied to any one current policy ask. We are using this figure because (1) that is in line with the number that we would actually need to address current and episodic homelessness, and (2) the

goal of this campaign is to excite the public about pursuing a substantial solution as opposed to promoting solution constrained in volume by what is currently politically possible."

Watch the [video](#). Share it using the hashtag #HomelessEmergency. And, [sign the petition](#) to build seven million homes across the U.S.

## Events and Educational Opportunities

**New Partners for Smart Growth Conference - February 11-13 in Portland, OR.** The nation's largest smart growth and sustainability event focuses on tools and strategies for creating great communities. [Register](#) by December 29 for early-bird rate.

**2016 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness - February 17-19 in Oakland, CA.** Presented by the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

**NCRC Annual Conference - March 16-18 in Washington, DC.** "Creating a Just Economy" is the theme. [Early bird rate](#) of \$149 ends December 18.

## Funding Opportunities

**Integrating Economic Development Across the Federal Government -** [Department of Commerce](#) EDA seeks applications for a one-year cooperative agreement to conduct research and analysis that results in tools for better aligning and integrating federal economic development programs. Involves the creation and delivery of comprehensive, useable economic development program content. January 13 deadline.

**Funding and Design Assistance for Rural Communities -** [The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#) helps small towns and rural communities build capacity and acquire technical expertise to solve a broad range of design-related challenges, from Main Street revitalization to art-based community development.

**Thriving Cultures Grants -** The [Surdna Foundation](#) supports efforts that provide artists with business training and financial resources that enable them to be, and create, valuable economic assets for their communities.

**Self-Help Home Opportunity Program -** [HUD funds](#) to be awarded to national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia to facilitate innovative homeownership opportunities in at least two states. January 4 deadline.

**Research opportunity: Program on Social Inequality -** [Russell Sage Foundation](#). Original or secondary

research in social inequality. January 5 deadline.

**Rural Communities Facing Design Challenges** - [Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#). Design workshops and capacity building for rural communities. January 12 deadline.

**Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants** - [HUD](#). Assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and building the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented. February 9 deadline.

**Supporting Our Communities Initiative** - [First Foundation](#) cash grants of up to \$5,000 and up to 20 hours of consulting services to nonprofits located in California and Hawaii.

**Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration Program** - [HUD funding](#) to prevent returns to homelessness and reduce recidivism among the reentry population. February 12 deadline.

**Financial Literacy Funding** - [Discover Foundation](#). Applications accepted year-round.

**Rural Business Enterprise Grant Programs** - [Department of Agriculture](#). Supports targeted TA, training, and other assistance for small and emerging private businesses. Rolling deadlines.

**NEA Challenge America** - [National Endowment for the Arts grants](#) for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. May 14 deadline.

## Publications

**America's Rental Housing** - [Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies report](#) finds that as a result of a steep increase in the number of renters, changing demographic trends and limited rental supply, the number of renters facing severe cost burdens rose to a record level of 11.4 million in 2014.

**Affordable Senior Housing Plus Services: What's the Value?** - [Leading Age study](#) finds that the odds of having a hospital admission among residents is reduced by 18% when there is an on-site service coordinator at federally subsidized senior housing.

## Employment Opportunities

**To post a job announcement**, contact Suzanne Gunther at [sgunther@naceda.org](mailto:sgunther@naceda.org). A [\\$25 donation](#) is requested.

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