



November 9, 2015

Dear Representatives and Senators:

The Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), a support organization for non-profit community development corporations (CDCs) across the Commonwealth, is pleased to join with national coalition partners from the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) to urge you to push your colleagues on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to safeguard funding of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by increasing the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) to the highest possible level in fiscal year 2016. As this revived appropriations legislation moves from the Committees for further consideration, we urge you to support \$1.06 billion for Home program funding.

MACDC members across the state are strong supporters of the HUD Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) program, which over twenty years has produced more than 1.1 million affordable homes and has provided direct rental assistance to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable families nationally. As a locally driven program, CDCs and our Massachusetts-based affordable housing partners rely on the HOME program's flexibility to address a range of housing, homeownership and rental assistance needs, and to support vulnerable families at risk of longer-term homelessness.

MACDC also request that you support the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program ("Section 4") by asking your colleagues, in particular, the Representatives and Senators that serve on the Appropriations Committee, to provide funding of at least \$35 million in fiscal year 2016 for this program.

Earlier this Session, we co-signed a joint organizational letter with more than 976 state and local community development and housing organizations, all which have firsthand experience of how Section 4 funded resources revitalize their communities. This funding is vital to the capacity-building, training and support that CDCs need to deliver high quality services in every corner of Massachusetts, and we ask that Congress provide at least \$35 million of funding for Section 4 as an FY 2016 priority. It remains an important, unique, and efficient program that leverages significant private capital using minimal federal dollars.

Thank you for your support and favorable consideration of these programs.

Sincerely,

David A. Bryant
Director of Advocacy