



April 11, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Chair
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 S-128 Capitol Building
 Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
 Vice Chair
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 S-128 Capitol Building
 Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
 Chairwoman
 House Appropriations Committee
 H-307 Capitol Building
 Washington, District Columbia 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
 Ranking Member
 House Appropriations Committee
 H-307 Capitol Building
 Washington, District Columbia 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
 Chair
 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
 Ranking Member
 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
 Chair
 House Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
 Ranking Member
 House Appropriations Subcommittee on
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
 Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hyde-Smith, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley:

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force Co-Chairs, and the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for funding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 811 project-based rental assistance (PRA) program and Mainstream Housing Choice Vouchers. CCD, headquartered in Washington DC, 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. The CCD Housing Task Force works to ensure that all people with disabilities have safe, stable, accessible, affordable, integrated housing that enables people to live in communities of their choosing, with full access to home and community-based services and supports

People with disabilities may be served across all federal housing programs; however, these are the only programs that explicitly provide affordable, accessible, integrated housing for adults with disabilities and their families who are extremely low and low-income. **We request that HUD 811 PRA be funded at no less than \$500 million and that the Mainstream Housing Choice Vouchers be funded at no less than \$680 million for FY24.** In addition to the funding requests for each program, we request that Congress include the following in statutory language to ensure increased program effectiveness. None of the below requests have any additional budgetary costs.

- For HUD 811:
 - Direct HUD to cease funding the 811 capital advance program because it still funds segregated housing, undermining Disabled peoples' rights under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - Direct HUD to release all funds through 811 PRA.
- Mainstream Housing Vouchers:
 - Direct HUD to provide Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) with certain flexibilities in the program administration. These flexibilities would allow PHAs to adopt certain specialized policies for these programs, enabling them to create separate waiting lists, extend the time households may search for housing, apply reduced screening criteria, accept direct referrals from supportive service agencies, and provide landlord incentives and security deposits.
 - Flexibilities for PHAs to allow all specialty voucher programs, including Mainstream, the flexibility to adopt a 90- to 120-day referral timeline. It is difficult for people with disabilities to find units for lease within the current 90-day timeframe, which increases the risk of homelessness and/or institutionalization. This extended referral timeline would allow more people more time to enter these programs.

The HUD 811 PRA program and Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher are the only federal housing programs that explicitly address the unique housing barriers faced by adults with disabilities:

People with disabilities experience extremely disproportionate poverty rates and cannot afford much of today's rising cost housing market¹. For the more than 4 million people with disabilities who rely on Supplemental Security Income and other federal assistance, there is no US housing market where rent is affordable.² The affordability crisis faced by disabled adults has only been exasperated during the pandemic. One year after the pandemic, nearly 40 percent of renters with any disability experienced housing insecurity, in that they either deferred paying their rent or reported no or slight confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent. This is substantially higher than the national average of 25 percent. Disabled Black and Hispanic renters were especially likely to be housing insecure, at 52 percent and 50 percent³. According to HUD's most recent Worst Case Housing Needs Report, there are over a million households with worst-case housing needs that include a younger person with a disability; half a million of these households

¹ [Economic Justice Is Disability Justice](#), Century Foundation

² [Priced Out](#), Technical Assistance Collaborative

³ [Recognizing and Addressing Housing Insecurity for Disabled Renters](#), Center for American Progress

include a single individual. Moreover, 18 million disabled people are eligible for federal housing assistance but are not receiving it⁴.

Less than five percent of housing nationwide is accessible for people with moderate mobility difficulties, and less than one percent is accessible for wheelchair users⁵. Moreover, there is a very limited supply of housing that has accessibility features for people who have sensory impairments. These shameful statistics are not just felt in the daily lives of the over 13 million Americans with sensory and mobility disabilities⁶ but by their families and loved ones. Therefore, with a national affordable housing shortage of more than seven million units for extremely low-income renters, we know that even fewer of those housing units are also accessible.⁷

People with disabilities are still heavily impacted by segregation and institutionalization because the institutional bias is intact. Federal and state governments have never invested in a commensurate supply of service-ready, integrated, affordable, and accessible housing. Those who are still living impacted by institutionalization, in part because of lack of supportive housing, include the roughly 1.2 million adults⁸ living in nursing homes, more than 360,000 people in psychiatric facilities⁹, and the more than 268,980 people with I/DD who live in congregate, institutional settings or are on waitlists for services and residential programs¹⁰. When it comes to the approximately 7.4 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)¹¹, 75% of adults live with a parent or other caregiver and are not connected to publicly available services and supports, and at least one million of those households have a caregiver over the age of sixty¹².

With clear evidence, we respectfully urge you to not just safeguard these programs but strengthen and invest in them by funding **no less than \$500 million for HUD 811 and no less than \$680 million for Mainstream Housing Vouchers in FY24**. We also urge you to add the statutory changes to ensure that your investments are utilized most effectively. Moreover, to support the needs of people who receive housing assistance through these two critical programs, as well as broader programs without a population focus that still serve people with disabilities like public housing, **we urge you to increase the overall FY 2024 allocation for the Transportation-HUD Subcommittee to a level that ensures robust and sustained investments**. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Housing Task Force Co-chairs, Allie Cannington (allie@thekelsey.org), Gregory Robinson (grobenson@autisticadvocacy.org) or Carlean Ponder (ponder@thearc.org).

CC:

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

⁴ [People with Disabilities Living in the US Face Urgent Barriers to Housing](#) | Urban Institute

⁵ [Assessing the Accessibility of America's Housing Stock for Physically Disabled Persons](#), HUD USER

⁶ [Disability Impacts All of Us Infographic](#) | CDC

⁷ [Recognizing and Addressing Housing Insecurity for Disabled Renters](#), Center for American Progress

⁸ [Total Number of Residents in Certified Nursing Facilities](#), Kaiser Family Foundation

⁹ [Trend in Psychiatric Inpatient Capacity, United States and Each State, 1970 to 2014](#), National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

¹⁰ [Estimated Supportive Housing Need](#), Corporation for Supportive Housing

¹¹ [Residential Information Systems Project Annual Report: Status and Trends Through 2018](#), University of Minnesota, Center on Community Integration

¹² [THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME: A National Study of How People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Choose Where to Live](#), The Arc and The Council on Quality and Leadership

Sincerely,

Allie Cannington, The Kelsey, CCD Housing Task Force Co-Chair

Carlearn Ponder, The Arc of the US, CCD Housing Task Force Co-Chair

Greg Robinson, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, CCD Housing Task Force Co-Chair

The following undersigned organizations:

Access Living

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

American Network for Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic People of Color Fund

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Coalition on Human Needs

COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project

Cure SMA

DOVE, Inc.

Justice in Aging

Kellys Kitchen

National Disability Institute

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Center for Law and Economic Justice

National Disability Rights Network

National Leased Housing Association

National Pain Advocacy Center

National PLAN Alliance

National NeighborWorks Association

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

New Disabled South

New Disabled South Rising

The Arc of the U.S.

The Kelsey

The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Action Network

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

Public Justice Center

TASH

World Institute on Disability