



## AFFORDABLE AND PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS

**Request:** Support the expansion and permanent authorization of the Move to Work provision that was proposed in the Affordable Housing Self Sufficiency Improvement Act of 2012 (AHSSIA).

Support eliminating pro-ration of Public Housing Operating Subsidy and Section 8 administration fees.

Support streamlining and reduction of the administrative and regulatory burden caused by Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher Program and Public Housing.

Support continuation of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), which is critical for homeless assistance programs and to leverage Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) transactions.

### Community Value:

The Public Housing and Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), the HOME Investment Partnership Programs (HOME) and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) are critical tools for providing affordable housing options for Phoenix individuals and families. These valuable programs assist the “hard to house” populations in moving up the housing continuum and help to prevent homelessness. As a public housing authority, Phoenix offers programs that not only house families, but also provide them with opportunities for job training, employment education and personal growth. Affordable housing is an integral link to maintaining a healthy community. Without these services, Phoenix’s most at-risk families would not be able to effectively advance up the housing continuum and are at further risk of becoming homeless.



The FFY 2012 funding levels included a significant cut in funds for public housing authorities that were only intended to last one year. Last fiscal year, Phoenix’s Public Housing Operating Subsidy was offset (reduced) by \$3 million, which forced the use of precious operating reserves.

With the uncertainty of sequestration and the FFY 2013 budget, advocacy to halt further cutbacks and prorations, promote restoration of funding and streamlining of regulation for federal housing programs is essential. The impact that simple streamlining efforts would have, such as a reduction in the frequency of required recertification of income for fixed income households or a reduction in the frequency of required unit inspections, is significant. Furthermore, expansion and permanent authorization of the Move to Work program would allow housing authorities like Phoenix the flexibility to create cost-efficient housing solutions by streamlining operations and creating policies that would result in administrative cost savings.

### Lack of Fair Share Funding:

Based on total population, Phoenix should have at least twice the current number of Section 8 vouchers and twice as many city-owned and operated public housing units. There is a large disparity between Phoenix’s public housing needs and the city’s current federal public housing funding allocations.

The Public Housing Operating Fund is the major funding source for the city’s more than 2,500 assisted housing units. These properties serve residents with little or no financial resources who could not afford market-rate housing for themselves. Without full subsidy, it is difficult to operate and maintain the properties and provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for the residents. Dependable and adequate operational and capital funding streams are necessary to support long-term financial viability.

### Families and Individuals Served (FFY 2012)

Program	Families	Individuals
Public Housing	2,661	4,787
Section 8/HCV	6,196	5,665

### Recent Accomplishments:

The city of Phoenix Housing Department oversaw completion of seven development projects, bringing online 25 supportive housing units and 286 affordable rental units for the residents of Phoenix. Additionally, the Housing Department was instrumental in initiating five new development projects that will result in an additional 219 affordable units in the near future.



### Encanto Pointe, a Housing First Project:

Encanto Pointe consists of 54 units of affordable, permanent supportive housing community targeting chronically homeless individuals.

The city of Phoenix Housing and Human Services departments entered into an agreement to strategically partner on ways to address homelessness in Phoenix. This collaboration will provide housing and case management services to chronically homeless families residing in emergency shelters. Through a wait list preference, 25 public housing units per year for three years will be made available to homeless individuals, for a total of 75 units.

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