



The Honorable [Member of Congress]
U.S. [Senate/House of Representatives]
Address
Washington, D.C. 20510/5

May 6, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

As religious denominations, faith-based service providers, and members of the Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs (DHN), we urge you and your colleagues in Congress to strengthen and provide the highest allocation possible for housing and community investment programs in the FY23 federal budget, and take critical steps needed to address the present affordable housing crisis. As a coalition, the DHN working group represents the interests and concerns of almost 30 faith-based organizations in the country.

Across the religious spectrum, our diverse theological and social teachings collectively challenge us to give shelter to the vulnerable and serve those of us in the greatest need. For generations, houses of worship have worked hard to those ends: providing emergency shelter, building affordable housing, and offering many other critical wrap-around services for those of us struggling with homelessness and at risk of eviction. Having a safe place to call home, we recognize, is essential for the wellbeing of the whole person - giving people the opportunities to thrive and succeed. But we cannot do these without adequate funding and support from the federal government.

For years our faith-based providers, in partnership with state and federal programs, have worked collectively in communities around the country, offering a multi-pronged approach to addressing complex issues like chronic homelessness. Now, the nation-wide rise in the cost of housing and the greater affordability crisis are among the leading drivers of homelessness - and have become an urgent concern for our religious institutions and ministries. In the wake of rising inflation, a spike in the cost of living, and historic lows in the stock of affordable housing, our coalition encourages you to support the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing in the FY23 spending budget.

As you and your colleagues in Congress prepare the FY 2023 budget, our denominations and service providers hope that you will champion these housing investments and seek other opportunities to address the affordability crisis. We are happy to discuss further our specific requests. Thank you for your consideration.

Peace be with you.

Warm regards,

Church World Service

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Friends Committee on National Legislation

National Council of Churches

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

RESULTS

Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, Inc. Center for Reparatory Justice, Transformation, and Remediation

The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society