



The Honorable David Price  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
The U.S. Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
U.S. House of Representatives  
374 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
U.S. Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20006

April 18, 2022

**T** (800) 242 3837  
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Dear Chairman Price, Ranking Member Diaz-Balart, Chairman Schatz, and Ranking Member Collins,

The AIA represents over 94,000 licensed architects and design professionals and is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Since 1857, this concern is central to all that we do. As affordable housing designers and advocates, we know that access to safe and healthy housing is foundational to human wellness. However, many Americans still struggle to find viable housing options while being able to afford it.

As you are likely aware, HUD's 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report found that over 580,000 Americans experience homelessness on any given night in 2020, an increase of 2.2 percent from the previous year. Of those individuals experiencing homelessness, nearly 39% were Black or African American while 23% were Hispanic or Latino. Taken together, Black, African American, Hispanic, and Latino Americans represent 62% of the U.S. homeless population on a given single night, while accounting for only 20.5% of the overall U.S. population.

It's clear that the affordable housing crisis is particularly acute for communities of color, and that we must do more to address inequities in our affordable housing stock. Congress should target federal investment among disproportionately impacted populations, including rural communities and

persons with disabilities. Additionally, Congress must continue efforts to eliminate toxic materials within subsidized housing.

AIA appreciates that President Biden has appropriately recognized the need to increase critical funding to some key affordable housing programs through the FY2023 Budget Request. AIA recommends robust investment for these important housing programs. As the Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Develop and Related Agencies consider the appropriations bill for FY 2023, we urge you to include the following priorities:

- Increase funding to \$2.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program
- Maintain funding at \$1.033 billion for the Housing for the Housing for the elderly program
- Maintain funding at \$352 million for the Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program
- Maintain funding at \$90 million for the Healthy Homes Initiative
- Maintain funding at \$65 million for competitive grants to public housing agencies that reduce residential lead-based abatement through activities defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992.
- Increase funding at \$86 million for Fair Housing Activities as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968

Architects stand ready to work with the Committee members on both sides of the aisle to address America's affordable housing shortfall and inequities within the affordable housing environment. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dodge  
Senior Vice-President of Advocacy & Relationships

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader