

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

March 20, 2018

Oppose the Trump Administration’s Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Cuts to Affordable Housing and Community Development Programs

On February 12, 2018, the Trump Administration released a budget for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 which proposes cuts to vital affordable housing and community development programs. At a time when the County of Los Angeles (County) is experiencing an affordable housing and homelessness crisis, these cuts would severely impact low-income and homeless families, seniors, and veterans throughout the County.

The County has historically relied on federal assistance to fund programs that provides communities with the ability to address their infrastructure, housing, and economic development needs at the local level. This includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Veterans Affairs Support Housing (VASH) vouchers, and the Capital Fund which finances the rehabilitation and modernization of public housing infrastructure.

The County’s current annual CDBG allocation of \$21,822,789 allows for the lives of thousands of residents to be improved. CDBG funds are used for critical community development activities, including infrastructure improvements such as roads, water, and sewer systems; maintaining the housing stock; expanding homeownership opportunities; eliminating slum and blight; employment training; business support and

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job creation; transportation services; services at libraries, community centers, adult day care, and after school care facilities; homeless housing assistance; and crime awareness programs.

Additionally, since 1992, HOME funding has helped develop over 4,000 affordable and special needs housing units, created an estimated 5,250 construction jobs, provided financial assistance to over 2,000 first-time homebuyers, and assisted 990 homeowners in residential rehabilitation.

Over 1,700 veterans and their families in the County would also be at risk of losing their homes under the Administration's FFY 2019 budget. HACoLA administers one of the largest VASH programs in Southern California, which houses formerly homeless veterans and their families. By eliminating this program, these veterans and their families would be at risk of becoming homeless again.

Lastly, the Capital Fund currently supports the ongoing modernization and rehabilitation of 63 public housing developments in the County, totaling 2,962 units. HACoLA owns and manages these units, which houses 6,500 low-income individuals. The program addresses basic repair needs, such as updating carpeting, windows, doors, and plumbing, in order to ensure decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the low-income families who call these developments home. In Fiscal Year 2017, HACoLA received only \$4.8 million and now faces a backlog of over \$109 million in deferred maintenance needs over the next 20 years.

These programs have already endured significant cuts over the past few years. The Trump Administration's proposed budget would drastically further reduce the budgets for these programs, and thus hamper local government's ability to provide critical safety-net services.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to respectfully request they oppose the Trump Administration's proposed FFY 2019 budget, and support increased funding for vital federal programs that provide housing assistance and community development resources to aid low-income and homeless families, seniors, and veterans.

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