

Senate Releases FY2021 Spending Bill with Modest Increases for HUD and USDA Housing Programs

The Senate Appropriations Committee released today its spending bills for fiscal year (FY) 2021, including the [Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development \(THUD\) bill](#) which provides critical funding for affordable housing programs. For more details on FY21 spending bills, see [NLIHC's full analysis](#) and [updated budget chart](#).

Overall, the Senate bill rejects the dramatic and severe spending cuts [proposed](#) by the Trump administration and provides modest funding increases to HUD programs – though at levels lower than what was proposed by the House earlier this year. Thanks to Senate THUD Subcommittee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI), housing programs received modest increases in funding, despite strict spending caps required by the Budget Control Act.

In addition to important spending increases, the bill includes some measures to prevent HUD from undermining [Housing First](#), a proven model for addressing homelessness backed by decades of research and learning, though these protections are not as extensive as in the House version.

Unfortunately, the Senate bill fails to include legislative language approved in the House version that would halt cruel proposals advanced by HUD Secretary Ben Carson, including the [proposed anti-transgender rule change](#) to the Equal Access Rule. It does not prevent harmful changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule and Disparate Impact rule that would undermine tools used to address historic and ongoing racial discrimination. The bill does not halt HUD from moving forward with its [proposal to force mixed-status immigrant families](#) – including 55,000 U.S. citizen children – to separate or face eviction from HUD housing.

Now that the Senate version has been released, congressional leaders will work quickly to negotiate and attempt to enact final spending bills before the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 11. Advocates should continue to urge your members of Congress to pass final spending bills in the lame duck session and to ensure the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing programs.

See NLIHC's full analysis of the Senate's FY21 appropriations bills at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxrg88xt> and updated budget chart at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6tnabuo>