



APPROPRIATORS REJECT RURAL HOUSING CUTS. On July 19, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved FY 2008 spending bills for rural housing and other USDA programs. The committees rejected the Administration's deep budget cuts for rural housing programs, particularly the elimination of Section 502 and 515 direct loans and the drastic cut in self-help housing. The Senate bill provides \$70 million for Section 515, all to be used for new construction, while the House bill retains the FY 2007 level of \$99 million, with a portion to be used for preservation purposes such as subsequent loans and incentives to owners. These bills, which move next to the House and Senate floors, and accompanying legislative reports are at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app08.html>.

| USDA Rural Development Program (dollars in millions) | FY 2006 Approp. | FY 2007 Approp. | FY 2008 Proposed Budget | FY 2008 Senate Bill (S. 1859) | FY 2008 House Bill (H.R. 3161) |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 502 Single-Family Direct Loans | \$1,141 | \$1,141 | \$0 | \$1,129.4 | \$1,129.4 |
| 502 Sgl.-Fam. Guaranteed Loans | 3,681 | 3,681 | 4,848 | 3,561.1 | 3,716.4 |
| 504 Very Low-Inc. Repair Loans | 35 | 35 | 22.9 | 34.7 | 34.7 |
| 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans | 38 | 38 | 14 | 27.7 | 50 |
| 515 Rental Housing Direct Loans | 100 | 100 | 0 | 70 | 99 |
| 538 Rent. Hsg. Guaranteed Loans | 100 | 100 | 200 | 150 | 99 |
| 504 Very Low-Inc. Repair Grants | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29.6 | 30 |
| 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants | 14 | 14 | 4 | 10 | 25 |
| 523 Self-Help TA | 34 | 34 | 9.5 | 38 | 40 |
| 533 Housing Preservation Grants | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9.9 | 9 |
| 521 Rental Assistance ^a | 653 | 616 | 567 | 497 | 533 |
| 542 Rural Housing Voucher Prog. | 16 | 16 | 27.8 | 15.5 | 10 |
| Rental Preserv. Revolving Loans | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2.9 | 3 |
| Rental Preservation Demo. | 9 | 9 | 0 | 15 | 14.8 |
| Rural Cmnty. Dev't Init. (RCDI) | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6.3 | 0 |

a. Rental Assistance contracts were for four years in FY 2005 and FY 2006 and for two years in FY 2007. Both FY 2008 bills provide one-year contracts.

HOUSE RECOGNIZES MCKINNEY-VENTO ANNIVERSARY. H.Res. 561, a nonbinding resolution passed on July 23, notes the 20th anniversary of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and supports efforts to end homelessness. H.R. 561 is at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and more information is at <http://www.mckinney20th.org>.

USDA OFFERS FUNDS FOR PROCESSING WORKER HOUSING. USDA has almost \$1.4 million remaining from a \$5 million 2004 demonstration program to construct housing for processing workers in Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, and Wisconsin. Deadline is August 31. See *Federal Register*, 7/17/07, pp. 39044-51 and 7/23/07, p. 40113. Contact Henry Searcy, Jr., RD, 202-720-1753, henry.searcy@wdc.usda.gov.

HUD ISSUES HOPE VI NOFA. Non-troubled PHAs with severely distressed public housing are eligible. Deadline is November 7. See *Federal Register*, 7/31/07, pp. 41821-58 or visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>. Contact Leigh van Rij, HUD, 202-402-5788, leigh_e.van_rij@hud.gov.

RD CLARIFIES VOUCHER ISSUES. An Unnumbered Letter dated April 27, 2007 addresses several topics regarding USDA's voucher program for tenants in Section 515 properties with prepaid or foreclosed loans. Obtain a copy from http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/ul_list.html or an RD office.

NEW KIDS COUNT DATA RELEASED. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2007 compilation of data on children's wellbeing includes six new indicators for children in immigrant families. Visit <http://www.kidscount.org>.

REPORT DESCRIBES HOUSING CHANGES, 1973-2005. A study prepared for HUD and written for a general audience, *32 Years of Housing Data*, is available at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/ahs/ahsprev.html>.

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