

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Committee on Financial Services  
From: FSC Majority Staff  
Date: October 19, 2015  
Subject: October 22, 2015, Hearing Titled “The Future of Housing in America: 50 Years of HUD and its Impact on Federal Housing Policy”

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The Committee on Financial Services will hold a hearing entitled “The Future of Housing in America: 50 Years of HUD and its Impact on Federal Housing Policy” on October 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in 2128 Rayburn House Office Building.

The witnesses will be Mr. Orlando J. Cabrera, Of Counsel, Squire Sanders; Ms. Renee Glover, Founder and Managing Member, The Catalyst Group, LLC; Mr. Howard Husock, Vice President of Research and Publications, Manhattan Institute; and Xavier Briggs, Vice President, Economic Opportunity and Assets, The Ford Foundation.

This hearing will examine the following: the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) role in federal housing policy; the extent to which HUD has improved access to affordable housing while reducing poverty over the last 50 years; and potential housing policy innovations designed to encourage self-sufficiency and private sector capital investment.

Established in 1965, HUD is a cabinet-level agency that has principal responsibility for implementing and overseeing federal housing and community development programs. Three rental assistance programs—Public Housing, Section 8 Vouchers, and Section 8 project-based rental assistance—account for the majority of HUD’s non-emergency funding (more than three-quarters of total HUD appropriations in FY2015). Two flexible block grant programs—HOME and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)—are intended to help communities finance a variety of housing and community development activities serving low-income families. Other more specialized grant programs are intended to help communities meet the needs of homeless persons, including those with AIDS.

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