

Protect HUD Funding!

PROTECT HUD FUNDING IN CA-18: Ensuring Housing Stability for Our Communities

What is HUD? Vital Programs for CA-18 **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (HUD) provides crucial support through programs like:

- **Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8):** Helps low-income families afford housing.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC)** grants: Funds homelessness services.
- **HOME & CDBG:** Supports affordable housing and community development.

CA-18 Housing By the Numbers - Housing Choice Vouchers currently serve:

- 11,000+ households via Santa Clara County Housing Authority (district portions)
- 8,000+ households via Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz (Watsonville area)
- 12,000+ households via Housing Authority of the County of Monterey (Salinas area)

Community Development & Infrastructure:

- CDBG funds support infrastructure improvements in agricultural communities
- HUD investments target transit-oriented development and farmworker housing
- Neighborhood revitalization funded in underserved areas
- Flood prevention and climate resilience efforts in Salinas Valley

Affordable Housing Projects:

- Laurel Drive Project: 132-unit affordable housing complex in Salinas
- Eden Housing Development: 100+ unit farmworker housing in Monterey County
- Gateway Apartments: Senior housing in Salinas with 1-bedroom units for residents aged 55+
- Housing waiting lists receive 5× more applications than available units

The Housing Crisis in Numbers

- 31,000+ households rely on Housing Choice Vouchers in the district
- Housing costs ↑ 65% since 2020 | Wages ↑ only 18%
- 2-bedroom rent: \$2,590/month (Salinas) to \$3,040/month (San Jose)
- 34% of renters spend over 50% of income on rent

The Impossible Gap

- Average voucher recipient earns: \$21,500/year
- Living wage needed for a family of four: \$46,500/year per adult
- Voucher recipients would need to more than double their income

Impact on District Residents - Vulnerable populations:

- Many households earn less than 30% of Area Median Income (\$55,290 for 1 person, \$78,950 for a family of 4)
- 20% of public housing units are occupied by disabled residents
- 23% of public housing units are occupied by seniors
- Large farmworker population faces unique seasonal income and housing needs

Agricultural Community Challenges:

- Limited affordable housing in rural areas of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties
- Transportation barriers exacerbate housing insecurity
- Farmworker families face displacement as housing costs rise
- Rural communities disproportionately impacted by housing shortages

Time to Take Action!

Threats to HUD Funding - Proposed Cuts Include:

- 40% reduction in rental assistance funding
- Elimination of traditional Section 8 voucher program
- Two-year time limits for "able-bodied" recipients
- Block grants with fewer federal protections
- \$700+ million cut from homelessness programs

If Funding is Reduced:

- 31,000+ households in CA-18 could lose their housing vouchers
- Affordable housing projects like the Laurel Drive Project would be at risk
- Homelessness would rise—especially among seniors, farmworkers, and disabled residents
- Economic instability could increase as agricultural communities lose workforce housing

Take Action Today!

Contact Your Representative:

U.S. Representative:

- Rep. Zoe Lofgren: (202) 225-3072 | (408) 271-8700

U.S. Senators:

- Sen. Alex Padilla: (202) 224-3553
- Sen. Adam Schiff: (202) 224-3934

Key Committee Members:

- House Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee Chair: Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR): (202) 225-4301
- Senate Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee Chair: Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI): (202) 224-3934

Sample Script When Calling:

"Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] from [YOUR TOWN] in CA-18. I'm calling to urge Representative Lofgren to protect HUD funding in the upcoming budget.

Our district faces a severe affordable housing crisis, with nearly 34% of renters spending over half their income on housing. The proposed cuts to HUD funding would be catastrophic for our communities, especially our agricultural workers and rural families.

[SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORY IF YOU HAVE ONE]

Please maintain funding for all HUD programs and reject proposals to impose time limits or convert programs to block grants. Our communities rely on these programs for stable, affordable housing that supports our agricultural economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration."

Protecting housing programs creates stable, vibrant communities that benefit us all.