

Protect HUD Funding!

PROTECT HUD FUNDING IN CA-19: Ensuring Housing Stability for Our Communities

What is HUD? Vital Programs for CA-19 **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-19 Housing By the Numbers - Housing Choice Vouchers currently serve:

- 15,000+ households through Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz
- 10,000+ households through Housing Authority of Monterey County
- 5,000+ households through Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo County (northern portion)

Community Development & Infrastructure:

- CDBG funds support vital infrastructure in coastal and agricultural communities
- HUD investments in transit-oriented development and mixed-use housing
- Community grants fund revitalization in underserved neighborhoods
- Green infrastructure initiatives support climate resilience along the Central Coast

Affordable Housing Projects:

- Pacific Station North: 128-unit affordable housing complex in Santa Cruz
- Resetar Residential Hotel: 89 supportive housing units in Watsonville
- Tiburon Place: 68-unit low-income housing development in San Luis Obispo
- Housing waiting lists receive 5× more applications than available units

The Housing Crisis in Numbers

- 30,000+ households rely on Housing Choice Vouchers in the district
- Housing costs ↑ 76% since 2020 | Wages ↑ only 22%
- 2-bedroom rent: \$2,950/month (Santa Cruz) to \$3,300/month (Monterey)
- 28% of district renters spend over 50% of income on rent

The Impossible Gap

- Average voucher recipient earns: \$22,400/year
- Living wage needed for a family of four: \$58,750/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 (\$44,850 for 1 person, \$64,050 for a family of 4)
- 19% of public housing units are occupied by disabled residents
- 22% of public housing units are occupied by seniors
- A significant veteran population relies on HUD-VASH assistance

Coastal Community Challenges:

- Limited affordable housing in high-tourism areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties
- Severe shortages for service and agricultural workers
- Highly competitive rental market with rising barriers to access
- Growing displacement of working families as costs escalate

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
- Conversion to block grants with fewer federal protections
- \$700+ million cut from homelessness programs

If Funding is Reduced:

- 30,000+ households could lose housing vouchers in the district
- Key affordable housing projects like Pacific Station North would be jeopardized
- Homelessness would rise—especially among seniors, veterans, and disabled individuals
- Coastal economies could suffer as tourism and agriculture lose essential workforce housing

Take Action Today!

Contact Your Representative:

U.S. Representative:

- Rep. Jimmy Panetta: (202) 225-2861 | (831) 424-2229

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-19. I'm calling to urge Representative Panetta to protect HUD funding in the upcoming budget.

Our district faces a severe affordable housing crisis with 28% of renters spending over half their income on housing. The proposed cuts to HUD funding would be catastrophic for our communities, especially our coastal communities where tourism and agriculture depend on workforce housing.

[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 local economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration."

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