

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
513 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) realizes that Congress is now working on an economic recovery package that reportedly could amount to \$1 trillion. Council strongly recommends that low income housing provisions and homelessness prevention be included in that package. The United States is in the midst of the most serious economic downturn since the Great Depression, a crisis precipitated by reckless mortgage lending practices that have resulted in millions of home foreclosures, plummeting home values, and seizing of credit. The recession is causing millions of people to fall below the poverty line, putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk of becoming homeless. The solution must be more affordable housing.

SCPD endorses the following provisions in the recovery plan which will ameliorate the adverse consequences of the recession while stimulating the economy:

- National Housing Trust Fund: Capitalize the new National Housing Trust Fund with \$10 billion over two years to rehab or build 100,000 rental homes, using green standards, for households with the lowest incomes.
- Housing Choice Vouchers: Issue 400,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers (100,000 couple with National Housing Trust Fund grants) at a cost of \$3.6 billion over two years to provide rent assistance for households with the lowest incomes.
- Prevent Homelessness: Provide \$2 billion to the homelessness prevention component of the Emergency Shelter Grant Program to prevent 400,000 households from becoming homeless, or to rapidly re-house those who might lose their homes.
- Public Housing: Provide \$5 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund over two years to upgrade, using green standards, public housing units that have not had adequate maintenance and modernization funds.
- HUD Multi-Family Housing: Provide \$3 billion over two years to upgrade federally assisted multi-family housing using green standards.

- **Gulf Coast Recovery:** For Alabama's ongoing disaster relief efforts, provide at least \$110 million through Community Development Block Grant Recovery Assistance.

In addition, the recovery package should include protections for renters in homes facing foreclosure. These items will help recession relief and create new jobs. Taken together, the first five actions will assist at least 800,000 households hardest hit by the recession and create 201,800 jobs, 8% of the 2.5 million jobs that President-elect Obama wants his economy recovery plan to produce. The total request is \$23.710 billion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Ex order 50/recovery package 1-09