



June 14, 2013

Campbell  
Cupertino  
Gilroy  
Los Altos  
Los Altos Hills  
Los Gatos  
Milpitas  
Monte Sereno  
Morgan Hill  
Mountain View  
Palo Alto  
San Jose  
Santa Clara  
Saratoga  
Sunnyvale

Dear Members of Congress of the United States:

We urgently call on Congress to fully fund the Section 8 voucher program for FFY 2014.

Congress' massive funding cut to the nation's Section 8 program is having a devastating impact on the most vulnerable, extremely low-income people across the nation and here in Santa Clara County. The average annual income of the 17,000 families served by the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HACSC) is \$16,000 per year, only 14% of the county's median income.

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County is a collaborative organization that represents the mutual interests of the diverse 15 cities of Santa Clara County and advocates for positive action to enhance the quality of life for the people of our county. As a unified voice of the cities of Santa Clara County, the Cities Association recognizes that there is no way to achieve our shared objective—providing and inspiring affordable housing solutions to enable low-income people in Santa Clara County to achieve financial stability and self-reliance—with less federal funding. If the current federal housing policy and funding remain static, we will have to terminate families from our program.

As a result of the FFY 2013 funding cut to Section 8, HACSC is seeking HUD approval of program changes that will increase these households' monthly rental burden at a time when their other safety-net services have been reduced (the attached Special Bulletin outlines these program changes and impacts on tenants). This move will allow us to keep rather than terminate assistance to 1,000 clients and their families.

We understand that this increased rent burden will have serious consequences, especially in Silicon Valley where low-income working families are priced out of the rental and for-sale housing markets. As a Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration agency, HACSC has led the effort to streamline its program operations and reduce its operating costs in order to serve as many low-income clients as possible, but this recent cut undermines the ability of our agency to serve the population that has been hardest hit by loss of jobs, loss of safety net and rising rents.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to better house low-income families and help them achieve financial stability and self-reliance.

Sincerely,

Margaret Abe-Koga  
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County  
Council Member, City of Mountain View