

TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD
House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
(THUD)

CONGRESSWOMAN DELIA C. RAMIREZ

MEMBER DAY: April 9, 2025

Thank you, Chair Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn, for inviting Members to provide input into the Appropriations process and to provide written testimony on the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

I am deeply concerned about the state of housing in our country, particularly in light of the recent, ongoing actions of the Trump Administration to weaken the housing workforce and abandon our most vulnerable residents. Since January 20th, we have witnessed the dismantling of the Department of Housing and Development (HUD). The Musk-Trump administration has doled out executive order after order to reduce staff at HUD, freeze and delay federal funding to housing programs, and release guidance that severely undermines housing protections for our underserved communities, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to ensure that the funds we appropriate are honored by the Executive Branch and that, in this moment, we are not ceding Congressional power to the whims and interests of billionaires like Musk and Trump at the expense of working families.

In the state of Illinois, almost 400,000 people rely on subsidized housing.¹ There has been at least 60 million dollars in funding thrown into limbo due to the directives of the Trump

¹ <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-people-live-in-subsidized-housing/state/illinois/>

Administration. Funding uncertainties and contract cancellations delay and stall necessary housing development in our communities. It is unconscionable.

The attacks on HUD and its programs are not just an attack on working families. The attacks on HUD are intentional attacks on the civil rights of and legal protections for historically marginalized communities. Constituents and stakeholders have shared their fear and uncertainty regarding the future of Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) and the Fair Housing Initiatives Program. The HOPWA program was established to provide housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. As a proud supporter of AIDS Chicago and AIDS United, it is imperative that our neighbors living with HIV/AIDS continue to receive life saving support, including housing. Any attack on HOPWA is an attack on the Black and Brown communities, who are disproportionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Furthermore, I learned that in February this Administration cancelled 78 Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) grants. The FHIP program contributes to the creation of equitable and fair access to housing. The services provided by fair housing centers are indispensable to a large and diverse set of Americans, including but not limited to:

- African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities who have historically faced systemic discrimination in housing.
- Persons with disabilities seeking accessibility and reasonable accommodation in housing under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Families who have been denied access to housing because they have children.

Our investments in Fair Housing and housing opportunities for underserved populations are not wasteful - they provide essential, foundational stability that enables our neighbors across the nation to fully engage in the life of their communities. What is wasteful is the Musk and Trump tax breaks for billionaires, billions spent criminalizing immigrants, and millions spent on ad campaigns to televise their authoritarian agenda. Trump and Musk aren't putting Americans first with their reckless and irresponsible cuts to HUD. They aren't saving you money, making good use of your tax dollars, or lowering your rent. Instead, they are cutting critical programs that serve our most vulnerable communities to line their own pockets.

I urge you to fight for adequate and sustained funding for these housing programs, while also defining Congressional intent for the funds to ensure they are protected from further misguided action by the Trump Administration.