



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Housing Task Force 2009 Report**

**FY 2010 Appropriations**

The recently enacted FY 2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill includes important increases for key HUD programs serving people with disabilities.

- HUD Section 811 -- \$300 million allocation for FY 2010, or a \$50 million increase above the FY 2009 level,
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act -- \$1.865 billion allocation for FY 2010, or \$71 million above the President's original request and \$188 million above the FY 2009 level,
- VASH (vouchers for supportive housing development for chronically homeless veterans) - a new \$75 million allocation for FY 2010, and
- Section 8 -- \$18.2 billion for FY 2010 to renew all existing Section 8 tenant-based vouchers, (2.1 million vouchers), or \$1.2 billion above the FY 2009 level.

**Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009 (HR 1675 & S 1481)**

By a vote of 376-51, the House of Representatives on July 22 passed legislation to reform and modernize the HUD Section 811 program – a critical affordable housing resource for non-elderly people with disabilities, including serious mental illness. The bill, known as the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009 (HR 1675), was introduced by Congressman Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R- IL).

HR 1675 is named in honor of the late Frank Melville, the founding board President of the Melville Charitable Trust – a leading force in promoting supportive housing for people with severe disabilities and ending chronic homelessness. The bill would reform Section 811 and spur the creation of thousands of new rental housing units by:

- Authorizing a new Section 811 Demonstration Program to promote more integrated housing opportunities, and
- Enacting long over-due reforms and improvements to the existing Section 811 production program essential for the program's long-term viability.

The Senate version (S 1481) was introduced in July by Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Mike Johanns (R-NE). A hearing was held in the Senate Banking Committee on October 29 at which Ann O'Hara testified on behalf of CCD:

[http://banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing\\_ID=bcf081cb-7814-4535-8e98-89d4b3de5a56](http://banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=bcf081cb-7814-4535-8e98-89d4b3de5a56)

## **Disability Vouchers**

For FY 2008 and FY 2009, Congress allocated \$60 million for new “incremental” rental vouchers targeted to non-elderly people with disabilities. While a portion of the FY 2008 vouchers have been allocated to local housing agencies, the NOFA for FY 2009 is yet to be published. CCD has been working with HUD to ensure that these vouchers are effectively targeted to promote community integration for people with disabilities transitioning out of institutional settings such as nursing homes, ICF-MRs, long-term public psychiatric hospitals, board and care homes and other substandard housing options.

## **National Housing Trust Fund**

In a major victory for the disability community, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act was authorized in 2008. This new program is designed to produce new rental units targeted to extremely low-income people. Production of these units will not only address the housing affordability crisis people with disabilities face, but will dramatically increase the availability of wheelchair accessible units. The jobs package that passed the House in December includes an initial investment of \$1 billion in the Trust Fund.

## **Homeless Legislation Signed Into Law**

On May 20, President Obama signed into law legislation reauthorizing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The bill, known as the HEARTH Act (S 808/HR 1877) was attached to separate legislation known as the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (S 896). The new law contains a number of critical provisions for CCD including a continued emphasis on chronic homelessness, new flexibility for local communities to focus on homelessness prevention, and an expanded definition of homelessness to include certain individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness.

Passage of this legislation culminates nearly 5 years of efforts to pass McKinney-Vento legislation. Summaries of the new law are available at:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2241>

[http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/legislature/mckinney\\_vento](http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/legislature/mckinney_vento)

## **Anticipated 2010 Priorities**

- 2011 HUD appropriations
- Enactment of Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act
- Revision of outdated HUD policies
- Fair housing enforcement and policies to affirmatively further fair housing

## **Co-Chairs:**

Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness ([Andrew@nami.org](mailto:Andrew@nami.org))

Liz Savage, The Arc and UCP Disability Policy Collaboration ([savage@thedpc.org](mailto:savage@thedpc.org))

Jessica Sadowsky, American Network of Community Options and Resources

([jsadowsky@ancor.org](mailto:jsadowsky@ancor.org))