



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Housing Task Force 2008 Report**

**Appropriations**

Once again, for the fourth consecutive year, the Bush Administration proposed a significant cut in its FY 2009 budget for the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program. Due to the CCD Housing Task Force's advocacy, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the cut and increased funding for the program by \$13 million to \$250 million. The House Treasury, Transportation, and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee similarly rejected the cut and provided the same \$13 million increase. The House Subcommittee also provided \$30 million for Section 8 vouchers targeted to non-elderly persons with disabilities. The full House Appropriations Committee did not mark up the bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee provided no funding for targeted Section 8 vouchers. HUD funding is currently part of a Continuing Resolution. Congress is expected to pass an Omnibus 2009 Appropriations bill in January.

**Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008**

The Housing Task Force worked closely with the House Financial Services Committee staff in drafting groundbreaking legislation to reform the Section 811 program. A bi-partisan bill (H.R. 5772) was introduced by Reps. Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) in April. The legislation has 3 components: 1) streamlining bureaucratic barriers in the 811 program and permitting use of other capital for units, 2) transferring the Mainstream Voucher program to the Section 8 program, and 3) an innovative Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) only Demonstration Program that will triple the number of units produced by 811. A hearing was held in June, the Financial Services Committee unanimously reported out the bill in September and it passed the House of Representatives unanimously under suspension of the rules in late September. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a companion bill at the end of the session.

**National Housing Trust Fund**

In a major victory for the disability community, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act was enacted. Establishing a National Housing Trust Fund to produce units targeted to extremely low-income people has been a high priority for the Housing Task Force for years. 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.

## **Anticipated 2009 Priorities**

- 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill
- Housing Provisions of Economic Recovery legislation
- FY 2010 Appropriations
- Enactment of Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act
- Reauthorization of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Revision of outdated HUD policies
- Publication and Dissemination of *Priced Out in 2008*

### **Co-Chairs:**

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