FOIA Number: 2014-0224-F

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council

Series/Staff Member: Andrea Kane

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 20330

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Housing Vouchers - FY 1999 Outreach and Support

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	95	3	4	3

New England HOUSING NETWORK

c/o Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
18 Tremont Street
Suite 401
Boston, MA
02108
TEL (617) 742-0820
FAX (617) 742-3953
WEB www.chapa.org

LETTER SENT TO NEW ENGLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

August 21, 1998

Dear New England Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the New England Housing Network, we are writing to express our views on the FY99 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. While we are pleased at the spending levels approved for many of HUD's programs, there are still some outstanding issues which need to be resolved. We hope that you can review the items below and discuss them with members of the Appropriations Committee:

1) Discontinuance of 90 day rule: This provision, included in the Senate budget, would end the rule that housing authorities hold onto Section 8 vouchers for 90 days before they are given to the next family on the waiting list. This 90 day delay keeps approximately 30,000 - 40,000 families from receiving housing assistance each year. In New England, we estimate that this 90 day rule has prevented 2,000 families each year in our region from obtaining affordable housing. *We urge you to adopt the Senate language.*

2) New housing assistance vouchers for families moving from welfare to work: The House budget includes 17,000 new housing vouchers for families struggling to leave welfare and return to the work force. The Senate chose to only include 7,000 new vouchers. These vouchers are needed to stabilize families, decrease onerous commute times, free up additional income for child care and transportation expenses, and help families move to where job opportunities are located. The waiting list for Section 8 vouchers is longer in New England than in many other parts of the country. *We need, and we hope you will support, the higher recommendation in the House budget.*

3) Restoring Section 8 funding: Earlier this year, Congress rescinded $2.3 billion in Section 8 funding to cover the cost of disaster relief projects and troops in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. While we are grateful that both the House and Senate have agreed to restore these funds, the House chose to directly restore the Section 8 account. The Senate, however, chose to rely on assumed recaptures. *We support the House language on this item.*

4) Homeless funding: We support the *Senate recommendation* to increase homeless assistance program funding to $1 billion. We also support the *Senate language* requiring a 30% setaside for permanent housing and a 25% match requirement for services. This program has been used extensively in New England as a way to reduce reliance on emergency shelters and provide permanent rental housing, homelessness prevention services, and emergency assistance.

Printed on recycled paper.

5) Public Housing Modernization: We support the *House's recommendation* of an increase in funding to $3 billion for public housing modernization. In New England, we have 75,000 public housing units which have ongoing needs for operations, repairs, modernization, and tenant services. Public housing is a national asset, and modernization is essential to ensure its value into the future.

6) Prepayment language: The Senate budget contains language increasing the notice time given to residents and localities of an owner's intention to opt out and prepay a mortgage insured by the federal government from 60 days to one year. *We urge you to support the Senate language.*

Additionally, we are very concerned about the attempt on the part of the House to attach public and assisted housing reform legislation to the appropriations bill. Our concerns are twofold -- first, procedurally, we are distressed that such an important piece of housing legislation would be simply attached to a budget bill and not fully debated on its own merits; and second, the very shallow targeting language contained in the bill would redirect money from those at the very lowest income levels who are most in need to people who are in much higher income brackets. For both these reasons, we hope that Congress removes this statutory language from the appropriations bill.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of affordable housing. New Englanders face a particularly tight housing market, and more than one million families in our region live in federally-assisted housing. Your work in Washington to make sure that HUD programs are adequately funded has positive results back home in our region. If there is any more information you would like in this area, please feel free to contact the New England Housing Network at (617) 742-0820.

Sincerely,

David M. Haney
Manager, Corporate and Community Affairs
BankBoston
Nashua, NH

Brian Pine
Assistant Director for Housing and
Neighborhood Revitalization
City of Burlington
Burlington, VT

Janet Dermody
Director
Champlain Valley OEO Mobile Home
Project
Burlington, VT

Aaron Gornstein
Executive Director
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
Boston, MA

Howard Dupee
Senior Program Officer - Housing
Coastal Enterprise, Inc.
Wiscasset, ME

Mary McAtee
Executive Director
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Wethersfield, CT

Jeff Freiser and Lynne Ide
Executive/Assistant Director
Connecticut Housing Coalition
Wethersfield, CT

Richard Tenenbaum
Director of Housing Task Force
Connecticut Legal Services
Bridgeport, CT

Pat Peterson
Housing Policy Specialist
Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Montpelier, Vermont

Brenda Clement
Executive Director
Housing Network of Rhode Island
Providence, RI

Elaine Sederlund
Executive Director
Maine Housing and Building Materials Exchange
Portland, ME

Marc Draisen
President and CEO
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Boston, MA

Lynn Tracy
Coordinator
New Hampshire Housing Forum
Manchester, NH

Michael LaFontaine
Coordinator
New Hampshire Nonprofit Housing Network:
Affordable Housing, Education & Development
The Cheshire Housing Trust
The Concord Area Trust for Community Housing
The Contoocook Housing Trust
The Greater Nashua Housing and Development Foundation
French Hill Neighborhood Housing Services
The Housing Partnership
The Laconia Area Community Land Trust
The Manchester Area Housing Trust
Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services
Twin Pines Housing Trust
Twin Rivers Community

Noreen Shawcross
Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
Providence, RI

Elisabeth Kulas
Executive Director
Rutland County Community Land Trust
Rutland, VT

Statewide Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island
Providence, RI

Polly Nichol
Project Development Director
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Montpelier, VT

FYI

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, INC.

August 14, 1998

Nan P. Roman
Vice President for
Policy and Programs

Michael Deich
Associate Director
General Government and Finance
Office of Management and Budget
246 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C.20503

Dear Michael:

I am writing to urge you in the strongest terms to take a firm stand in your negotiations with the VA/HUD Appropriations conference on the matter of Section 8 vouchers. Specifically, it is critically important that the Senate provision eliminating the 90-day delay in re-issuing vouchers is adopted, and that we come out with substantially more incremental welfare-to-work and homeless vouchers.

I am aware that the President has recently expressed strong support for the incremental welfare-to-work vouchers. Not only are these vouchers needed to ensure that welfare reform is successful, but all of the incremental vouchers are needed to address the loss of units to very low income people that we fear will result from the passage of Section 8/Public Housing legislation.

We sincerely hope that the Administration will press hard for a VA/HUD Appropriations bill that provides this essential assistance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nan Roman

1518 K STREET NW SUITE 206 WASHINGTON, DC 20005 TELEPHONE (202) 638-1526 FAX (202) 638-4664 E-MAIL: nroman@naeh.org

NATIONAL HOUSING LAW PROJECT
1629 K Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 463-9461 FAX: (202) 463-9462
HandsNet: HN0328
Internet: HN0328@handsnet.org

August 18, 1998

Mr. Michael Deich
Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget
246 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Deich:

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) is a thirty year old legal advocacy organization with a mission of advancing housing justice for America's poor, including preserving and expanding the supply of affordable housing and protecting and enlarging the rights of very low-income tenants. NHLP provides legal assistance, advocacy advice and housing expertise to legal services and other attorneys, low-income housing tenant and advocacy groups, and other intermediaries that serve the poor.

On behalf of NHLP I write to ask that, in the strongest terms possible, the administration urge the House and Senate conferees on the FY 1999 Appropriations bill for VA, HUD and Independent Agencies to provide direly needed vouchers for families most in need. While we appreciate the House's recommendation of 17,000 new vouchers, it falls far short of meeting the need as documented in recent research by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities among others as well as in the administration's original budget request for 100,000 new vouchers. Since the public housing bill has been added to the HUD appropriations measure, weakened targeting of already limited housing assistance is inevitable. Units of public housing and section 8 vouchers will be lost to families at thirty percent of median and below — families making the transition from welfare to work who are most in need of housing assistance.

We hope that as the administration sets forth its position to the conferees, the heightened importance of additional vouchers in the face of the drastic changes to the public housing program will be underscored.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy T. Bernstine

Nancy T. Bernstine
Director of Government Relations

cc: Andrea Kane, OMB
Assoc. Dir for Domestic Policy

Michael Deich
09/24/98 07:28:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: Clarification on Hill Calls Needed on WTW Housing Vouchers

I had asked someone on my staff to call Andrea; I'm afraid the message got a tad muddled before it got to her. To clarify on two points: Cuomo has been asking for the 100k (not 300k) vouchers that are in the President's Budget (which is good), but he has been forgettting to insist that 50k of the vouchers be 'welfare-to-work' vouchers. I know that he supports the WTW concept, but something in the way that he presents his case has left the Hill with the impression that the WTW language is not a priority for the Administration. I think it would help if Bruce/Gene called Cuomo (not the Hill) to stress the importance of fighting for the WTW language as well as the vouchers themselves. Bruce: I'll be available anytime you're free to talk. Thanks.

Message Copied To:

Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
weinstein_p @ a1 @ cd @ vaxgtwy
Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP
Emil E. Parker/OPD/EOP

President Clinton and Vice President Gore Call for 50,000 Housing Vouchers to Help Those Moving From Welfare to Work

September 4, 1998

The House and Senate have both recognized the important connection between housing vouchers and welfare reform, but so far have not provided sufficient funding for this critical initiative. The HUD/VA Appropriations bill passed by the House provides $100 million for 17,700 Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers. The bill passed by the Senate provides only $40 million for 7,000 housing vouchers. In addition, the Senate bill earmarks most of the vouchers, whereas the House proposes an open, competitive process that would foster local innovation. The Congress should increase the number of vouchers funded and adopt the competitive grant process proposed by the President and adopted by the House. This will increase the number of communities who can access vouchers and increase their effectiveness by giving communities more flexibility to align housing and welfare reform strategies.

The President's FY99 budget proposed an important additional step to promote work and welfare reform through a plan to provide 50,000 new housing vouchers to welfare recipients who need housing assistance in order to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The $283 million proposal would help address the problem, in many regions, that jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. The funding for the Administration's Access to Jobs initiative in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low income workers. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

- The additional vouchers will be available on a ***competitive basis*** to local housing agencies and Indian tribes through their tribally designated housing entities. Applications must be developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council), to ensure that services are coordinated.

- The vouchers will be used where they are ***essential to a successful transition from welfare to work--that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job.***

- Families who receive the vouchers must be ***eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year.***

The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable housing and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable housing available to more Americans.

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS

The President's FY99 budget takes further steps to promote work and welfare reform through a plan to provide 50,000 new housing vouchers to welfare recipients who need housing assistance in order to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The $283 million proposal will help address the problem, in many regions, that jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. The funding for the Administration's Access to Jobs initiative in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low income workers. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

- The additional vouchers will be available on a ***competitive basis*** to local housing agencies, including Indian housing authorities. Applications must be developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council), to ensure that services are coordinated.

- The vouchers will be used where they are ***essential to a successful transition from welfare to work--that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job***.

- Families who receive the vouchers must be ***eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year***.

The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable housing and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable housing available to more Americans.

Current Status

Congress has recognized the need for housing vouchers to promote welfare reform, but so far has provided insufficient funding for them. The HUD/VA Appropriations bill passed by the House provides $100 million for 17,700 Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers. The bill passed by the Senate provides only $40 million for 7,000 housing vouchers. The HUD/VA Appropriations conference committee is expected to occur after the August recess.

08/04/98

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS

The President's FY99 budget takes further steps to promote work and welfare reform through a plan to provide 50,000 new housing vouchers to welfare recipients who need housing assistance in order to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The $283 million proposal will help address the problem, in many regions, that jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. The funding for the Administration's Access to Jobs initiative in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low income workers. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work or to existing transportation -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

- The additional vouchers will be available on a ***competitive basis*** to local housing agencies, including Indian housing authorities. Applications must be developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council), to ensure that services are coordinated.

- The vouchers will be used where they are ***essential to a successful transition from welfare to work--that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job***.

- Families who receive the vouchers must be ***eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year***.

The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable housing and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable housing available to more Americans.

Current Status

The House Appropriations Committee funded the President's proposed Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers at a level of $100 million in the HUD/VA Appropriations bill. These 17,700 vouchers would be awarded competitively, using the same process proposed in the President's Budget, and would permit broad flexibility for localities to design solutions that work in each community. The bill is expected to go to the House floor during the week of July 13th. The Senate Appropriations Committee included $40 million in the HUD/VA Appropriations bill for housing vouchers for families who participate in local self-sufficiency/welfare-to-work initiatives. The majority of these 7,000 vouchers would be earmarked for demonstration programs in eight specified localities. Full Senate debate on S. 2168 began the week of July 6th; it is uncertain when the Senate will complete action on the bill.

07/10/98

APWA

AMERICAN PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Cornelius D. Hogan, President

June 11, 1998

Dear Appropriations Committee Member:

I am writing on behalf of the American Public Welfare Association to urge the Appropriations Committee to increase the funding for the Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers program to $283 million.

The American Public Welfare Association (APWA) is a 68-year old, bi-partisan organization that represents the state human services commissioners. Our members direct the organizations that run Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs at the state level, and are intimately familiar with the needs of welfare recipients who are entering the workforce. One of the most important transitional needs is safe and affordable housing that is located close to the clients workplace.

The Administration's FY 1999 budget contains a request for 50,000 new incremental housing vouchers, targeted to welfare clients who are entering the workforce, at a cost of $283 million. However, the VA--HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee has provided $40 million for this program, in a limited demonstration program. We are writing to urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to increase funding for this program in FY 1999, and to open it by competition to all housing authorities, not just a limited number.

At our most recent meeting, in March 1998, APWA adopted a policy resolution in support of the Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers program. A copy of that resolution is enclosed.

For more information, contact the Elaine Ryan or John Peller at (202) 682-0100.

Sincerely,

Linda Wolf

Linda Wolf.
Acting Executive Director

APWA

AMERICAN PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Cornelius D. Hogan, President

June 9, 1998

Dear Subcommittee Member:

As you know, the Clinton Administration's FY 1999 budget contains a request for 50,000 new incremental housing vouchers, targeted to welfare clients who are entering the workforce. We are writing to urge the VA-HUD -Independent Agencies Appropriations Sub-Committee to fund these vouchers in FY 1999.

The American Public Welfare Association (APWA) is a 68-year old, bi-partisan organization that represents the state human services commissioners. Our members direct the organizations that run Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs at the state level. They are intimately familiar with the needs of welfare recipients who are entering the workforce. One of the most important transitional needs is safe and affordable housing that is located close to the clients workplace.

At our most recent meeting, in March 1998, APWA adopted a policy resolution in support of the Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers program. A copy of that resolution is enclosed.

For more information, contact the Elaine Ryan or John Peller at (202) 682-0100.

Sincerely,

Linda Wolf

Linda Wolf,
Acting Executive Director

Submitted By:

The Honorable Wellington E. Webb
Mayor of Denver

ENDORSING PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE BUDGET OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. **WHEREAS**, in the FY1999 budget proposed by the President to the Congress, significant increases in Community Development Block Grant funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is included; and

2. **WHEREAS**, the proposed budget for HUD increases funding for economic development and job creation by more than 15 percent over FY 1998 enacted levels and proposes over the next 10 years to fund 15 new urban empowerment and/or enterprise zones; and

3. **WHEREAS**, HUD's agenda emphasizes housing, especially in our cities, and requests a 10-percent increase over last year in housing programs including 100,000 new incremental rental vouchers to be targeted 50,000 to helping workers make the transition from welfare to jobs, 34,000 for homeless persons and families who are making the transition to the private rental market, and 16,000 of the vouchers targeted for the elderly and for family reunification and other purposes; and

4. **WHEREAS**, the proposed budget recommends doubling the funding for the Brownfields Redevelopment program from $25 million to $50 million to aid cities in preparing low-to-moderately contaminated sites for reuse; and

5. **WHEREAS**, the proposed increases are needed to continue the progress being made in the economies and social structures of America's cities in the late 1990's; and

6. **WHEREAS**, nationwide unemployment rates have dropped to 25-year lows, and many cities have made impressive gains in job creation and lowering of unemployment, at the same time

there are pockets of severe joblessness in inner city neighborhoods; and

7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the Congress to incorporate the proposed increases in funding for programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the FY 1999 Budget Resolution they adopt; and

8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the appropriations in the Congress allocate funding to the Department for FY 1999 commensurate with these proposed budget amounts.

Projected Cost: Unknown

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS

The President's FY99 budget will take further steps to promote work and welfare reform through a new plan to provide 50,000 new housing vouchers to welfare recipients who need housing assistance in order to get or keep a job.

Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The $283 million proposal will help address the problem that in many regions, jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. To make this daily commute possible, the President is fighting for a $600 million welfare-to-work transportation initiative as part of the reauthorization of ISTEA. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

- The additional vouchers will be available on a ***competitive basis*** to local housing agencies. Local housing agencies, including Indian housing authorities, may submit an application, developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council).

- The vouchers will be used where they are ***essential to a successful transition from welfare to work--that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job.***

- Families who receive the vouchers must be ***eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year.***

The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable housing and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable housing available to more Americans.

01/21/98

Paul J. Weinstein Jr.
06/08/98 04:04:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: val baldwin on wtw vouchers and gpra

Some good news.
---------------------- Forwarded by Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP on 06/08/98 04:07 PM ---------------------------

Michael Deich
06/08/98 03:33:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Alan B. Rhinesmith/OMB/EOP, Francis S. Redburn/OMB/EOP, Charles E. Kieffer/OMB/EOP

cc: Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP, Theodore Wartell/OMB/EOP, Patricia E. Romani/OMB/EOP
Subject: val baldwin on wtw vouchers and gpra

val seems to like the wtw vouchers (in her words "we're preaching to the converted; the only question is whether we can find the money"). she has put the vouchers in her bill, and is awaiting direction from lewis on the funding level. she reports that lewis plans to call cuomo and seek a trade -- wtw vouchers for players to be named (she says she'll spill the beans after the cuomo-lewis conversation). i called jackie and asked that she let cuomo know that lewis may now support the wtw vouchers for themselves, and not just for trade bait, but we'll see.

she expressed frustration with hud's inability to focus on outcomes and performance measures (though interestingly she had kind words for public housing's severely distressed program). sounded very much like steve. we agreed that she should exchange notes with steve/alan and see if providing hud with a consistent message would help the education process. steve/alan: would one of you please call val, swap notes, and come back to me with ideas for how we can help hud make better use of perf goals/measures during (1) the approps process and (2) the fall budget drill. thanks.

Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers

January 21, 1998

Internal Questions & Answers

1. What are the new housing vouchers the President is proposing?

The President's budget will provide $283 million for 50,000 new housing vouchers for welfare recipients who need housing assistance to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

This proposal will help address the problem that in many regions, jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. To make this daily commute possible, the President is fighting for a $600 million welfare to work transportation initiative as part of the reauthorization of ISTEA. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work, and this new proposal will make that possible.

2. How are you going to pay for these new vouchers?

Next month the President will send to Congress the first balanced budget in 30 years. This proposal, which costs $283 million in the first year, and an estimated $1.3 billion over five years, will be paid for through cuts in other areas of the federal budget. We believe this is a sound investment which can be paid for in the context of a balanced budget.

3. Aren't you just replacing one form of welfare with another?

No. Families will be eligible for these vouchers only if they are working. This is not a free ride--while these vouchers will make housing more affordable, most families will still have to spend about 30% of their income for rent.

4. Given the shortage of affordable housing nationwide, why give welfare recipients special preference for these new vouchers? Will this create an incentive for people to get on welfare in order to get housing?

We think it makes sense to assist families who are working hard to leave welfare and make a better life. These vouchers will only be available to those who are working and for whom the voucher is critical to that family getting or keeping a job. Families on welfare are already eligible for housing assistance, although there are long waiting lists in most communities. Besides, with the tough work requirements and time limits on welfare, we don't think people will sign up for welfare just to get a housing voucher.

While this proposal focuses on those leaving welfare for work, the President's FY99 budget proposal will also help spur private-sector development of more affordable rental housing for all low-income Americans through a 40% increase in the value of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. In addition, the Administration has a long track record of working to make housing affordable and accessible, including increasing funding for the HOME program by 50%.

5. Is there any evidence that people need this help? How do you know it will make a difference?

This proposal will help address the problem that in many regions, jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. To make this daily commute possible, the President is fighting for a $600 million welfare to work transportation initiative as part of the reauthorization of ISTEA. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work, and this new proposal will make that possible.

Because there is a major shortage of affordable housing, many welfare recipients live in crowded conditions or substandard housing -- problems which make it difficult for them to get to work on time every day. Overall, about 2 million poor families with children pay over 50 percent of their income for rent or live in substandard housing. Only one-quarter of welfare recipients receive any type of housing assistance and less than half of these receive portable housing assistance that they can use to rent housing in the private market.

6. Since demand far exceeds the number of new vouchers, isn't this just a drop in the bucket? How will you decide who gets them? Will every community get vouchers?

This proposal will increase the overall supply of portable housing vouchers for families on welfare by over 10 percent -- a meaningful investment. Currently, 1.4 million households receive portable rental assistance, of which 446,000 are families with children whose primary source of income is public assistance.

The vouchers will be awarded on a competitive basis to the local housing agencies. Local applications will be developed in partnership with the state, local or tribal agency administering Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the local entity (generally the Private Industry Council) receiving Welfare-to-Work funds allocated on a formula basis by the U.S. Department of Labor. HUD, working with HHS and DOL, will review local applications and select the most promising ones based on established criteria.

The proposal builds in considerable flexibility for local agencies to decide how to best target the vouchers among eligible current or former welfare recipients within their community, because different approaches will make sense in different places.

7. Won't this just encourage working people to move out of public housing, making housing projects even worse places to live?

The proposal provides local agencies considerable flexibility to design strategies that make sense for moving families from welfare to work in their community. While this proposal is not targeted specifically at public housing residents, some local areas may elect to use the new vouchers to help some families move out of public housing and into a privately-owned apartment if such a move is critical to getting or keeping a job. We believe it is important to both increase the number of working people in public housing and to provide opportunities for public housing residents to move to private housing. These vouchers are just one part of our broader housing strategy, which includes attracting more working people to public housing and helping more housing residents get jobs.

8. How will the new vouchers work? How is this different from existing housing programs?

These new welfare to work housing vouchers would be available to families eligible for or currently receiving welfare, or who received welfare within the past year, who need the voucher to get or keep a job, and who meet the criteria for Section 8. The vouchers would be portable and could be used to rent private housing.

Under existing programs, a family is eligible for Section 8 if its income is below 50 percent of the area median income. Currently, there are about 1.4 million units each of portable tenant-based Section 8, project-based Section 8, and public housing.

Section 8 tenant-based vouchers are used to rent housing in the private market. Tenants pay the landlord approximately 30 percent of their income for rent. The public housing authority uses federal funds to pay the landlord the difference between the "fair market rent" and the tenant's rental payment. The average fair market rent, which varies widely around the country, is $594 a month, the average tenant contribution is $213, and the average HUD subsidy is $350.

Section 8 project-based housing subsidies are not portable. They consist of rental units in buildings owned and operated by private owners (for profit and nonprofit). These subsidies cover part or all of the units in a particular building. Tenants pay 30 percent of their income to the project's owner for rent. The remainder is paid by the federal government. These are not administered by the local housing authority. Owners contract directly with HUD or through an intermediary state housing finance agency.

Public housing consists of rental units owned and operated by public housing authorities. Rents are generally set at 30 percent of tenants' income and are paid to the housing authority to help meet operating and maintenance costs. Federal subsidies also cover operating costs and are distributed to housing authorities on a formula basis.

Los Angeles Times February 20, 1998, Friday

EASING THREAT TO WELFARE FUNDS

California, having missed the federal deadline for computerizing its child support enforcement system, faces the loss of as much as $ 4 billion in welfare funds. The timing of the penalty, coming as the state and counties implement ambitious welfare reforms, couldn't be worse. The state could lose an additional $ 300 million in child support administrative funding for failing to centralize and automate a hodgepodge of county-run child support enforcement systems. The losses could cause a disaster, unless Congress acts.

A bill introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) would reduce the combined penalties to a more reasonable level of $ 3 million and give every state that missed the deadline more time to comply with the federal requirement. A similar House bill, by Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr. (R-Fla.), would reduce the federal sanction on California to $ 12 million.

The huge penalties never made sense because the sword would fall hardest not on the bureaucrats who botched the state system, wasting more than $ 100 million while missing the federal deadline. The punishment, mandated by the 1996 federal welfare reform law, "would be like a nuclear bomb" on poor children, according to state welfare director Eloise Anderson, a conservative who is rarely on the same side as the moderate Democrat Feinstein. Even child support enforcement would suffer draconian cuts.

That's not what Congress intended with the threat of huge penalties. Washington wisely wanted teeth in its effort to get states to improve the collection of child support payments so fewer families would need welfare. California shamefully collects parental support for only 14% of families that request help in making negligent fathers or mothers pay up. A statewide computer system would improve that number. Between Sen. Feinstein and Rep. Shaw, California should get a second chance. Sacramento had better make the most of it.

Newsday (New York, NY) February 20, 1998, Friday

WELFARE FIX SEEN AS HARD SELL

BY: Deborah Barfield, WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington - When President Bill Clinton signed legislation to overhaul the nation's welfare system two years ago, he promised to "correct" certain provisions in the measure later.

"Some parts of this bill still go too far," Clinton said at the bill signing. "And I am determined to see that those areas are corrected."

Earlier this month, Clinton presented a budget that calls for more money for welfare recipients who need child care and housing assistance and for restoration of food stamps to needy legal immigrants.

Welfare experts and political observers say the proposals attempt to undo some provisions in the welfare law that were criticized by many Democrats as too strict while slammed by Republicans as not tough enough. But with states touting dramatic drops in their welfare rolls and praising programs that put recipients to work, Clinton's effort to "correct" the overhaul may be a hard sell.

"Some versions of these things will pass. It's fairly hard to be opposed to child care," said Cecilia Conrad of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think tank. "The real issue is to make sure they don't sound like big government."

Almost a year after the bill was enacted, the number of welfare recipients nationwide had dropped by 2.4 million, or 20 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In New York State, the number fell from 1.1 million to 909,000.

But many argue it's too early to determine the law's impact. Researchers are still tracking what happened to people kicked off welfare for not complying with the new law. And because the strong economy by itself has created many new jobs - including jobs for low-skilled workers - it remains unclear to what extent programs such as welfare-to-work have been responsible for trimming the welfare rolls.

Nevertheless, the law already has had a major impact on many families, such as the Scott family of Shirley. Under the new regulations, in exchange for welfare, Joan Scott, a mother of four, must work or enroll in a training program. So five days a week, she takes two buses and travels two hours to a computer training program in Riverhead.

"I'm trying to become self-sufficient . . . to get back on my feet and get off the system totally," said Scott, whose family turned to welfare last summer when it fell on hard times.

While Scott's husband, James, recently landed a part-time job as a handyman, the family still must rely on $850 in housing assistance, $292 in food stamps and $128 a month in welfare.

Scott hopes the 10-week computer training program run by LINCT, a local nonprofit group, will land her a temporary job with the Internal Revenue Service this spring.

"We're trying to come up with different ideas, me and the other girls, to start our own business," she said, referring to her classmates, mostly single mothers. "We still realize we have to get a job and come up with money."

Critics of the welfare measure say that in order for there to be more Scotts, there must be more money for child care and more educational opportunities so people not only get off welfare but land better-paying jobs.

"Without education and some sort of rental subsidy, you can't tell people to go out and make minimum wage and think they will make it," especially in the New York area, complains Peter Barnett, co-chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless.

Federal officials contend that Clinton's budget proposals would help more families get the child care they need.

"They complement the welfare law; they don't correct the welfare law," said Michael Kharfen, spokesman for Health and Human Service's Children and Family Programs.

Clinton's spending package would set aside $21.7 billion over five years for expanded child-care initiatives, including subsidies for welfare recipients. It also would provide $283 million for rental-assistance vouchers to help current and former welfare recipients who are looking for work and need housing.

In addition, the proposal would restore food stamps to 730,000 legal immigrants nationwide; New York State already has restored food stamps to 70,000 elderly and disabled immigrants and 25,000 immigrant kids. The Clinton proposal would go further to protect immigrant families in New York, but there are no estimates as to how many more immigrants would be protected. The proposal also would expand health insurance for children and after-school programs and create more jobs in community "empowerment zones."

"It's a back-door way of expanding welfare and making more people dependent on government," said Robert Rector, senior policy analyst for welfare issues for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. "He never supported reforming welfare. He was forced to do it by the Republicans."

Clinton said the law, which gave more control to states, was an effort to fix a broken system and move people from welfare to work. It set a five-year limit for welfare and forced able-bodied recipients to work. It also offered child care and health care so recipients could work. "The welfare ystem was not helping people become self-sufficient," Kharfen said.'

But even as Clinton signed the measure in August, 1996, he expressed reservations, particularly because he said it hurt legal immigrants by cutting food stamps.

The measure, which came about after much emotional debate and compromise, was criticized by Democrats, civil rights organizations and groups representing the poor.

"The administration, by signing onto the Republican bill, essentially pulled the rug out from Democrats. Many thought that was going too far," said Kent Weaver of the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

Please contact Larry McSwain if you would like to receive the WR Daily Report by e-mail or if you have questions about articles found in this publication. (lmcswain@acf.dhhs.gov (e-mail) or 202-401-1230(voice)).

At the same time, some Republicans, who pushed welfare reform early on, are blasting Clinton's budget proposals as another effort to spend more money and expand the role of government.

Others remain cautious, however. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), who pushed to restore food stamps to legal immigrants last year and is running for re-election, said he will have to carefully examine the other proposals.

Meanwhile, after months of living in a shelter for the homeless, the Scotts are adjusting to their new home and struggling to get by, even with government aid.

"Where could a family turn with this kind of situation?" Joan Scott said. "A lot of people are one check away from losing everything."

GRAPHIC: Newsday Photo by Dick Kraus - Joan Scott of Shirley, taking computer training under the law, hopes to get off welfare.

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL February 20, 1998 Friday, SEMINOLE

WORKER'S WIN-WIN APPROACH EARNS RECOGNITION; CHILD WELFARE ADVOCATE SALLY BROWN RECEIVED ACCOLADES FOR RAISING AWARENESS OF FAMILY NEEDS AND EASING THE TRANSITION INTO WELFARE REFORM.

BY: By Kelly Fitzpatrick of The Sentinel Staff

Sally Brown, 52, worked on the federal and state level of social services most of her life.

But when she realized her son had not had the chance to get to know his relatives, the family decided to move near her parents in Florida and start fresh.

"I moved to Winter Park in 1985 and decided to try business for myself," Brown said.

She became a Realtor associate, which helped give her insight into the business world.

"But something was pulling me, and I went back to social service," she said.

Recently Brown was named Family Advocate of the Year by Community Coordinated Care for Children. She was honored for her work at the Florida Department of Children and Families in secur- ing services and funding for families with young children.

She was also recognized for increasing community awareness of children's needs and coordinating local welfare reform efforts.

When Brown re-entered social service, she was hired by the Orange County Department of Aging as coordinator for the senior health center.

Brown later took a position as program manager for children's medical specialized health care.

Now she serves as a cross-programs support team coordinator at the Department of Children and Families.

"I work to implement special programs within our department and the community," she said.

"That includes welfare reform. I want to make sure people don't fall in the cracks."
Brown received her bachelor's degree in both history and government at University of Texas.

She later earned a master's degree in government.

Chicago Tribune

Founded June 10, 1847

Scott C. Smith, *Publisher* Howard A. Tyner, *Editor*

N. Don Wycliff, *Editorial Page Editor* Ann Marie Lipinski, *Managing Editor*

James O'Shea, *Deputy Managing Editor News* Gerould Kern, *Deputy Managing Editor Features*

R. Bruce Dold, *Deputy Editorial Page Editor* F. Richard Ciccone, *Associate Editor*

22 Section 1 ★ Sunday, February 15, 1998

To: Joe - Just as you requested

Rich

Boost the housing tax credit

President Bill Clinton's fiscal 1999 budget recommendations to Congress already are triggering the usual partisan fireworks.

There is, however, one relatively small item in that $1.7 trillion spending plan upon which Republican and Democrats ought to agree. It's a proposal to increase the value of the hugely successful low-income housing tax credit.

An underappreciated but crucial tool in the rebuilding of inner cities, the tax credit encourages corporations and private investors to participate in something they otherwise would not: rental housing for families of limited means. In return for their equity investment, investors get credits to apply against their federal income tax liability.

Since its inception in 1986, the program has stimulated the production of more than 900,000 affordable units nationwide, 9,216 in Chicago. Typically, the hands-on developer is a neighborhood-based organization working in conjunction with the city or the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Other government subsidies, such as low-interest mortgages, come into play. But tax credit-based deals produce more and better affordable housing per government dollar than other types of subsidies, especially costly and stigmatizing public housing.

But the program is slowing down. The population-based allocation formula for the credits $1.25 for every resident of a state has not been increased since 1986. In the meantime, inflation has eroded the value of Illinois' $16 million annual allotment, cutting into the number of apartments leveraged.

The solution? A bipartisan congressional coalition is joining the White House in calling for an increase in the allotment to $1.75 a person. That would produce annually some 40,000 additional apartments nationwide, 1,000 of them in Chicago.

As the nation moves away from failed public housing and welfare dependency and toward a balanced federal budget, more efficient ways must be found to help low-income Americans achieve self-sufficiency and middle-class status. The low-income housing tax credit is just such a vehicle. Congress should push this program back up to speed.

PAUL/CYNTHIA/ANDREA:

I TOLD MY CHICAGO FRIENDS THEY BETTER HELP GET US A GOOD EDITORIAL IN THE VERY CONSERVATIVE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. W/OR WITHOUT [illegible] [illegible] — HERE IT IS.

Jmé

CC: BRUCE/EK

Andrea Kane [redacted]

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:
Subject: Welfare to work housing vouchers strategy meeting

We'll meet again next Tuesday 3/24 from 3-4 in Room 211. For those of you who can't make it, the phone number in 211 is 456-5564 (but please let me know ahead of time if you plan to call in so I can make sure we have enough lines). We will potential events, both HUD-specific and interagency. John Bohn should be circulating a draft proposal by the end of the week. We may want to expand this event to highlight both welfare-to-work transportation initiative (Access to Jobs) and housing vouchers--both welfare reform-related budget initiatives and both will help welfare recipients get and keep jobs. Let me know if you have questions.

Message Sent To:

john_f._bohm @ hud.gov @ inet
Nancy_Kirshner-rodriguez @ hud.gov @ inet
Paul_A. Leonard @ HUD.gov @ inet
Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP
Emil E. Parker/OPD/EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
Michael Deich/OMB/EOP
Anil Kakani/OMB/EOP
Francis S. Redburn/OMB/EOP
psavage- @ os.dhhs.gov @ inet
Lsimmens @ os.dhhs.gov @ inet
Kamela-William @ dol.gov @ inet
Julie. Anderson @ ost.dot.gov @ inet

W2W VOUCHERS

3/6/98

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
CONRAD EGAN	NHC	(202) 393 5772 x14	393 5656	CEGAN@NHC.ORG
Ellen Lurie Hoffman	NCSHA	(202) 624-7702	(202) 624-5899	elurieHoffman @ncsha.org
V. R. Watson	COSCDA	(202) 624-3655	(202) 624-3651	[illegible]
Karen Battle	NHCo	942 4204	942 4221	kbattle@[illegible]
Rebecca Brown	NGA	202/624-5367	624-5313	rbrown@nga.org
Nancy Willis	STPP	202/974-5137	466-2274	nwillis@transact.org
PAUL LEONARD	HUD PDR	202/708 [illegible]		
Debby Greenstein	PD&R	202-708-1520 x5923	708-4481	DEBORAH_GREENSTEIN @HUD.GOV
Stan Vosper	HUD	202-708-2685 x[illegible]		
Jennifer Lakins Mello	NGA	202-624-5390	624-5313	jmello@nga.org
Jennifer Daskal	CBPP	202 408-1080	408-1056	daskal@center.cbpp.org
JOHN PELLER	APWA	202 682-0100	289-6555	JPELLER@APWA.ORG
Helen Dunlap	NLIHC	662-1530	393-1973	helen@nlihc.org
Andrea Kane	DPC	456-5573	456-7431	Andrea_Kane@oa.eop.gov
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez	HUD	708-0030	708-3707	Nancy_Kirshner-Rodriguez@hud.gov

708-3794

Francis S. Redburn 03/11/98 02:11:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc: Katherine L. Meredith/OMB/EOP, James F. Jordan/OMB/EOP
Subject: House Banking Committee Views on the HUD Budget

I thought you should be aware of the argument made in a draft "views on the 1999 budget" document to be voted on by the House Banking Committee tomorrow regarding the Administration's housing voucher proposals. This is part of a long, general critique of HUD's budget request, so shouldn't be assumed to have major significance; nor is it clear that the views of the Banking Committee will have much influence on the appropriators' action. In any case, here is the argument:

"The Committee . . . has reservations about HUD's proposals on allocating those vouchers. Rather than relying on local authorities to make appropriate decisions, HUD proposes to target 10,600 vouchers for the elderly (in lieu of other assistance), 50,000 for 'moving to work' efforts in connection with welfare reform, ...

"The Committee does not support HUD's effort to re-institute federal preferences. In the Committee's view, HUD is again trying to restrict local flexibility by imposing such requirements without congressional authorization. Federally imposed preferences dictating which recipients should enjoy priority treatment have been rejected in annual appropriations bills and would be permanently repealed upon enactment of H.R. 2. Many local housing authorities are already using vouchers creatively to enhance welfare reform efforts. Local housing authorities should have the right to use vouchers according to a system of local, not federal, preferences."

The twist in their argument is that, while they object to our enacting a preference without authorization, i.e., by action of the appropriators, they support the repeal of preferences by means of previous appropriations acts.

Andrea Kane [illegible]

Include Cuomo on [illegible]

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers

At our meeting yesterday we agreed it would be helpful to get together again to follow up on a number of issues. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3/10 from 3-4 p.m. in Room 211. Below is an updated version of outreach steps taken to date and things to be done reflecting yesterday's discussion.

Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers--Dissemination and Outreach Strategy

Possible Events: *HUD will put options on paper for April including:*
- HUD Message Plan, Event--working through proposal
- Recess events in key areas
- Large housing event w/ President and VP, with amplification by Secretaries
- Event with several Secretaries to show collaboration
- Fact Sheet

NOTE: April is CDBG week, 1st week of June is National Home Ownership Week

(1) – Possible speech by Cuomo
(2) Thinking about doing event in MO – looking for like example w/ Gov, Lt Gov
(3) V. interested in jt event w/ 3 agencies
(4) op ed piece.

Intergovernmental groups

Mayors--Cuomo included in his remarks to USCM, staff attended HUD mtg 2/10, *HUD continues to talk to Mayors and will begin city by city outreach. Looking at doing article in USCM newsletter.*

Governors--Information sent out via daily internet broadcast to each Governor's office, sent to Democratic Govs, staff attended 2/10 HUD meeting, HUD talked to Engler and Carper's staff at NGA. *Nancy will pursue presentation at Monday Wash Reps meeting*

APWA--Have provided one-pager and budget language, attended 2/10 HUD mtg, *HUD will follow up re: invitation to discuss at March meeting*

NCSL--*need to do*

NLC--staff attended 2/10 HUD meeting, Secretary Cuomo speaking on 3/9 and will include vouchers.

NACO--staff attended 2/10 HUD meeting, Secretary mentioned vouchers in his presentation, passed resolution on HUD budget--including support for vouchers *(Nancy will provide copies)*

Federal Agencies

Information shared with key staff at HHS, DOL, DOT--*follow up on dissemination to regions and others*

Congress

One pager sent to key Welfare Reform members (Daschle, Sen Finance, Rockefeller, Mikulski, Chafee, Snowe, Sen Labor, Stenholm, Tanner, W&M)

HUD in close communication with key Housing members including key Housing Appropriations members:

Lewis (San Bernadino)--Cuomo planning trip to S Bernadino during April recess. Details, focus TBD.

Stokes (Cleveland)

Bond (Missouri)

Mikulski (Maryland)--Cuomo met with.

Working on meeting with D. Price--leader on housing issues with majority leadership.

First HUD appropriations hearing is 3/12.

HUD met w/ Lautenberg's staff, Mann, M. Kaptur (today)

Housing organizations:

HUD sent info to key groups??

Grinfuert from new Dem coalition — trying to schedule Cuomo meeting w/ Price, Specter

Attended 2/10 meeting at HUD

NHC--held major meeting week of 2/23. Vouchers got significant play including major support from Bob Greenstein. Several Hill staff also made good statements.

NLIHC--writing about proposal in weekly memo to members.

STPP

NAHPO

Next meeting 3/6--agenda

Welfare Reform/Human Services/Workforce Organizations:

CBPP -- provided one pager--*need to follow up*

CLASP--provided one pager, featured in CLASP Update (mailing of over 600)

Urban--*need to follow up*? *Marge Turner?*

MDRC--sent one pager to Jobs Plus project manager

NAPIC--HUD is speaking week of 3/2

Other Organizations:

NARCs--featured in DPC presentation on welfare reform 2/9

DOL met yesterday w/ catholic conf. on housing issues

Idea of 4 secs event

Other state/local dissemination done:

TN DHS

KY DSS

NY State Office of Temporary Assistance

LA Housing Authority

Business/Welfare to Work Partnership:

Shared one pager

Partnership staff attended 2/10 HUD meeting

Eli Segal, Lyn Hogan, Alisa Johnson met with Cuomo and Leonard last week on general opportunities for partnering in targeted cities. Vouchers were discussed as one tool.

Other--NAB?

Need to reach out to:

Moving to Work demo sites: AL, CA, DE, FL, KA, KY, MA, MN, NE, NH, NC, OH, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WI

MO--Gary Stangler, LINC, Mayor Cleaver

OH--

S. Bernadino/Souther CA:

MD--

San Mateo, CA--housing subsidies part of TANF plan

CT and NJ have welfare reform/rental assistance initiatives (see CLASP Update)

Researchers (Ong, others)

Housing mobility group, Marge Turner (Paul did?)

Talk to Public Liaison about other groups

Press Coverage:

Newsday 2/20, part of Clinton effort to finish fix of welfare reform

Providence RI Journal 2/7/98, "Housing Key to Welfare Reform"

WSJ, 2/3, budget summary

Attached list

What more can we do?

MD hosted statewide conf. on housing + wr
- 1st conf. on wr
mix of pub/priv, housing, wr, empl. John Sider,
presentations on housing vouchers - CHSCDs - very positive
response.

Areas where papers ran AP story on welfare to work housing vouchers

1/22/98:
CA: Orange County Register
FL: Florida Times-Union, "Clinton earmarks money for welfare housing aid"
FL: The Stuart News, "New Budget Provides Housing Aid for Poor"
FL: The Tampa Tribune
FL: Sun-Sentinel (Ft. Lauderdale), "$1.3 billion sought to help welfare recipients move"
LA: New Orleans Times-Picayune, "Housing Aid to Move Needy Nearer to Jobs"
NC: Charlotte Observer, "Off Welfare, People Need Housing Aid, Clinton Says"
NY: Buffalo News, "Clinton seeks $1.3 billion to help welfare recipients live near jobs"
NJ: (Bergen County, NJ), The Record
PA: Philadelphia Inquirer, "Clinton to Seek Funds to Help the Poor Live Where Jobs Are"
TN: Chattanooga Times
TN: Chattanooga Free Press
TX: Dallas Morning News, "Filling the Gaps: Clinton asks for new 'workfare' funds"
WA: The Seattle Times, "Welfare Recipients May Move Near Jobs--Clinton's Housing -Aid Proposal Seeks $1.3 billion to put families where the jobs are"
WI: The Capital Times (Madison), "Off Welfare? Rent Help in Clinton Plan"

1/23/98:
National: Christian Science Monitor

Stories also ran 1/22 in the following papers (not off AP wire):
USA Today
LA Times
San Francisco Examiner
WSJ

Message Sent To:

john_f.bohm @ hud.gov @ inet
Nancy_Kirshner-rodriguez @ hud.gov @ inet
Paul_A. Leonard @ HUD.gov @ inet
Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP
Emil E. Parker/OPD/EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
Michael Deich/OMB/EOP
Anil Kakani/OMB/EOP
Francis S. Redburn/OMB/EOP
psavage- @ os.dhhs.gov @ inet
"BARRM%DOM3.DOPO6" <Michael.Barr @ ms01.do.treas.sprint.com> @ inet
Jessica L. Gibson/WHO/EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP
Emily Bromberg/WHO/EOP
Sky Gallegos/WHO/EOP

Tues @ 3pm

HUD event idea -
Annapolis - w/ local/state officials
frame proposal
hear from practioners -
housing officials
recipients

still needs to be pitched to Cuomo
not mutually exclusive w/ 4 secs
also looking @ Cuomo speech - at NAHRO, WTW Partnership etc

2:30 conf call Friday
DOL - timing is an issue
=> 4 agencies -> try to announce 2-3 dates
cd announce new caseload #s, but this is what we are doing
-> get mailing list around to everyone

op ed - end of month

get comments to Debbie
or to Liz Burdoch

John will convene 2:30 4

Thur - Sen hrg
House 25th/26th

Idea of doing USCP call

2/10/98

NAME	ORG	#	/Email
JOHN PELLER	APWA	202 682-0100	JPELLER@APWA.ORG
ELAINE RYAN	APWA	202-682-0100	eryan@apwa
PAUL LEONARD	APWA	202-708-3896	PAUL_A_LEONARD@HUD.GOV
Cameron Whitman	NLC	202/626-3023	WHITMAN@NLC.ORG
Andrea Kane	DPC	202/456-5573	Andrea_Kane@oa.eop.gov
CONRAD EGAN	NHC	(202) 393 5772 x14 FAX: 393 5656	CEGAN@NHC.ORG
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez	HUD	708-0030x3289 708-3707 fax	Nancy_Kirshner-Rodriguez@hud.gov
Helen Dunlap	NLIHC	202 662-1530	helen@nlihc.org
Remy Trupin	USCM	(202) 861-6714	uscm6@cais.com
Nancy Willis	STPP Surface Transport. Policy Proj	(202) 974-5137	nwillis@transact.org
Jennifer Daskal	CBPP	202-408-1080 408-1056 (fax)	daskal@center.cbpp.org
Rebecca Brown	NGA	202-624-5367	rbrown@nga.org
STEVE SAVNER	CLASP	202 328 5118	SSAVNER@CLASP.ORG
Elisa Johnson	The Welfare to Work Partnership	202.955.3005 ext 321	ejohnson@welfaretowork.org
Major S. Galloway	NAHRO	(202) 289-3500 Ext.240	mgalloway@nahro.org
Connie Campos	NAHRO	(202) 289-3500 x238	ccampos@nahro.org
HARON BATTLE	NACo	202/942-4204	hbattle@naco.org
Maria Petaros	HUD-Congressional	708-0005	Maria_Petar@HUD.GOV
Debby Greenstein	HUD PD&R	708-1520 x213	DEBORAH_GREENSTEIN@HUD.GOV

The Department is committed to administering the FSS program for families receiving assistance under the rental voucher and certificate programs. The request for this account includes $24 million to allow the smallest housing agencies to hire FSS coordinators. Under the FSS program, families will receive job training and employment that should lead to a decrease in their dependency on welfare programs and move them toward economic self-sufficiency.

Housing

Tenant Protection Set-Asides. The Housing Certificate Fund also serves a role in supporting families in FHA-insured, privately owned assisted housing projects affected by changes in project status. It is intended that income-eligible families who, through no fault of their own, are affected by HUD's management of the multifamily inventory be aided through the Housing Certificate Fund.

The $373 million requested for 1999 Housing tenant protections will be used to provide funding for an estimated 17,000 preservation prepayment vouchers, and for 15,000 vouchers for residents in properties which are proposed for disposition from the assisted housing inventory, voluntarily terminating project-based assistance, terminations due to HUD housing quality enforcement actions, or which are undergoing portfolio re-engineering.

Of this amount, $130 million is included for Housing tenant protections to accommodate the more aggressive enforcement activities of the Department, including the cost of relocating affected families, and to address the potential need to modify current assistance payment standards and eligibility to avoid undue hardship or displacement of currently assisted families.

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS

For tenant-based assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 to help eligible families make the transition from welfare to work, $283,000,000, to be administered by public housing agencies (including Indian housing authorities, as defined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development), and to remain available until expended: Provided, That families initially selected to receive assistance under this head (a) shall be eligible to receive, shall be currently receiving, or shall have received within the preceding year, assistance or services funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act or as part of a State's qualified State expenditure under section 409(a)(7)(B)(i) of such Act; (b) shall be determined by the agency to be families for which tenant-based housing assistance is critical to successfully obtaining or retaining employment; and (c) shall not already be receiving tenant-based assistance: Provided further, That each application shall (a) describe the proposed program, which shall be developed by the public housing agency in consultation with the State, local or Tribal entity administering the TANF program and the entity, if any, administering the Welfare-to-Work grants allocated by the United States Department of Labor pursuant to section 403(a)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act, and which shall take into account the particular circumstances of the community; (b) demonstrate that tenant-based housing assistance is critical to the success of assisting eligible families to obtain or retain employment; (c) specify the criteria for selecting among eligible families to receive housing assistance under this head; (d) describe the proposed strategy for tenant counseling and housing search assistance and landlord outreach; (e) include any requests for waivers of any administrative requirements or any provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937, with a demonstration of how approval of the waivers would substantially further the objective of this head; (f) include certifications from the State, local, or Tribal entity administering assistance under the TANF program and from the entity, if any, administering the Welfare-to-Work grants allocated by the United States Department of Labor, that the entity supports the proposed program and will cooperate with the public housing agency that administers the housing assistance to assure that such assistance is coordinated with other welfare reform and welfare to work initiatives; however, if either does not respond to the public housing agency within a reasonable time period, its concurrence shall be assumed, and if either objects to the application, its concerns shall accompany the application to the Secretary, who shall take them into account in this funding decision; and (g) include such other information as the Secretary may require and meet such other requirements as the Secretary may establish: Provided further, That the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor, shall select public housing agencies to receive assistance under this head on a competitive basis, taking into account the need for and quality of the proposed program (including innovative approaches), the extent to which the assistance will be coordinated with welfare reform and welfare to work initiatives, the extent to which the application demonstrates that tenant-based assistance is critical to the success of assisting eligible families to obtain or retain employment, and other appropriate criteria established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the Secretary may waive any administrative requirement or any provision of the United States Housing Act of 1937 if the Secretary determines that the waiver would substantially further the objective of the assistance under this head, and in the event of any waiver, may make provision for alternative conditions or terms where appropriate: Provided further, That the Secretary may use up to one percent of the amount available under this head, directly or indirectly, to conduct detailed evaluations of the effect of providing assistance under this head.

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 86–0321–0–1–604	1997 actual	1998 est.	1999 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Welfare-to-work housing assistance			283
10.00 Total obligations (object class 41.0)			283
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00 New budget authority (gross)			283
23.95 New obligations			–283
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00 Appropriation			283
Change in unpaid obligations:			
73.10 New obligations			283
73.20 Total outlays (gross)			–27
74.40 Unpaid obligations, end of year: Obligated balance: Uninvested			256
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90 Outlays from new current authority			27
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority			283
90.00 Outlays			27

These funds would provide 50,000 housing vouchers to be used to help families make the transition from welfare to work. Lack of affordable, stable housing, or housing located close to employment, impedes the efforts of families moving from welfare to work. These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

The additional vouchers will be available on a competitive basis to the local housing agencies, including Indian housing authorities. Local housing agencies will submit an application plan, developed in consultation with the State, local, or Tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-To-Work formula funds grantee (generally the local Private Industry Council), allowing both state and local participation in the effort. The vouchers will be used where they are essential to a successful transition from welfare to work, that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to achieve or maintain employment. For example, a family could use a welfare-to-work housing voucher to move to an area where there are more job opportunities, to reduce an extremely long commute, or to stabilize its housing situation in order to improve attendance and performance at work.

Families who receive the vouchers must initially be eligible for, or be currently receiving, Temporary Assistance for Needy

General and special funds—Continued

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS—Continued

Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year. However, local agencies will have great flexibility to design and operate the welfare-to-work voucher program within broad national guidelines. For example, the agencies would propose whether to focus on particular groups of welfare recipients and how to structure the assistance to meet local needs. The application would request any waivers of administrative provisions or statutory provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937 that are needed to substantially further the objectives of the program. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will review and select the local plans after consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor. HUD will evaluate the impact of this program.

SECTION 8 RESERVE PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

The amounts recaptured during fiscal year [1998] *1999* that were heretofore made available to public housing agencies for tenant-based assistance under the section 8 existing housing certificate and housing voucher programs from the Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing account shall be collected in the account under this heading, for use as provided for under this heading, as set forth under the Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing heading in chapter 11 of Public Law 105–18, approved June 12, 1997. *(Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998.)*

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 86–0316–0–1–604	1997 actual	1998 est.	1999 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Contract Renewals		700	3,652
10.00 Total obligations (object class 41.0)		700	3,652
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year: Uninvested		4,202	3,652
22.00 New budget authority (gross)		–550	
22.22 Unobligated balance transferred from other accounts	4,202	700	
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	4,202	4,352	3,652
23.95 New obligations		–700	–3,652
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year: Uninvested	4,202	3,652	
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.36 Unobligated balance rescinded		–550	
Change in unpaid obligations:			
72.40 Unpaid obligations, start of year: Obligated balance: Uninvested			350
73.10 New obligations		700	3,652
73.20 Total outlays (gross)		–350	–2,176
74.40 Unpaid obligations, end of year: Obligated balance: Uninvested		350	1,826
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.93 Outlays from current balances		350	2,176
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority		–550	
90.00 Outlays		350	2,176

The Section 8 Reserve Preservation Account was authorized by P.L. 105–17. This account contains funds which were recaptured from project reserve accounts maintained by Housing Authorities nationwide. These funds will be used to renew expiring contracts during 1999 to reduce the requirements for new contract renewal funding in the Housing Certificate Fund.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ASSISTED HOUSING

[(INCLUDING RESCISSION AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS)]

[Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amounts recaptured under this heading during fiscal year 1998 and prior years, $550,000,000, heretofore maintained as section 8 reserves made available to housing agencies for tenant-based assistance under the section 8 existing housing certificate and housing voucher programs, are rescinded.]

[All balances outstanding as of September 30, 1997, in the Preserving Existing Housing Investment Account for the Preservation program shall be transferred to and merged with the amounts previously provided for those purposes under this heading.] *(Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998.)*

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 86–0164–0–1–604	1997 actual	1998 est.	1999 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Lower income housing	879	4,407	
00.02 Public and Indian housing	1,327		
00.03 Elderly/disabled grants	1,340		
00.04 Other programs	53		
00.05 Contract renewals	1,463		
10.00 Total obligations (object class 41.0)	5,062	4,407	
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
Unobligated balance available, start of year:			
Uninvested:			
21.40 Uninvested	1,981	495	
21.40 Uninvested	8,029	4,090	
21.49 Contract authority	89	73	
21.99 Total unobligated balance, start of year	10,099	4,658	
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	–3,725		
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	7,780	700	
22.21 Unobligated balance transferred to other accounts	–4,245	–968	
22.22 Unobligated balance transferred from other accounts		17	
22.75 Balance of contract authority withdrawn	–190		
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	9,719	4,407	
23.95 New obligations	–5,062	–4,407	
Unobligated balance available, end of year:			
Uninvested:			
24.40 Uninvested	495		
24.40 Uninvested	4,090		
24.49 Contract authority	73		
24.99 Total unobligated balance, end of year	4,658		
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
Current:			
40.36 Unobligated balance rescinded	–3,650		
41.00 Transferred to other accounts	–75		
43.00 Appropriation (total)	–3,725		
Permanent:			
60.05 Appropriation (indefinite)	595	10,706	7,552
60.49 Portion applied to liquidate contract authority	–595	–10,706	–7,552
63.00 Appropriation (total)			
70.00 Total new budget authority (gross)	–3,725		
Change in unpaid obligations:			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
Obligated balance:			
72.40 Uninvested	52,400	29,723	–700
72.49 Contract authority	56,034	55,249	59,591
72.99 Total unpaid obligations, start of year	108,434	84,972	58,891
73.10 New obligations	5,062	4,407	
73.20 Total outlays (gross)	–20,375	–10,869	–7,552
73.31 Obligated balance transferred to other accounts	–368	–19,070	
73.32 Obligated balance transferred from other accounts		150	
73.45 Adjustments in unexpired accounts	–7,780	–700	
Unpaid obligations, end of year:			
Obligated balance:			
74.40 Uninvested	29,723	–700	–700
74.49 Contract authority	55,249	59,591	52,039
74.99 Total unpaid obligations, end of year	84,972	58,891	51,339

HUD NEW/REPLACEMENT HOUSING VOUCHERS AND CERTIFICATES

Question: Is HUD proposing any incremental housing vouchers in 1999?

Answer: HUD proposes the following new and replacement subsidies:

Incremental Units in the President's 1999 Budget
($ in millions)

No. of units	New or Replacement	Program	1999 Budget Authority
33,945	New	Homeless Assistance Grants Use: Targeted to homeless individuals and families who would otherwise have the most difficult time securing permanent housing.	$192
10,469	New	Housing for Special Populations Use: 8,839 for the elderly, 1,630 vouchers for the disabled.	$50
10,655	New	Housing Certificate Fund Uses: Family unification, witness relocation, settlement of litigation, section 23 conversions, and for families exercising portability.	$60
50,000	New	Welfare-to-Work Use: To help families make the transition from welfare to work.	$283
105,069		Subtotal, new vouchers/certs	$585
32,000	Replacement	Tenant Protection and Multifamily Enforcement Use: 17,000 vouchers for Preservation Prepayment requirements, 15,000 vouchers for Property Disposition, Opt Out/Termination and Mark-to-Market. Also includes $130 million for Multifamily Enforcement and for expansion of existing tenant protection policies.	$373
10,000	Replacement	Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI) Use: To re-house families where HUD has demolished non-viable public housing units.	$58
147,069		**TOTAL**	**$1,016**

Background: The 1998 proposed 50,000 new incremental vouchers which was not enacted by the Congress. The 1999 Budget includes 105,069 new incremental vouchers and certificates, but targets them for Special Populations.

Prepared by: Katherine Meredith (5-4988)

Francis S. Redburn 01/23/98 09:06:58 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Katherine L. Meredith/OMB/EOP, James F. Jordan/OMB/EOP, Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc:
Subject: HUD's Annoucement of WTW Housing Vouchers

Didn't get a lot of press yesterday. I guess other news was considered sexier.

Today's Focus At HUD
Friday, January 23, 1998

Secretary Cuomo lauded President Clinton's announcement that his 1999 Federal Budget proposal will seek $283 million in budget authority to create 50,000 rental assistance vouchers to help more Americans move from welfare to work. The President's budget will ask Congress to create the vouchers for use by people who are on welfare or have been on welfare in the past year, and need the rental assistance to enable them to get jobs.

"Targeting new vouchers to help families move from welfare to work is a sound investment," Cuomo said. "It rewards men and women who are willing to work hard to climb out of poverty under their own power. "

The new vouchers would help more poor people - many of them unable to get to jobs or able to get to jobs only with great difficulty because they lack cars - to rent housing on the private market and live closer to available jobs, Cuomo said. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three out of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities.

HUD already provides 1.4 million rental assistance vouchers to low-income Americans under the tenant-based Section 8 program, and about 446,000 go to families with children whose primary source of income is public assistance. However, many people eligible for housing assistance can't get it because HUD does not have the funds. Only one quarter of welfare recipients receive any type of housing assistance, and less than half of these receive rental vouchers that enable them to rent housing on the private market.

Under the President's proposal, the new vouchers would be awarded on a competitive basis to local housing authorities around the country. Housing authorities would have flexibility to decide how to select new voucher recipients from among eligible current and former welfare recipients.

People receiving HUD rental vouchers pay 30 percent of their income for rent, with HUD subsidies picking up the remainder of their rent.

For more information on HUD programs and what's new at HUD, visit HUD's Home Page on the World Wide Web at http://www.hud.gov/

Cynthia A. Rice 01/22/98 11:03:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Here's the LA edition fyi

Rent Aid Proposed for Welfare Recipients

Reform: $1.3-billion White House plan would help participants move nearer to jobs. Proposal comes amid news of a 25-year low in rolls.

By MELISSA HEALY, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--The Clinton administration, touting a broadening decline in the nation's welfare rolls, on Wednesday unveiled a $1.3-billion program to help defray the housing costs of welfare recipients making the transition to work.

The president's latest initiative came as the federal government released new figures showing the nation's welfare rolls have dropped by 2.2 million in the last year alone. That is the lowest level in more than 25 years. For the first time since 1971, there were fewer than 10 million individuals in the United States relying on welfare checks.

Between August 1996 and August 1997--the first full year following passage of the landmark welfare-reform bill--welfare rolls dropped nationwide by 21%.

In the same period, California's rolls fell from 2,648,772 people to 2,269,558--a reduction of 14% that suggested the state is at last catching up with a national trend.

The president's 1999 budget proposes funding new housing vouchers for 50,000 public aid recipients who need rent assistance to help them get or keep a new job. Clinton's plan, which is to be forwarded to Congress early next month, would seek $289 million in new spending in 1999 and roughly $300 million for each of the following four years.

An expansion of the federal housing-voucher program would bring the Department of Housing and Urban Development more fully into the nation's welfare-reform efforts. To date, HUD's principal role in supporting welfare reform has been to help cities establish new bus lines and van pools to ferry the inner-city poor into suburban areas where jobs are plentiful.

But under the Clinton proposal, most of the new vouchers would be used to help welfare recipients actually move their households into job-rich areas. In so doing, the proposal would address one of welfare reform's most difficult obstacles: the geographic mismatch between entry-level jobs and the welfare recipients who are being pressed to fill them.

About two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, while three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities.

The 50,000 new vouchers would represent a small increase over the 1.5 million "tenant-based Section 8 vouchers" now in circulation.

But experts said that by earmarking new vouchers for use exclusively by welfare recipients moving into work, the proposed initiative could have a broader effect.

About one-third of the HUD rental vouchers are being used by families on public assistance, according to the agency. But a host of factors--from bureaucratic obstacles to fear of discrimination--has discouraged many of those welfare families from using their vouchers to move closer to jobs. By focusing new attention on the fact that the vouchers can be used for that purpose, the new program could have an effect far beyond its small numbers.

But the proposal is certain to meet with some opposition on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers have blocked any proposed expansion of the voucher program in recent years.

Administration officials hailed the latest drop in welfare rolls as a sign that reform efforts, a growing economy and a sustained downturn both in drug use and teenage pregnancy have combined to reverse more than two decades of steady growth in dependence.

Cynthia A. Rice 01/21/98 05:31:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: jmonahan @ acf.dhhs.gov @ INET @ LNGTWY, mkharfen @ acf.dhhs.gov @ inet, Paul_A._Leonard @ HUD.GOV @ inet, Janno.Lieber @ ost.dot.gov @ INET @ LNGTWY

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
Subject: Here's the AP story on welfare to work

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton's upcoming budget will seek $1.3 billion over five years to help welfare recipients live where the jobs are, administration officials said Wednesday. At the same time, officials released figures showing the welfare rolls below 10 million families for the first time since 1971.

The housing money is part of a modest set of welfare proposals Clinton will present to Congress next month. The president also wants to restore legal immigrants' food stamp benefits that were cut in the 1996 welfare overhaul law, and he has proposed spending $100 million per year to help welfare recipients travel to jobs.

The housing money is meant to help people on welfare or those who recently left the rolls find affordable housing that is closer to jobs. About two-thirds of the new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three-quarters of welfare recipients live in cities or rural areas.

``It rewards men and women who are willing to work hard to climb out of poverty under their own power,'' Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo said in a statement.

Under the five-year plan, communities would compete for 50,000 housing vouchers each year. People on welfare or those who have left the rolls in the last year could use the vouchers to move across town or to another city or state, as long as housing assistance is essential to getting or keeping a job.

Clinton will ask for $283 million for the next fiscal year, with about $300 million in each of the next four years. Using a voucher, a family would pay a maximum of 30 percent of its income for housing it finds on its own; the government would pick up the rest.

HUD already provides about 1.4 million housing vouchers to low-income Americans, including about 446,000 families receiving welfare checks.

Clinton also plans to ask Congress to spend about $2 billion over five years to restore food stamps for legal immigrants, said an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The 1996 welfare overhaul cut a variety of benefits for poor non-citizens, but Clinton won a budget fight last year to restore most of them, including disability benefits for elderly and sick immigrants.

The official would not say whether the proposal will cover all legal immigrants who lost benefits, or just those who were in the country when the welfare law was signed last year. The proposal also may cover only the neediest groups, such as children, the disabled or the elderly.

Congressional Republicans have argued that providing such benefits to immigrants only encourages people to enter the country when they cannot afford to support themselves. They contend the people who sponsor their entry into the country, not the government, are responsible for the immigrants' well-being.

The transportation funding, $600 million over six years, is part of a larger transportation bill that has stalled over other issues. Both the House and Senate have included a version of the program in their bills.

Separately Wednesday, administration officials released data showing the welfare rolls continued to shrink through August 1997.

Clinton plans to highlight the drop in his State of the Union speech Tuesday.

The rolls peaked in January 1994, with 14.3 million recipients. By August, they had fallen 30 percent to just under 10 million families. It was the first time the rolls dipped below 10 million since February 1971.

The largest drop was recorded in Wyoming, where the caseload has fallen 77 percent since 1993. Nine other states saw the number of cases cut by at least half: Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Hawaii was the only state along with Guam and the Virgin Islands to see an increasing number of cases, with the rolls up 37 percent since 1993.

security

1/15/98 Wash. Post

Easing the Housing Squeeze

AS PART of his forthcoming budget, the president will propose expansion of a program in which tax credits are used to help build low-income housing. The credits go to the investors who put up the capital. Without the credits, they'd likely invest in other projects with higher rates of return.

The expansion, which would be paid for by offsets elsewhere in the budget, seems to us a good idea. The current federal housing programs for the poor come nowhere close to meeting a growing need. There are subsidized units enough to accommodate only about a fourth of the households with incomes low enough to be eligible. More than half of all renters with incomes below the poverty line end up having to pay more than half their already thinly stretched incomes for rent.

But the budget agreement the president and Congress reached last year leaves little room for an increase in the conventional programs—public housing and vouchers—on the spending side of the budget. The catch-all budget category in which they fall is scheduled to be cut about 10 percent in real terms in the next several years. Nor would the current Congress likely vote for an increase even if the funds could be found. Administration-proposed increases in recent years have been turned down; the pattern is likely to be repeated this year. The tax credits are thus the only game in town.

The tax-credit program, begun in 1987, is larger than commonly realized. It has produced about 900,000 subsidized units in its short lifetime. That begins to approach the public-housing program in size, and the number of tax-credit units has been increasing at a rate of about 100,000 a year. The president would increase that by about a third.

The program, whose cost—the revenue loss to the Treasury—is now about $3 billion a year, has been criticized in the past as inefficient. There are less oblique and better ways to get assistance to the poor, is the argument. But in recent years some of the middle-man costs that contributed to this inefficiency are said to have been reduced. The credits by themselves also don't result in low enough rents to help the very poor. Standing alone, this is thus a program less for the poor than for lower-middle-income households. But the pattern has become to use the credits in combination with other subsidies. In the end, that way, the program does serve a lot of poor families.

There will be some resistance in Congress to the tax-credit proposal. We hope in the end the resistance fades. There are always competing ways to spend money in a tight budget. But there ought to be an expansion of housing assistance, and th' is, if not perhaps the best way, at least an acc able way to achieve it.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION ON THE PRESIDENT'S FY99 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

WHEREAS, the President has proposed a $1.8 billion increase in the HUD budget for fiscal 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program would increase from $4.675 billion in fiscal 1998 to $4.725 billion in fiscal 1999; and

WHEREAS, special purpose grants funded as set-asides out of CDBG would decrease from 499.8 million in fiscal 1998 to $292 million, thereby making more CDBG funds available for entitlement allocations to urban counties, states and cities; and

WHEREAS, the President proposes a new Regional Connections Initiative that would be funded as a $100 million set-aside out of CDBG; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget increases the HOME Investment Partnerships program by $50 million from $1.5 billion in fiscal 1998 to $1.55 billion in fiscal 1999; and

WHEREAS, the President would consolidate the Sec. 202 elderly housing and Sec. 811 disabled housing programs under the HOME administrative structure with additional funding earmarked for housing for the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, the budget increases homeless assistance from $823 million to $1.150 billion ($958 million for grants and $191 million for 34,000 housing vouchers designated for the homeless), but does not recommend authorization legislation which would convert McKinney homeless assistance housing programs into a block grant; and

WHEREAS, to expand HUD's role in assisting welfare recipients find jobs, the President recommends that 50,000 of the 100,000 incremental vouchers included in his budget be designated as welfare-to-work vouchers in order to help welfare recipients find jobs close to where new jobs are being created; and

WHEREAS, the welfare-to-work vouchers would be awarded competitively to public housing agencies that develop joint plans with the local welfare agencies; and

WHEREAS, the President's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limit proposal is critical to making homeownership available to working families and will enable about three million more families to qualify for FHA mortgages over the next five years, and millions more in future years; and

WHEREAS, standardizing the existing loan limit structure would eliminate an administrative burden to HUD which currently maintains over 250 different FHA loan limits; and

WHEREAS, to complement HUD programs, the President also proposes to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by increasing the per capita cap on state allocations of tax credits from $1.25 to $1.75:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Counties applauds the President for providing additional program resources to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including additional funding for CDBG, HOME, homeless assistance, and targeted incremental housing vouchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the President proposes a reduction in CDBG set-asides, NACo nevertheless believes that CDBG set-asides should be limited to those that are authorized by statute and traditionally funded out of CDBG ($50 million for Sec. 107 special purpose grants and $67 million for Native Americans); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo strongly supports the Regional Connections Initiative, but urges that it be funded as a freestanding program instead of as a CDBG set-aside; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applicants for and recipients of funds through the Regional Connections Initiative should be elected officials from general purpose units of local government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo supports increased funding for the HOME program, but opposes the consolidation of Sec. 202 elderly housing and Sec. 811 disabled housing into the HOME program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo supports welfare-to-work vouchers, and urges HUD to recognize the critical role of counties in administering welfare and human services programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo supports increased funding for homeless assistance and urges the President to continue to support conversion of McKinney homeless assistance housing programs into a block grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo supports standardizing and increasing the FHA single-family loan limits to equal the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac conforming loan limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACo supports an increase in the per capita cap on state allocations of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit from $1.25 to $1.75.

Adopted by the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee
Unanimously
February 28, 1998

Adopted by the NACo Board of Directors
March 1, 1998

To: nancy_kirshner-rodriguez@hud.gov
From: Conrad Egan <cegan@nhc.org>
Subject: Re: NHC meeting
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Nancy:

Glad to hear of Andrea's interest. We chatted briefly at the earlier meeting. Sent her an invite mainly for info. Understand she can't make this session. We'd certainly love to have her come by future meetings and will keep her on the mailing list. We'll also copy you too. Re HUD participation today, Gloria Cousar may come by.

As you know, NHC strongly supports w2w vouchers and was part of the strategy discussions that preceded their introduction into the President's budget.

The NHC Supportive Services Task Force is one of five that are currently operational. (We prefer to operate through TF's rather than standing commitees as it gives us more flexibility to focus on current issues.) This particular one meets about once per month. It's one of the few places where both assisted and public housers can mix with each other and with service providers and job generators. We have two primary working groups within the TF. One is focused on developing an information sharing system (using the NHC web site) that will contain as many "good news" stories on the connection between jobs and supportive services and housing sponsors/managers that we can gather up and post on the site. The other WG is focused on connecting employers with the residents of assisted and public housing complexes.

The Task Force also functions as a place to share info on self sufficiency efforts, including current publications (eg., MDRC's just released report on Minnesota's Family Investment Program), upcoming conferences and training sessions like the 3/9 session that HUD and MD are sponsoring in Ellicot City on Housing and Welfare Reform and the two upcoming NHC conferences (4/15 in Chicago and 6/3-4 in DC that will feature in-depth presentations on "Linking Residents to Opportunities" and "Overcoming Barriers to Self-Sufficiency") and the MAHN sessions on similar topics in DC and San Francisco, and other such activities, including the meeting NHC had with MDRC's John Wallace last Friday.

We will discuss the w2w vouchers today; and I'll share the info that was distributed at the earlier HUD meeting. Will report back re reactions.

BTW --- NHC's upcoming NEWS to be published in April will feature resident self-sufficiency and will contain five articles on that topic. I'll fax over a summary of that edition. → ATT.

Pls. share this message w/ Andrea. (I can't decipher her e-mail address from the sign up sheet.) I'll also fax a fail-safe copy w/ the NHC NEWS summary.

We would welcome an opportunity to establish a closer relationship with her.

Looking forward to our follow-up w2w session on Friday.

Conrad

At 09:53 PM 3/3/98 -0500, nancy_kirshner-rodriguez@hud.gov wrote:
>
>conrad--this note was from Andrea Kane at White House...any thing to
> report...Nancy
>
> I just got notice about NHC supportive
> services task force meeting on Wednesday, with Welfare to
> Work vouchers on the agenda. I assume you guys know about
> this. Will someone from HUD be attending? I don't plan to
> go but am glad to know about it. I don't know anything
> about this group--they weren't at the meeting on 2/10 were
> they? Anything I should know?
>
>
>

NHC News
Spring issue
To be mailed April, 1998

Special Focus: **Resident Self-Sufficiency**

Feature articles:

- Public housing authority programs that are helping residents become self-sufficient: includes Ron Carter of the Chicago Housing Authority, Ricardo Diaz of the Milwaukee Housing Authority, and Frank Alford of the South Bend Housing Authority.
- NAHMA's George Caruso on the real world considerations involved in linking housing with supportive services
- A profile of the Neighborhood Networks program
- A panel discussion, moderated by Joe Errigo, which will involve housing professionals, social service professionals, owners, employers and non-profits in a discussion of how to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.
- Case Study of Washington DC's Edgewood Terrace Development

NHC
The United Voice for Housing

FAX Number: 202/393-5656

TO: N.K-R

FROM: CONRAD

RE: ANDRE

DATE: 3/9

PAGES:
(including this sheet)

CC. OF E-MAIL &
SUMMARY OF NHC
NEWS. (SEE LAST PAGE.)

Mark Your Calendar for the
NHC/NYHC Annual Spring Forum
Dollars for Housing
Who Should Benefit, Why and How?
Friday, March 20, 1998
Call 202/393-5772 x~~22~~ for more information
14

National Housing Conference ◆ 815 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 538 ◆ Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone (202) 393-5772 ◆ Fax (202) 393-5656 ◆ E-mail nhc@nhc.org

NHC
The United Voice for Housing

NHC
The United Voice for Housing

National Housing Conference
815 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 538
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. (202) 393.5772 x14
Fax (202) 393.5656
e-mail cegan@nhc.org

Conrad Egan
Deputy Director,
Policy Development

FAX Number: 202/393-5656

TO: ANDREA KANE

FROM: CONRAD EGAN

RE: W2W VOUCHERS

DATE: 3/4

PAGES:
(including this sheet)

- PER MESSAGE TO NANCY K-R.
- FYI RE NHC.
- PRESUME WE'LL SEE YOU AT FOLLOW-UP ON FRIDAY.

REGARDS,

Mark Your Calendar for the
NHC/NYHC Annual Spring Forum
Dollars for Housing
Who Should Benefit, Why and How?
Friday, March 20, 1998
Call 202/393-5772 x~~22~~ 14 for more information