

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Schatz and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

As the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies considers the President's request of \$25 million for the Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program (TCP), we request that you include in your forthcoming legislation an additional \$5 million for HUD's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTA) program in order to help combat the nation's affordable housing crisis.

Passage last Congress of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) provides rural, Tribal, and other underserved communities the opportunity to leverage federal funding to invest in infrastructure projects, increase access to affordable housing, and build more resilient communities. TCP plays an important role in ensuring that all communities – especially those who have historically received less than their fair share of federal funding – have the resources they need to compete. First funded in Fiscal Year 2022, TCP provides two years of cost-free technical assistance and capacity building to help underserved communities identify and develop competitive grant applications to advance infrastructure projects. While communities leverage TCP assistance to deploy infrastructure funding, we must ensure these efforts are implemented in coordination with initiatives to improve affordable housing availability, affordability, and quality.


As our country faces a severe housing shortage and affordability crisis, it is imperative that communities' housing needs are considered as part of a broader infrastructure investment strategy. That is why HUD's TCTA program deserves sustained federal investment, as it provides a wide range of assistance to help local governments align incoming infrastructure funding with their unique housing needs. Projects could take the form of preserving affordable housing while new projects are being implemented, identifying land suitable for housing development that is located near incoming transportation projects, and coordinating timelines across ongoing housing and infrastructure projects. As the need for affordable housing continues to rise across the country, HUD must be empowered to support better, more affordable housing outcomes for individuals and communities while infrastructure funding is deployed.

As hardworking families across the country struggle to find a safe and affordable place to call home, it has never been more important to provide rural, Tribal, and other underserved communities with the resources they need to access federal funding to improve housing supply

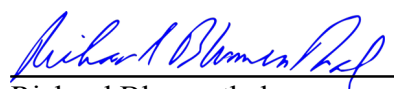
and affordability. We, therefore, urge you to include an additional \$5 million in funding for the TCTA program.

Thank you for your leadership in crafting this important appropriations bill, and for your consideration of this request.

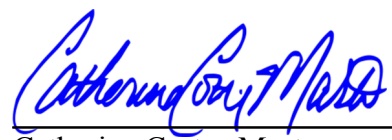
Sincerely,



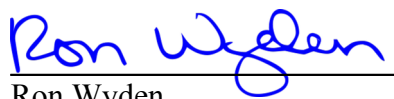
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator




Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



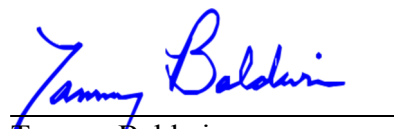
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



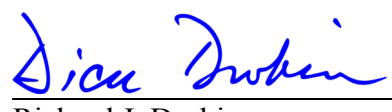
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Padilla", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alex Padilla

United States Senator