



Architects Support Housing Crisis Solutions

The Challenge

Many factors, including outdated policies, rising construction costs, and inefficient administrative processes have aligned to slow housing production and limit consumer choices. Outdated federal programs, in particular, delay multifamily housing development and waste scarce public resources.

The Ask

Finalize bipartisan legislation that addresses BABA roadblocks, reforms federal HOME and CDBG housing programs to meet today's challenges and streamlines federal permitting.

More Information

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BACKGROUND

The United States faces a growing housing crisis. Americans need safe, affordable, and resilient housing that encourages community stability. However, numerous state, local and national issues, including federal housing programs that are not designed to meet today's challenges, continue to slow production and limit choices. Architects see these problems firsthand. Lengthy federal environmental reviews and onerous administrative requirements delay multifamily development and divert limited federal resources.

ARCHITECTS DELIVER HOUSING

Architects design housing solutions that support healthy communities and vibrant local economies. By applying emerging technologies, modern materials, and performance-based design principles, they deliver safe, affordable, and resilient housing over its full lifecycle.

When federal housing programs operate effectively and architects are engaged early in policy development, projects advance predictably, costs are controlled, and housing investments achieve maximum impact. However, implementation of Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements has, in the short term, constrained material availability, increased costs, and delayed project delivery—particularly for affordable housing. Targeted reforms to federal housing programs, including greater flexibility in BABA implementation, would allow architects to focus on delivering the safe, affordable, and resilient housing that communities across the country urgently need.

CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Finalize Bipartisan Housing Legislation

Finalize and reconcile housing bill incorporating key provisions of H.R. 6644, Housing for the 21st Century Act and S. 2651, ROAD to Housing Act to stimulate housing production, modernize federal housing policy, reduce administrative burdens, streamline environmental reviews, and formally engage architects in housing policy development.

Exempt HUD Housing from BABA

Create a categorical exemption from BABA requirements for HUD-funded housing as exists for FEMA and DoD. Current BABA compliance adds months of delay, substantial cost, and financing risk to affordable housing projects. A statutory exemption is essential to keep these projects feasible and on schedule.

Strengthen Core Housing Programs

Fully fund and staff the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grants. Strong federal support, paired with flexibility and innovative, community-based solutions, will ensure that cities and states can effectively leverage public and private investment to address their housing needs.