



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
Representative, 47th District
100 W. Broadway, West Tower 600
Long Beach, CA 90802

Steven R. Jones
Mayor

John R. O'Neill
Mayor Pro Tem - District 2

George S. Brietigam
Council Member - District 1

Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen
Council Member - District 3

Patrick Phat Bui
Council Member - District 4

Stephanie Klopfenstein
Council Member - District 5

Kim Bernice Nguyen
Council Member - District 6

Subject: Request for Additional Funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Supplemental Support to Assist Residential and Commercial Property Owners in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

In light of the Covid-19 crisis, the City of Garden Grove and Garden Grove Housing Authority urge you to consider a significant increase in funding that would allow the Garden Grove Housing Authority to properly administer the Housing Choice Voucher program. This additional funding will ensure resident safety and will allow the Garden Grove Housing Authority to continue to provide shelter for our most vulnerable families, veterans, seniors, persons with disabilities and children while protecting staff, residents and surrounding communities from the Coronavirus.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, the largest program in the Section 8 family of programs, provides rental assistance to nearly 2.3 million low-income families nationwide, giving them the opportunity to rent privately-owned units in the locations of their choosing. An increase in funding will not only help current program participants who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, it is also critical in assisting private owners through this time of great economic uncertainty.

Additionally, we ask for your guidance regarding current funds and programs that may be available to help serve families in our community who have recently lost jobs due to the pandemic. As many in our community are suffering, we urge you to please consider creation of additional temporary assistance programs for unemployed and low-income workers who are unable to make rental or mortgage payments during the pandemic. Moreover, many residential and commercial property owners are also suffering due to substantial rental income losses. Residential and commercial property owner are making withdrawals from their IRAs and borrowing from other sources to make property tax payments and pay for other property related expenses. Temporary assistance programs are urgently needed to help both our renters and property owners make it through this difficult time.

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As the next federal stimulus package is being discussed, please understand the importance of increasing funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, for both the Housing Assistance Payment and the Administrative Fee components. Additional funding is vital to ensure we can provide critical and necessary housing and services to our residents. Additional temporary relief programs are also vital to assist residential and commercial property owners who are suffering substantial rental losses. At this time of tremendous distress caused by the current health and economic crisis, increasing funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and other related aid programs is a logical way of ensuring that taxpayer funds are being used effectively through programs that benefit the most vulnerable members of our community. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Stipe, Assistant City Manager, at (714) 741-5106 or Danny Huynh, Housing Authority Manager, at (714) 741-5154.

Thank you for your consideration.



Steven R. Jones
Mayor



Patrick Phat Bui
Garden Grove Housing Authority, Chairman

C: Lou Correa, Representative, 46th District
Harley Rouda, Representative, 48th District
Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader
Charles Schumer, Democratic Leader
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala D. Harris
Gavin Newsom, Governor
Tom Umberg, Senator, 34th District
Tom Daly, Assemblymember, 69th District
Tyler Diep, Assemblymember, 72nd District