



September 28, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, US Senate  
 The Honorable Alex Padilla, US Senate  
 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, US House of Representatives  
 The Honorable Barbara Lee, US House of Representatives

RE: Regional planning agency eligibility for the Unlocking Possibilities and Community Revitalization grant programs

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative Lee:

Bay Area Housing For All (BAHA) is a diverse coalition of Bay Area housing and social justice organizations, elected officials, philanthropy, and business leaders who have come together to address the Bay Area's affordable housing and homeless crisis by advancing innovative regional solutions to transform the way the Bay Area complements and enhances the efforts of local jurisdictions and provides safe, stable affordable homes for its residents.

The San Francisco Bay Area's regional governments – the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – have a long-standing track record of working at the intersection of racial equity and climate resilience to integrate housing, land use, and transportation in the region's policy, planning, and projects. Building on this approach and through a historic partnership between local and regional Bay Area elected leaders and the California Legislature, the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) was established by the State of California in 2019 to provide the San Francisco Bay Area the ability to take a new, transformational approach towards solving the region's housing crisis. Recognizing the housing and homelessness crisis cannot be solved by each city and county alone, BAHFA facilitates regional collaboration to protect residents from displacement and homelessness, preserve existing affordable housing, and produce new affordable housing to provide equitable housing choice and stability across the region.

In the same way that the federal government established metropolitan planning organizations to plan and fund transportation at the regional level, BAHFA enables the Bay Area to address the housing crisis at the geography of the regional housing market, which does not start or stop at city or county

boundaries. Given the Bay Area's patterns of segregation and exclusion, like most metro areas in the US, a regional approach is essential to advancing the promise of affirmatively furthering fair housing -- unlocking opportunity and repairing the enduring legacies of disinvestment in communities of color.

**Our coalition enthusiastically supports the current investments in both the House Financial Services Committee bill as well as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit provisions currently in the Ways and Means Committee bill. However, it is our number one remaining priority in the Bay Area to make the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) / The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) and other regional planning agencies eligible to apply for both planning and implementation grants through both the Unlocking Possibilities Program and the Community Restoration and Revitalization Program.**

Funding regional planning organizations will allow regions and metro areas across the country to elevate a commitment to racial equity, foster innovation to integrate housing solutions with regional transportation and climate strategies, and make each dollar invested in housing go further than other piecemeal approaches would otherwise accomplish. In the Bay Area every day we see the gaps in local housing efforts in the absence of significant regional housing interventions -- capacity constraints and missed opportunities for coordination, the blind spots of the patchwork of local approaches to affirmatively furthering fair housing, and the mismatch of a regional homelessness crisis with only localized homelessness efforts. But the Bay Area is not alone. If funding were made available, the regional efforts across the country could accelerate and scale -- in Los Angeles, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Miami-Dade County, Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, and many more.

We thank you for your continued leadership and service to the communities of the Bay Area and our nation. We stand ready to support you in this effort.

Sincerely,

All Home  
Bay Area Council  
Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative  
Burbank Housing  
City of Oakland  
City of San Jose  
City and County of San Francisco  
East Bay Housing Organizations  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Housing Authority of Contra Costa County  
Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County  
Housing Trust Silicon Valley  
Monument Impact  
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California  
San Francisco Foundation  
San Francisco Housing Accelerator Fund  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Silicon Valley Rising Action  
SPUR  
United Way Bay Area  
Working Partnerships USA