

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED DURING THE JUNE 13, 2019 MEETING OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution Opposing Proposed Changes to Evict Undocumented Immigrants and Citizen Children from Subsidized Housing
Sponsored by Mayor Hardie Davis (Augusta, GA)

WHEREAS, the United States of America was created as, and by, a nation of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are essential contributors to American communities and to the American economy, comprising 17 percent of America's total workforce and paying an estimated \$11.6 billion in taxes, and contributing a larger share of labor productivity and economic output than their share of the population; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides housing assistance to low-income families in the form of rental and operating subsidies to public housing and privately owned subsidized housing, and these housing assistance programs are critical for helping families stabilize and succeed; and

WHEREAS, HUD has proposed a change in rules that would prohibit undocumented immigrants from residing in subsidized housing; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed rule, HUD would use the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system to screen all residents under the age of 62, including people already living in subsidized housing, and may evict any household member that is undocumented after 18 months; and

WHEREAS, Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 prohibits undocumented immigrants from receiving federal housing assistance, but allows families of mixed-immigration status to live in subsidized housing if at least one member of the household is eligible to receive assistance and pay a pro-rated rent to account for only legally eligible residents; and

WHEREAS, residents can declare themselves ineligible for housing assistance, and are not required to reveal their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, according to HUD's own analysis there are 25,000 families of mixed-immigration status that receive housing assistance; including 55,000 children, a large number of which are citizens, that will be displaced by this rule and

WHEREAS, HUD's proposed change in rules would punish and break up families that would otherwise be housed together, and put undocumented household members at risk of homelessness and deportation; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not adequately examined the potential impact such changes would have on immigrant families, and the significant economic impact such changes would have on cities; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would further exacerbate homelessness across the country; and

WHEREAS, the justification for the proposed rule remains inaccurate as restricting housing assistance for families with mixed-citizenship status while proposing drastic funding cuts for public housing will not provide more resources for HUD to assist low-income families; and

WHEREAS, President Trump continues to zero out funding for public housing in his budget proposals; and

WHEREAS, HUD continues to suggest that these changes will decrease public housing waiting lists yet remain unable to provide proof to authenticate these claims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association urges HUD to withdraw this proposed rule;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association urges HUD to stop proposing harmful policies that would ultimately end housing aid and displace thousands of families with mixed immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association urges Congress to continue fight efforts by the Trump Administration to dismantle the public safety net which supports millions of families in need of vital supportive services.