

# Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER

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### Mission

SERC-NAHRO's mission is to facilitate the development of new affordable housing and support the preservation of existing housing. We will combine our voices to advocate for the interests of those we serve and petition federal, state, and local governments for assistance. We will further our mission through the training and education of our membership.

The Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO) is an association of knowledgeable and dedicated housing and community development professionals. SERC-NAHRO’s mission is to facilitate the development of new affordable housing and support the preservation of existing housing. Organized over 80 years ago, SERC-NAHRO consists of more than 700 agency members that serves over two (2) million low-income households in ten (10) southeastern states (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee). Through this Open Letter, SERC-NAHRO seeks continuing support of SERC-NAHRO’s legislative goals and a commitment from Congress to sufficiently fund HUD programs, enable practical housing and community development statutes and regulations, promote equitable access to affordable housing, and champion anti-poverty solutions for the millions of low-income families in need.

We are in a nationwide affordable housing crisis that will have a tremendous negative impact on communities. Cost-burdened renters are spending over half of their income on housing, and the lack of adequate affordable housing places greater stress relating to mental health, food security, childhood education, health care, retirement, transportation, and the overall social stability. SERC-NAHRO members are unified in their efforts to house America’s economically disadvantaged, and we urge Congress to support Community Development and Affordable Housing initiatives.



Supporting Community Development and Affordable Housing initiatives has immense economic benefits, including but not limited to greater tax generation, creation of jobs, opportunities for economic development, increased job retention and productivity, and the ability to address the inequality of access to affordable housing.



Moreover, **SERC-NAHRO’s 2023 Legislative Goals** are listed below:

<b>Increase Resources for Affordable Housing</b>	
<b>PRESERVATION</b>	<b>NEW CONSTRUCTION</b>
↓	↓
<i>Fully fund appropriations for existing HUD housing programs. (Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Project Based Rental Assistance, Project Based Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, etc.)</i>	<i>Increase appropriations to better meet current housing demands. (Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Project Based Rental Assistance, Project Based Vouchers, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, etc.)</i>

<b>Enable Practical Housing and Community Development Statutes and Regulations</b>	
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>
↓	↓
<i>Streamline and reduce regulatory and statutory administrative burdens for housing and community development programs so that insufficient federal funding can be used where it is needed most – providing housing for low-income families in strong communities.</i>	

<b>Promote Equitable Access to Affordable Housing &amp; Services</b>	
<b>ECONOMIC &amp; EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>
	
<i>Advocate for resources (<b>Family Self Sufficiency, Resident Opportunities &amp; Supportive Services, etc.</b>) to ensure access to economic, educational, and mental health opportunities.</i>	<i>Create and fund a workable Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, Disparate Impact, and Equal Access for LGBT People.</i>

<b>Champion Anti-Poverty Solutions</b>	
<b>ENACTING LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PROTECTING RESOURCES</b>
	
<i>Advocate for policies and resources (<b>safety net programs ie. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal Food Assistance, Mental Health, etc.</b>) that will alleviate poverty.</i>	