

HOUSING

DMDC

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GREATER DES MOINES
PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership recognizes and respects the federal role in housing and community development and encourages elected officials to protect and adequately fund essential programs that make housing affordable for all Greater Des Moines (DSM) households. The Partnership calls for ensuring the Housing Credit remains intact and in place as part of any tax reform plan and supports increasing the amount of the Housing Credit available to help address Iowa's affordable housing needs.

The Partnership Supports:

- Increased funding of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, the national Housing Trust Fund, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and Housing Assistance Payments.
- Substituting a similar funding stream in the event housing finance reform replaces these government-sponsored organizations.
- The Housing Agency's stance that Congress should not rush to give HUD the authority to unilaterally change the formula until there is a well-developed formula that takes into account all the costs of administering a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and a formula that accurately captures all costs associated with running an HCV program.
- Efforts that link housing to health, education and workforce readiness.
- Homeownership and rental housing incentives in the current tax code, specifically the deductions for mortgage interest and state and local property taxes as well as provisions that encourage development of affordable housing.
- Resources and programming to address the 4,411 people who experienced homelessness in Polk County in 2015. Local programs include permanent supportive housing, which often collaborates with private landlords and a variety of supportive, health and mental health organizations. McKinney-Vento funds are especially designed to implement federal policy articulated in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.
- Allowing local Public Housing Authorities the ability to provide separate tenant selection criteria and the ability to require support services in order to not terminate assistance within the Public Housing portfolio to allow for unique assisted housing opportunities and address homelessness issues within local communities.
- An improvement of HUD's process for establishing Fair Market Rents.
- Increases in the Public Housing program for operating subsidies and capital improvements.
- Expansion of the Moving to Work Program.
- Funding for the Family Self-Sufficiency program to link HUD assisted households with job training, child care, transportation, financial literacy and other supportive services, and help build assets through interest-bearing escrow accounts.

- Increased funding for Healthy Homes to make it a "stand alone" program.

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