



February 27, 2017

Congressman Mike Thompson  
231 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

SEEKING SUPPORT TO CHANGE CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDING FORMULA AND  
FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Dear Congressman Thompson:

I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to speak with representatives from your office, Sean Hamlin and Vernon Baker, regarding our letter seeking support to change the Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Formula, dated October 26, 2016. On January 12, 2017, we participated in a conference call with Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Baker along with staff the Sonoma County Community Development Commission. I would like to follow-up on the outcome of the call to see if your office is able to assist with our initial request regarding the CoC Funding Formula, and also to request your support in securing federal resources for affordable housing.

Affordable housing is a major and growing concern for Santa Rosa, and we are fully committed to building more homes that are affordable to families with lower incomes. The City of Santa Rosa has sponsored the development of more than 4,000 affordable housing units, and its Housing Authority has a robust, high-performing Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. The City recently adopted a Housing Action Plan to address its unmet housing needs including the development of 2,500 affordable housing units. While the City has more than doubled its investment in homeless service programs, supporting evidence-based solutions such as street outreach and rapid re-housing, the shortage of affordable housing continues to be the greatest barrier to ending homelessness.

Santa Rosa needs to spend an estimated \$19.5 annually to meet its affordable housing needs. The current annual spending is approximately \$3.5 million. Funding levels at the federal, state, and local level are allowing us to move forward but are well short of providing the resources that we and other communities need to address the continuing affordable housing crisis in California and our nation.

On behalf of the Santa Rosa Housing Authority, we respectfully ask for your support 1) to change the CoC Funding Formula; and 2) to increase funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for affordable housing programs. If you have

questions concerning this request, please contact David Gouin, Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Housing Authority, at 707-543-3316 or [dgouin@srcity.org](mailto:dgouin@srcity.org).

Sincerely,

WAYNE DOWNEY, PhD  
Chair, Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa

c: Sean Hamlin  
Vernon Baker  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer