

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge,

We are writing to express our support for the City of Seattle's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's *Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) to Housing Grant Program*. The City of Seattle is seeking funding for their Homeownership as Preservation program and the Legacy Homeowner program.

Seattle's rapid growth and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated longstanding housing inequality. The lack of affordable housing has pushed many existing residents out of the City to regional suburbs and—in many cases—left residents without a roof over their heads. Seattle's growth has outpaced affordable housing production by 36 percent. National trends indicate that the need for housing affordability will continue to increase. Targeted federal investments are integral to helping the City meet its housing goals.

The City of Seattle will utilize funding from the *Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) to Housing Grant Program* funding to address two critical efforts: preserving existing affordable housing and supporting affordable homeownership opportunities. The Homeownership as Preservation program will protect smaller multifamily affordable housing units while empowering low-income residents with homeownership opportunities. The Legacy Homeowner Program will help lower-income homeowners—particularly those in communities of color at risk of displacement—to overcome the structural barriers to upgrading and adding housing to their properties.

The Homeownership as Preservation program and the Legacy Homeowner program were developed in close coordination with residents and represent a shared vision for the future of the City. Community groups, nonprofits and relevant private sector stakeholders were consulted and remain key partners in the City's efforts to increase the stock and quality of affordable housing in the area. These programs will bring Seattle closer to its goal of being a more innovative and equitable city.

For these reasons, we urge your full and fair consideration of the City of Seattle's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's *PRO to Housing Grant Program*. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



PATTY MURRAY
U.S. Senator



MARIA CANTWELL
U.S. Senator