



NATIONAL RURAL HOUSING COALITION

Fast Facts!

Self Help Housing Builds Strong Rural Communities

More than 50,000 families are currently on waiting lists kept by some 100 Self-Help Housing organizations around the country. This program, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, has assisted over 50,000 low- and very-low income rural families build their own homes. Despite the success of and need for this program, the Administration, in the FY18 budget, proposed to zero out funding to this program.

What it is:

- ◆ Self-Help Housing is the *only* federal program that combines “sweat equity” homeownership opportunities with technical assistance and affordable loans for America’s rural families.
 - ⇒ Self-Help Housing Families work in groups of 8 to 12 on nights and weekends to provide 60 percent of the construction labor on their homes—all while working day jobs to afford financing for their homes.
 - ⇒ Because the families build their own homes, they earn an average of \$18,215 in equity, decrease construction costs, and make lasting investments to their communities.
- ◆ Experienced non-profit developers provide training, technical assistance, and supervision to Self-Help families through the Section 523 grant program. The families often participate in the Section 502 Direct Loan program to access affordable mortgages with interest rates starting at just 1 percent.

Section 523 Self Help Grants

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|--------------|--------|
| FY17 Final: | \$30 M |
| FY18 Budget: | \$0 |
| FY18 House: | \$25 M |
| FY18 Senate: | TBD |

Why it Matters:

- ◆ The Self-Help Housing program is exclusively targeted to low- and very-low income families, who would otherwise be unable to access safe and affordable housing.
- ◆ Forty-six percent of all self-help families are minorities, fifty-two percent are single-parent households, and well over half of all self-help families have children living at home.
- ◆ Self-Help Housing promotes stronger civic commitments and community ties. Self-Help Housing children are also more likely to be active in their communities, graduate from high school, attend college, and become homeowners themselves.
- ◆ The Self-Help Housing program is cost-effective. By working nights and weekends, these Self-Help Families typically provide over 1,000 hours of labor – around 65 percent of the total labor for constructing the home – and are able to decrease construction costs and build equity in their homes.

Learn more about how the FY 2017 budget impacts rural communities by reviewing NRHC’s other Fast Fact Sheets!

The National Rural Housing Coalition (NRHC) is national member organization of community groups, public officials, and non-profit developers who believe that rural people have the right, regardless of income, to decent, affordable housing, clean drinking water, and basic community services.

Contact Us

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