

FY 2020 Programmatic and Language Appropriations Request

→ Please complete the highlighted fields below

→ NOTE: An asterisk (*) indicates a drop-down menu selection

Requesting Organization: National Rural Housing Coalition

D.C. Contact	Local Contact
Bob Rapoza National Rural Housing Coalition 1155 15th NW Washington, DC 20005 202-393-5225 Bob@rapoza.org	

All Requests:

Subcommittee* Agriculture	Agency Rural Development	Account Rural Housing Insurance Fund Section 514 (loans) – Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants
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1. For Defense requests, please include line number (e.g., RDTE, A line 30):
2. This is request ___ **of** ___ submitted to this office.
3. This is request _____ of _____ in this bill.
4. Are you making this request to other offices? _____
 If yes, please list other offices receiving this request.

Programmatic Funding Requests:

1. Amount requested:	Loans:\$12 million (BA) \$50 million program Grants: \$20 million
2. Amount included in the President’s most recent budget:	0/0
3. Requested amount increase/decrease over the President’s most recent budget:	Loans:\$12 million (BA) +\$50 million program Grants: +\$20 million
4. Referencing President’s Budget for (use most recent available):	Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants
5. FY19 appropriated amount:	Loans: \$6.8 million (BA) \$27.5 million Grants: \$8.33 million
6. Requested amount increase/decrease in relation to FY19 appropriations:	Loans: +\$5.2 million/ +\$22.5 million Grants: +\$11.6 million

7. Justification for request:

Section 514 and 516 are the only federal programs that provide affordable loans and grants, respectively, to purchase, construct, or repair rental housing for America’s farm laborers. These funds may also be used to install necessary facilities, including water and waste disposal systems. Under these programs, farmers, nonprofit organizations, and local governments are eligible to receive low-interest loans. Public bodies – typically housing authorities – and nonprofit organizations may receive grants to cover up to 90 percent of development costs. Both Section 514 and 516 have been chronically underfunded and cannot keep pace with the increasing need. On average, these two programs finance only 600 units per year despite their high demand.

This lack of funding for new on- and off-farm worker housing and increasing demand comes during a time when the farm laborer population is becoming more settled. Additionally, what farmworker housing is available may be in poor condition and contain mold, mildew, and other allergens; pesticides; and structural deficiencies. The impact can be felt in Utah, where the farmworker housing shortage links directly with the general farm labor shortage, which continues to impact the local agriculture industry: Vegetable production levels hit a 35-year low in the county in 2017. In California, an additional 45,560 units of farmworker housing are needed to alleviate critical overcrowding in farmworker households. In Texas, there is a documented shortage of over 28,000 rental units.

Report or Bill Language Requests:

8. The language being requested should be included in the: Bill Language:

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by sections 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$70,000,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts:

9. Justification for request:

Section 514/516 is chronically underfunded and cannot keep pace with increasing need. On average, the program finances only 600 units per year. The impact can be felt in Utah, where the farmworker housing shortage links directly with the general farm labor shortage, which continues to impact the local agriculture industry: Vegetable production levels hit a 35-year low in the county in 2017. In California, an additional 45,560 units of farmworker housing are needed to alleviate critical overcrowding in farmworker households. In Texas, there is a documented shortage of over 28,000 rental units.

10. Has this language been included in previous Fiscal Years? If so, please provide reference information below.

Fiscal Year	Bill Number	Title	Division	Section	Page Number
FY 2019	H.J. Res. 31	III	Rural Development	Rural Housing	48
FY 2018	HR 1625	III	Rural Development	Rural Housing	19
FY 2017	HR 244	III	Rural Development	Rural Housing	16