

Getting Your Message Out

1. **CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN.** If you do nothing else, PLEASE contact your local congressional representative to discuss the issue with him or her (A congressional list is included with this publication. If you don't know your district, call Deb Swift at 800/617-2900). Discuss the points listed in the included sample Congressional letter and follow up with a letter or email.
2. **Section 8 Participants and Landlords.** Make your Section 8 participating voucher landlords and residents aware of the situation. They in turn could contact their Congressional representative (see Section 8 participant letter sample).
3. **Your Mayor.** Contact your mayor or other local government leaders to discuss the problem and ask them to contact your area Congressional Representative as well.
4. **Other Community Organizations.** Set up meetings with other local groups whose members are likely to be affected by this change. Advocates who serve seniors, the disabled, and children can be valuable allies; so might the local Chamber of Commerce.
5. **Newspaper Coverage.** Send a variation of the attached press release to your local newspaper with a specific, local angle to interest them in the story. What will the funding cuts mean to your agency? Can you find two or three residents who could be profiled?
6. **TV Coverage.** Invite a local TV stations to cover an upcoming housing authority event. It does not have to be specifically connected to the Section 8 issue. For example, it could be Youth Day. You could stage an event celebrating housing or residents—and then bring up this important issue.