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## HUD Growth Future Bleak: Outlook

An organizational blueprint designed by Republican leaders on the House Financial Services Committee shows how the GOP wants to redefine HUD and reduce its imprint on the country.

The outlook for the FY 2018 spending plan, the first budget from the Trump administration to be unveiled March 13, shows lawmakers want to cut deeply into HUD's now 8,500-member workforce and reduce or eliminate many programs.

All funding increases for the Section 8 housing voucher program would be halted and HUD would be under congressional mandate to streamline what has become the most expensive of HUD's programs at \$19 billion per year for vouchers and \$10 billion per year for landlord Section 8 contracts.

Congressional staffers tell *HAL* the committee's Democrats are livid over the proposal considering the low-income housing crunch is exploding in most areas of the country. House Democratic leaders are mapping a response.

Knowing they have little recourse to stop the legislation when it emerges, Democrats are counting on their Senate counterparts to block a bill if the final FY 2018 spending plan embraces the organizational and social concepts spelled out in the committee's "Views & Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018."

The Views & Estimates (V&E) report blames the Obama administration upfront for the financial dilemma – "Under the Obama presidency, a record \$9.32 trillion was added to our nation's debt, solely because Washington continued to spend money it did not have ..." -- it touts a predicted \$9.4 trillion deficit over the next 10 years estimated by the Congressional Budget Office.

The main thrust of the report's "fiscal challenge" is national belt tightening that will make the 2013 budget sequester look like fiscal child's play.

No part of HUD's vast resources is overlooked, from Section 8 to the National Flood Insurance Program. If the fiscal concepts in the outlook were finally adopted point-by-point, HUD would become a vastly scaled down executive department.

**Info:** See the Views & Estimates report at [www.cdpublications.com/docs/9106](http://www.cdpublications.com/docs/9106)