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In Sunday’s investigative report titled “A trail of stalled or abandoned HUD projects,” Post reporter Debbie Cenziper cherry-picked a handful of unfortunate examples of development projects, selectively examining only a small cross-section of the tens of billions of dollars of federal HOME program funding local communities have put to good use over two decades to create decent safe and affordable housing.

In her reporting, Ms. Cenziper also did not accurately describe what the HOME program is, the role it plays in developing affordable housing, and how it fits into the broader portfolio of federal housing programs. NAHRO, a professional membership organization comprised of 21,227 housing and community development agencies and officials throughout the U.S, believes the article did not make clear that housing produced through the HOME Program is NOT public housing. Different from public housing, the HOME program assists in the development of affordable homeowner and rental housing. The program also provides tenant-based rental assistance. In terms of income targeting, it is not as deeply targeted as the federal public housing program or the Section 8 voucher program.

The HOME program has been and remains critically important due to the nation’s affordable housing shortage. HOME is a proven and effective program that empowers states and localities to design and implement affordable housing strategies to respond to locally determined needs. Since the program began, HOME has made possible the construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of more than 184,000 homeowner units, 376,000 homebuyer units, and 388,000 rental units. HOME has also provided help to over 200,000 households through local tenant-based rental assistance programs. NAHRO would like these facts known to readers.

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