



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

THE SECRETARY

August 15, 2013

Dear Friend of HUD Research:

I am pleased to transmit the *HUD Research Roadmap FY 2014–FY 2018*, a 5-year research agenda resulting from our year-long effort to consult with stakeholders of HUD research. Through the *Roadmap*, I hope that you, as a housing and community development practitioner, policymaker, or researcher, will better understand the vital importance of research for achieving HUD’s mission, of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all.

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) developed the *Roadmap* partly in response to a 2008 report by the National Research Council, *Rebuilding the Research Capacity at HUD*. The report highlighted the urgent needs to reinforce PD&R’s resources and capacity for research and to reinvigorate research activities by shifting to a more collaborative model. During the roadmapping process, PD&R asked diverse stakeholder groups to identify the most pressing research questions related to housing and urban development. Multiple rounds of review by HUD staff, PD&R leaders, and HUD’s senior staff helped prioritize research questions on the basis of policy relevance, timeliness, and making the best use of HUD’s comparative advantages.

The *Roadmap* presents a course forward at a time of fiscal austerity, such as budget sequesters and staff furloughs. In addition, modernization resulting from the Government Performance and Results Act and growing emphasis on evidence-based policy make it important for research to be focused and effective. Meanwhile, maturing administrative data systems and emerging opportunities for data matching create opportunities to address pressing policy questions. In response, HUD’s Transformation Initiative, launched during FY 2010 with the support of Congress, is funding research, evaluations, and program demonstrations.

The *Roadmap*, while setting HUD’s research agenda, will shift with changing needs. For example, PD&R plans to build on the collaborative framework established during the roadmapping process by partnering with research organizations inside and outside of government. I look forward to continuing this conversation as we embark on this journey together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaun Donovan", written over a white background.

Shaun Donovan