



# The United States Conference of Mayors

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## STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

March 5, 2003

“Housing costs continue to rise much faster than incomes, making it increasingly difficult for many working families to afford basic housing. As mayors from coast to coast recognize, the housing crisis is a national problem and it requires national action. That’s why we have enthusiastically endorsed creating a national affordable housing trust fund, as many members of Congress are again proposing today.

“Mayors support affordable housing trust funds because so many have already proven to be successful. According to a report released last year by the Center for Community Change, there are more than 275 housing trust funds in operation across the country, providing at least \$750 million per year to support critical housing needs. We are leading the way and putting our resources on the table. The federal government should do likewise.

“Establishing a national housing trust fund would renew the waning federal commitment to affordable housing, address critical housing needs, put people to work, and provide a boost to an important sector of our economy. We hope Congress acts on this important proposal quickly.”

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1,183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. For more information visit [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

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