Support Programs that Benefit Homeless Americans in FY 2019

These programmatic requests fall under the jurisdictions of multiple subcommittees and require multiple electronic submissions. You may submit any or all of the included requests.

Deadline for Signing On: Tuesday, March 13th at COB

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in requesting full funding for the programs under the umbrella of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness’ Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. These programs span across 19 federal departments and agencies, and each plays a vital role in combatting, preventing, and ending homelessness in America.

Since Opening Doors was launched in 2010, rates of homelessness amongst veterans, families, and chronically homeless individuals have fallen significantly. Our country has successfully taken thousands of individuals and families off the streets. Unfortunately, last year, the homeless population in the United States increased for the first time since the inception of the Opening Doors strategy.

By fully funding the below programs, we can continue making progress in ending homelessness in America. Therefore, please join us in requesting that these homeless assistance programs be funded at the following levels:

**Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

1. Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking (Support the Highest Possible Funding)

**Homeland Security**

1. Emergency Food and Shelter Program ($150 Million)
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

1. Education for Homeless Children and Youth ($85 Million)
2. Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ($165 Million)
3. Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals ($36 Million)
4. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) ($65 Million)
5. Health Care for the Homeless ($130 Million)
6. Services in Supportive Housing ($32 Million)
7. Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program ($50 Million)

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

1. Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
2. Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem ($257 Million)
3. Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran’s Justice Outreach (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
4. Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
5. Supportive Services for Veteran Families ($400 Million)
6. Compensated Work Therapy Program (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
7. HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program ($588 Million)

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

1. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness ($3.6 Million)
2. Continuum of Care Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants ($2.6 Billion)
3. Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
4. HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program ($715 million)

Allowing men, women, and children to live on the streets is not a standard America should be willing to accept. If you have any questions, please contact Tony L. Matthews at Tony.Matthews@mail.house.gov or 202-225-1313. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress
Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard, and Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you begin work on your respective Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bills, we urge you to fully fund the programs under the umbrella of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. As you know, these programs span across 19 federal departments and agencies, and each plays a vital role in combatting, preventing, and ending homelessness in
Since Opening Doors was launched in 2010, rates of homelessness amongst veterans, families, and chronically homeless individuals have fallen significantly. Our country has successfully taken thousands of individuals and families off the streets. Unfortunately, last year, the homeless population in the United States increased for the first time since the inception of the Opening Doors strategy. According to the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time count, nearly 554,000 people across the country were homeless on a given day in January 2017 – a one percent increase from the year before.

It is imperative that as a nation, we continue to fund the critical homeless assistance programs that have been so successful in the past. Allowing men, women, and children to live on the streets is not a standard America should be willing to accept. We must continue to invest in the needs of these vulnerable and marginalized members of society, which will result in healthier, safer, and more productive communities. We therefore ask that you fully fund the below programs under the umbrella of Opening Doors at the following levels:

**Department of Education**

1. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program provides children and youth experiencing homelessness with equal access to the same free, appropriate public education available to other children. ($85 Million)

**Department of Health and Human Services**

1. Programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act help fund more than 740 public, community, and faith-based organizations through three grant programs: the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program, and the street Outreach Program. ($165 Million)
2. Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals enable communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for people experiencing homelessness. ($36 Million)
3. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homeless provide financial assistance to states to support services for homeless individuals who have serious mental illness or serious mental illness and substance abuse. ($65 Million)
4. The Health Care for the Homeless program provides primary health care, substance abuse treatment, emergency care with referrals to hospitals for in-patient care services, and outreach services to help difficult-to-reach homeless persons establish eligibility for entitlement programs and housing. ($130 Million)
5. Services in Supportive Housing help prevent and reduce chronic homelessness by funding services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness living with a severe mental and/or substance use disorder. ($32 Million)

**Department of Housing and Urban Development**

1. The United Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) coordinates the federal response to homelessness. ($3.6 Million)
2. Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants, also known as McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants, are designed to prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. ($2.6 Billion)
3. Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children are awarded competitively based on geographic areas. Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receiving vouchers partner with the local Continuum of Care to identify program participants through a coordinated assessment process. (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
4. The **HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program** combines a rental assistance Housing Choice Voucher program with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. ($715 Million)

**Department of Justice**

1. **Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking** focus on a holistic, survivor-centered approach to providing transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. (Support the Highest Possible Funding)

**Department of Labor**

1. The **Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program** provides services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of service delivery systems that will address problems facing homeless veterans. ($50 Million)

**Department of Veterans Affairs**

1. The **Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program** performs outreach to identify Veterans experiencing homelessness who are eligible for VA services and assist these Veterans in accessing appropriate health care and benefits. (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
2. The **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem** promotes the development and provision of transitional housing and services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination. ($257 Million)
3. The **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran's Justice Outreach program** helps justice-involved Veterans avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring that eligible Veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration mental health. (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
4. **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans** provides 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week structured and supportive residential rehabilitation and treatment services for economically disadvantaged Veterans and Veterans experiencing homelessness. (Support theHighest Possible Funding)
5. The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program provides funding for very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing. ($400 Million)
6. The **Compensated Work Therapy Program** provides vocational opportunities to veterans to facilitate their reintegration into the broader civilian community. (Support the Highest Possible Funding)
7. Case Managers working **Case Management for the HUD-VASH Program** work with homeless Veterans can use this resource to address the multifaceted needs of homeless Veterans. Veterans must agree to participate in case management in order to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. ($588 Million)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

1. The **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** supplements efforts to rapidly provide shelter, food and supportive services for hungry and homeless persons across the nation in areas with the most need. ($150 Million)
We thank you for your past support of homelessness outreach programs and your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress