

Workshop 3.04:

Looking into the Crystal Ball: What to Expect from the Federal Government

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ADVOCACY: What is it?

- Advocacy: “the active support of an idea or cause”
 - Ranges from general issue education to lobbying around specific legislation
- Federal, state, local levels of government
 - Alliance focuses on federal advocacy



FEDERAL ADVOCACY: Why is it important?

- Homeless assistance programs rely on federal funding to operate
 - Local capacity to end homelessness depends on programs like the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants



FEDERAL ADVOCACY: Why is it important?

- Congress relies on constituents for information
 - YOU are the experts on this issue!
 - Up to YOU to give people experiencing homelessness a stronger voice in the political process
 - Involve clients to directly advocate as much as possible



Importance of Identifying Targets

- Targets = Members with the most power to grant our request
- Identifying targets helps us use our time efficiently
- Who make ideal targets?
 - Members on the Appropriations Committee and relevant Appropriations Subcommittees
 - (Especially Chairs / Ranking Members)
 - Members on relevant Authorizing Committees
 - Especially Chairs/Ranking Members)
 - Congressional Leadership



Why is this year significant?

- Last year of the Obama Administration
 - Need to capitalize on support: lock in mandatory funding and effective policies
- Tight budget year
 - Need to defend from discretionary cuts and make the case to a Republican-led Congress for increases
- Election Year
 - Need to advocate **EARLY** and often with a **strong united push!!!**

Getting Involved this Year

- Key mandatory priority:
 - **\$11 billion** for Homeless Assistance to Families
- Some key discretionary priorities:
 - Provide \$2.664 billion for HUD's McKinney-Vento programs
 - \$88 million for approximately 10,000 **new** housing vouchers for homeless families
 - Expand overall HUD Funding

Getting Involved this Year

FY 2017 Homelessness Funding Campaign

- Meetings, calls, letters, site visits, etc.
- Campaign website:
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/FY-2017-Homelessness-Funding-Campaign>



Getting Involved this Year

- Join an email list:
 - Advocacy Update Newsletter
 - FY 2017 Homelessness Funding Working Group

Sign up here or at Advocacy Information Table

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/advocacy>



Questions?

**Have more questions? Want to get involved?
Please email me at:**

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North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

securing resources • encouraging public dialogue • advocating for public policy change

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PRO TIPS

- Stop worrying about rejection. Put yourself out there!
- Be clear (and realistic) about what you want.
- Make peace with little annoying habits; Mr. Perfect doesn't exist.
- Be dependable. Be honest. Be trustworthy.
- Communication is foundation to a healthy relationship.
- This isn't just about you-- what can you do for them?
- Don't get stuck in a rut, put the spark back in your relationship!
- Continue to grow and improve. Be committed to being a good partner.
Relationships take work!

