**Sample Action Alert – Please fill in the local information in Red BEFORE SENDING**

**Ask Congress to Support $414 Million Increase to HUD’s McKinney-Vento Programs: End Chronic Homelessness and House Homeless Families and Youth**

The President has proposed that Congress provide $2.664 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2017 for HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants – an 18 percent increase over the final FY 2016 funding level. This increase would fund 25,500 units of permanent supportive housing, which would allow us to achieve the Administration’s goal of ending chronic homelessness and to build resources that will be needed to end family and youth homelessness by 2020. The President has also proposed that Congress provide $20.854 billion in FY 2017 for Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), which would continue assistance for all families currently using the program and provide 10,000 new vouchers to homeless families with children. Now, **it’s up to us to ensure Congress follows through** on these recommendations.

**Please join us in writing letters to Senators (X and Y) and Representative (Z)** to ask them to support a funding level of $2.664 billion for HUD’s McKinney-Vento programs. (Note the letters also ask **Senators** **(X and Y)** to fund targeted Section 8 TBRA vouchers). **Without an increase** in funding, **(community)** **may have to make cuts to our CoC and ESG programs in the next NOFA, and would not be able to accelerate progress toward ending chronic, family, or youth homelessness.**

**Members of Congress will be communicating their FY 2017 funding priorities to appropriations leadership this week,** so, **we need YOUR help** to convince them to include a funding level of $2.664 billion for HUD’s McKinney-Vento programs among their priorities.

**What You Can Do:**

[**Write a letter**](http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fy-2017-homelessness-funding-letter-writing-campaign)**! Ask your colleagues, partners, and clients to write letters, too!** [*Letter templates*](http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fy-2017-homelessness-funding-letter-writing-campaign) *are attached to this email.* **Tell us who you contacted,** so we can keep track!

* Starting on Wednesday, March 2, with a deadline of Wednesday, March 9, email/fax letters to the following people, and let **Julie** **or** **Jaime** **at the Alliance know** how many you sent – there is a national goal of sending *at least* 300 letters, and we are also reaching out to these offices, so tracking is VERY important:
	+ **(List fax numbers and email addresses of staffers who handle housing issues for local Members of Congress. Email Jaime Colman (****jcolman@naeh.org****) or Julie Klein (****jklein@naeh.org****) for help getting this information. Suggest people email Julie or Jaime directly to tell them how many letters they sent.)**

**Why is this important? When Should You Act?**

To have the greatest impact, we want everyone to send letters at the same time, **from March 2 through** **March 9** **for both the House and Senate letters**. Congress will soon begin writing, releasing, and voting on funding bills, so **NOW is the time to start influencing our Members of Congress** so we can make sure they prioritize funding for HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs and targeted Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to end homelessness in America. **The Obama Administration has made ending homelessness a priority, and this is the last year this Administration will release a budget proposal. Let’s all do our best to pressure Congress to turn this proposal into a reality!**

Want more information? Have questions? Contact Julie Klein at the National Alliance to End Homelessness at jklein@naeh.org.