A BLUEPRINT FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

The President’s Budget Proposal and What You Can Do About It
Logistics

• Lines are muted to facilitate this call
• A recording of this webinar will be posted online and emailed in the next few days
• Please submit your questions
  • If you have questions during the webinar, submit them in the question box on your control panel.
  • We will answer as many questions as possible at the end of the webinar.
Today’s Agenda

• Introduction
• Federal Budget and Appropriations Process
• The President’s FY2019 Budget
  • Top Alliance funding priorities
  • A blueprint for Administration policy priorities in 2019
    • Defending against harmful proposals
• Engaging in Advocacy to prevent and End Homelessness
  • FY2018 Appropriations – our final push
  • FY2019 Priorities
• Q&A

Resources to reference during the webinar:
http://cqrcengage.com/naeh
As with last year’s President’s Budget, this year’s includes some of the largest proposed cuts to social programs and the safety net by any president in decades.

... The policy changes included would dramatically reduce the programs’ effectiveness.
Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

• President’s Budget was released Monday, February 12th
  • **It is important to note that Congress has not yet passed a final budget for 2018, and we are committed to advocating for maximum funding before the deadline of March 23rd**

• The President’s Budget is NOT law

• Congress ultimately makes spending decisions, and it’s clear they’re ready to spend more than the President has asked for
Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

- Our challenge is to help Congress produce a budget that will continue, and even accelerate, progress toward ending homelessness
  - Congress needs to understand the impact of any spending decisions on the programs and people in their districts
  - Today’s presentation is a kick-off to the Alliance’s 2019 budget and appropriations advocacy as Congress gets to work drafting a spending bill
Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

• In a typical year:

- President’s Budget Proposal
- Budget Resolution
- Subcommittees Create Appropriations Bills
- Appropriations Committees Divide Funding Among Subcommittees
- Congress Passes Bills

This year:
Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

• The budget deal signed Friday, February 9th repealed sequestration levels for 2 years, and secured $131 billion in additional non-defense discretionary spending
  • Our goal is to get Congress to spend these available dollars on homeless services and affordable housing!
• Appropriations Subcommittees will use this new budget resolution to set spending levels for all of the functional categories (e.g., housing)
Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

• Where are we now?
  • A final spending bill for FY2018 is not yet complete but the current Continuing Resolution expires on March 23rd
  • For 2019, the President has proposed
    • An overall 42.3% cut to all non-defense discretionary spending
    • 20.1% cut to Section 8 housing assistance by 2028
    • Reforms to Medicaid including a 22.5% reduction in Medicaid Expansion spending by 2028
  • Congress will begin drafting appropriations bills for FY2019 with an aim of passing these bills in June or July
  • FY2019 begins on October 1st
The President’s FY2019 Budget

- The President’s Budget proposal includes:
  - Flat funding for homelessness assistance from FY2017 levels
  - Startling cuts to antipoverty programs including housing, health care, food stamps, and employment and training
  - A continued commitment to dismantling the Affordable Care Act
  - Significant policy reform proposals to further limit assistance to vulnerable Americans
The President’s FY2019 Budget – McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants

• The president requests $2.4 billion for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)
  • This represents flat funding from the enacted FY2017 level
  • Grants include:
    • Competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
    • Formula-based Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
  • Funding for these programs incentivizes evidence-based interventions
The President’s FY2019 Budget – McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants

• Flat funding the HAG does not address
  • Rising rents
  • Reported increases in inflow to the homeless services system
  • Increases in homelessness in some high-rent urban areas

• This would result in an increase in homelessness in communities across the country
  • **The Alliance will publish our FY2019 request following the release of the final FY2018 budget.**
The President’s FY2019 Budget – Affordable Housing

• Proposed cuts would cut Section 8 housing by $47 billion over 10 years
  • Initial 2019 cuts are $900 million less than HUD estimates is necessary to renew existing vouchers in 2018, and could immediately impact about 200,000 households

• The President proposes eliminating the National Housing Trust Fund
  • We need to preserve this $219 million, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac funding, toward development of additional affordable housing

• Cuts public housing funding by $3 billion, or 47%, in 2019
  • Public housing already faces more than $26 billion in repair needs to existing infrastructure
  • This will sharply accelerate the loss of available and acceptable affordable units
The President’s FY2019 Budget – Medicaid

• 50 year history of providing health care coverage for elderly people or people with disabilities

• Since the implementation of the ACA, many states have expanded the reach of Medicaid to serve people living in extreme poverty
  • Medicaid has also become a key payer for services in supportive housing

• The President continues to push for a repeal of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion in states
  • Proposed cuts would reduce mandatory Medicaid spending by $675 billion in before 2028
The President’s FY2019 Budget – Deeper Cuts Beyond Appropriations

• Block Granting
  • Proposes block granting Medicaid payments to states
  • Proposes cuts to the existing TANF block grant

• Work Requirements
  • The budget proposes legislative reforms that impose work requirements on recipients of social service programs including Medicaid and housing assistance
  • CBPP has published excellent resources on how harmful these policies would be

• Rent Reform
  • Leaked HUD legislative proposals indicate that these reforms would increase rent burden for vulnerable families, especially those with elderly and disabled members
Advocacy

- Congress needs to hear from constituents to know that ending homelessness is important to the people they represent.
- As voters and important members of their communities, YOUR voice can influence their decisions.
- You can reach your Members of Congress in a number of ways:
  1. Call and Emails
  2. Social Media
  3. Meeting and Events in Your District
  4. Visiting their DC Office (Capitol Hill Day!)
- The Alliance is ready to help with all of this
Advocacy: Finishing the Job on the FY2018 Budget

• The first, and most important thing we need to do to protect against the threats to our programs in FY2019 is to secure as much funding as possible for homeless assistance in the final FY2018 spending bills

• We have until March 23rd before Congress will finalize FY2018 appropriations
  • That is 4 more weeks to have our voices heard!!

Our Top Priority: Secure $2.6 billion for McKinney

You Can Take Action Using Our Simple Tools
Advocacy – Staying Engaged in 2018

Your advocacy over the last year has been phenomenal!

• Once we get what we need for FY 2018, we will shift focus to defending against the threats posed by the President’s proposal

• The Good News: We know Congress is willing to spend more. We can demand the increases we need for our programs, not just fight cuts.
  • Make sure you are signed up for our advocacy alerts
  • We will let you know about important moments and opportunities, and give you the resources and tools to succeed
Questions?
Stay in Touch

• **Sign up for advocacy alerts here**

• Have questions or want to get more involved?
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