



**For Immediate Release**

## **Budget Deal Represents Historic Investments in Homelessness Assistance**

*As FY2018 Budget Passes Congress, Advocates See Opportunity to  
House 25,000 More People than in 2017*

**March 23, 2018, Washington, D.C.** – As the nation grapples with rising homelessness and an affordable housing crisis, the final fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending bill that passed both houses of Congress this week includes vital investments to increase allocations for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homelessness Assistance Grants and other key programs.

The bill includes a total of \$2.513 billion for the HUD McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants program, a \$130 million increase over FY 2017 spending. This investment will help house an estimated 25,000 more people than in 2017, and help the homelessness system accommodate increased demand from rapidly rising housing costs.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, this budget will help strengthen and preserve proven and necessary federal programs.

“HUD’s Homelessness Assistance Grants program has been a crucial resource in ending and preventing homelessness,” said Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. “This budget recognizes the increasing pressure that homelessness service providers face each day, and responds with resources that will help them do their job efficiently and effectively.”

The FY 2018 budget also provides needed support for HUD programs that focus on the people at the lowest income levels. Funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) received significant increases over 2017 spending, which will yield an additional 60,000 new vouchers to serve those most at risk from housing instability. The budget also increases spending for public housing programs, and those that provide housing and services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The increased investment comes at a time when many states are seeing increases in homelessness. According to the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, on a single night in 2017, 553,742 people were identified as experiencing homelessness. Although this represents an increase of less than one percent over 2016, it was the first increase in homelessness since 2010.

“Despite the challenges, we know that ending homelessness is possible, but not without federal support,” said Roman. “The Alliance is grateful for the elected officials who recognize their vital role, and for the advocates who have relentlessly reached out to them. This budget is proof that homelessness can and should be a national priority.”

**About the National Alliance to End Homelessness**

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. As a leading voice on the issue of homelessness, the Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions; works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity; and provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.

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