

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Related Agencies
H- 307
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Related Agencies
404 CHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant Programs

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz- Balart:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to support the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Homeless Assistance Grant programs.

According to the most recent Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, released December 2018, there are an estimated 553,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in America. This includes 164,023 people in families (including children), 36,361 unaccompanied homeless youth, and 88,640 chronically homeless individuals.

Without a stable home, children and youth face challenges in school, unaccompanied youth face an increased risk of being trafficked, families struggle to maintain employment, and those fighting health, mental health, and addiction issues lack the support to adequately address their problems. Homelessness leads many people to cycle through costly emergency systems and shortens life expectancy.

Successful homeless services programs move people into permanent housing in the fastest and most cost-effective ways possible, guided by the principle that stable housing is a necessary platform for addressing the issues contributing to economic hardship. Thanks to effective, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs, family homelessness has decreased, and homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless individuals has fallen dramatically in recent years. Because of McKinney Vento funding, rapid re-housing has proven to be an effective intervention to get youth off the streets and on the road to self-sufficiency. This progress demonstrates that we can get the job done when we invest federal resources and effectively leverage them with local leadership and private funding.

Given the homeless assistance field's dedicated work and proven ability to effectively use resources to end homelessness, continuing bipartisan efforts to fight against homelessness is critically important. Therefore, please join me in requesting that the House Appropriations Committee fund HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants Program in the FY 20 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill at \$3 billion. This number takes into account the sequestration as well as the rising housing costs in order to ensure that all families, unaccompanied youth, and individuals who are facing homelessness in the United States will soon have a place to call home.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continuing leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,

Gwen S. Moore

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Katko

MEMBER OF CONGRESS