

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt, Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole, Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Carter, and Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you begin work on your respective Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations bills, we urge you to fully fund the programs under the umbrella of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' *Home, Together: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. As you know, these programs span across 19 federal departments and agencies, and each plays a vital role in combatting, preventing, and ending homelessness in America.

Since the first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched in 2010, rates of homelessness among veterans, families, and chronically homeless individuals have fallen significantly. Our country has successfully taken thousands of individuals and families off the streets. Unfortunately, last year, the homeless population in the United States increased for the second year since the inception of the Federal Strategic Plan. According to the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time count, approximately 553,000 people across the country were homeless on a single night in 2018.

It is imperative that as a nation, we continue to fund the critical homeless assistance programs that have been so successful in the past. Allowing men, women, and children to live on the streets is not a standard America should be willing to accept. We must continue to invest in the needs of these vulnerable and marginalized members of society, which will result in healthier, safer, and more productive communities. We therefore ask that you fully fund the below programs under the umbrella of *Home, Together* at the following levels:

Department of Justice

1. **Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking** focuses on a holistic, survivor-centered approach to providing transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. **(Support the Highest Possible Funding)**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1. The **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** supplements efforts to rapidly provide shelter, food and supportive services for hungry and homeless persons across the nation in areas with the most need. **(\$157 Million)**

Department of Education

1. The **Education for Homeless Children and Youth** program provides children and youth experiencing homelessness with equal access to the same free, appropriate public education available to other children. **(\$95 Million)**
2. This is a language request for the **Education for Homeless Children and Youth** program. The new language would add race and ethnicity as part of the data collection requirements for the program:

42 USC 119 Part B, Education for Homeless Children and Youths, Section 11432(F)(i) is amended by adding section (V): information related to the race and ethnicity of homeless children and youths being served by this section.

Department of Health and Human Services

1. Programs under the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act** help fund more than 740 public, community, and faith-based organizations through three grant programs: the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program, and the street Outreach Program. **(\$165 Million)**
2. This is a language request for the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program grantees are to report data using the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), which is maintained by the Department of

Housing and Urban Development and provides consistent data on multiple programs for the homeless. The Committee recognizes that delays in the full transition to HMIS from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) may result in incomplete data entry and management for grantees. The committee urges DHHS to ensure the transition to the HMIS system is fully implemented to ensure the best outcomes for the homeless.

3. **Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals** enable communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for people experiencing homelessness. **(\$36 Million)**
4. **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homeless** provide financial assistance to states to support services for homeless individuals who have serious mental illness or serious mental illness and substance abuse. **(\$68 Million)**
5. The **Health Care for the Homeless** program provides primary health care, substance abuse treatment, emergency care with referrals to hospitals for in-patient care services, and outreach services to help difficult-to-reach homeless persons establish eligibility for entitlement programs and housing. **(\$143 Million)**
6. **Services in Supportive Housing** help prevent and reduce chronic homelessness by funding services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness living with a severe mental and/or substance use disorder. **(Support Highest Possible Funding)**

Department of Labor

1. The **Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program** provides services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of service delivery systems that will address problems facing homeless veterans. **(\$100 Million)**

Department of Veterans Affairs

1. The **Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program** performs outreach to identify Veterans experiencing homelessness who are eligible for VA services and assist these Veterans in accessing appropriate health care and benefits. **(\$200 Million)**
2. This is a language request for the **Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program**. Within the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program, the Homeless Patient Alignment Care Team (H-PACT) program is a holistic approach to care for homeless veterans. In addition to homelessness, H-PACT considers factors such as lifestyle, health, and living arrangements, and facilitates assistance from peers. One hundred programs are currently offered through VA hospitals. The below language requires the VA to report to Congress on potential benefits of expanding the program:

The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the benefits of expanding the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program H-PACT program, to include the benefits of expanding the program, location of additional locations, to include rural areas, and additional services to improve the program.

3. The **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem**—promotes the development and provision of transitional housing and services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination. **(\$257 Million)**
4. The **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veteran's Justice Outreach** program helps justice-involved Veterans avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring that eligible Veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration mental health. **(\$75 Million)**
5. **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans** provides 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week structured and supportive residential rehabilitation and treatment services for economically disadvantaged Veterans and Veterans experiencing homelessness. **(\$210 Million)**
6. The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program provides funding for very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing. **(\$380 Million)**
7. The **Compensated Work Therapy Program** provides vocational opportunities to veterans to facilitate their reintegration into the broader civilian community. **(Support the Highest Possible Funding)**
8. Case Managers working **Case Management for the HUD-VASH Program** work with homeless Veterans can use this resource to address the multifaceted needs of homeless Veterans. Veterans must agree to participate in case management in order to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. **(\$588 Million)**


Department of Housing and Urban Development

1. **The United Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)** coordinates the federal response to homelessness. **(\$3.8 Million)**
2. **Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants**, also known as McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants, are designed to prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. **(\$3.0 Billion)**
3. **Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children** are awarded competitively based on geographic areas. Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receiving vouchers partner with the local Continuum of Care to identify program participants through a coordinated assessment process. **(Support the Highest Possible Funding)**
4. The **HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program** combines a rental assistance Housing Choice Voucher program with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. **(\$755 Million)**

We thank you for your past support of homelessness outreach programs and your consideration of these important requests.



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

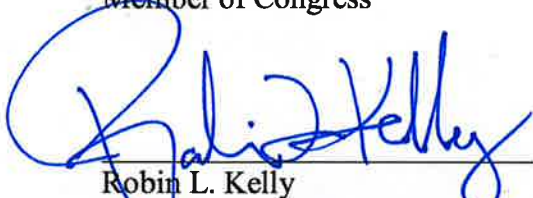
Sincerely,



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Stacey E. Plaskett
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Theodore E. Deutch
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Judy Chu
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Andre Carson
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jerry McNerney
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Joe Courtney
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Adam Smith
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Eliot L. Engel
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Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
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Jahana Hayes
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Jimmy Panetta
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Mark Takano
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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



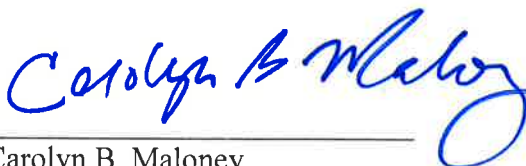
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Donald Norcross
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Bobby L. Rush
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Chellie Pingree
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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William R. Keating
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Rick Larsen
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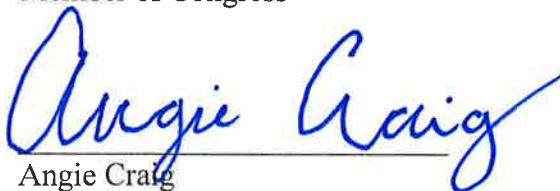
Cedric L. Richmond
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Filemon Vela
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Ted W. Lieu
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Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Michael F. Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Terri A. Sewell
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Earl Blumenauer
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Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



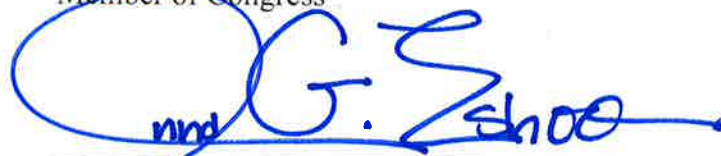
Katie Hill
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



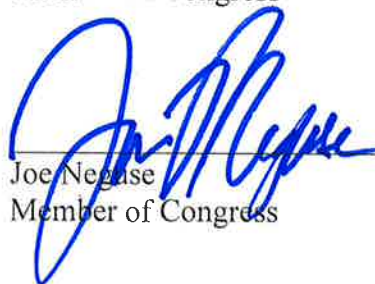
J. Luis Correa
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Colin Allred
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Joe Neguse
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Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
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Sean Casten

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Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro
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Jim Costa
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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