

How to Maintain Relationships With Your Congressional Offices

Goal: Stay in touch with your members of Congress and their staffs to get them more involved in ending homelessness in your state and nationwide.

1. KNOW WHO TO CONTACT

People you need to know include the chief of staff, the legislative director or associate in the D.C. office who works on homelessness and housing, and the head of the member's local office. Don't know who they are? Call the office and ask.

2. KNOW HOW TO CONTACT

Congressional staff members' email addresses and direct phone numbers are the best ways to reach them. But also stay engaged with their social media feeds, especially the member's Twitter account.

3. COMMUNICATE REGULARLY WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION

Develop a steady, personalized drumbeat of updates and news to send, including:

- Local news stories that feature your organization or the issue of homelessness.
- Studies with homelessness datapoints for your state or district.
- Anecdotes about how a federal policy benefited, or could benefit, the community.
- Your organization's e-newsletter.

4. BE PREPARED TO HELP

Always try to demonstrate your value. If the office reaches out, be responsive. Have data that illustrates the problem and the impact of your work. Be proactive: introduce a designated employee (executive director, CEO) and offer them as the office's go-to homelessness expert for your district.

5. MAKE CLEAR REQUESTS AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE OFFICE'S SUPPORT

Any requests you make should be defined and understandable. For example, encourage them to:

- Support a specific policy.
- Sign onto a particular letter.
- Give a one-minute floor speech.
- Make a social media post.
- Participate in a volunteer shift.
- Attend a site visit.
- Participate in annual events (Point in Time count, Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event).

LET US HELP

Our dedicated staff and resources can help you leverage this opportunity for the greatest impact. Visit EndHomelessness.org for more information.