

Join Letter Urging HUD to Finish Processing Homelessness Funding

Sending Office: Honorable Scott H. Peters

Sent By: JackieSobol@mail.house.gov

Join Letter Urging HUD to Finish Processing Homelessness Funding

Dear Colleague:

Representatives Scott Peters, Suzanne Bonamici, and Sara Jacobs invite you to co-sign a letter to Secretary Scott Turner of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) urging the Department to finish processing FY 2024 homelessness funding so that our communities can continue to provide care for our neediest constituents.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) program is the core federal funding stream to aid communities' ability to address homelessness. Across the country, CoC funding recipients are concerned that, although President Trump's Office of Management and Budget has rescinded its memo directing federal agencies to freeze funding for thousands of federal programs, the Administration will fail to disburse funding already approved by Congress. Failure to disburse funding would drastically impact homeless individuals' access to permanent and temporary housing, crisis counseling, and other supportive services. Additionally, in FY2024 Appropriations, Congress approved a two-year funding cycle for this homelessness funding, allowing recipients to spend less time planning their applications and more time implementing creative housing solutions in their communities. If HUD does not comply with this two-year funding cycle, it will place critical homeless services in jeopardy, place additional administrative burdens on funding recipients, and work directly against the Administration's stated goals of increasing government efficiency.

This letter is supported by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH).

Please contact Jackie Sobol (JackieSobol@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Peters' office, Emily Hopkins (Emily.Hopkins@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Bonamici's office, or Jordan Nasif (Jordan.Nasif@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Jacobs' office with any questions.

Sincerely,

SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

SARA JACOBS
Member of Congress

Letter Text:

Dear Secretary Turner,

We write to you today to express our concern that Continuum of Care (CoC) funding recipients may not receive funding already appropriated by Congress. We urge you to take action to ensure the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will finish processing FY2024 funding and comply with the two-year funding cycle.

As you know, the CoC program is the core federal funding stream to help communities address homelessness. On January 17, 2025, HUD announced \$3.6 billion in CoC program awards for nearly 7,000 projects across the country. Most of this funding is for existing projects, and without the grants, these projects will expire in Calendar Year 2025. These projects enable homeless service providers to help veterans, families with children, youth, seniors, and vulnerable individuals access permanent and temporary housing, crisis counseling, and other supportive services.

In the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memo M-25-13, the authors made clear that grant awards that have not yet been obligated were at risk of reversal or withdrawal by the Administration. Although the memo on the federal funding freeze was later rescinded, it is evident that the Trump Administration is still withholding funds. On February 10, a federal judge in Rhode Island acknowledged that the Administration failed to comply with a January 31-issued Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) and that funding pauses persist. The judge ordered the government to immediately restore frozen funding. However, given the Administration's documented refusal to comply with the TRO, we are concerned that HUD will continue to delay or fully withdraw CoC awards that have not yet been obligated.

Further, in FY2024 Appropriations, Congress granted HUD the authority for a two-year Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CoC funding in an effort to enhance efficiency in the program. Previously, CoC funding recipients engaged in an annual funding process. Because an annual funding process can take over six months, requiring extensive community input around funding priorities, reallocation processes, and renewal evaluations, funding recipients lose critical time and resources that could otherwise be used to implement housing solutions in our communities. A two-year NOFO cycle more efficiently and effectively utilizes taxpayer dollars and staff resources. We are concerned that HUD, following the OMB memo's direction, will withdraw the two-year funding commitment in the middle of the FY2024/FY2025 funding cycle. This would create an undue burden on funding recipients and would directly work against the Administration's stated goal of increasing the impact of every federal taxpayer dollar and promoting efficiency in government.

Though the OMB memo is now rescinded, its publication created panic and uncertainty among funding recipients actively providing critical services in their communities. Large and small homeless service providers alike – across rural, suburban, and urban communities – are largely funded by the Continuum of Care program, and this lack of financial certainty is actively causing them to reevaluate their ability to provide services to their communities. This, in turn, has the potential to increase homelessness across the country. We urge HUD to finish processing FY2024 homelessness funding and comply with the two-year funding cycle authorized by Congress. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.