

1025 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1200 | Washington, DC 20005 Tel 202.638.1526 | Fax 202.638.4664

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Scott Turner Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th St. NW Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Turner,

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in the United States. We are a leading voice on homelessness policy, with substantial expertise in the factors driving homelessness and in both evidence-based and emerging best practices that end people's homelessness. We regularly partner with thousands of local leaders, practitioners, researchers, and people with lived experience of homelessness, including through the two national conferences we host annually.

I am writing today to express our deep concern about HUD's announced intent to issue a new Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2025. The shift from an annual to a biennial competition for CoC homelessness funding grants in 2024/2025 – which was made possible through strong bipartisan support in Congress - allowed CoCs to conduct a robust and comprehensive two-year planning process for FY2024 and FY2025. It also allowed them to plan to direct resources and capacity to quality improvement efforts to strengthen overall system performance and planning.

Changing the NOFO cycle will prove to be an inefficient use of resources and personnel at a time when a more efficient government is a stated area of focus for this Administration. Further, retracting the Department's commitment in the middle of the NOFO cycle creates an undue burden on CoCs and the programs that serve people experiencing homelessness in their communities. Making this change may result in higher numbers of people experiencing homelessness reported in the next Point-In-Time Count, the first to be fully carried out under this Administration.

As a former HUD leader who administered the CoC Program competition for 10 years, I know firsthand the tremendous amount of work the competition entails for CoCs, homeless services providers, and HUD staff. Rushing the process at this point in the year will be wasteful at all levels and result in significant delays in awarding funds, especially considering the deep staffing cuts at HUD headquarters and Field Offices throughout the country.

Homeless programs rely on this funding to serve veterans, families with children, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities; pay rents to landlords; and keep staff employed. Many providers across the country faced a gap in funding earlier this year and had to use reserves, take a loan, or ask for leniency from landlords and other partners during that period. They are still recovering

from that experience. Forcing them to do the same for a second year in a row is of great concern to the National Alliance to End Homelessness and our partners.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and, instead, honor the commitment to a two-year NOFO that HUD made to CoCs last year with bipartisan support from Congress. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

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Ann Marie Oliva Chief Executive Officer

cc: Andrew Hughes, Chief of Staff (<u>andrew.hughes@hud.gov</u>)
Claudette Fernandez, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (<u>claudette.fernandez1@hud.gov</u>)
Caitlyn McKenney, Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>Caitlyn.J.McKenney@hud.gov</u>)