

## Advocacy Tips FY2025 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

Advocates may use the Alliance's online advocacy tool to complete the current advocacy action: <u>ACT NOW: Hold HUD Accountable and Protect CoC Program Funding.</u> You may also choose to email your lawmakers' offices directly or reach out by phone to the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Regardless of which method you choose, use the following information to strengthen your outreach.

## **Background**

Since July 3, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has continued to be vague about its plans for a new FY2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program competition. It is evident from the President's FY2026 budget request, Executive Orders, and the latest re-issuance of HUD's CoC Builds NOFO that **HUD may attempt to use this NOFO to upend the way in which communities respond to homelessness.** 

Section 166 from the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2026 (S.2882/H.R. 5450), a short-term funding measure, was recently introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT-03 (House Appropriations Committee – Ranking Member) and Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA (Senate Appropriations Committee – Vice Chair). The language in **Section 166 would require that HUD renew all existing Continuum of Care (CoC) grants** expiring during calendar year 2026 for one 12- month period.

## **Implication**

At this point, a new CoC Program NOFO will result in **significant funding delays**. Based on the recent criteria included in the re-issued CoC Builds NOFO, it could also include new onerous conditions that are unrelated to homeless services that could place these critical resources at risk in communities across the country, no matter their political inclination.

Keeping **Section 166** in the short-term CR will maintain these critical resources. If the provision is struck, communities will risk losing their homelessness funding for several months – or even entirely – if HUD includes exclusionary criteria similar to what was in the CoC Builds NOFO.

## The Ask

Ask your Members of Congress (your Representative and both Senators) to protect homelessness funding for our state/district by including Section 166 from S.2282/H.R.5440 in the continuing resolution. Include the following details in your advocacy:

- Section 166 is a **no-cost provision**. It abides by past Congressional direction in FY2024 authorizing HUD to issue a two-year NOFO process for FY2024 and FY2025 funds for the CoC program.
- Congress universally rejected the President's FY2026 Budget Proposal for the Homeless Assistance Grants programs. Please do not let HUD succeed in dismantling the CoC Program and homelessness response systems across the country via this NOFO.
- Any information about the impact in your specific district/state if FY2025 COC Program funds **are not awarded until April or May**. For example:
  - o Projects that will expire January through May
  - Number of beds and people that would be impacted
  - Amount of funding at risk
  - Number of landlords that would not get paid
- Use the <u>CoC Builds NOFO</u>: <u>Exclusionary Criterion Analysis</u> to identify how your state would be impacted by certain existing criteria in the CoC **Builds** NOFO; HUD may use similar criteria for the CoC **Program** NOFO. This may include:
  - If your jurisdiction and state does not ban public camping
  - o If your organization receives other federal funding that does not align with this criteria, but you are required to comply with criteria for this other funding.