



November 5, 2025

Dear Appropriators,

As religious denominations, faith-based service providers, and members and partners of the Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs (DHN), **we pray you and your colleagues in Congress will provide responsibly robust funding levels and service continuation for homeless assistance and affordable housing programs in the fiscal year (FY) 26 spending bill.** While our coalition members' theologies differ, this collective prayer is rooted in our shared calls to love our neighbors, serve the vulnerable, meet basic human needs, alleviate suffering, and uphold human dignity.

We know many of you share these calls and values. We commend your areas of consensus and efforts to provide resources to continue essential programs in your FY26 T-HUD bills, reflecting your commitment to lifting up those facing hardships and ensuring your most vulnerable constituents are served. As final funding decisions are made, we reiterate our hopes [shared earlier](#) this year and **raise to your attention a current concern:** HUD may not honor the two-year FY24-25 Continuum of Care (CoC) grant process Congress approved last year for homeless assistance programs that faith-based providers have planned for and instead begin a new FY25 funding opportunity and award process.

Bearing witness to how having a safe place to call home transforms lives, **we urge you to include language in the next continuing resolution or appropriations bill requiring HUD to renew all existing Continuum of Care grants expiring during calendar year 2026 for one 12-month period** (Section 166 from H.R. 5450/S. 2882 achieves this and there is [support across the aisle](#)). Given delays posed by the government shutdown, grants soon ending, and the time it takes to participate in a funding competition and then develop new project sites and programs, renewing current CoC grants is the responsible course of action at this time. Supporting steadfast service would reflect God's reliability and trustworthiness, prevent months of funding gaps, and equip providers to continue to cover rent, staff, and operations.

Supporting this would further prevent HUD from too-suddenly making major changes to which programs CoC grants fund, which **could result in an estimated 170,000 people who experienced homelessness in the past losing access to their current rental subsidy, housing, and services in 2026.** Neighbors at risk are currently served by HUD's rapid re-housing (time-limited rental subsidy and services) and permanent supportive housing (long-term housing and services for vulnerable populations) programs. This loss would impinge upon the safety, stability, and hope many families with children and vulnerable individuals have found in accessing housing and services resources and put them at risk of evictions and a return to homelessness and suffering. Ensuring there is a plan to continue to serve people so they are not evicted back to the streets would reflect God's love, uphold human dignity, and sustain hope.

**We hope you will encourage HUD to responsibly renew these grants and include any new plans in future budget requests.** This would give appropriators the opportunity to consider HUD's proposals and provide adequate resources to serve people at the scale of need. This step is particularly important if plans involve shifts that require upfront financing to build new project sites or higher operating costs per person served. As HUD takes inventory and explores using different approaches for some populations, we hope they will also prayerfully consider the value of existing programs and extent of continuation, flexibilities, and bridges of support needed for neighbors currently or best served by them.

We appreciate appropriators' guidance in this year's budget hearings that careful plans are essential for responsible governance considering the many lives at stake. We thank you for your stewardship to ensure resources and continuity are provided for programs serving constituents in need. We pray Congress and HUD will act as strongholds to build up and expand (not tear down or destabilize) local crisis response systems across the country, enhancing capacity to bring peace to those who suffer.

Thank you for serving as a beacon of hope to neighbors facing homelessness and housing insecurity and those moving forward after these hardships. We pray for your sustained collaboration to prioritize safeguarding homeless and rental assistance as funding decisions are made.

Peace be with you.

Alliance of Baptists  
American Friends Service Committee  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Faith in Action  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Lutheran Services in America  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Pax Christi USA  
Presbyterian Church USA Office of Public Witness  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Sojourners  
The Episcopal Church  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ

cc:

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson  
House Majority Leader Steve Scalise  
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
Senate Majority Leader John Thune  
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer