

Homelessness in NYS Increased 10% Last Year \$2.664 Billion Needed for HUD Continuum of Care Program

Need

New York State is in the midst of a homelessness crisis with over 88,000 persons or families homeless at a single point in time, up 10% over last year. More than half are families (52,115) including more than 32,000 children. More than 2,500 are veterans.

It is imperative that Congress appropriate **\$2.664 billion** for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (HUD CoC) Program to begin to meet this crushing need. **Full funding would create an additional 4,000 units of supportive housing for the neediest New Yorkers.**

Background

The HUD CoC Program – also known as McKinney-Vento— is the country's single source of revenue for addressing homelessness. While the program has traditionally funded a full spectrum of housing and service programs, HUD has recently shifted its emphasis away from transitional housing and services to permanent housing. Last year this policy shift had serious repercussions across New York State as more than \$14 million in programs were defunded including a large rental assistance program in Syracuse, and a small but highly valued domestic violence program in Columbia-Greene County. In short, policy shifts and nominal increases have left McKinney Vento programs cut to the bone at a time when they are needed more than ever.

McKinney Vento is one of the government's most productive and effective programs: it funds projects that not only end homelessness for the highly vulnerable formerly homeless residents, but provide quality affordable housing at a time of unprecedented need. Below are two recent McKinney-Vento funded supportive housing projects:



CAMBA Gardens II: Brooklyn, NY --240 units of supportive/affordable housing for a mix of homeless and low-income individuals by CAMBA



Hope Gardens: Buffalo -- 20 units of supportive housing by Matt Urban Hope Center

This year, the Administration budgeted \$2.664 billion, the level needed to make real progress in the fight to end homelessness. While House and Senate budget figures continue the upward trend for this vital funding -- which demonstrates clear bi-partisan support -- they still fall far below the needed levels: more needs to be done.

Annual CoC Appropriation (in millions)		
FY 2014	FY2015	FY2016
\$2,105	\$2,135	\$2,250

FY 2017 Budget Proposals		
Executive	Senate	House
\$2,664 or 4000 new units	\$2,330 or 1000 units	\$2,487 or 2680 units

The Network and our more than 200 nonprofit members across New York State call on Congress to fund the CoC program at \$2.664 billion in FY 2017.