

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
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The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
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The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright, Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley, Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, and Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

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As you begin your work on your respective Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations bills, we urge you to fully fund the following programs, in accordance with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.¹ As you know, these programs span across 19 federal departments and agencies, and each plays a vital role in combating, preventing, and ending homelessness in America.

Since the first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched in 2010, programs designed to address homelessness have successfully taken thousands of individuals and families off the streets. Although we saw historic progress in areas like an 11 percent decline in veteran homelessness during the Public Health Emergency (PHE), much more work remains to be done.² The Point in Time count, a study traditionally conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess the number of homeless individuals on a given night, is some of the best representative data the federal government has to understand homelessness in the United States, despite the likelihood that it underrepresents the extent of people experiencing homelessness. In 2023, a total of 653,100 individuals experienced homelessness on any given night, marking a 12.1 percent increase over 2022 levels.³

This annual data provided by HUD also shows that the number of families and children experiencing homelessness is rising dramatically: families in homeless shelters and visibly unsheltered increased by 16 percent and the number of unaccompanied youth living in these circumstances increased by 15 percent.⁴ The most recent data from the Department of Education shows that an alarming 1.2 million students were identified by public schools as experiencing homelessness.⁵ The need for expanded resources to address housing and homelessness is clear.

It is imperative that as a nation, we reverse this trend and continue to fund the critical homeless assistance programs that have been so successful in the past. Allowing Americans to live on the streets is not a standard that our nation should be willing to accept. We must continue to invest in programs that serve the needs of these vulnerable and marginalized members of our society to end homelessness. We therefore ask that you fully fund the below programs at the following levels:

Department of Justice

1 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *What Is the Federal Strategic Plan?*, <https://www.usich.gov/all-in>

2 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, *New data shows 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020 — the biggest drop in more than 5 years* (November 3, 2022), <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5836>

3 [The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR to Congress\) Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, December 2023 \(huduser.gov\)](#)

4 Ibid.

5 National Center for Homeless Education, *Student Homelessness in America: School Years 2019-20 to 2021-22*, <https://nche.ed.gov/student-homelessness-in-america-school-years-2019-2020-to-2021-2022/>

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1. **Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Stalking** focuses on a holistic, survivor-centered approach to providing transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. **(\$95 Million)**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1. The **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** fortifies nonprofit and public programs that provide rapid shelter, food, and related essential supports to stabilize families facing immediate economic disaster in areas where there is most need. In addition, Congress has tasked the program since 2019 with supplementing nonprofit and public programs that provide critical respite care and services to migrants encountered by the Department of Homeland Security at the southwest border. **(\$300 million)**

Department of Education

1. The **Education for Homeless Children and Youth** program provides children and youth experiencing homelessness with equal access to the same free, appropriate public education available to other children. This \$300 million request is a step towards an annual appropriation of \$800 million, which would mirror and sustain the investment of the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) program in the education of students experiencing homelessness. **(\$800 Million)**

Department of Health and Human Services

1. Programs under the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act** (RHYA) helps fund more than 740 public, community, and faith-based organizations through three grant programs: the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program, and the street Outreach Program. Additionally, the RHYA statute requires a regular and reliable count of youths experiencing homelessness. Providing consistent funding to update the incidence and prevalence estimate will guarantee that the program is well-targeted and implementing evidence-based practices. Additional funding should be provided for the study so there is not a reduction of current RHYA funding and loss of program grants when there is a rise in the number of young people experiencing homelessness. **(\$304 Million)**
2. **Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals** enable communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for people experiencing homelessness. **(\$40 Million)**
3. **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness** provide financial assistance to states to support services for homeless individuals who have serious mental illness and substance abuse. **(\$110 Million)**

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4. The **Health Care for the Homeless** program provides funding to community-based organizations and is part of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Community Health Center (CHC) program, by statute receiving 8.7% of total CHC funds. Health Care for the Homeless grantees served nearly 1 million individuals last year with low- or no-cost health care to underserved populations using a trauma-informed, harm reduction approach. Services provided include primary care, mental health treatment, substance use treatment, medical respite care, case management, and enrollment/benefits assistance. **(\$750 Million)**
5. **Services in Supportive Housing** help prevent and reduce chronic homelessness by funding services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness living with severe mental illness and/or substance abuse disorder. SAMSHA Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) **(Support Highest Possible Funding)**

Department of Labor

1. The **Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program** provides services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of service delivery systems that will address problems facing homeless veterans. **(\$87 Million)**

Department of Veterans Affairs

1. The **Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans Program** performs outreach to identify Veterans experiencing homelessness who are eligible for VA services and assist these Veterans in accessing appropriate health care and benefits. **(\$300 Million)**
2. The **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem** promotes the development and provision of transitional housing and services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination. **(\$570 Million)**
3. The **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans and Veterans Justice Outreach** program helps justice-involved Veterans avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring that eligible Veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration mental healthcare. **(\$125 Million)**
4. **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans** provides 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week structured and supportive residential rehabilitation and treatment services for

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economically disadvantaged Veterans and Veterans experiencing homelessness. **(\$285 Million)**

5. The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program provides funding for very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing. **(\$800 Million)**
6. The **Compensated Work Therapy Program** provides vocational opportunities to veterans to facilitate their reintegration into the broader civilian community. **(\$245 Million)**
7. Case Managers working **Case Management for the HUD-VASH Program** work with homeless Veterans can use this resource to address the multifaceted needs of homeless Veterans. Veterans must agree to participate in case management in order to receive a HUD-VASH voucher. Includes \$200 million set-aside for recruitment, student loan repayment, retention and relocation incentives for critical case management and specialty provider hires to address personnel location and coverage deficits **(\$1.25 Billion)**

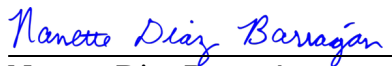
Department of Housing and Urban Development

1. **The United Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)** coordinates the federal response to homelessness. **(\$4.8 Million)**
2. **Homeless Assistance Grants**, also known as McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants, are designed to prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. **(\$4.75 billion, including \$4.25 billion for COC grants, \$500 million for ESG)**
3. **Vouchers Targeted to Homeless Families with Children** are awarded competitively based on geographic areas. Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receiving vouchers partner with the local Continuum of Care to identify program participants through a coordinated assessment process. **(Support the Highest Possible Funding)**
4. The **HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program** combines a rental assistance Housing Choice Voucher program with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This funding level goes toward new vouchers. **(\$50 Million)**
5. The **Family Unification Program** provides Housing Choice Vouchers to families whose lack of housing is the primary factor in the placement of a family's child in out-of-home care and to foster youth exiting the foster system into homelessness. **(\$75 Million)**

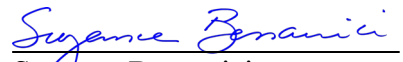
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6. **Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities** develops and subsidizes rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low- and extremely low-income adults with disabilities. We request **full funding** for Section 811 Mainstream tenant-based vouchers to renew all existing vouchers, **\$100 Million** for new 811 Mainstream Vouchers, **full funding** for all expiring 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance Contracts (PRACs) and **\$900 Million** for new 811 Project Rental Assistance.
7. **Emergency Rental Assistance** provides short-term assistance to help stabilize households experiencing a sudden economic shock before they face eviction, instability, or homelessness. (**\$3 Billion**).

Sincerely,



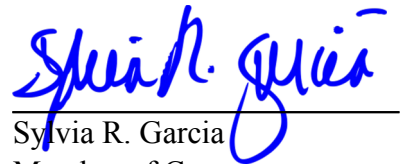
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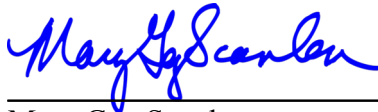
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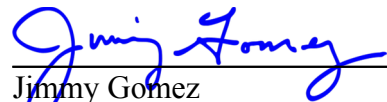
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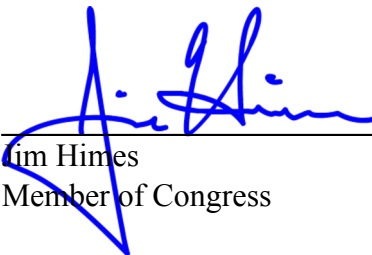
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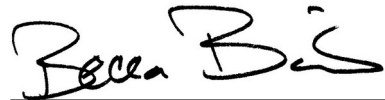
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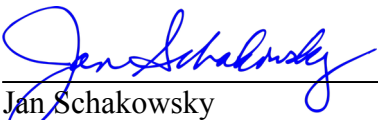
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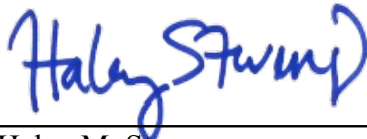


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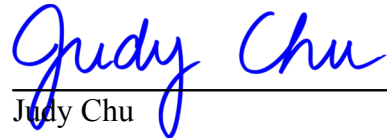


Lizzie Fletcher
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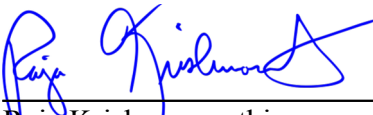
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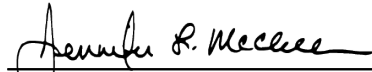


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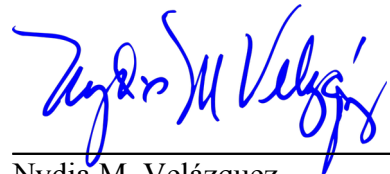
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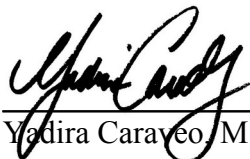
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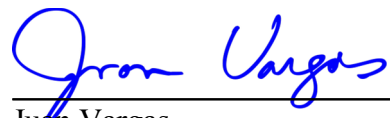
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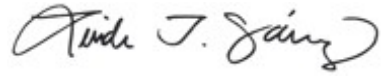


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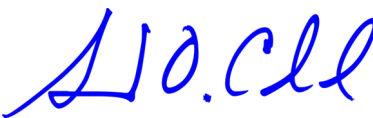
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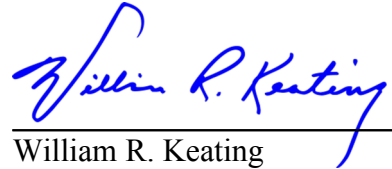


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Dina Titus
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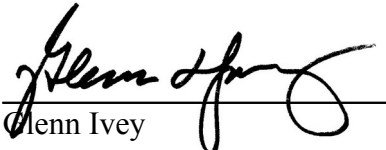
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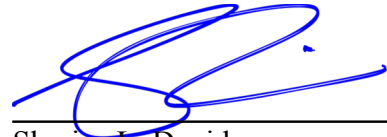
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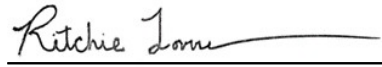


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

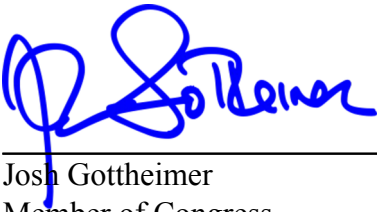
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Ritchie Torres
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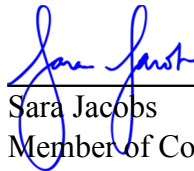
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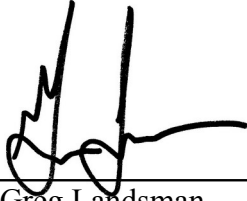


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Darren Soto
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Greg Landsman
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Ro Khanna
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