

Support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program

From: The Honorable Gwen Moore

Sent By: sean.gard@mail.house.gov

Date: 4/1/2013

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in support of robust funding of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs and the full implementation the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.

Even as our nation emerges from years of persistent economic turmoil, homelessness continues to be an unrelenting and unacceptable social problem. According to the most recent *Annual Homeless Assessment Report* to Congress, released December 2012, there are an estimated 633,782 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in America. Among those numbers are 239,403 people in families (including children) and 99,894 chronically homeless individuals. With homeless systems already strained, and more people needing assistance now more than ever, robust funding for homeless assistance programs must be a priority so that we can ensure all individuals and families who are facing homelessness will soon have a place to call home.

The passage of the HEARTH Act heralded big changes for homeless assistance systems by restructuring the systems to better incorporate proven, efficient solutions, while putting a better emphasis on data and doing what we know works. The overarching goal of the homeless assistance systems is to move families and individuals into permanent housing in the fastest and most cost-effective ways possible. Despite economic hardship, increases in family homelessness have been minimal, and homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless individuals has decreased significantly, enforcing that these programs can get the job done.

As we move forward in addressing our nation's economic woes, it is important that we continue to stand our ground in the fight against homelessness. Therefore, please join me to request that the House Appropriations Committee fully implement the HEARTH Act and robustly support HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants programs in the FY14 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill.

To sign onto the letter to the House Appropriations Committee, please contact Sean Gard in my office at (202) 225-4572 or sean.gard@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Related Agencies
H-307 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, we urge you to strongly support the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless Assistance Grants programs and to fully implement the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, signed into law in 2009. We would also like to thank the Committee for its effort to prevent homelessness by providing additional funding for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants in the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution.

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As we move forward in addressing our nation's economic woes, it is important that we continue to stand our ground in the fight against homelessness. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee fully implement the HEARTH Act and robustly support HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants programs in the FY14 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continuing leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,