

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

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

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

Thank you for your commitment to expanding resources for preventing and ending homelessness. Based on their proven track record and the number of people experiencing homelessness in our communities, we respectfully urge you to provide at least the President's requested \$330 million increase to \$2.23 billion for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in the FY 2013 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act. This funding request would allow communities like mine to continue existing activities while making further progress implementing the HEARTH Act of 2009, a bipartisan reauthorization of homeless assistance programs.

On a given night in 2011, 636,017 people experienced homelessness in the United States. While this is about two percent fewer than in 2010, it is simply unacceptable for any of our nation's veterans, families with children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or others to be sleeping on the streets. The recent progress in addressing homelessness in the face of the deepest recession in decades is largely due to a one-time federal investment in the Recovery Act's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), which has served more than 1.2 million people to date. However, HPRP is about to expire, and unemployment and other economic indicators remain poor. Without additional federal investment, the number of Americans facing homelessness is likely to increase.

With passage of the HEARTH Act, Congress envisioned that communities could transition their HPRP programs into their long-term efforts to prevent and end homelessness through the Emergency Solutions Grant program. The HEARTH Act supports decades of research and experience that have demonstrated that proven solutions like homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people – which can actually save taxpayer dollars by stabilizing people cycling through expensive public systems – work to actually *end* homelessness.

During these tough economic times, we must work to support lasting solutions to homelessness funded through Homeless Assistance Grants. A funding level of \$2.23 billion will allow our communities to serve the increasing number of people at risk of homelessness while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their homeless assistance systems.

Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver, we urge you to provide an increase in funding for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants in the FY 2013 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act. These programs will help the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are homeless each night and help communities to more fully implement the HEARTH Act. Thank you for considering this request and for your continuing leadership on efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,