

Support Funding for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) in FY 2014

From: The Honorable Al Green

Sent By: harmeet.kaur@mail.house.gov

Date: 4/5/2013

Support Funding for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) in FY 2014

This is a programmatic request.

Deadline: COB, Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Dear Colleague,

This is to request your assistance in petitioning the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to provide \$75 million in its Fiscal Year 2014 bill for the HUD-VASH program.

This program is successful because it combines rental assistance, in the form of vouchers from HUD, with case management and supportive services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This program helps homeless veterans become self-sufficient members of their community once again.

A recent report issued by HUD indicated that on any single night in 2011, 636,017 people were homeless in the United States. Perhaps even more concerning is that veterans are significantly overrepresented among the homeless population. According to the VA and HUD, there are between 76,329 to 144,842 homeless veterans in the U.S. today. Quite simply, we must do more for those who served our country in the military.

HUD-VASH is the only program that supports the permanent housing and rehabilitation of homeless veterans. HUD-VASH is a joint HUD and VA initiative that provides specially designated Section 8 housing choice vouchers, case management, and supportive services to homeless veterans. Vouchers are used to assist with the payment of rent for veterans and their families. The goal of the program is to support veterans' permanent housing in the community.

Providing \$75 million for the program for FY 2014 brings us closer to achieving the goal of ending homelessness among veterans. An additional 10,000 vouchers would bring the total number of funded vouchers to approximately 47,975 vouchers since FY 2008.

We hope you will join us in urging the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to adequately fund this critical program for FY 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Harmeet Kaur in my office at 5-7508 or harmmeet.kaur@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

AL GREEN

Member of Congress

MICHAEL G. GRIMM

Member of Congress

MICHAEL MICHAUD

Member of Congress

Hon. Tom Latham

Chairman

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development & Related Agencies

House Appropriations Committee

Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Ed Pastor

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development & Related Agencies

House Appropriations Committee

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

We are writing to request that the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee provide \$75 million in its Fiscal Year 2014 bill for the HUD-VASH program to help end homelessness for 10,000 of our nation's veterans. This program is successful because it combines rental assistance, in the form of a voucher from HUD, with case management and supportive services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This program helps homeless veterans become self-sufficient members of their community once again.

HUD-VASH is truly a life-saving program. A recent report issued by HUD indicated that on any single night in 2011, 636,017 people were homeless in the United States. Perhaps even more concerning is that veterans are significantly overrepresented among the homeless population. According to VA and HUD, there are between 76,329 to 144,842 homeless veterans in the U.S. today. Quite simply, we must do more for those who served our country in the military.

We are grateful for the Subcommittee's work to include \$75 million in FY 2013. The bottom line is that there is great need for the assistance that HUD-VASH provides, and the data shows that the vouchers are being well-utilized. Congress has shown its commitment to support our veterans in past years, and we believe that this support must continue as more of our servicemembers return home.

Through community outreach in our districts we have seen firsthand the benefits of the HUD-VASH voucher program. Veterans who were once homeless now have a place to live, and a stable environment from which to get help addressing the factors that led to their homelessness. We owe it to our veterans to continue supporting this invaluable program.

Sincerely,

AL GREEN
MICHAUD

Member of Congress

MICHAEL G. GRIMM

Member of Congress

MICHAEL

Member of Congress