

Supportive Housing Policy Talking Points July 2014

Increase Resources to Affordable Housing Programs Serving Homeless Populations:

• Make Ending Chronic Homelessness a FY2015 priority.

Congress should provide an additional \$300 million for the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grant programs.

- O An additional \$300 million would create enough new supportive housing units to end chronic homelessness by 2016.
- Supportive housing is a proven cost-effective model that combines affordable housing with supportive services to help individuals and families remain stably housed while addressing their most acute needs.

• Restore 40,000 vouchers lost to sequestration.

Congress should provide an additional \$320 million for special purpose vouchers to target homeless families and individuals, in addition to the amount necessary to renew all existing vouchers.

- O Housing choice vouchers provide families with choice and housing stability. In addition, they are a critical tool to develop and sustain supportive housing for families, persons with disabilities and elderly households.
- O Special Purpose Vouchers target certain vulnerable populations in order to ensure that their housing needs are being met and housing providers can create specific, targeted strategies to ensure long-term housing stability.

• Ensure supportive services are adequately funded to help homeless populations. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs in HHS provide supportive services for chronically homeless families and individuals. Congress should fund these programs at \$100 million in FY2015.

• Encourage systems-integration and collaboration through Social Innovation Grants. Creating effective supportive housing programs for targeted populations takes coordination of independent systems at the local, state and federal level. Grant programs like Pay for Success and Social Innovation Fund has helped develop cross-systems collaboration and encouraged public-private partnerships to develop innovative, cost-effective initiatives.

- Social Innovation Fund: Provide \$80 million for the Social Innovation Fund in the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Pay for Success: Provide \$100 million for Pay for Success Initiatives to continue to encourage target populations to improve their lives by addressing multiple needs.