

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 24, 2023

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge,

Thank you for your consistent efforts to tackle homelessness nationwide and partner with networks of homelessness assistance providers to make sure unhoused individuals will be safe, identified, and provided with appropriate care. As you know, the Continuum of Care (CoC) program is the core federal funding stream to aid communities' ability to address homelessness. Unfortunately, the CoC formula was last updated in 1977 and is extremely outdated. As members of San Diego's congressional delegation, we urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to work with communities on the frontlines of the homelessness crisis and revisit the CoC formula to ensure that all communities receive funding proportionate to their needs.

A March 2013 report¹ found that San Diego had the third-highest homeless population in the country, but received the 18th highest level of federal homelessness funding. Since then, members of the San Diego delegation have urged HUD to update the CoC formula to ensure an equitable distribution of funding and resources. This funding disparity hurts the San Diego region's homeless assistance providers, who do an excellent job providing services to those in need of aid. However, they are limited in what they can do with the funding allocated by the current CoC formula. After the delegation's repeated advocacy on the topic, then-HUD Secretary Julian Castro announced that HUD would reopen public comment on the funding formula during a visit to San Diego in 2015. Regrettably, the Obama Administration did not finalize the rule after HUD reopened the comment period to update the formula ([81 FR 48366](#)) from July to September 2016.

We are hopeful that the Biden Administration will build upon the Obama Administration's efforts and will reopen the public comment period on changes to the CoC formula. According to HUD's 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR), approximately 582,500 people experienced homelessness on a given night in 2022. Over 171,000 of those experiencing homelessness were in California. The state also accounted for half of all unsheltered people in the country, with 115,491 people living without shelter.² In the same year, when San Diego recorded the eighth-highest homeless population in the country, the region only received the 14th

¹ Bennett, Kelly, "SD's Share of Federal Homelessness Funding Doesn't Add Up," *Voice of San Diego*, 14 March 2013. <https://voiceofsandiego.org/2013/03/04/sds-share-of-federal-homelessness-funding-doesnt-add-up/>

² "The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress," December 2022. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

highest level of funding.^{3,4} Even with this funding, the number of people living in homelessness increased by 22 percent to 10,264 from 2022 to 2023.⁵

We ask HUD to revisit this issue and consider reopening the CoC funding formula public comment period. We also urge HUD to engage in outreach to communities on the frontlines of the homelessness crisis to better understand what factors contribute to community funding needs. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working together on a path forward.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

³ “2007 - 2022 Point-in-Time Estimates by CoC,” February 2023. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/xls/2007-2022-PIT-Counts-by-CoC.xlsx>

⁴ “Fiscal Year 2022 Continuum of Care Competition Homeless Assistance Award Report,” 27 March 2023. https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/2022/ALL_Press_Report.pdf

⁵ San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness “San Diego CoC Region 2023 Point-in-Time Data” 27 June 2023. <https://www.rtfhsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-San-Diego-Region-corrected-6.27.2023.pdf>