



April 30, 2021

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we respectfully request \$242 million in appropriations for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). In addition to the relief funding provided in response to the pandemic, further funding and direction is vital to ensure that young people without stable homes are not overlooked during this public health crisis.

A Pew study released March 27, 2020 found that, “young people, in particular, are set to be disproportionately affected by virus-related layoffs... Younger workers make up 24% of employment in higher-risk industries overall, and many establishments in these industries are facing a high likelihood of closure in areas with more severe COVID-19 outbreaks.” Youth homelessness service providers are already experiencing increased costs and challenges as they adapt to provide stability for youth in transitional living and rapid re-housing situations and make contingency plans to protect both uninfected and potentially infected young people.

As we consider targeted relief for FY22 in recovery from COVID-19, we respectfully urge you to include dedicated funding for youth and young adults. Since its inception in 2016, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) has produced several valuable best-practices and lessons that can be adopted in all communities to reduce the prevalence of youth homelessness. These lessons can be infused into all Continuum of Cares (CoC) nationwide, significantly raising our national capacity to end youth homelessness.

Specifically, we recommend including the following resources in the Youth homelessness Demonstration Program within HUD’s Continuum of Care (CoC) grant program for FY22:

- Part 1: \$162 million within the CoC line item reserved for youth-specific projects, to be awarded to CoCs that can demonstrate effectiveness in ending youth homelessness. The

CoC would be required to demonstrate certain operational design and performance metrics for their youth-specific projects to be eligible to receive this dedicated funding.

- Part 2: \$70 million over three years for ‘Youth Homelessness System-Change Planning Grants.’ These one-time awards would fund only the system-change components of YHDP that have been found successful through the demonstration sites. The objective of Part 2 planning grants is to advance the capacity of the CoC so that they have the operational design and knowledge necessary to meet the performance metrics required for Part 1 projects.
- Part 3: \$10 million increase for technical assistance within the CoC program, to include a set-aside of TA to exclusively support part 2 projects as communities tackle systems-change. Technical assistance dollars would be paired with the direct investment to communities through Part 2 grants, and would flow through traditional CoC technical assistance contracts.

The coronavirus crisis has uprooted the lives of many Americans, and the most vulnerable feel its impacts most acutely. We must provide additional resources for our most at-risk communities, particularly youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

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Jerry McNerney
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