

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 030 - Folder 022

Housing - Homelessness

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1998

HOMELESS ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: December 23, 1998
LOCATION: Pleasant View Gardens Boys and Girls Club
EVENT TIME: 10:40 am - 11:40 am
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To highlight your commitment to strengthening communities by announcing: (1) a 15% increase in homelessness assistance in your FY 2000 budget; and; (2) \$850 million in grants to help more than 330,000 homeless people obtain housing and receive social services to reach self-sufficiency.

II. BACKGROUND

You will speak to an audience of approximately 500 homelessness activists and advocates from the Baltimore area. The event will take place in the Boys and Girls Club Recreational Center in the Pleasant View Gardens Development, which is operated by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. The development has been revitalized through a HUD grant and reopened in July 1997. The development now offers numerous community services and houses over 300 homeless families and individuals.

Fiscal Year 2000 Budget

You will announce that your FY2000 budget for HUD includes \$1.125 billion for homeless assistance. The budget includes \$1.025 billion for homelessness grant programs and \$100 million for 18,000 additional Section 8 vouchers targeted to help homeless people move from homeless facilities into permanent residences. If enacted, the \$1.125 billion will be the largest ever appropriation to HUD for homeless assistance. The budget request represents more than a 15 percent increase from the \$975 million enacted for HUD homeless programs for FY 1999. It builds on a long-term record of achieving budget increases for homeless assistance, totaling more than 70 percent since you took office.

Continuum of Care Grants for the Homeless

You will announce \$700 million in Continuum of Care competitive grants to help homeless persons in 307 communities located in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The grants provide homeless people with transitional and permanent housing

and fund social services such as job training, child care, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services. The grants are provided under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and fund 1420 individual projects including more than 1000 non-profit organizations. The non-profit organizations receiving funds include local chapters of the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, and Catholic Charities.

Emergency Shelter Grants

You also will announce \$150 million in funding for the Emergency Shelter Grants program. Under this program, states and cities select local projects to receive funding for emergency shelter and other homeless needs. The funds are distributed through a formula based on a community's housing and poverty needs.

Continuum of Care Strategy to End the Cycle of Homelessness

The Continuum of Care strategy, initiated in 1993, requires local public and private agencies to work together to create a comprehensive plan to address the needs of poor and homeless people, and to coordinate services to use resources most efficiently. The goal of the Continuum of Care strategy is to ensure that communities respond to homelessness not simply by providing emergency assistance, but putting into place comprehensive and long-term approaches that will help homeless people become self-sufficient. The key elements are outreach and assessment; emergency shelter; transitional housing and services; permanent housing; and permanent supportive housing. In 1998, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation recognized the Continuum of Care policy as one of the 25 finalists in Innovations in American Government.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Secretary Andrew Cuomo
Mayor Kurt Schmoke
Governor Parris Glendening
Representative Elijah Cummings
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Christa Spangler, Baltimore woman who was formerly homeless.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU will be announced onto the stage accompanied by stage participants.
- Mayor Schmoke will make remarks and introduce Representative Elijah Cummings.
- Representative Cummings will make remarks and introduce Senator Mikulski.
- Senator Mikulski will make remarks and introduce Senator Sarbanes.

- Senator Sarbanes will make remarks and introduce Governor Glendening.
- Governor Glendening will make remarks and introduce Secretary Cuomo.
- Secretary Cuomo will make remarks and introduce Christa Spangler.
- Christa Spangler will make remarks and introduce YOU.
- YOU will make remarks, work a ropeline, and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

Draft 12/22/98 1:15pm
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING AND HOMELESS GRANTS
BALTIMORE, MD
December 23, 1998**

Acknowledge: Sec. Cuomo, Sen. Sarbanes, Sen. Mikulski, Rep. Cummings, Gov. Glendening, Mayor Schmoke, community leaders and caring citizens, AmeriCorps members and residents of Pleasant View Gardens.

For more than 200 years, the greatness of this city and our nation has rested on a simple premise -- that our strength should be judged not just by the size of our bounty but by the number of people we can fit around the table. Today, as families here at Pleasant View Gardens and all over the country begin preparing their holiday feasts, we can be very proud that there are more people sitting around the table than ever before.

I have come to Baltimore today to show America what committed community leaders and active citizens are doing to help families come to the table, to share in our nation's prosperity. And I have come here to provide additional support for your efforts. In a few moments I will announce grants to help you give homeless men and women who once spent Christmas on steam grates the opportunity to live in their own apartments -- with all the independence and pride that I have seen here today at Pleasant View.

But before I do, I want to thank you and the rest of the American people for helping us make so much more room at our national table. We now have over 17 million new jobs, the fastest real wage growth in two decades, the lowest unemployment in 28 years, the lowest African-American poverty rate on record, the highest home-ownership in history. By almost every measure, our families, communities, and country are stronger, healthier, and more prosperous. Crime, divorce, teen pregnancy, and drug abuse rates are falling. Welfare caseloads have plummeted. The American Dream is alive and well.

But now is not the time to kick back and relax. Now is the time when we should be working harder than ever before to address the real issues that face the American people. At long last, we have proof that by working together we can turn around once-intractable problems like homelessness and crime and poverty. At long last, we have the momentum to help millions more Americans participate in our nation's prosperity. So to all of you who have already done so much, I say we cannot rest. Let us all make a New Year's resolution to use this time of prosperity to address the big challenges that remain. At the dawn of the 21st century, we have much more to do.

We must give all our children world-class schools. We must pass a patients' bill of rights. We must save Social Security and Medicare for the coming generations. We must make sure the economic turbulence around the world does not curb our economic opportunity here at home. We must keep working to build that elusive "One America" I have talked so much about. We must keep America the strongest force for peace and freedom in the world.

And we must use this time to renew and rebuild the urban and rural communities that have not seen the benefits of our growing prosperity. Not long ago, such an ambitious goal seemed completely out of reach. But thanks to citizens like you, today is different. Thanks to citizens like you, a renaissance is underway.

We see it clear as day in Baltimore. Tourists see it in Camden Yards and the Inner Harbor, but residents see it in communities throughout this city. You can see it in West Baltimore and East Baltimore, in Sandtown-Winchester and Pleasant View, where you have created not only affordable housing but true communities where people want to live and raise a family. You can see it in new community patrols and clean-up days, in rising day care centers and falling crime. Baltimore should be very proud.

This is the model we can -- and must -- continue to promote here and around the country. First, as Sec. Cuomo has said, we must continue to reform public housing. No family should have to live in crime-ridden towers of despair like the ones that once occupied this very lot. We must give families across America the chance to blossom in neighborhoods like Pleasant View Gardens.

Second, we must continue to create jobs and spark entrepreneurship in America's Empowerment Zones. Just look at what Baltimore's Empowerment Zone has produced: more than 2,800 new jobs, crime down a remarkable 20%, more than \$50 million in new private-sector funding. We have seen similar successes throughout America's 105 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. And in the coming weeks, we will designate 20 new Empowerment Zones -- because, as Rev. Jackson says, the best investment for America is America.

Third, we must continue to help move more Americans from welfare to work -- with transportation and child care ... with housing vouchers to help people move closer to available jobs ... with new commitments from businesses, civic, religious, and non-profit groups. We must take advantage of the best job market in a generation to help more families succeed in the world of work.

Fourth, we must continue to build on the success of community policing. We have now helped fund more than 92,000 of the 100,000 officers we pledged to add to the neighborhood beat. Here in Baltimore, we are providing full funding so you can hire TK more community officers to combat gangs and target drugs. Crime is still too high in parts of this city. We will not stop until every community in Baltimore takes back its streets.

Fifth, we must continue to tap the vast potential of our young people -- by helping you build more safe and modern schools ... by providing quality summer jobs and after-school programs ... by giving young people a chance to serve their communities. Here in Baltimore, more than 700 AmeriCorps members are building new homes, removing lead paint, restoring parks, and mobilizing communities to enhance safety. To the AmeriCorps members here today, I say thank you from all of us for your hard work and commitment. You are doing a remarkable job.

And we must continue to break the cycle of homelessness. Under the leadership of Sec. Cuomo, and with the tireless efforts of Mrs. Gore, we have revolutionized our approach to homelessness and helped move thousands of families off the streets and into jobs, homes, and more secure lives. This new "Continuum of Care" strategy acknowledges that most people who are

homeless need more than just to get out of the cold. As you heard today from TK, they need a whole range of ongoing services and support from committed men and women like you.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we are awarding \$850 million in grants to help communities in all 50 states give homeless families a chance to rebuild their lives as we enter the new year. Maryland will receive more than \$17 million, and Baltimore alone will receive more than \$8 million. These grants will help you reach out in innovative ways to homeless adults and children, veterans and the disabled, people with mental illness and AIDS. They will help with emergency shelters and permanent housing, drug treatment and medication, job training and child care. They will help you lift up fellow citizens, fellow human beings, from the lowest point in their lives. They will help you give them the greatest holiday gift imaginable -- the gift of self-sufficiency and hope.

Baltimore has always been known as a "City of Neighborhoods." Well, after coming here and seeing the remarkable ways you are rebuilding communities and recharging lives, it is clear that this is also city of neighbors. I want America to be a country of neighbors. A country where neighbors volunteer their time to help improve schools or mentor a young person from a troubled home. A country where neighbors don't retreat behind gates and walls. A country where neighbors care and learn about those who eat different foods, celebrate different holidays, and have backgrounds very different from their own.

Of course this room looks nothing like a house of worship, but there's a passage from the Bible that sums up this sentiment very well: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body... If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." So it is with the body. So it is with a country of neighbors. And thanks to people just like you, this is the kind of country we will continue to build. Thank you, God bless you, and very happy holidays.

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Record Type: Record

To: Roger V. Salazar/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: draft homeless release

FYI --

----- Forwarded by Megan C. Moloney/WHO/EOP on 12/21/98 08:38 AM -----



david_m_egner@hud.gov

12/18/98 07:04:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Megan C. Moloney/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: draft homeless release

Here is a release we would like to put out on Wednesday when the President announces homeless grants. Also included is an attachments listing the grants to each state. We will also have two more attachments: 1) list of all grants 1,420 grants, organized by state 2) vignettes telling success stories of five people (who do not want their full names used) who were homeless. I will get you these when they are done. The grant list will be useful for regional press. We plan on contacting media around the country from here and from our regional offices after the President's announcements. We should talk to discuss what we are doing.

I know Ginny Terzano, our Assistant Secretary, is dealing with the White House on logistics of the event.

Please get back to me Monday and let me know: 1) Do you have any problems with the release and want any changes? 2) If the quote I drafted for the President OK, or do you want to change it? 3) Do you want to distribute our release along with your material at the White House, or do you just want us to use our stuff for faxing and for our website?

Fred Karnas, our homeless expert, has made edits to the fact sheet the White House has drafted, and shown this to me. All the numbers and descriptions in the fact sheet and my release are consistent.

(See attached file: jo.doc)

hud NEWS

Department of Housing and Urban Development – Andrew Cuomo, Secretary
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

NOTE: LIST OF ALL GRANT RECIPIENTS BY STATE IS ON HUD'S WEBSITE.

HUD No. 98-643

FOR

RELEASE

708-0685

xx a.m. Wednesday

<http://www.hud.gov/news.html>

December 23,

1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES \$850 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO HELP MORE THAN 330,000 HOMELESS AMERICANS

WASHINGTON – President Clinton today announced \$850 million in grants to help more than 330,000 homeless Americans get housing, job training, child care, mental health services and substance abuse treatment so they can move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

A total of \$700 million of the Department of Housing and Urban Development assistance is targeted to 1,420 long-term programs around the country to help individuals and families permanently end their homeless status. These programs will provide transitional and permanent housing assistance and will help people overcome problems that can lead to homelessness, such as a lack of basic education and job skills, mental illness and drug addiction.

The remaining \$150 million in grants are for emergency shelter programs that provide food and shelter on a short-term basis to homeless people so they aren't forced to live on the streets and go hungry.

(UNAPPROVED) “These grants will save and transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our country,” President Clinton said. “In this holiday season, they give homeless Americans the most valuable gift of all – a brighter future filled with hope and prosperity, instead of despair and poverty. Our assistance will enable homeless people across this nation to achieve the American Dream of decent housing, a job with a living wage, and a chance to help their children build successful lives.”

“The President's policies recognize that if we give homeless people the help they need, they can overcome their problems and work their way out of poverty,” Cuomo said. “I have met men and women across this nation who would be dead today or would be living on the streets if

not for our programs.”

The \$850 million in assistance announced today will go to over 300 communities, all 50 state governments, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American territories. In addition, over 1,000 non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America and Catholic Charities will receive funding for homeless assistance programs.

“Every homeless person is a victim of enormous personal tragedy and incredible hardship,” Cuomo said. “Helping these men, women and children rebuild their lives isn’t easy and isn’t cheap, but it’s one of the most important investments we can make. It’s an investment that says America is the land of opportunity not just for some of us, but for all us.”

-more-

HUD No. 98-643
Page Two

HUD will award \$975 million in the homeless grants a year from now, as a result of increased funding for homeless programs in HUD's fiscal 1999 budget. President Clinton had sought an even larger increase to \$1.15 billion for the program in the 1999 budget he proposed.

HUD has invested nearly \$5 billion in programs to help homeless Americans since President Clinton took office in 1993. That's more than three times as much as the \$1.5 billion HUD spent on homeless assistance programs from the time they were created in 1987 until 1993.

The \$700 million in competitive grants for long-term programs announced today are part of HUD's Continuum of Care approach to addressing homelessness across the nation. The grants are awarded to states, local governments and non-profit groups based on a number of factors that measure the effectiveness of plans to help homeless people become self-sufficient.

The \$150 million emergency shelter grants are awarded through a formula based on a community's housing and poverty needs. States and cities select projects to receive the funding at the local level.

The Continuum of Care, which is the centerpiece of the federal policy on homelessness announced by President Clinton in 1993, stresses permanent solutions to homelessness through comprehensive and collaborative community planning. Communities submit plans to HUD that reflect efforts to address the complexities of homelessness through a range of housing and services.

This year, the Continuum of Care was one of 25 finalists, out of 1,400 competitors, for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award that is awarded by the Ford Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Cuomo said the Continuum of Care approach has been successful because it brings together non-profit groups, the private sector and local and state governments in a partnership to design local programs to help homeless people become self-sufficient.

A Columbia University study concluded that HUD's homeless policies spelled out in the Continuum of Care "have had a positive impact on communities across the nation" and were an improvement from past efforts that focused on short-term emergency shelter.

Key elements of the Continuum of Care are:

Outreach and assessment efforts to identify individual and family needs and make connections to facilities and services.

Provision of emergency shelter and appropriate social services as safe alternatives to the streets.

Transitional housing and necessary social services to help people move to permanent housing and independent living.

Permanent housing to help meet the long-term needs of homeless individuals and families.

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LISTING OF HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS

Here is a list of Department of Housing and Urban Development homeless assistance program grants announced today. Continuum of Care (CoC) Grants are for long-term programs designed to help homeless people get permanent housing and jobs to become self-sufficient. Emergency Shelter Grants provide short-term food and shelter.

ALABAMA - \$6.5 million, including: CoC - \$4.4 million and ESG - \$2 million.

ALASKA - \$1.8 million, including: CoC - \$1.6 million and ESG - \$192,000.

ARIZONA - \$13.7 million, including: CoC - \$11.9 million and ESG - \$1.8 million.

ARKANSAS-\$2.7 million, including: CoC - \$1.6 million and ESG - \$1.1 million.

CALIFORNIA - \$141.5 million, including: CoC - \$123.1 million and ESG - \$18.4 million.

COLORADO - \$7.7 million, including: CoC - \$6.2 million and ESG - \$1.5 million.

CONNECTICUT - \$6.6 million, including: CoC - \$5 million and ESG - \$1.6 million.

DELAWARE - \$2.7 million, including: CoC - \$2.4 million and ESG - \$281,000.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - \$9.6 million, including: CoC -\$8.8 million and ESG - \$827,000.

FLORIDA - \$35.6 million, including: CoC - \$29.4 million and ESG - \$6.2 million.

GEORGIA - \$17.4 million, including: CoC - \$14.4 million and ESG - \$3 million.

HAWAII - \$3.1 million, including: CoC - \$2.5 million and ESG - \$637,000.

IDAHO - \$1.6 million, including: CoC - \$1.2 million and ESG - \$414,000.

ILLINOIS - \$47 million, including: CoC - \$39.5 million and ESG - \$7.5 million.

INDIANA - \$13.4 million, including: CoC - \$10.6 million and ESG - \$2.8 million.

IOWA - \$6.8 million, including: CoC - \$5.1 million and ESG - \$1.6 million.

KANSAS - \$1.2 million, including: ESG - \$1.2 million.

KENTUCKY - \$12.1 million, including: CoC - \$10.1 million and ESG - \$2 million.

LOUISIANA - \$14.4 million, including: CoC - \$11.5 million and ESG - \$2.9 million.

MAINE - \$780,000, including: ESG - \$780,000.

MARYLAND - \$17.4 million, including: CoC - \$15.2 million and ESG - \$2.2 million.

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Homeless Grant List
Page Two

MASSACHUSETTS - \$33.5 million, including: CoC - \$29 million and ESG - \$4.5 million.

MICHIGAN - \$34.1 million, including: CoC - \$28.5 million and ESG - \$5.6 million.

MINNESOTA - \$14.6 million, including: CoC - \$12.1 million and ESG - \$2.5 million.

MISSISSIPPI - \$2.2 million, including: CoC - \$650,256 and ESG - \$1.6 million

MISSOURI- \$27.8 million, including: CoC - \$24.9 million and ESG - \$2.9 million

MONTANA - \$1.3 million, including: CoC - \$1 million and ESG - 363,000.

NEBRASKA - \$4.8 million, including: CoC - \$4 million and ESG - \$828,000.

NEVADA - \$3.7 million, including: CoC - \$3.2 million and ESG - \$563,000.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - \$3.2 million, including: CoC - \$2.7 million and ESG - \$511,000.

NEW JERSEY - \$22.7 million, including: CoC - \$18.4 million and ESG - \$4.3 million.

NEW MEXICO - \$3.6 million, including: CoC - \$2.8 million and ESG - \$805,000.

NEW YORK - \$98.9 million, including: CoC - \$84.3 million and ESG - \$14.6 million.

NORTH CAROLINA - \$6.9 million, including: CoC - \$4.4 million and ESG - \$2.5 million.

OHIO - \$34.6 million, including: CoC - \$27.9 million and ESG - \$6.7 million.

OKLAHOMA - \$1.3 million, including: ESG - \$1.3 million.

OREGON - \$7.8 million, including: CoC - \$6.5 million and ESG - \$1.3 million.

PENNSYLVANIA - \$54.8 million, including: CoC - \$45.5 million and ESG - \$9.3 million.

RHODE ISLAND - \$4.5 million, including: CoC - \$3.8 million and ESG - \$712,000.

SOUTH CAROLINA - \$6.3 million, including: CoC - \$4.7 million and ESG - \$1.6 million.

SOUTH DAKOTA - \$566,325, including: CoC - \$222,325 and ESG - \$344,000.

TENNESSEE - \$11.1 million, including: CoC - \$9 million and ESG - \$2 million.

TEXAS - \$39.2 million, including: CoC - \$28.9 million and ESG - \$10.3 million.

UTAH - \$2.1 million, including: CoC - \$1.3 million and ESG - \$824,000.

VERMONT - \$1.9 million, including: CoC - \$1.6 million and ESG - \$338,000.

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Homeless Grants
Page Three

VIRGINIA - \$13 million, including: CoC - \$10.6 million and ESG - \$2.4 million.

WASHINGTON STATE - \$22 million, including: CoC - \$19.7 million and ESG - \$2.3 million.

WEST VIRGINIA - \$2.3 million, including: CoC - \$1.3 million and ESG - \$1 million.

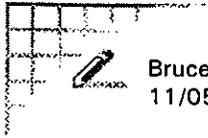
WISCONSIN - \$15.1 million, including: CoC - \$12.3 million and ESG - \$2.8 million.

WYOMING - \$223,765, including: CoC - \$64,765 and ESG - \$159,000.

AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, NORTHERN MARIANAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS - \$300,000 in ESG.

PUERTO RICO - \$9.4 million, including: CoC - \$4.8 million and ESG - \$4.6 million.

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Bruce N. Reed
11/05/98 05:20:00 PM

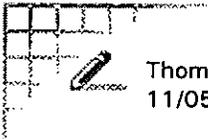
Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: SOTU Items

----- Forwarded by Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP on 11/05/98 05:22 PM -----



Thomas L. Freedman
11/05/98 04:25:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc: Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP

Subject: SOTU Items

1. I still want to come pitch for my ideas and/or hear what you think of them.
2. Interesting idea coming from VA homelessness, tell me what you think about this applied to the whole government: many agencies have property they don't use, but under McKinney Act if they don't want it, they have to offer it to homeless groups. With no incentive, predictably, agencies just sit on the property. VA/OMB have a pilot program to let VA keep 90% of the revenue from selling property for various do-good VA activities, and channel 10% of sales money to local homeless grants. Advocates get something rather than nothing, agencies get to help fund their own programs, the taxpayers doesn't carry thousands of useless properties. We need to get some advocates to sign on, but the idea of encouraging the government to get rid of property it doesn't need is great. It is still confidential, but what you think?
3. Escheveste is going over to meet with Glickman tomorrow on SOTU stuff, do you want to see the list USDA gave NEC?



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

housing-
homelessness

March 2, 1998
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

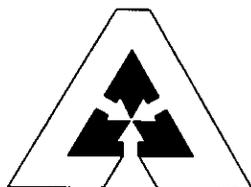
(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

H.R. 217 - Homeless Housing Programs Consolidation and Flexibility Act (Lazio (R) FL and 5 others)

The Administration supports the goal of maximizing local flexibility to develop comprehensive approaches to homelessness. The Administration appreciates the efforts of the Banking and Financial Services Committee to improve H.R. 217, but continues to have strong concerns with the bill as reported. In particular, the Administration objects to:

- Permanent Housing Set-Aside. The Administration recognizes the importance of permanent housing in addressing homelessness, but believes the proposed percentage set-aside for permanent housing in H.R. 217 would hamper local efforts to find the most cost-effective approach to addressing the problems of homelessness in each community.
- Additional Match Requirement for Supportive Services. The Administration continues to believe that States and localities should have maximum flexibility to determine what portion of grant funds to devote to supportive services without having an additional match requirement if they exceed 35 percent.
- Local Provider Involvement in Homelessness Assistance Planning. The Administration is concerned that the bill would not adequately engage homeless service providers in the local homeless assistance planning process.
- Insufficient Requirements for Grantee Accountability. The Administration is concerned that the bill contains insufficient performance requirements and approval criteria to ensure the funding of high-quality homeless assistance programs.
- Companion Services Block Grant. The Administration is aware of the need for Federal interagency coordination in the delivery of homeless assistance, but does not believe the Companion Services Block Grant is the appropriate means to ensure this coordination. In addition, the requirement for advance congressional approval for transfer of agency funds to this block grant violates the Supreme Court's *Chadha* decision.
- Promulgation of Regulations. The Administration is concerned about the bill's requirement that implementing regulations be issued on an interim basis permitting public comment only after they are effective. Regulations to implement the Act should be effective only after notice and comment rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. §553.

Pay-As-You-Go Scoring. H.R. 217 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, it is not subject to the pay-as-you-go requirement of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, INC.

December 11, 1997

Elena Kagan
Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
216 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Kagan:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter delivered to the President, from agencies and individuals around the country who are concerned with ending homelessness. The letter asks the President to include in his budget request \$1.6 billion for the HUD Homeless Assistance Grants Program.

This program funds shelter, longer-term housing, and support services for homeless people, through community-based agencies. These are turning out to be key ingredients in the efforts of local leaders to allow the most disadvantaged families and individuals to support themselves through employment.

We hope that your staff will call us if you have further questions or concerns about this request.

Very truly yours,


STEVEN R. BERG
Director of Programs

Encl.

December 10, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, write to ask you to increase funding for the Homeless Assistance Grant Program to \$1.6 billion, as part of the budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 1999. These funds are essential to allow more homeless households to succeed in finding and keeping employment, and to meet the broad need for housing and related services.

Ten years ago the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act was passed. As a result, addressing homelessness is part of the agenda for the entire federal government. A key part of the responsibility rests with the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the able leadership of Andrew Cuomo. HUD's Homeless Assistance Grant Program (funded under the McKinney Act) has in case after case brought about an end not only to families' and individuals' immediate crises, but also to their homelessness. But as successful as the HUD program has been, it remains a fact that stubborn poverty, a decreasing supply of affordable housing, and a lack of stabilizing services continue in many cities and towns to fill each shelter bed as soon as it is vacated by an individual's transition from homelessness.

The Homeless Assistance Grant Program is essential for homeless people who are struggling to get to the point where they can support themselves and their families through employment. The Department of Labor has pointed out the connection between housing status and the ability to take the steps necessary to secure and retain employment. Homeless households, many of which need assistance from the welfare system, face new work requirements without the benefit of a stable residence and with a thin or nonexistent support system. With new time limits on cash assistance and food stamps in some circumstances, homeless assistance organizations are under added pressure to move their clients into employment at the same time that they try to bring about residential stability. The challenge is daunting, but critical.

Fortunately, programs funded by Homeless Assistance Grants have developed the know-how to meet these challenges. These programs have brought individuals and families in off the streets, and provided the services and stability needed to achieve steady employment. The critical next step, however, remains to be accomplished: funding these effective programs at a large enough scale that no American has to live, no American child has to grow up, without a stable, secure place to live.

Secretary Cuomo and HUD have provided the framework for strengthening the Homeless Assistance Grant Program to meet the increased challenges it faces. Resources are essential to

The Honorable William J. Clinton

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provide this support. We urge you to fund the HUD Homeless Assistance Grant Program at a level of \$1.6 billion for FY 1999.

Sincerely,

A Child's Home, Charlotte, NC
A Place Called Home, Phoenix, AZ
Adelante, Brentwood, NY
AIDS Housing of Washington, Seattle, WA
AL-PAC Homeless Shelter, Pacific, MO
Aletheia House, Birmingham, AL
American Rescue Workers, Newark, NJ
Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Anchorage, AK
Archdiocesan Housing Authority, Seattle, WA
Laurie Baldi, Boston, MA
Baldwin Church & Center, Pontiac, MI
Eleanor Batuyios, Boston, MA
Beacon House, San Pedro, CA
Berkeley Emergency Food & Housing Project, Berkeley, CA
Fred Berman, Somerville, MA
Bethany House of Nassau County Corporation, Roosevelt, NY
Bethany Services DBA Bakersfield Homeless Center, Bakersfield, CA
Bluegrass Regional MH/MR Board, Lexington, KY
Boston Aging Concerns, Boston, MA
Bread and Roses Hospitality, Inc., Birmingham, AL
Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Boston, MA
Brighter Tomorrows, Shirley, NY
Erik Payne Butler, Boston, MA
Cambridge Multi-Services, Cambridge, MA
Campaign for Human Development, Chicago, IL
Catholic Charities, Memphis, TN
Catholic Social Services of Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM
Center for Community Change, Washington, DC
Central Arizona Shelter Services, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
Chattanooga Cares, Chattanooga, TN
Chattanooga Community Kitchen, Chattanooga, TN
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago, IL
City of Boston Homeless Service, N. Quincy, MA
City of Detroit, Dept. of Senior Citizens & Homeless Council, Detroit, MI
City of Seattle, Seattle, WA
Coalition for the Homeless, Providence, RI
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston, Houston, TX
Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio, Columbus, OH
Coalition on Temporary Shelter, Detroit, MI