



March 20, 2020

Senator Susan Collins
US Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

VIA EMAIL

RE: COVID-19 Immediate Assistance for Addressing Homelessness
Provide Automatic Renewal of Continuum of Care Homeless
Assistance Grants

Senator Collins:

Senator Michael Bennet's office suggested we reach out to you on this.

In light of the escalating COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless join people experiencing homelessness across the country and other national advocacy organizations in calling upon Congress to enact immediate emergency action to address the special needs of those families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and those at risk, while addressing the broader economic fall-out from the pandemic.

We respectfully request that the following item be included in any COVID-19 Stimulus Bill:

1. Provide **\$5 billion in new funding to serve people who are homeless.**
2. Provide **\$5 billion in additional funding to prevent people who are at immediate risk from becoming homeless during this crisis.**
3. **Direct HUD to automatically renew Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Funding** in 2020 to programs that were recently renewed through the 2019 renewal process, as currently allowed in the HEARTH Act, so long as the Continuum of Care Entity documents that a) there is a continuing demonstrated need for the project and b) that the project continues to comply with CoC program requirements. Use the 2020 CoC

NOFA process to competitively award only additionally appropriated funding for New Projects to meet the needs of those currently on the streets, in shelters, or the newly homeless.

4. Require HUD to **increase flexibility** to allow communities to utilize CoC Homeless Assistance Funding to meet local needs and local priorities.
5. Call for a **moratorium on all homeless encampments sweeps** during the pandemic.
6. Provide **\$50 Billion of new funding** for expansion of Low Income Housing Tax Credits targeted to housing for homeless families and individuals, expansion of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and expansion of Project Based Section 8 funding for permanent supportive housing and housing for families experiencing homelessness.

We ask that you use this request to create a Dear Colleague letter asking for sign-ons, and to advocate for this bold action within the House Leadership Caucus.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thanks you in advance for your support.



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