



Health Care for the Homeless Action Bulletin

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Sequestration Threatens Devastating Spending Cuts: Act Now!



FY2016 Budgeting and the Appropriations Process

The [appropriations process](#) that allocates [302\(b\)](#) discretionary spending is currently underway in Congress. Looming over the process are funding level limits enacted under statutory deficit-control mechanisms. Under the [2010 Statutory PAYGO Act](#), any legislative changes to taxes or mandatory spending that increases deficits must be offset or paid for by other changes that reduce deficits by an equivalent amount. The [2011 Budget Control Act](#) imposed caps on the level of discretionary appropriations and requires sequestration cuts to both defense and non-defense spending funding through 2021. While the



Tell your story of how sequestration and cuts to funding will impact the clients you serve!

Call your members of Congress Today:

- Ask them to oppose both the THUD and LHHS bills, and come to a budget deal that reverses spending caps imposed by sequestration.
- Ask them to support a THUD budget bill that fully funds the HOME program without raiding the NHTF.
- Ask them to support a LHHS budget bill that fully funds CMS and Health Centers, and does not include cuts to SAMHSA and the PATH program.
- Share your story of how these cuts will impact the clients you serve!

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provided a two year relief to sequestration cuts, the FY2016 budget process returned to sequestration-level spending caps.

The President has vowed to veto any appropriations bills that come to his desk with the sequestration caps in place, and Senate Democrats plan to vote against a motion to proceed on appropriations bills with sequestration caps. Their goal is to force Republicans into negotiating over sequestration cuts. The appropriations process will most likely come to a standstill over the summer, and as we approach the beginning of FY2016 (October 1), the process will bring the danger of a Government shutdown and/or the necessity to pass an Omnibus or Continuing Resolution.

Funding for Programs Supporting the HCH Community

The two bills most important to HCH programs are the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Bill, and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill.

THUD Appropriations Bill

The THUD Appropriations Bill has passed the House., and has been released from full committee in the Senate.

The THUD Appropriations Bill in the Senate includes cuts to the following programs:

- HOME from \$900 million to \$66 million, which would result in the loss of production of 40,000 affordable housing units for FY2016
- Public Housing spending by \$132 million
- Community Development Block Program by \$100 million

The gutting of the HOME program allows the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) to be fully funded; however, cuts to the HOME program and other housing programs are unacceptable!

The THUD Appropriations Bill that was passed by the House completely defunds the NHTF and includes language that restricts money from ever being allocated to the program. It also cuts \$133 million from the HOME program and underfunds the housing vouchers program, meaning there wouldn't be enough funding to renew vouchers for 28,000 people.

Without the end to sequestration cuts we cannot adequately provide housing for our clients!

LHHS Appropriations Bill

The LHHS Appropriations Bill passed full committees in both the House and Senate. Both bills provide discretionary spending at \$153 billion, \$3.6 billion less than FY2015, and \$14.5 billion below the President's proposed FY2016 budget.

The LHHS bill in the Senate cuts crucial funding in several areas, including:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by 28% or \$1.15 billion, which would cripple the ability for HHS to operate ACA programs

To contact your members of Congress by phone, call the Congressional switchboard at (877) 210-5351. To find out the names of your members of Congress, go to NLIHC's website and enter your zip code.

Help bring these issues to the attention of the public by:

- Writing a letter to the editor
- Issuing a press release from your organization
- Writing a blog post
- Sharing your story through social media

We need to help make the public aware of the spending cuts taking place and inform them of the impact they will have on the work we do. This is best accomplished by sharing your story as a provider or helping a consumer share his or her story.

Our friends at the Coalition on Human Needs have put together this resource on writing letters to the editor and constructing a press release.

Health Center Week and HCH Day

National Health Center Week takes place August 9th – 15th, with the 12th dedicated to celebrating HCH projects. This is a great time to reach out to your members of congress and invite them to visit your facility. Resources are available to help you plan your HCH day events.

and manage Medicare and Medicaid

- \$159 million from SAMSHA, including \$25 million from PATH

The House bill cuts funding to CMS by \$344 million, and includes language that blocks any spending on the ACA, defunding the program. [See how the House LHHS bill as proposed will affect your state.](#)

The House bill provides funding for Community Health Centers at the 2015 level of \$5.1 billion through a combination of \$1.5 billion in discretionary spending and \$3.6 billion in mandatory spending from [H.R. 2](#). The Senate bill is a bit confusing, claiming to provide \$5.2 billion, which is done by taking money that had been allocated for FY2015, but was unspent, and putting it into FY2016. For more information on this, see the National Association of Community Health Center's [analysis](#).

Without the end to sequestration cuts we cannot adequately provide services for our clients!

For additional perspective on both the LHHS and THUD Bills, see analysis by our partner organizations the [Coalition on Human Needs](#) and the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#).

Let's Work Together to End the Systemic Causes of Homelessness

As the Council's National Health Policy Organizer, I am actively involved in the legislative process in Washington, D.C. I engage with partner organizations, sit on numerous coalitions, keep abreast of federal policy changes and related news, and build relationships with Members of Congress and their staff. I advocate for you and your organization and for advancing federal policies that address the systematic causes of homelessness. I cannot do this without you. I am available to answer any questions you may have, and welcome conversations about the work you do and how we can work together to raise our voice in D.C. Please do not hesitate to contact me at mwarfield@nhchc.org or (443) 703-1337.

Matt Warfield, MSW, MUP
Health Policy Organizer
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
Baltimore, MD
mwarfield@nhchc.org
(443) 703-1337 | www.nhchc.org



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PO Box 60427 | Nashville, TN 37206 US

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