



Health Care for the Homeless Action Bulletin

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One Thirty-Second Call, Three Solutions to Homelessness

Call your members of Congress today to support housing, health care, and incomes!



Some may say the causes of and solutions to homelessness are complicated, but Mobilizer readers know they aren't. If all people had access to affordable housing, quality health care, and livable incomes, we could end homelessness.

As Congress returns to DC this week, they have the opportunity to advance these three related causes. The Appropriations Committees will begin drafting bills this week to fund health centers, low-income housing, and homelessness assistance programs for the upcoming year. Additionally, the Senate is set to begin debate on a bill to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10/hour. **Take 30 seconds and make a call to your members of Congress. With your**



**Take
action**

Call your members of Congress today toll-free at 1(877) 275-6071 to support health care, housing, and incomes to prevent and end homelessness!

Ask your members of Congress to support health centers. Request that your member **support level funding for health centers** in FY15 and retain the funding provided through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). That would be \$1.5 billion in discretionary funding and \$3.6 billion through the ACA (this is the last year of ACA funding).

Ask your members of Congress to **support low-income housing**. Request that your member support the President's request for McKinney Homelessness Assistance programs (a \$300

advocacy, we can build support for health centers, housing, and raising the minimum wage, ultimately reducing the burdens and incidence of homelessness.

Take Action

Call your members of Congress toll-free at 1(877) 210-5351. Let the staffers who answer know who you are and where you work, and then provide him/her a comment on one or more of the following policies. If there is one issue you find particularly important, ask to speak to the staff person who handles that issue and provide more detail.

Health Center Funding

- Ask your member of Congress to support level funding for health centers in FY15 and retain the funding provided through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). **That would be \$1.5 billion in discretionary funding and \$3.6 billion through the ACA (this is the last year of ACA funding).**
- Read the Council's [funding request](#) for more detail.
- The Appropriations Committee drafts the bills that fund health centers. **It is extra important to call if your member serves on the Appropriations Committee (find out [here](#) for the House and [here](#) for the Senate).** If your member of Congress does not serve on the Appropriations Committee, then ask that they speak to their colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to express their support.

Low-Income Housing Funding

- Ask that your member **support the President's request for McKinney Homelessness Assistance programs** (a \$300 million increase), which would create 37,000 more units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Ask that your member support the President's request for Housing Choice Vouchers, **plus an additional \$320 million.** The additional \$320 million would be enough to reinstate all the vouchers lost from sequestration last year.
- Check out these [state fact sheets](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for background on low-income housing and homelessness.
- Again, find out if your member serves on the Appropriations Committee (**[here](#) for the House and [here](#) for the Senate**). If they do not, ask that they speak to their colleagues on the Appropriations Committee.

Raising the Minimum Wage

- Ask that your member support raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10/hour.
- Explain how low-wages contribute to homelessness and housing instability.
- Check out this [map](#) to see how many hours a minimum wage worker needs to work to afford a two-bedroom apartment in your state.
- Check out these [resources](#) from the National Employment Law Project for more info on the minimum wage.

million increase), which would create 37,000 more units of Permanent Supportive Housing. Request that your members of Congress also support the President's request for Housing Choice Vouchers, plus an additional \$320 million to replace the vouchers lost due to sequestration.

Ask your members of Congress to **support raising the minimum wage to \$10.10/hr.**

With affordable housing, accessible health care, and adequate incomes for all, we can prevent and end homelessness.

You can be as detailed or general as you want to be on the call, but **the**

important thing is to call. Silence on our part means they only hear from those who want further cuts in these areas. If you make a call and simply say you support health centers, low-income housing programs, and raising the minimum wage, you will make a big contribution towards ensuring all people have their most basic needs met.

FY15 Appropriations Background

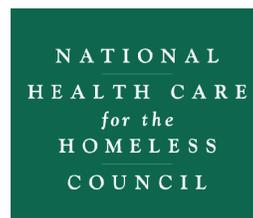
View [the Council's Funding Table](#).

The Bipartisan Budget Act settled the total amount of FY15 discretionary funding, providing a small amount of sequester relief and allocating \$1.014 trillion in total funding. This is only a \$2 billion increase over FY14, leaving little room for funding increases after accounting for inflation and the rising costs of certain programs like veteran's benefits. Appropriations Bills will be drafted over the next month, so now is an excellent time to weigh in with your members of Congress.

Health Centers: The President's Budget cut Health Center funding by \$500 million. This was surprising and will require more advocacy to maintain health center funding levels. The \$500 million cut would not result in a net cut to health center funding thanks to the funds provided by the ACA, but it would reduce the opportunities for growth. It would also put health centers in an even more difficult position next year when the ACA funds are scheduled to end. If health centers receive level discretionary funding and the entire FY15 ACA allocation, it would be a \$1.5 billion increase over FY14, the largest annual increase in the history of the program. This would allow health centers to increase their capacity to serve existing unmet need and the millions of people newly insured through the ACA.

Low-Income Housing: The automatic budget cuts known as sequestration took a particularly large toll on the Housing Choice Voucher program. Most Public Housing Authorities had to remove vouchers from circulation and now 40,000 fewer vouchers are in use. The funding level proposed in the President's Budget would be enough funding to maintain the vouchers currently in use but not enough to reinstate those lost. An additional \$320 million is needed to reinstate the 40,000 lost vouchers.

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