



2010 - 2011 National Advocacy Agenda

Issue	Lead National Organization(s)	Background
HOMELESS SERVICES & PROGRAMS		
Fund HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program at \$2.4 billion in FY 2011	National Alliance to End Homelessness	<p>The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program needs \$2.4 billion – a 28% over FY 2010 – in order to fully implement the HEARTH Act in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the changes made by the HEARTH Act, which was the first program reauthorization in nearly 20 years and increased funding for prevention, assistance to families, rural programs, and administration • Avoid cuts in funding for new projects • Cover the cost of renewing and expanding investments for permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing • Sustain the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) , which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
HOUSING		
Creation of dedicated funding source for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund	National Low Income Housing Coalition	<p>Congress established the National Housing Trust Fund in July 2008. The Housing Trust Fund will, once capitalized, provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low income households. The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign is trying to secure a dedicated source or sources of funding for the Trust Fund. The immediate goal is \$1 billion for FY11, the short term goal is an annual distribution of \$5 billion, and the eventual goal is \$150 billion over 10 years to support 1.5 million homes.</p>
Funding to maintain all current Section 8 vouchers and to fund an additional 200,000 vouchers	National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Alliance to End Homelessness	<p>The section 8 program, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, provides rental assistance for low-income households, with 75 percent of funds being targeted at households living at or below 30 percent of area median income (AMI). Participants in the program pay 30 percent of their incomes toward rent, with the program paying the remainder up to a set maximum. Section 8 Vouchers are the leading form of low-income housing assistance, serving nearly two million households, including families with kids, the elderly, and people with disabilities</p>
Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA)	National Low Income Housing Coalition	<p>SEVRA would reform the Housing Choice Voucher program for the first time in ten years and will help the program continue to provide affordable housing to millions of households, while using federal resources more efficiently. The legislation would streamline the Housing Choice Voucher program and permanently address a formula problem that led to the loss of 150,000 vouchers over three years.</p>
VETERANS		
Support legislation that creates housing and services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness	National Alliance to End Homelessness	<p>There are several bills in Congress that address homelessness among veterans. S. 1237, the "Homeless Veterans and Other Health Care Authorities Act of 2010" would expand the HUD-Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, institute flexible funding for preventing veterans homelessness, allow mixed financing for capital projects, and better align health care services payments with actual costs. In addition, the bill would create a Special Assistant for Veterans' Affairs within HUD, provide for better data collection on the extent of veteran homelessness, and require a comprehensive plan for ending veteran homelessness. The Homes for Heroes Act of 2009, H.R. 403 / S. 1160 would create a HUD sponsored program that will fund the development and operating costs of permanent housing for low-income veterans and their families.</p>
10,000 new vouchers for the HUD VASH Program	National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Alliance to End Homelessness	<p>The Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans' Affairs (VA) run a joint Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, under which homeless veterans receive a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher coupled with case management and clinical services provided by the VA at its medical centers and in the community. Eligible individuals and veterans are identified by the VA.</p>