



November 4, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

As organizations dedicated to protecting access to safe affordable housing and critical HIV/AIDS prevention, care, research and treatment, we want to urge Members of Congress crafting final appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2017 to include increased funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program within the Transportation, Housing, Urban Development and Related Agencies federal appropriations.

We are thankful for passage of HOPWA within the Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act (HOTMA), H.R. 3700 earlier this year. The measure promises long overdue updates to the funding formula used to distribute HOPWA funds so that they are no longer based on cumulative AIDS cases but rather a combination of HIV cases, local rental costs, and community poverty levels. Making HOPWA comport with the Ryan White Care Act.¹

The HOPWA formula update was an important step forward. However, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development without additional funds, more than 3,000 households across the country stand to lose the housing support through the HOPWA program they depend upon. Housing security for people living with HIV/AIDS is a proven effective means to improve health outcomes, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently included housing status as one of seven common core indicators for monitoring HIV prevention, treatment and care. Yet over 145,000 households living with HIV in the U.S. have unmet housing needs.²

Congress should increase HOPWA funds by at least \$21 million to ensure no one currently receiving HOPWA support loses housing under the updated formula. HOPWA is a powerful and cost-effective tool for linkage to care and helps prevent the transmission of HIV. Here's why:

- HOPWA prevents homelessness by providing short-term and permanent housing, creates access to life-saving medical care and support services, and promotes adherence to HIV medications among patients.
- HOPWA is one of HUD's most efficient and cost-effective programs, with 95% of clients obtaining housing plans in the 2014-2015 program year, 11,577 newly placed in housing including 2,106 who were formerly homeless, 95% having contact with a health care provider, and 94% accessing and maintaining health insurance.³

¹ What makes HOPWA modernized: http://nationalaidshousing.org/wp-content/uploads/NAHC_HOPWA-Modernization_Formula_Update_WebinarPowerpoint8.16.16.pdf

² "Housing is HIV Prevention & Care." National Aids Housing Coalition. p., 2013. <http://nationalaidshousing.org/PDF/FactSheet.pdf>

³ http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/CHCDF_Statement-to-RNC-Platform-Committee.pdf

We strongly urge Congress to provide increased funding for the HOPWA program by at least \$21 million over current funding of \$335 million for HOPWA in a final FY17 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations agreement or related omnibus package to ensure that no household currently depending upon HOPWA funding become homeless.

Sincerely,

AIDS Alabama	Alabama
Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama	Alabama
Southern AIDS Coalition	Alabama
Access Support Network	California
APLA Health	California
Dolores Street Community Services	California
Larkin Street Youth Services	California
Los Angeles LGBT Center	California
Mental Health Association of San Mateo County	California
Project Inform	California
Project New Hope	California
San Francisco AIDS Foundation	California
Shanti	California
The Health Trust	California
AIDS CONNECTICUT	Connecticut
New Reach, Inc.	Connecticut
MyCAA Residence of Delaware	Delaware
Catholic Charities	Florida
City of Miami Department of Community and Economic Development	Florida
Legal Aid Service of Broward County	Florida
Outreach Community Care Network	Florida
SunServe	Florida
AID Atlanta	Georgia
Augusta Housing and Community Development	Georgia
Gregory House	Hawaii
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Illinois
Chicago Department of Public Health	Illinois
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Illinois
Aspire Indiana	Indiana
Heartland CARES, Inc.	Kentucky
Murray State University Social Work Program	Kentucky
Presbyterian AIDS Network	Kentucky
Acadiana Cares	Louisiana
CrescentCare (aka NO/AIDS Task Force)	Louisiana
Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve New Orleans	Louisiana
Frannie Peabody Center	Maine
Center For Black Equity-Baltimore	Maryland

Hepatitis Foundation International	Maryland
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Maryland
Project PLASE	Maryland
Boston University School of Public Health	Massachusetts
Stanley Street Treatment and Resources	Massachusetts
CARES	Michigan
Health Emergency Lifeline Programs	Michigan
Lansing Area AIDS Network	Michigan
Wellness AIDS Services, Inc.	Michigan
Clare Housing	Minnesota
Hope House of St. Croix Valley	Minnesota
Minnesota AIDS Project	Minnesota
One Heartland	Minnesota
The Aliveness Project	Minnesota
The Empowerment Program	Minnesota
The PERICO Institute for Youth Development and Entrepreneurship	Mississippi
DOORWAYS	Missouri
KcCare Clinic	Missouri
The River Fund, Inc.	Nevada
Southern New Hampshire HIV/AIDS Task Force	New Hampshire
AIDS Center of Queens County	New York
Albany Damien Center	New York
Alliance For Positive Health	New York
BOOM!Health	New York
CARES, Inc.	New York
CHASI	New York
CNY HIV Care Network	New York
End AIDS Now	New York
Greater NY Policy Advisory Partnership	New York
Hispanic Health Network	New York
Latino Commission on AIDS	New York
New Alternatives for LGBT Homeless Youth	New York
NYTAG	New York
Prevention Access Campaign	New York
Treatment Action Group	New York
Trillium Health	New York
True Colors Fund	New York
VillageCare	New York
VOCAL New York	New York
Ballantyne Family Medicine	North Carolina
Bradley-Reid Corporation	North Carolina
Carolinas CARE Partnership	North Carolina
Charlotte Center for Urban Ministry	North Carolina
HomeCare for the Carolinas LLC	North Carolina
House of Mercy	North Carolina
NC AIDS Action Network	North Carolina
Public Health	North Carolina
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)	North Carolina

Western North Carolina AIDS Project	North Carolina
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	Ohio
Equitas Health	Ohio
ACT UP Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha, Inc.	Pennsylvania
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)	Pennsylvania
AIDS Care Ocean State	Rhode Island
Sioux Falls Housing	South Dakota
National Health Care for the Homeless Council	Tennessee
Tennessee Association of People With AIDS	Tennessee
Access Care of Coastal Texas	Texas
AIDS Services of Dallas	Texas
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)	Washington, DC
AIDS United	Washington, DC
CAEAR Coalition	Washington, DC
Community Access National Network (CANN)	Washington, DC
DC Fights Back	Washington, DC
G III Associates	Washington, DC
Housing Works	Washington, DC
Institute of Public Health Innovation	Washington, DC
NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)	Washington, DC
Sound Thinking LLC	Washington, DC
The National AIDS Housing Coalition	Washington, DC
Whitman-Walker Clinic	Washington, DC
30 for 30 Campaign	Washington, DC
Metro Wash Public Health Association	Washington, DC
National AIDS Housing Coalition	Washington, DC
National Alliance to End Homelessness	Washington, DC
National Association of County and City Health Officials	Washington, DC
National Black Justice Coalition	Washington, DC
National Coalition for the Homeless	Washington, DC
National Community Development Association	Washington, DC
National Low Income Housing Coalition	Washington, DC
National Working Positive Coalition	Washington, DC
Next Step Public Charter School	Washington, DC
NMAC	Washington, DC
OHSU/Partnership Project	Washington, DC
The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund	Washington, DC
Caritas House Inc	West Virginia
Covenant House, Inc.	West Virginia
CommonGround Ministry, Inc.	Wisconsin