



National Coalition for the Homeless Newsletter

NCH NEWS

February 12, 2010

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Thousands have been affected by the snowstorms on the East Coast. Help us ensure that everyone has a safe and warm refuge from the cold weather:

DONATE TODAY

Tell President Obama: Ending Homelessness among Veterans Demands Ending Homelessness for All

President Obama is on record as being "personally committed to ending homelessness among veterans within the next five years." His new campaign of "Zero Tolerance for Homeless Veterans" can only be achieved through the difficult and honorable path of ending all homelessness in America.

The president has taken an inspiring and powerful stand against the continued suffering of more than 150,000 veterans currently homeless in the United States. Today's homeless veterans are spread widely throughout every system of service and across every category of homeless. Further complicating matters, many veterans resist shelter, treatment and services through veteran specific resources.

President Obama's approach to ending homelessness among veterans must be driven by the needs and demands of homeless veterans and not by the systems built to serve them.

Already the VA has drastically increased spending to prevent and reduce homelessness among veterans, but even with those increases the problem isn't going to go away until we recognize one simple truth: trying to end homelessness among veterans will never work until we end all homelessness.

As long as we fail to address the overall problem of homelessness in America, tens of thousands of homeless veterans will remain forgotten, with thousands more falling into homelessness each year.

Today you can help by signing a petition to President Obama affirming his personal commitment to ending homelessness among veterans in five years and validating his administration's stand of zero tolerance for homeless veterans. But in order for the president's commitment to be fulfilled, he must see the path towards his success through bringing all Americans home.

[Sign the Petition to President Obama](#)

Policy Update

NCH Releases an Analysis of President Obama's 2010 Budget

President Obama has recently released his FY2011 budget blueprint, including increases and level funding for many of the better known targeted homeless assistance programs. The National Coalition for the Homeless has created a Budget Snapshot Analysis and Recommendations as Congress prepares its FY2011 budget, click [HERE](#) to see our analysis.

2010 NASNA Conference

North American Street Newspaper Association Announces 2010 Conference

The North America Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) has announced that their 2010 conference will be held this July in Chicago, IL with co-host StreetWise. The theme for the conference this year will be 'Sharing our Strengths.' This theme represents what the association is about and shows the willingness of its members to collaborate and share best practices.

The conference will follow a similar schedule to years past. All current and future members are encouraged to attend the 11th NASNA Conference, to be held July 29 to August 1, 2010. Lodging will be at the University Center, and workshops will be held at the DePaul Center, both in Downtown Chicago. A rough draft of the schedule and workshops, registration information, and scholarship information will be available in mid-April. Check out [the NASNA website](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Faces of Homelessness Presentations

Our Speakers' Bureau is busy as usual this Winter. To find out more information about when and where these presentations are happening, please visit: [The Speakers' Bureau Gig Schedule](#).

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact Michael O'Neill, moneill@nationalhomeless.org.

2010 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit Now Available

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is pleased to announce the availability of the 2010 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit. This resource is intended to provide community groups, social service agencies and employers with the materials and information needed to conduct community outreach efforts promoting the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

In 2010, federal tax credits will mean more for working families than ever before, as they continue to grapple with the pressures of the weak economy. Many have seen their incomes decline steeply because their work hours have been cut or because they have become unemployed. Working families and individuals need to know that help may be there when they file their tax returns in 2010: They may be eligible for tax credits worth as much as \$5,657, and they may qualify for credits even if they did not earn enough in 2009 to owe income tax.

In addition to exploring six key elements of an effective Outreach Campaign, the Kit contains full-color posters, flyers, fact sheets, a full stock of outreach strategies and examples of where they are being used successfully, and a guide to finding even more information on its Tax Credit Outreach Campaign website, www.eitcoutreach.org.

A free copy of the Kit can be ordered by email at eickit@cbpp.org or by calling the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at 202-408-1080. The Center is eager to work with organizations to enable Kits to be distributed to their own networks and is ready to help facilitate that process. The Center can provide technical assistance and training to help you start or bolster an Outreach Campaign. Please contact the Center's Tax Credit Outreach team at 202-408-1080 if you have any questions or would like to order additional materials.

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