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The Advocate

eNews

NCH Newsletter

February 22, 2011



Homelessness vs. Homelessness

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

On January 26, 2011, the U.S. [Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) (USICH), HUD and the Department of Education co-hosted an all day session dedicated to the word “homeless”. An entire day was spent assessing the feasibility of a common federal definition for homeless, including a single federal vocabulary and data standard that could be used in targeting homeless programs as well as mainstream programs.

Last year the [General Accountability Office](#) caused a welcome stir by publishing recommendations for the development of a common vocabulary for “homeless” and common data standards related to homelessness and housing stability. Though long held as a fact within communities nationwide, a single definition for homelessness has eluded the federal government for decades.

In the GAO report, Congress advised the session’s co-hosts of the important first step, in this correction process, of guaranteeing the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders. Ten of these stakeholders were current and formerly homeless men and women, who represented the homeless experience firsthand or Consumer Advocates.



As it has done in the past, the USICH looked to NCH to help bring



Give online, or text NCH to 85944 and reply YES to make a \$10 donation to Bring America Home.

Thank You!

A very special thank you to all of our [amazing donors and members](#) who contributed this past holiday season!



NCH in the News

New York Times (Dec. 25) - [Holidays or Not, Veteran-Led Group Aids Neediest of Veterans](#)

Economist (Jan. 27) - [Et in Arcadia ego: The suburban sunbelt is the scene of terrible poverty](#)

these Consumer Advocates to the table. NCH's First Person project continues build on the success of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau and our other efforts to ensure that people who have experienced homelessness are taking part in finding solutions.

- Neil Donovan, NCH Executive Director

In the photo, NCH Speaker Steve Thomas tells the group about his experience with homelessness. Photo courtesy of the USICH.

Take Action TODAY

Extreme Cuts to Affordable Housing Proposed

On February 3, the House launched its anticipated assault on housing and community development programs. The House Budget Committee proposed setting FY11 spending caps for domestic discretionary programs at FY08 levels, dramatically lower than current funding levels.

[Read about February 14 "Have a Heart Save our Homes" Actions](#)

While the House debates continue, and the country remains in continuing resolution (spending at FY10 levels), the President has just released his [FY12 budget](#) that echos many of the same and drastic cuts to affordable housing and anti-poverty initiatives.

These cuts would cause hundreds of thousands of households currently housed through HUD programs to lose their housing. Cuts at these levels would devastate HUD programs serving the lowest income, most economically vulnerable households.

[Take Action](#)

Please contact your Representative and Senators NOW to let them know that these cuts are unacceptable and that:

1. **HUD programs must be funded at FY10 levels at a minimum, AND:**
2. **Three HUD programs must be funded at higher than FY10 levels** to prevent households from being evicted from affordable housing:
 - The tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher program requires

Mother Jones (Feb. 3) - [The Super Bowl's Homeless Problem](#)

Upcoming Events:

February 23: The 14th Annual Homelessness Marathon will originate from Kansas City, MO. [Find out how you can help to tune in to raise awareness!](#)

February 23: Join the SAMHSA ADS Center for a free teleconference, *Housing, Homelessness, and Social Inclusion: Essential Elements of Healthy Communities*. [Register here by February 20th to attend.](#)

2011 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit Now Available

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is pleased to announce the availability of the **2011 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).

To request your free copy of the 2011 Tax Credit Community Outreach Campaign Kit, please

more than \$900 million over FY10 levels for renewals.

- The project-based rental assistance program requires more than \$655 million over FY10 levels for renewals.
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants requires more than \$190 million over FY10 levels.

email your name, organization and mailing address to eickit@cbpp.org or call 202-408-1080.

[Click here](#) to get the contact information for your House and Senate offices, or call the Congressional switchboard at 877-210-5351.

After making the calls, let us know who you contacted by emailing the National Low Income Housing Coalition at outreach@nlihc.org.

Thank you for your continued support and action.

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