



2009 National Legislative Agenda

<p>Builds Affordable Housing</p> <p>Stimulates the Economy</p>	<p><u>Fund the National Housing Trust Fund at \$1 Billion</u></p> <p>President Bush signed the NHTF into law in July of 2008. This is the first new federal program to serve extremely low income families enacted since 1974. Funding for the NHTF was to come from contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, however due to their financial distress their regulator has suspended all contributions. The NHTF needs a new, permanent source of revenue.</p> <p>President Obama’s proposed budget allocates \$1 billion to the trust fund. This funding would be mandated meaning that congress would need to pass additional legislation to fund the NHTF.</p>
<p>Makes Housing Affordable</p> <p>Fund 200,000 Additional vouchers</p>	<p><u>Fund 200,000 More Housing Choice Vouchers</u></p> <p>Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as Section 8) are HUD’s largest rental assistance program. The program is targeted to very low income households and works to pay a portion of the household’s rent. Typically the household pays 30% of their income and the voucher pays the remainder up to the agencies rent payment standard. This program allows households with very low incomes to maintain stable housing and prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The President’s proposed budget funds existing vouchers. The most effective way to prevent homelessness is to support affordable housing. Housing Choice Vouchers make housing affordable for those with the lowest incomes. Urge congress to fully fund all existing vouchers and fund an additional 200,000 vouchers.</p>
<p>Support the HEARTH Act</p> <p>Assistance for people who are Homeless</p>	<p><u>Pass the HEARTH Act to support McKinney Vento Programs</u></p> <p>In 1987 congress passed the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in response to the emergence of the homeless crisis of the 1980’s. The Act authorizes funding for a set of federal homeless assistance programs that provide shelter, outreach, support services, transitional housing and limited permanent housing.</p> <p>The HEARTH Act reauthorizes the McKinney Vento programs and an additional \$2.2 billion in funding over the next two years</p> <p>Bill Highlights: Increased funding for homeless prevention, assistance for those who experience chronic homelessness, fund permanent housing solutions for families and individuals with disabilities, Consolidate HUD’s Competitive Grant Programs to reduce administrative burdens, and improve homeless assistance in rural communities.</p>

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