

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, & Minority Leader McCarthy:

As Congress continues to work on legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I are writing to ask that you take steps to address the challenges faced by nonprofit providers and state and local governments that receive funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Housing organizations and state and local governments enrolled in the CoC Program are committed to the goal of ending homelessness while faced with an unprecedented strain on their time and resources during this ongoing crisis.

In order to help those working to protect and house people experiencing homeless around the country, we strongly support the inclusion of language in future legislation that will require HUD to automatically renew CoC awards for the next fiscal year so that recipients currently enrolled in the program continue to receive critical funding without having to complete a time-consuming application process. The application for CoC funding requires significant staff hours and resources that during this crisis should be directed solely toward assisting people experiencing homelessness. We appreciate the provision included in the HEROES Act, H.R. 6800, that would allow organizations that address homelessness to receive FY20 funding without having to reapply, and strongly support the inclusion of this language in the final COVID 4 legislative package.

CoC funding has previously been extended in states that have experienced natural disasters, and given the nature of this crisis, we request that those on the front lines across the country be given relief from the burden of an arduous application process, and the assurance of continued federal funding to respond to immediate needs.

Individuals and families facing homelessness are at particular risk at this time. As you know, it is imperative that people isolate at home to slow down the spread of COVID-19, which is not possible for those without stable housing. The organizations that serve them are already overburdened, and need to focus on providing effective and safe housing.

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We appreciate your leadership as Congress continues to respond to this pandemic and look forward to working with you to address the needs of individuals and families across this country facing homelessness. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mikie Sherrill
United States Representative