

Project HOME Federal Policy Priorities, 2019

Housing

- Fully fund Homeless Assistance Grants at a recommended minimum of \$3 billion in federal funding in order to fund existing housing and add additional federal capacity, including new housing for homeless young adults; prioritize recovery housing within the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Provide \$22.4 billion in FY 2019 funding for federal rental assistance and public housing programs PLUS \$400 million in new vouchers to reduce homelessness and move more families out of poverty
- Permanently authorize the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to coordinate federal agencies and departments and partners to improve federal spending outcomes for homelessness

Opportunities for Employment

- Increase the number of federally-supported job slots for people with disabilities and those re-entering the workforce; change Social Security Code and modernize the federal disability system to facilitate people with disabilities engaging in paid work; protect earned benefits and other critical safety net programs
- Promote targeted employer tax breaks and expanded public services to promote better access to jobs for economically distressed areas and individuals; increase the marginal tax rate for high income earners
- Improve pathways to employment for low-skilled, entry level workers through investments in subsidized employment and programs funded under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA); coordinate pathways with the homelessness system and align funding with HUD, including rapid connection to income and employment during a housing crisis

Medical Care

- Oppose work requirements for Medical Assistance and SNAP benefits
- Protect lifesaving health programs like Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and parity for behavioral health services; resist any block granting or imposing a “per capita cap” on Medicaid
- Promote approval of federal Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waivers, 1915 Home and Community Based Services Waivers, and other cost-effective innovations
- Protect access to food assistance, specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation’s first line of defense against hunger.

Education

- Invest federal dollars in innovative solutions and educational models for children and families experiencing homelessness modeling after Oklahoma City’s Positive Tomorrow’s school (designed specifically with the needs of homeless children and families)
- Fully fund through federal dollars the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for all homeless students (regardless of disability) that details all the professionals involved and their responsibility to yield educational success
- Increase access to and improve the quality of publicly-subsidized early childhood education and increase access to, enrollment in, and completion of postsecondary programs for students from low-income or homeless families