GKCCEH Staff Update

2019 National Conference on Ending Homelessness and Capitol Hill Day

Washington, D.C.
July 22-24
Capitol Hill Visits & Policy Priorities
On behalf of The National Alliance to End Homelessness, GKCCEH staff and service providers advocated for persons experiencing homelessness in our community by educating several members of Congress and their staffers on the following important policy recommendations:
1. Support $3 billion in overall funding for the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development's homeless assistance grants.

2. Support $24 billion for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance account, to boost the federal government's commitment to reducing homelessness and pulling low income families out of poverty.

3. Expand eligibility for HUD-Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

GKCCEH and allies from Kansas and Missouri had the privilege of meeting with:

- Kansas Representative Sharice Davids
- Missouri Senator Roy Blunt
- Missouri Representative William Lacy Clay
- Staffers for Missouri Representatives Emanuel Cleaver, Jason Smith, Billy Long, and Vicky Hartzler
- Staffers for Kansas Senator Pat Roberts, Representative Ron Estes, and Representative Steve Watkins.
Session Highlights
“Treat each person’s episode of homelessness as an urgent crisis!”

-Eva Thibaudeau-Graczyk
CEO, Houston CoC
COORDINATED ENTRY
Purposeful Strategic Planning Process
Includes stakeholders of all types
Centers lived experience
COORDINATED ENTRY & System Performance
“Ideal Scenario” vs. Poor System Flow
Effective Homeless Response
Right-sizing
(all pieces of system built to scale at the same time)
RRH to scale
Balance of temp and perm housing
Prioritizes Move-on Strategy
DIVERSION as a CULTURE
System-level Progressive Engagement
High performers focus on diversion at every point in the process.
“WE HAVE GOT TO DO MORE FOR UNACCOMPANIED SINGLE PEOPLE.”
TRANSGENDER ISSUES IN HOMELESSNESS

⅓ of transgender persons have faced homelessness.

When compounded by family rejection, HIV+ status, and/or sex work, they are 2x more likely.

70% of transgender persons seeking shelter have experienced violence, harassment, discrimination, and/or placement in “incorrect housing”
SERVICE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS & HOUSING
FIRST
CoC programs may NOT require disability-related services. CoC programs may NOT require substance use treatment (unless it is a substance use program). PSH programs must make every possible effort to not evict people.
“Do not do things to make people lose their housing.”

-Norm Suchar
Director, HUD SNAPS Office
THE EQUAL ACCESS RULE AND TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Presented by: Mateo De La Torre (He/El)
Racial and Economic Justice Policy Advocate
National Center for Transgender Equality
CURRENT PROTECTIONS (IN DANGER OF BEING REMOVED)
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND HUD'S RULES:

- **It is prohibited under the Fair Housing Act for any landlord or housing provider to discriminate against LGBTQ persons** because of their real or perceived gender identity or any other reason that constitutes sex-based discrimination.

- **It is illegal for any landlord or housing provider to deny housing because of someone’s HIV status** under the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **It is prohibited for a lender to deny an FHA-insured mortgage** to any qualified applicant based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

- **It is prohibited for any landlord or housing provider who receives HUD or FHA funds** to discriminate against a tenant on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.

- **It is prohibited for all homeless facilities to segregate or isolate transgender individuals** solely based on their gender identity.
EQUAL ACCESS: PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

“This proposed rule provides that grant recipients, subrecipients, owners, operators, managers, and providers (Shelter Providers) under HUD programs which permit single-sex or sex-segregated facilities may establish a policy, consistent with state and local law, by which such Shelter Provider considers an individual’s sex for the purposes of determining accommodation within such shelters and for purposes of determining sex for admission to any facility or portion thereof.

The proposed rule permits Shelter Providers to consider a range of factors in making such determinations, including privacy, safety, practical concerns, religious beliefs, any relevant considerations under civil rights and nondiscrimination authorities, the individual’s sex as reflected in official government documents, as well as the gender which a person identifies with.”

Source: https://www.hud.gov/LGBT_resources
HR 1856: ENDING HOMELESSNESS ACT

Introduced by Committee Chair Representative Maxine Waters
HR 1856: THE ENDING HOMELESSNESS ACT

Would provide $13.27 billion in new funding over the next five years to federal programs and initiatives to prevent homelessness.

Allotted for new units of affordable housing, new vouchers, case management and technical assistance.
• Includes the following funding amounts **over and above** what is already annually provided for these HUD programs:

- $5 billion over 5 years to McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, (expected to provide 85,000 new permanent housing units);
- $2.5 billion over 5 years to for new Special Purpose Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), (expected to provide an additional 300,000 housing vouchers and would give preference to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless);
- $1.05 billion annually in mandatory spending dedicated to the National Housing Trust Fund, (expected to create 25,000 new units affordable in 1st 5 years of funding to extremely low-income households, with a priority for housing the homeless);
- $500 million over 5 years in outreach funding to ensure that homeless people are connected to the resources they need and;
- $20 million for states and localities to integrate healthcare and housing initiatives, which provides technical assistance to help state and local governments coordinate their healthcare and housing initiatives.
Trump Administration’s Proposed “Mixed Status Families” Rule

*What Housing and Homelessness Advocates Should Know*

July 22, 2019
Eligibility for many HUD subsidized housing programs is restricted by immigration status requirements provided by a federal law called Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 ("Section 214").
What Programs Have Section 214 Immigration Restrictions?

- Public Housing
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- Section 8 Project-Based Housing
- Section 235 Home Loan Program
- Section 236 Rental Assistance Program
- The Rent Supplement Program
- Housing Development Grant Programs (low-income units only)
What Do HUD Regulations Currently Require?

Currently, families with at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant are permitted to live together with family members who are ineligible in a subsidized housing unit. These families are known as “mixed-status” families.

- Mixed-status families receive prorated assistance.
- Leaseholder/Head of household does not need to be eligible.
- Ineligible members have option to “not contend” eligibility.
- Ineligible does NOT mean undocumented.
Will All Forms of Prorated Assistance End?

**Proration Pending Final Determinations**

- The proposed rule allows for temporary proration to a family if the head of household or spouse has eligible immigration status.

**Temporary Deferral of Termination**

- Families may be able to receive a temporary deferral for an initial period of up to six months, with up to two additional six-month periods, for a total of up to 18 months.

**Continued Assistance**

- A very small number of mixed status families will be allowed to continue to receive assistance under the proposed rule.
How Will this Rule Impact Families & Communities?
Who are the people in “mixed status” families?

- 109,000 people in 25,000 families in covered programs are “mixed status,” i.e., they include ineligible noncitizen members
- Typical family: 2 adults, 2 children; 3 out of 4 are U.S. citizens, 1 is ineligible for aid
- 72% are in CA, TX, or NY
- 70% of people in “mixed status” families are eligible for aid & 95% of these are U.S. citizens

Source: CBPP analysis of HUD administrative data.
Rule’s “mixed status” provisions do nothing to address housing crisis

- Mixed-status families’ aid is prorated, so shifting it to others yields no net gain in number of eligible people receiving aid

- Will make crisis worse, if anything: HUD says rule will raise costs by up to $437 million, “reduce quality and quantity of assisted housing”

- Mixed status families are less <1% of assisted families & tinier share of the 17 million eligible-but-unassisted families
Rule’s doc requirements create new burdens & risks for nearly all HUD-assisted families

- Requires 9 million citizens & 120,000 elderly noncitizens to document their status
- Studies: low-income people, seniors, African Americans often have trouble producing required docs & could lose their aid/homes
- Affects large numbers of HUD-assisted households in every state (see table at www.Keep-Families-Together.org)
Rule forces mixed-status families to choose between losing homes and separating from loved ones

- At least 70% of mixed status families (75,000 people) would likely lose aid & their homes; remainder must separate
- 7 out of 10 people in affected families are eligible; 2 out of 3 are U.S. citizens
- ½ of people losing their homes are children (as many as 58,000, nearly all citizens)
- Thousands are elderly or people with disabilities
Rule’s harmful effects fall disproportionately on Hispanic/Latinx & Black people

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<tr>
<th>People in “mixed-status” families that could lose assistance</th>
<th>U.S. citizens subject to proposed rule’s new documentation requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>48% Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>7% Black</td>
<td>27% White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% White</td>
<td>19% Hispanic/Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3% Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
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Source: CBPP analysis of HUD administrative data.
Q&A
Thanks!

GKCCEH Staff

www.gkcceh.org