

LETTER FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

Dear

I urge you to reject the President's proposal to decrease funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services, which would completely eliminate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership funds (HOME), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). **In 2017 14,536 potential voters in Chester County benefited from these programs**

These programs fund homeless and affordable housing programs and projects that serve vulnerable individuals and families in your district. **There are currently 41 agencies and programs that receive money from these programs, totaling \$4,823,498 in Chester County.**

If CDBG and CSBG are eliminated, this will create a ripple effect that will result in more individuals and families experiencing homelessness for long and extended periods of time. **In 2016 3,339 voters called ConnectPoints for an emergency shelter bed and 1,002 individuals and families stayed in an emergency shelter. Out of those families, there were 200 children under the age of four who slept in shelter in 2016.** If funding is cut, costs to other emergency services to hospitals, prisons, and police will soar as people use these services for care rather than social services. Housing is healthcare, and without it, people are less likely to be successful in other areas of their lives.

LIHEAP can help households maintain housing by providing utility payment assistance. In this past winter season, an average of \$168 was given to a household in need; a small leg up to avoid homelessness or other crisis.

HOME provides funding for affordable housing development and first time home buyers. Most recently, The Whitehall project in Spring City was completed to provide 47 units specifically for veterans. This project would not have been possible without gap financing from the HOME Program.

If any of these funding streams are eliminated, services for your constituents in need will be unable to respond quickly to help, leaving many people stranded without help. I am concerned for the wellbeing of our neighbors in need and all Chester County residents. I am asking that you vote to preserve and fully fund all HUD and HHS programs.

Thank you for your time,

(name)

LETTER FROM SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Hello,

My name is _____ I am a past/current recipient of homeless and housing services.

(Tell Story about what happened to be in crisis and the steps he/she took to move through the current system. Talk about what programs helped you through this difficult time.)

If funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services is eliminated, my success story and others like mine will not continue to happen and will become rare.

Please vote to fully fund programs like the ones that helped me during a difficult time.