



Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

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Ellen G. Groh
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To: Steering Committee for Concord Plan to End Homelessness

From: Ellen Groh

Date: March 27, 2017

Board of Directors

Ellen H. Fries
Chair

Re: Update on Plan to End Homelessness

Michael LaFontaine
Vice Chair

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Secretary

Tracy A. Scavarelli
Treasurer

Maggie Fogarty
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Michael Leuchtenberger
joanne.st.hilaire

Permanent Housing Progress

Housing First Concord:

CCEH has been able to use 7 of the 10 rental assistance vouchers, housing 6 individuals and one couple. It continues to be a struggle to find affordable, available apartments that will accept clients with poor rental histories and criminal records. HUD has revised its rules so that clients can find housing outside of their own Continuum of Care, which means we can house clients in Manchester if they are willing to live there. Most of our potential clients do not want to live in Manchester, but it at least opens up more possibilities. The caseworker also continues to support 2 individuals in Concord public housing, and one individual who pays his own rent in a rooming house. One of the biggest issues we've dealt with is the client allowing friends to stay at their apartment, causing disruption to the neighbors. It can be very difficult for a person to refuse entry to people who were their support network when they lived on the streets and in the woods.

Emergency Shelter Update

Interim Shelter at St. Peter's Church:

I believe the cold weather shelter has been running smoothly. They started out with very low numbers, averaging in the mid-20's for the first 6 weeks, but in the last several weeks the number of people has averaged in the mid 40's. The highest number on given night through March 12th was 56 people, which included 5 children. It is always hard to determine what drives the number of people who use the shelter, but it has *not* correlated to severe weather. It is possible that increased numbers are because the location has become more known and established.

Permanent Cold Weather Shelter:

CCEH is continuing to move forward on the purchase of the Resource Center Property and building an accessory building in the backyard for use as a winter shelter. Zoning Board approval has been granted and an application to the Planning

Concord Coalition to End Homelessness is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization working to eliminate the causes of homelessness in the greater Concord, New Hampshire, community through a coordinated, committed, and active effort of our many stakeholders.

Board was submitted in March, with an expected public hearing in May. We continue to work with Jonathan Halle from Warrenstreet Architects on a pro bono basis to get construction drawings prepared for bids.

For shelter operations, CCEH has submitted an application to the City for \$30,000 in funding, which is the amount the City contributed each of the last 2 years, though it was not a line item in the budget. The model we envision is the same as the Friends Program used for the last 2 winters, with paid overnight staff who are supported with additional overnight volunteers. CCEH is convening key volunteers from the past years of winter shelters to make recommendations on shelter policies.

Future Funding for the Plan to End Homelessness

CCEH will soon be formally launching a “Safe Spaces” comprehensive funding campaign, which will include all of our endeavors, including purchase of the property, minor renovations to the Resource Center building, construction of the shelter space, and 3 years of operating funds for all our programs. We are including the property purchase and shelter construction costs in the campaign even though we hope these will be primarily covered through tax credits, NH HFA funding, and an identified high capacity donor.

Other

SouperFest 2017 was major success, raising over \$45,000 gross income, 800 attendees and over 150 volunteers. Thank you to everyone on the Steering Committee who contributed your time, talent and treasure to the event!

Challenging national climate for funding for housing programs for low income people:

Below is an excerpt from the National Low Income Housing Coalition:

The Trump Administration has proposed... cuts to HUD's already tight budget. On March 16, President Donald Trump released his budget blueprint that slashes overall HUD funding by 13% or \$6.2 billion compared to FY16 levels. When compared to funding levels needed for FY17, the proposed cuts amount to a 15%, or \$7.5 billion, reduction....

Under the budget proposal, gross discretionary spending for HUD would be capped at \$40.7 billion for FY18. By comparison, President Obama requested \$48.9 billion for HUD in FY17. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which includes Rural Development and the Rural Housing Services, would see its budget cut by 21% compared to FY16 levels.

These budget cuts would have a devastating impact on millions of the lowest income people nationwide and on the economy as a whole. More than 200,000 seniors, families, and people with disabilities will be at immediate risk of eviction and homelessness, and local communities will lose the funding they need to build and repair affordable homes and revitalize distressed communities. NLIHC estimates that the proposed budget cuts to HUD alone would lead to 123,786 fewer jobs supported through HUD investments throughout the country.

The Trump Administration states that its budget would continue to provide housing assistance to the 4.5 million low income families who currently rely on these resources. However, their proposal identifies only \$4.1 billion of the \$7.5 billion they propose to cut. While they suggest that the remaining \$3.4 billion can be addressed through “reforms that reduce costs,” there is simply no way to make up for this funding gap without directly harming the low income people who currently receive and rely on HUD housing assistance.

The proposed budget would also:

- *Eliminate at HUD the Community Development Block Grants, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, Choice Neighborhoods grants, the Section 4 Capacity Building program, and the Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program. The proposal would increase funding for mitigating lead-based paint and other health hazards.*
- *Eliminate funding for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NeighborWorks America), and the Legal Services Corporation (Legal Aid), which is often the only resource available to help deeply low income people avoid unwarranted evictions.*
- *Eliminate water and waste loans and grants and cut staffing for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).*
- *Eliminate funding to the Treasury Department for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund grants.*
- *Eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) at the Department of Health and Human Services.*
- *Eliminate the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) at the Department of Energy.*
- *Support programs that provide services to homeless and at-risk veterans and their families at the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<http://nlihc.org/article/trump-administration-proposes-extreme-cuts-hud-budget-and-programs-benefit-people-low>

Next Meetings: (THIRD Tuesday, every other month, 2-4 pm) at the Chamber of Commerce

May: Tuesday, May 16, 2017

July: To be determined (I'm away on the third Tuesday)

THANK YOU for your time and your effort and your energy!!!

Ellen