

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS' STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, DC - Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, issued the following statement in reaction to the release of President Donald J. Trump's 2018 budget proposal:

"President Trump's budget, which proposes drastic cuts to critical resources for low-income and homeless Americans, ignores data on what works, hurts our country's most vulnerable people, and hurts our communities. Not only does the Administration's budget show a complete disregard for solving homelessness, it would dramatically increase it.

The 14 percent cut to HUD's budget is the most drastic cut to affordable housing since President Reagan's budget cuts led to modern homelessness. More funding, not less, is needed in this time of skyrocketing housing prices and stagnant wages. The reduction of some rental assistance programs and elimination of others, along with eliminating the National Housing Trust Fund, will leave thousands with no option but to struggle to survive in the streets. These are coupled with massive cuts to necessary social service programs, including social security, Medicaid, legal aid, and food stamps, that prevent homelessness every day.

The proposed elimination of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an independent agency created in 1987 by the landmark McKinney-Vento Act to coordinate the federal response to the homelessness, would further undermine efforts to address this national crisis. The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty will be working with members of Congress, our coalition partners, and our network of supporters to vigorously oppose Trump's planned budget cuts and protect the rights of low-income and homeless families."

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The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (www.nlchp.org) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.