

FY2011 Budget Request Released

HOPWA Receives \$5 Million Increase Cuts to Other Housing Programs Concerning

For Immediate Release

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The National AIDS Housing Coalition is pleased that, despite calls for a domestic spending freeze, the President's FY2011 budget proposes a \$5 million increase for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS program (HOPWA) as well as increases for other housing programs relied upon by people with HIV/AIDS such as Homeless Assistance Grants and Tenant-based Rental Assistance. Support for HOPWA falls squarely within "Utilizing housing as a platform for improving quality of life," one of 5 interrelated objectives articulated in the HUD FY2011 budget and reviewed by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in the Department's budget briefing. Moreover, as explained by Director Jeff Crowley in an Office of National AIDS Policy budget briefing, programs that received just flat funding demonstrated a "vote of confidence," so in the context of government-wide funding, an increase is a clear sign of HOPWA's high standing.

Among critical funding is \$1 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund for construction and rehabilitation for the preservation of housing for the most vulnerable, lowest income people, including those coping with the debilitating and impoverishing impacts of HIV/AIDS, as well as \$2.1 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants for implementation of the Homeless Emergency Assistance Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. The budget also includes \$85 million for 10,000 new homeless and special needs vouchers to be married with services from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in new collaborations. On the other hand, the section 811 program for persons with disabilities, often coupled with HOPWA funding, was reduced to \$90 million from \$300 million in the current fiscal year. "Because HOPWA meets only a fraction of need, the entire HUD portfolio as a source of stable and affordable housing programs remains critical to the ability of people with HIV/AIDS to access and remain in care," said NAHC Board President Shawn Lang, Director of Public Policy for the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition.

HOPWA is a well-managed, cost-effective program that provides housing central to the ability of people with HIV/AIDS to manage their illness. As powerful research documents, access to affordable and stable housing continues to have a vital role in improving health outcomes through treatment adherence, avoidance of homelessness, and reduction of high risk behaviors that can transmit HIV. "Given the cuts for other HUD programs, this \$5 million increase is welcome," said NAHC Executive Director Nancy Bernstine. "However, even as this increase will enable another 1,000 households to receive housing and supportive services, over 125,000 more households, according to HUD's own projections, will continue to experience unmet need."

Through the historic White House HIV/AIDS Housing Meeting late last year and in community discussions across the country, this administration has heard clearly and directly from people with HIV that stable, affordable housing is one of their greatest unmet needs and has a direct impact on their health outcomes. NAHC is hopeful that Congress will heed the Administration's call and also increase appropriations for the HOPWA program to further decrease the number of households with unmet HIV/AIDS housing needs.

For an FY2011 Budget chart for selected HUD programs, click <http://www.nlihc.org/doc/FY11-Budget-Chart-HUD-Programs.pdf> (courtesy of the National Low Income Housing Coalition).



About National AIDS Housing Coalition: The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in February 1994. NAHC believes that persons living with HIV/AIDS have a fundamental right to decent, safe, affordable housing and supportive services that are responsive and appropriate to their self-determined needs. The purpose of the NAHC is to ensure that the diverse voices of those infected and affected by HIV are heard and their needs are met. <http://www.nationalaidshousing.org>

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