

McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Organizational Sign-On Letter: Memo to the Field

The National Alliance to End Homelessness requests your participation in our advocacy campaign to increase funding for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. Please join us and sign your organization's name to a letter to Congress in support of funding McKinney at the \$1.536 billion level as included in the House version of the appropriations bill for FY 2007. This represents an increase of 16% over last year's funding level.

If your organization is interested in signing the letter: contact Sarah Kahn at the National Alliance to End Homelessness **by Wednesday November 15** by email at skahn@naeh.org or by phone at 202-942-8259. There is a copy of the letter attached.

Thanks to strong advocacy efforts by a broad range of organizations working to end homelessness, McKinney funding has steadily increased. McKinney Vento funding is used by organizations across the country to end homelessness through a variety of solution-focused programs. Strengthen this year's fight by partnering to sign this letter and continuing efforts to secure this critical funding!

Background:

In February, the Administration released its fiscal year 2007 budget proposal which included \$1.536 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, a \$209 million increase over last year's level.

In August, the full House of Representatives approved an appropriations bill which included the President's request of a \$209 million increase for McKinney. The Senate Appropriations Committee included a \$185 million increase for McKinney in their version of the bill. The bill did not go to the Senate floor prior to Congressional recess.

The House and Senate are expected to reconcile differences between the two versions of the Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development (T-T-HUD) appropriations bill when they return to Washington the week after the election. We will be working very hard with all of you throughout the "lame duck"* session to make sure the President's request – a 16% increase over last year's funding level – remains in the final FY2007 HUD appropriation.

Keep an eye out - We will be sending out an *Advocacy Update* immediately after the election to inform you of (1) advocacy efforts in November's lame duck session to influence appropriations and legislation under consideration by Congress and (2) information about our policy priorities for the upcoming year.

** A session of Congress meeting after elections have been held, but before the newly elected Congress has convened.*