

The E-Newsletter of the National AIDS Housing Coalition

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House Recommends Highest Funding Level in HOPWA's History

\$300 Million Appropriated for FY08

The House of Representatives appropriated \$300.1 million for HOPWA for the upcoming fiscal year as part of the FY2008 Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies funding bill, approved 268-153. While the Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended the same amount, the full Senate has not yet considered the FY08 HUD Appropriations measure and no immediate plans are known to bring it to a vote. If the House number is ultimately enacted, these dollars would provide housing assistance to 71,500 households through 122 formula jurisdictions and more than thirty competitive grants. The House Committee report noted that the Department has yet to provide the Congress with information regarding its plans to update the HOPWA formula. The Committee further observes that the budget process is not the proper venue for formula modernization which should consider "input from a variety of stakeholders" and implicitly in regular order through the authorization process. (H Rept.110-238, p.110 to accompany H.R. 3074, 7/18/07). The Senate Committee reports observes approval that HUD has surpassed "its goal for the percentage of HOPWA facility residents who are maintaining stable housing". (S. Rept.110-131 to accompany S. 1789, 7/20/07).

Other funding in the bill includes \$16.3 b. for Section 8 housing choice vouchers, including \$14.75 m. to renew 1.9 million vouchers currently in use, \$330 million over the President's request. Funding for project based rental assistance is approved at \$6.48 b., \$67 m. over the President's request and Senate Appropriations Committee approved level. Thirty million dollars is provided for incremental vouchers, one thousand of which are targeted to homeless veterans. Public housing capital and operating funds are increased over the administration request to \$2.4 b. and \$4.2 b. respectively. The section 811 program for persons with disabilities and section 202 housing for the elderly-perennially slashed in recent administration budgets -- were restored to FY07 levels, \$237 m. and \$735 m., respectively.

An amendment to reduce Section 8 funding offered by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) was defeated but alarmingly a provision to prohibit the use of federal funding to implement the eight hour monthly community service work requirement on public housing residents was rejected with the support of 26 Democrats.

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**National Housing and
HIV/AIDS**

Research Summit III

March 5-7, 2008

Baltimore, MD

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Principles for HOPWA Formula Update HUD Proposes Formula Revisions

In May NAHC adopted a set of principles that should govern any revisions to the HOPWA formula. An important principle - involving all stakeholders in the formula modernization process - was captured in the House report noted in the previous article. [Click here to see the principles.](#) Although HUD has not submitted legislative language or supporting documentation, the Department recently provided the relevant Senate and House appropriations and authorization committees with a preview in the form of technical language setting out broad outlines of its plans for HOPWA formula revision. As expected - and announced in several recent budget announcements - the Department plans to propose a formula revision that counts living AIDS cases and includes a housing cost factor to address disparities in high cost areas.

NAHC Testifies on Reauthorization of the Federal Homeless Programs

Defining Homelessness Set as a Priority

NAHC board secretary, Linda Glass, Executive Director of CARES, Inc. testified in June before the Senate Banking Committee on legislation to consolidate the federal low income housing programs that respond to homelessness, important tools for AIDS housing providers. NAHC joined witnesses including NAHC board member, Nan Roman, President of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta, Moises Loza of the Housing Assistance Council and others in supporting the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007 (S. 1518). The measure co-sponsored by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Wayne Allard (R-CO), establishes a prevention and rehousing program, levels the playing field for rural communities by establishing a program under which the communities compete with each other rather than urban areas for continuum of care dollars and, importantly, shifts supportive housing renewals to the housing certificate fund. This shift will free up dollars typically devoted to renewals for the creation of permanent housing.

One sticking point in reauthorization has been devising a definition of homelessness that realistically captures more of the people who are truly homeless than covered by the current HUD definition. During the hearings, NAHC proffered a definition of homelessness, which includes "People who are temporarily staying with family or friends and who have stayed in at least three different households in the last year because they did not have the resources to rent a housing unit consistent with housing quality standards". The NAHC definition was well received. The measure, originally slated for mark-up before the August recess, was pulled from the schedule because of objections by the minority to moving forward. It is hoped that the mark-up can proceed in September. Although no companion is currently pending in the House, it is anticipated Housing and Community Opportunity Chairperson Maxine Waters is crafting a measure. [Click here to see NAHC's recommendation.](#)

NAHC presents Mini-Institute at National Alliance

To End Homelessness Conference: "AIDS Housing: What We Know; Where We Go."

Stong Showing from AIDS Housing Supporters at NAEH Conference

AIDS housers from nearly every region of the country participated in a training during the National Alliance to End Homelessness annual legislative conference last month focusing on the research findings from NAHC's Research Summit series and policy tools that can be employed on a local, state and national level to encourage policymakers to dedicate more resources to HIV/AIDS housing. During the ½ day institute NAHC previewed recently developed policy toolkits which present the most compelling research findings on the connection between stable housing and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment into a user-friendly, concise format. The mini-institute participants included more than a dozen consumers of HIV/AIDS housing whose participation was made possible with the generous support of the Fannie Mae Corporation. During the NAEH conference more than 1,000 homeless service providers from across the country participated in a broad range of cutting edge institutes, workshops and site visits. Chairman Barney Frank (D-MA) of the House Financial Services Committee and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), co-sponsor of legislation to consolidate the homeless programs (CEPHA is described in the preceding article) updated participants on upcoming legislative plans impacting homelessness.

NAHC to Unveil Policy Toolkit

More Resources for Advocates to Help Link Housing with Health

NAHC has recently developed a policy toolkit built on the connection of stable housing to positive health outcomes for individuals with HIV/AIDS and for community health as well. The toolkit, developed through a grant from NAHC member, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, is designed to help advocates inform national and local resource allocation, planning, and prevention and health care practice through the use of tools and strategies that employ research findings to demonstrate the link between housing and health for persons at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS. The toolkit contents include NAHC Research Summit Policy Papers, Issue Fact Sheets, a Power Point Presentation; an Annotated Guide to the Power Point, a Sample Letter to an Elected Official; Talking Points on Frequently Asked Questions.

During August, the toolkit will be available for preview to paying NAHC members, followed by a launch in September. The toolkit will subsequently be available through the NAHC website.

International AIDS Housing Roundtable Launched AIDS Housing Discussion Reaches Global Community

In June NAHC launched the International AIDS Housing Roundtable as a forum for discussion of issues pertaining to homelessness and HIV and the provision of appropriate housing for people living with

HIV and AIDS worldwide. The Roundtable, which is a moderated list serve, is intended to provide opportunities for international dialogue on the development and implementation of public policies that recognize the critical role of housing both in the prevention of HIV transmission and in the care of people who are living with HIV and AIDS. Please visit <http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/IAHR.htm> for more on the Roundtable, including instructions for joining the list serve.

Second Chance Act Reported from Senate Committee

Funding Reauthorization and Task Force Establishment on the Table

Another of NAHC's legislative priorities advanced in the Senate before the recess commenced. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary unanimously reported S. 1060, the Reducing Recidivism and Second Chance Act. The bill which has 30 co-sponsors was introduced on March 29 by Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Arlen Specter (R-PA).

The bill would reauthorize the Department of Justice's funding of demonstration projects that provide former prisoners with a range of comprehensive services including housing, education, health, employment and mentoring. The bill would also establish a federal interagency task force to study impediments to successful reintegration of people reentering communities from jails and prisons.

This action was preceded by similar action in the House Judiciary Committee in March with H.R. 1593 ordered reported to the full House in May. Floor action has not been scheduled.

Big Changes at NAHC NAHC Welcomes New Policy Assistant

After nearly three years, NAHC Policy Associate, Emily Bonifaci departs for the graduate program in landscape architecture at Harvard University. Emily's contributions to NAHC's growth are too numerous to recount. She now turns her enthusiasm, energy and creativity to focus on the built community and how it responds to individual and community need. As we bid goodbye to Emily, NAHC welcomes a new Policy Assistant, Latoya Thomas. Latoya, a recent Howard University grad, joins us from NAHC member, the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

About the National AIDS Housing Coalition:

The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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.