Public Policy Session

NCHV Annual Conference

June 1, 2016
NCHV Policy and Advocacy
## Appropriations Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>Conference &amp; President</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Military Construction &amp; Veteran Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Passed</td>
<td>Passed</td>
<td>Conferencing</td>
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<td><strong>Transportation/ Housing Urban Development</strong></td>
<td>Committee reported</td>
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<td><strong>Labor/ Health &amp; Human Services / Education</strong></td>
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## Appropriations Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Construction &amp; Veteran Affairs</th>
<th>President’s Budget Request</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grant and Per Diem</td>
<td>$247 million</td>
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<td>Supportive Services For Veteran Families</td>
<td>$300 million</td>
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<td>$320 million</td>
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<td>HUD – VA Supportive Housing (case management dollars)</td>
<td>$496 million</td>
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## Appropriations Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation/ Housing and Urban Development</th>
<th>President's Budget Request</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New HUD-VA Supportive Housing Vouchers</strong></td>
<td>$7 million: Tribal HUD-VASH renewal</td>
<td>$7 million: Tribal HUD-VASH renewal</td>
<td>$7 million: Tribal HUD-VASH renewal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No new HUD-VASH vouchers</td>
<td>No new HUD-VASH vouchers</td>
<td>$50 million for new HUD-VASH vouchers</td>
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Appropriations Update

- **Hirono, Mazie** - (D - HI)
- Murphy, Christopher - (D - CT)
- Blumenthal, Richard - (D - CT)
- Peters, Gary - (D - MI)
- Boxer, Barbara - (D - CA)
- Feinstein, Dianne - (D - CA)
- Menendez, Robert - (D - NJ)
- Booker, Cory - (D - NJ)
- Reed, Jack - (D - RI)
- Manchin, Joe - (D - WV)
- Markey, Edward J. - (D - MA)
- Warren, Elizabeth - (D - MA)
- Sanders, Bernard - (I - VT)
- Klobuchar, Amy - (D - MN)
- Franken, Al - (D - MN)
- Brown, Sherrod - (D - OH)
- Wyden, Ron - (D - OR)
- Schumer, Charles - (D - NY)
- Gillibrand, Kirsten - (D - NY)
- Cantwell, Maria - (D - WA)
- Donnelly, Joe - (D - IN)
- Coons, Christopher - (D - DE)
- Baldwin, Tammy - (D - WI)
- Heinrich, Martin - (D - NM)
- **Crapo, Mike** - (R - ID)
- Tillis, Thom - (R - NC)
- Daines, Steve - (R - MT)
- Heller, Dean - (R - NV)
- Collins, Susan - (R - ME)
- Inhofe, James - (R - OK)

NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS
Legislative Update

- The Veterans First Act, S. 2921
  - Sponsored by SVAC Chairman, Senator Johnny Isakson (R – GA)
  - Cosponsored by 40% of the Senate
Legislative Update – Vets First Act

- Allow HUD-VASH residents to enroll in the HVRP program, *(Section 603)*
- Finally update the VA’s definition of homelessness, to include the McKinney-Vento updates which allow individuals fleeing domestic violence to be considered homeless, *(Section 601)*
- Authorize a higher Per Diem rate to be paid to Transition in Place programs, *(Section 602)*
- Ease the transition for any GPD that wishes to shift mission to permanent housing provider, *(Section 604)*
- Create a pilot program to test effectiveness of intensive case management on healthcare utilization rates, *(Section 605)*
Legislative Update – Vets First Act

- Permanently authorize the National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans, *(Section 606)*

- Create an annual review for the GPD program, and strengthen performance targets for program outcomes in the areas of permanent housing and income augmentation, *(Section 607)*

- Create an expansive public-private partnership ability for the VA to provide legal services, *(Section 608)*

- Allow Per Diem to be paid to support the care of dependents accompanying a veteran, *(Section 625)*

- Permanently authorizes the use of VA homeless programs by veterans with “OTH” discharges. *(Sections 621, 622, 623)*
Loose Lips
Get Answers

I WANT YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS

WHO WANTS TO KNOW?

NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS
Talking to Congress

- Why do advocacy?
- Identifying your impact potential.
- Types of advocacy you can do.
- Equipping yourself.
- Tips and tricks for success.
Why do advocacy?

- What’s in it for everyone?
  - Knowledge
  - Constituent pressure
  - Interest

- What’s in it for you?
  - Attention
What can you achieve?

- Where is your program? Where do you live? Where do staff live?
  - Who is/are your Representative(s)?

- Leadership, Committee Leadership, Committee Assignments?

- Past actions or interest

- Coming up with nothing? Don’t worry:
  - There is always the Senate.
Types of advocacy:

- What can you commit to? What will get you the best result?

- **Program**: “Site visits”
- **D.C.**: “Hill meetings”
  - **D.C.**: “Drop by’s”
- **Local**: District Offices
- **Remote**: emails and calls
Equipping yourself for success

- What do I need to do to prepare for the meeting? What do I need to bring with me?
  - Program data:
    - Outcomes, costs, numbers served
  - Personal stories of success
  - Local (and some national) data
  - NCHV “One-Pagers”
30,000 feet on national data:

- PIT count data (from latest AHAR, 2015) indicates:
  - 47,725 veterans homeless
  - A 35% decrease in veteran homelessness nationally since 2010
  - And a 54% decrease in unsheltered veteran homelessness
  - About 11% of the adult homeless population are veterans
30,000 feet on national data:

- Nearly half of homeless veterans remain African American or Hispanic

- Three subpopulations increasing:
  - Women: up to 9% this year
  - OEF/OIF/OND: up to 8.8%
  - Aging veterans: Vietnam – Persian Gulf era veterans still predominate
## Local data

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Tips and tricks for the meetings

BEFORE
• Know the level of support to expect before you go in
• Tailor talking points to audience: by interest and level of knowledge

DURING
• Highlight the local
• Emphasize results
• Be prepared to tell stories and humanize the data
• Make clear recommendations

AFTER
• “Leave behinds”
• Send a follow-up email and provide whatever materials or information you talked about in the meeting

Remember:
The very best thing that can happen is that you have to say:
“I don’t have an answer for that, but I know how to get it for you. I will send it along as soon as I do.”
NCHV Advocacy Team:

- Buttons and documents distribution

- Inaugural “Annual NCHV Advocacy Team Photo”!