

HOMECOMING

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FY 2005 FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS AFFECT OUR NATION'S HOMELESS

As winter, 2005 settles in, the disappointment of deep federal cuts to vital programs settles in as well.

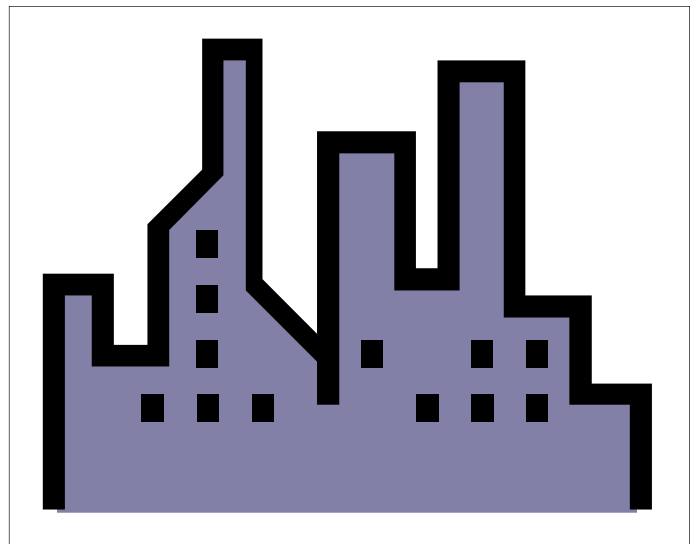
On November 20, 2004, Congress released the numbers for its omnibus appropriations package for fiscal year 2005, including funding for the departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Health and Human Services (HHS). The legislation reflects a major change of priorities, with over-all cuts in federal housing programs including HUD homelessness funding.

Listed among programs cut, or not included in the FY 2005 federal budget are:

- Homeless Assistance Grants
- Section 8 Housing
- CDBG and HOME Grants
- Samaritan Initiative Funding
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Community Services Grants
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Community Health Centers and Health Care for the Homeless funding was increased, although the final level was considerably less than the Administration had requested.

Cuts in federal funding often brings great misery to our most fragile. HASPA is here to provide an avenue for you to come together with others to consider how to protect our homeless during these cold days of winter. (Source, *National Alliance to End Homelessness*)



HASPA—PROVIDING HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

The Homeless Advocates and Service Providers Association, Inc. (HASPA) was formed in response to an ever-growing homeless crisis. HASPA's goal is to provide an opportunity for critical dialogue and constructive cooperation between homeless advocates, service providers,

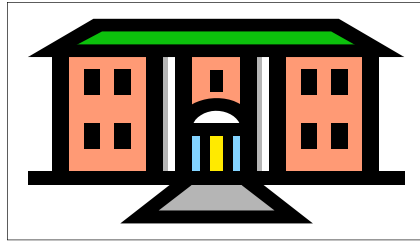
governmental entities, legislative bodies and the public. HASPA serves as the table where we may all come together to discuss our difficulties and our successes, where we may share meaningful conversation and helpful comment, and where we may find solutions to the tragedy of chil-

dren who sleep in cardboard boxes and families who live in cars. This is not an easy conversation, but our imagination of, and our longing for an America without homelessness runs deep.

Please join HASPA as we grow strong in our purpose to end homelessness.

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY—LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Your efforts are vital in the national goal to create positive change for our country's homeless. Your advocacy gives voice to needed policy changes. Political advocacy is an exciting way to work with policy makers at your local,



state and national levels. Our leaders are elected to serve us, and by letting them know how best they can serve, we are holding up our end of the democratic process.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Respond to calls for action by contacting your legislators by phone or letter. It is an easy process and HASPA will guide you through the process if you are unfamiliar with lobbying courtesy and procedures. HASPA will

post calls to action on its website. By contacting your legislators and providing them with helpful information, and kind requests for their favorable response, you are participating in America's democratic process in a positive and meaningful way. Your voice matters!

- Volunteer with your local, state or national housing or homeless advocacy coalition, or make a contribution to support their work.
- Let the media work for you. Call or write your local media representatives and encourage them to write articles concerning our people who are experiencing homelessness. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper and provide your media with news alerts for community events.
- Educate your leaders. Organize site visits for legislators and the media to visit local homeless programs so they can see how your community is actively working.
- Invite your neighbors over for a conversation about homelessness and the conditions that may lead people to experience homelessness. Encourage them to participate in activities that enlarge America's compassion and concern for the fragile among us. Remind your friends and neighbors that none of us is immune to an event of homelessness. For many of us, we are but "one paycheck away" from experiencing the loss of our home.
- Organize local awareness walks and events. HASPA can help you with suggestions and tips.
- Email HASPA with your thoughts and suggestions. HASPA is an open-door Association and we thrive on your good efforts. We are all in this together ... and we won't stop until America's homeless are housed and safe!

Watch for a comprehensive advocacy guide from HASPA coming Spring, 2005.

"Affluence separates people. Poverty knits 'em together. You got some sugar and I don't; I borrow some of yours. Next month you might not have any flour; well, I'll give you some of mine."

Ray Charles

COMING SOON ... THE HASPA STORE

HASPA wants to provide its members and partners with ways to symbolize our awareness to the growing population of people who are homeless.

Coming soon, HASPA will have awareness products available on its web site. We have chosen the color orange as our signature color.

Orange traditionally symbolizes the recognition of hunger in our nation. Many of our

homeless go to bed every night hungry for food and hungry for human dignity.

Some of the items our HASPA store will carry include awareness ribbons, pins, neck scarfs, wristbands and auto ribbon magnets.

Let's tell the world it is time to stop trying to hide people who are homeless. Let us wear our color with hopeful anticipation that our efforts will be rewarded with afford-

able housing for the working poor, a roof over every American's head, and no child will ever go to bed hungry again.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

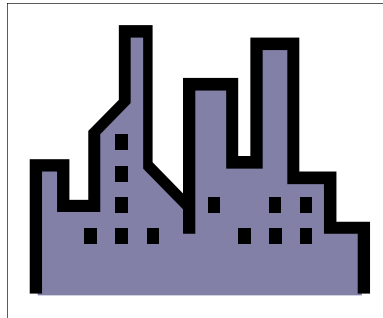
For any new long-term project, the first year is always the most exciting. It is the time when directions are mapped out and goals are identified. The first year is a time of exploration and excitement. For HASPA, this first year also comes with a sense of urgency.

Our nation's poor are at a precipice. As our local, state and federal government narrows its safety net role and seeks necessary ways to cut costs, the burden on the backs of our poor is unfortunately increased. The demand for services for America's swelling number of fragile people falls

to the nonprofit community, which itself is already stretched beyond reason. Volunteerism, nonprofit programs and faith-based organizations are increasingly looked at to fill the role of providers for sound policy and true compassion.

Rather than finding ourselves at odds with one another, nonprofits, philanthropy and government can strengthen their cooperation and partnership in order to repair the holes in our torn safety net for the poor.

HASPA was formed to be a tool to repair this broken net



by providing a solid avenue for dialogue and communication in a shared effort to end homelessness. Let us all work together to end the suffering for our tired and our poor.

HELP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

HopeLineSM is a phone donation program, exclusive to Verizon Wireless, that uses wireless services and equipment to assist victims of domestic violence. Under the program, the company collects wireless phones that are no longer being used, which are then refurbished and recycled, or sold. With the

proceeds, Verizon Wireless awards grants to nonprofit domestic violence organizations, and also purchases wireless phones for domestic violence victims, donating the phones and airtime to them through human services and law enforcement agencies. Any discarded phones/parts are disposed

of by an EPA-certified vendor.

Wireless phones and equipment donations can be sent to:

Verizon Wireless HopeLine
c/o ReCellular Inc
2555 Bishop Circle W.
Dexter, MI 48130

SUCCESS AND FAILURE—EQUAL PARTNERS

Ending homelessness within the next decade will require that our policies and beliefs uphold the right of every single person to have:

- Safe and affordable housing
- A living wage
- Appropriate support resources
- Dignified recovery from social and economic distress

Rather than create quickly outdated programs or write insignificant documents with fixed assumptions and linear projections, HASPA envisions a highly inclusive process of effective conversation where people can come together and talk about what works and what does not work.

It took Edison thousands of attempts before he found the proper filament material for the light bulb. Similarly, it will take us many attempts to find

the right formula to end homelessness. It is by sharing our successes and our failures with one another that we may come to a decision-making process that works.

HASPA serves as the table where you may come to discuss your strategies and your quandaries, listen to others and perhaps come away with new perspectives that will create enduring change for you and your organization.

“What a devil art thou, Poverty! How many desires - how many aspirations after goodness and truth - how many noble thoughts, loving wishes toward our fellows, beautiful imaginings thou hast crushed under thy heel, without remorse or pause! “

Walt Whitman

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We're on the Web!
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HASPA
Providing Hope
For the Homeless

HASPA

HOMELESS ADVOCATES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MISSION STATEMENT

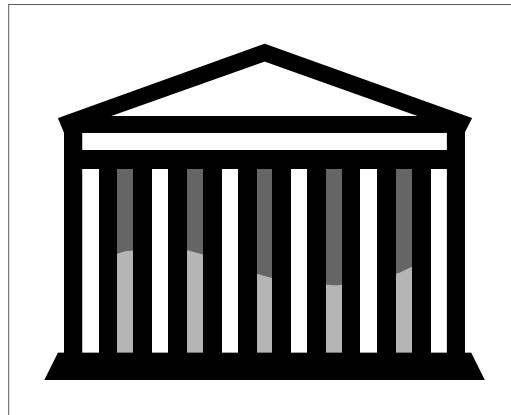
THE MISSION OF THE HOMELESS
ADVOCATES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA IS TO
PROVIDE A FORUM FOR COOPERATIVE
DIALOGUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDING
HOMELESSNESS THROUGH COMPASSION,
COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION.

*HASPA invites you to join us in this effort. Visit www.haspa.org for
membership information and how you may participate.*

HASPA—WE'RE AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP

HASPA is committed to mobilizing communities, building partnerships and strengthening the collaboration between homeless advocates and service providers. We are committed in our goal of increasing knowledge and awareness of homelessness and the conditions that lead to a homeless state. HASPA has tremendous respect for the body of work that is currently in place and the goal of HASPA is to foster new channels of cooperation and communication among experts within each aspect of the broad structure of homelessness.

Respecting community priorities in their planning processes ensures a collaborative environment that will allow the development of a robust



“COMMUNITIES KNOW WHAT BEST THEY
NEED ... “

energy within each entity and advocate partner, and will then foster communications toward a holistic approach to ending homelessness.

Implicit in HASPA's vision of capacity building is a fundamental transformation in the way its partners deliver their

specialties. Communities know what best they need and through HASPA, their successes and failures can be communicated and shared with others.

By working collaboratively, HASPA partners can better coordinate resources and services so that the needs of America's homeless and fragile people can be addressed in a fully effective manner.

HASPA looks forward to acting as the conduit that connects its partners to one another in a chain of information and cooperation so that the collective goal of HASPA partners to end homelessness can become a tactile reality.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!