

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Scott Turner  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th St SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Turner:

I write to urge you to reverse proposed changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) program in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) last year. If these changes are not reversed in the coming weeks, communities, nonprofits, and others who work to combat homelessness and the housing crisis in New Mexico will lose critical funding.

As you know, the CoC program is one of the largest federal grants specifically targeted to assisting people experiencing homelessness. Every two years this grant is released for nonprofit organizations, public housing authorities, governmental entities, and Tribes under a competitive process to receive funds and meet the housing needs and services of their localities and state.

In the CoC NOFO released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last year, far before the end of the two-year cycle, several changes were made relating to how CoC would now be implemented. These changes contradict decades of prior HUD grants and long-standing housing public policy. Some of the most concerning changes would:

1. Mandate that only 30 percent of the agency's CoC funding can be used for permanent housing or rapid rehousing (which was lowered from 90 percent from FY2024) and would require the remaining funding go toward "transitional housing assistance".
2. Only allow for new "transitional housing" projects despite these proposals not receiving funding since FY2012.

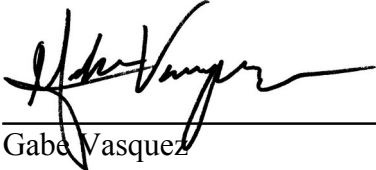
These changes reject long-standing and evidence-based policy of the "housing first model" that prioritizes providing permanent housing immediately, creating stability so individuals have a roof over their head while they work to find a job or seek treatment. This model has been found to effectively keep people from falling into homelessness.

Because of these harmful impacts this NOFO was challenged in court by a coalition of attorneys general and governors and a group of 11 local governments and non-profit organizations almost immediately. In response, HUD withdrew their NOFO, stating that it would "make appropriate revisions" before reissuing sometime before the June 1, 2026 deadline. These proposed changes risk pushing nearly 200,000 Americans into homelessness. They will also make it extremely difficult for housing advocates and organizations to prevent homelessness for the veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals and families with children who rely on these services.

I continue to hear from my constituents that affordability and housing are their top concerns. Instead of making changes that risk pushing more Americans into homelessness, HUD should be supporting the communities and

local leaders who are doing the hard work and combatting homelessness on the ground. I urge HUD to reverse the proposed changes and instead work to responsibly steward the CoC program.

Sincerely,



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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress