



May 11, 2026

Dear Appropriators,

As religious denominations, faith-based service providers, and members and partners of the Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs, our faith community has a national scope, serving those in need throughout the country. **We pray you will provide responsibly robust funding levels and guardrails for homeless assistance and affordable housing programs in FY27 appropriations bills.** This collective prayer is rooted in shared calls from diverse theologies to love our neighbors, serve the vulnerable, meet basic human needs, alleviate suffering, and uphold human dignity.

Your work on FY26 bills demonstrated you share similar calls and values. Your bipartisan, bicameral concerns that hasty, drastic cuts and restructuring could cause suffering and commitment to loving and serving our most vulnerable neighbors were noticed. We commend your responsible governance ensuring key programs were invested in and plans were in place to help prevent people served by vital homelessness programs and emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) from slipping through cracks.

We continue to bear witness to how having a safe, affordable place to call home transforms lives. We therefore raise our related budgetary concerns and hopes to your attention:

- **Investing to Meet Domestic Housing Needs:** As a tight federal budget year coincides with a cost-of-living crisis, housing remains the largest expense for most households. We hope you will provide enough funding to serve at least as many people as currently receive help through HUD (both CoC and ESG), VA, and HHS homeless assistance programs, along with HUD's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (including full HCV renewals, continued rental assistance for EHV and TPV holders, and new FUP vouchers), Project-Based Rental Assistance, Sections 811 and 202, CDBG, and public housing programs. This investment will bolster safety, stability, and agency for those in need and equip us to offer steadfast, effective service and community to our neighbors.
- **Guardrails to Guide and Protect:** Given recent challenges with agency implementation of federal grants, congressional direction is needed to resolve and prevent undue hardship for faith-based providers and those we serve. We hope you will diligently include legislative language that helps ensure programs can continue, are implemented in alignment with congressional intent, and funding goes out following responsible timelines. We further hope you will appropriate enough funds for reasonable buffers to help cover gaps during shutdowns and delays. Ensuring resources reach those they are meant to serve will prevent fear and evictions, upholding human dignity.

We are grateful for appropriators' careful stewardship of resources that serve constituents in need. You are a beacon of hope for neighbors facing the hardships of housing insecurity and homelessness.

With federal domestic and families' budgets both squeezed this year, we pray for your sustained collaboration acting as shepherds safeguarding homeless and rental assistance to bring peace to those who suffer as FY27 funding decisions are made.

Peace be with you.

Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service Committee

Church World Service

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region

Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith in Action Network

Franciscan Action Network

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Lutheran Services in America

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Council of Churches

National Council of Jewish Women

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Pax Christi USA

Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team

Sojourners

The Episcopal Church

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

United Church of Christ