

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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Housing Advocates Say New HUD Plan Will Increase Homelessness

(April 26, 2018, Washington, D.C.) – On Wednesday, Secretary Ben Carson of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made public a plan to increase rent for millions of the nation’s poorest households. For the lowest income families, rent will be tripled. In addition, the reforms include making it easier to impose work requirements on families, some of which are prevented from working for health reasons or because they are the primary caretaker for children or elderly and cannot afford to hire care.

In January, Carson said he understood the end of homelessness is dependent on housing: “We know how to end homelessness, and it starts with embracing a housing-first approach that relies upon proven strategies that offer permanent housing solutions to those who may otherwise be living in our shelters and on our streets.

Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, says this most recent proposal is contradictory.

“Now he’s proposing to save money on the backs of the poorest Americans by making it even harder for them to afford housing—pushing many into homelessness,” said Foscarinis. “If he is truly concerned about the long waiting lists for housing assistance for low-income people and families—and truly committed ending homelessness—the Secretary should be seeking increases to HUD’s budget.

As it stands HUD’s funding only helps one out of four families who are poor enough to qualify for housing assistance.

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The [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.