

Letter from 353 Organizations Urging Congress to Enact Human Needs Funding to Meet Today's Demands

February 10, 2022

Dear Senator/Representative:

The undersigned 353 organizations strongly urge you to enact omnibus FY 2022 appropriations legislation including all twelve subcommittee bills. Continued flat funding in the face of growing needs would be irresponsibly harmful. Inadequate funding over the past decade has caused many human needs programs to lose ground. Whether serving health, education and training, child welfare, nutrition, substance use disorders, housing or other needs, appropriated programs cannot meet today's demands with yesterday's inadequate funding.

The groups signing this letter focus on a host of essential services in order to meet the needs of the young and aging, workers, people with disabilities, the poor, families and retirees, immigrants, students and youth disconnected from education, women, and people of color. We know that the dislocations of the pandemic, including the past year's rising prices and disrupted employment, have made things much harder for millions of Americans – your constituents.

About two-thirds of a compilation of human needs programs tracked by the Coalition on Human Needs have shrunk in size from FY 2010 to FY 2021, taking inflation into account. Higher inflation now added to rising need makes it especially urgent to enact an omnibus appropriations bill.

Examples of growing need are plentiful. [Deaths from opioid overdoses](#) leapt to 100,000 for the period ending in April 2021, up from 78,056 the year before. [Rents rose](#) an average 14 percent last year, with rents in previously lower-cost states such as Florida, Ohio, and Texas jumping 25 percent or more. During the past month, 15 percent of renters were [behind in rent](#); that was true of 18 percent of Hispanic renters and 23 percent of Black renters. [Hunger is rising](#), with close to 2.6 million people 65 and older reporting that their households sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the previous week this past month, up from about 1.8 million six months ago. More than 10 million people in households with children reported going without enough food during the same period. Children have been [falling behind in their education](#) due to the pandemic; overall, progress in math declined by 10.4 percent as of January 23, 2022, with losses of 18.2 percent in low-income communities. Such severe declines are widening racial gaps as well. With utility bills rising, nearly one in five people reported that their households were unable to pay some or all of their [energy bills](#) for at least one month in the past year; this was true of 39 percent for people in households with low incomes, and over 30 percent in households of color. More than 16 million people with children younger than 5 had work interrupted or had to leave work altogether because their children couldn't attend [child care](#) due to concerns about COVID. [Employment rates dropped](#) 11.6 percent in jobs paying below median income (below \$37,000), but rose 8.1 percent for jobs paying above median wages. Many workers who held

below-median wage jobs need training to fill jobs with higher pay, but most federal job training programs have declined by 18 percent or more since FY 2010.

In all these examples and more, appropriated programs can contribute to solving problems if their funding levels reflect these painful realities. Flat funding is failing to address urgent needs.

In many ways, adequate appropriations are necessary to carry out all the vital functions of government. Social Security staff need adequate funding to administer Social Security and SSI. Updated appropriated funds are necessary to carry out the bipartisan infrastructure legislation recently passed. Health care, substance use and mental health appropriations work in tandem with Medicaid and Medicare. Many millions of people are going without the help they need because of Congress' delay in passing appropriations that respond to our current problems. Please do not delay any longer; enact an omnibus appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision DC

Addiction Connections Resource

Adelante Healthcare

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region

AFL-CIO

African American Health Alliance

AIDS United

Alabama Arise

Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Alianza Americas

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Friends Service Committee

American Geriatrics Society

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Autism Society of America
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Barrier Free Living Inc.
Bay Area WIC Program
Be a Hero
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Better Building Institute Inc.
Better Organizing to Win Legalization
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
Blue Ridge Community Action Inc
Blue Wave Postcard Movement
Boulder County WIC
Broward for Progress
California Association of Food Banks
California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
California Housing Partnership
CAMBA, Inc.
Cathedral Square
CCI Health Services
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Centers Against Violence
Child Welfare League of America
Church World Service
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Coalition on Human Needs
COHHIO
Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)

Common Sense Media
Community Action Partnership of North Dakota - Fargo, ND
Community Economic Development Association of Michigan
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Delaware)
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
Council for Opportunity in Education
CT Association for Community Action (CAFCA)
Custer Health WIC Program
Day One
DC Metro Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Delaware Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Detroit RESULTS
Disability Rights Oregon
Doctors for America
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Dominicans Sisters of Sinsinawa Office of Peace and Justice
Drug Policy Alliance
End Hunger Connecticut!
Faith in Public Life
Faiths for Safe Water
Family Advocates, Inc.
Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Family Equality
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Franciscan Action Network

Franciscan Peace Center
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Full Plates Full Potential
Geel Community Services, Inc.
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.
Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Graceworks Housing Services
Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Harm Reduction Action Center
Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)
Health Care Voices
HIPS
Hispanic Federation
HIV Medicine Association
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.
Homeless Services United
Hopewell Health Centers, Inc.
Housing Action Illinois
Housing and Services, Inc.
Housing Oregon
Housing Visions Consultants, Inc.
Howard Brown Health
Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Hunger Free America
Hunger Task Force
ICNA Council for Social Justice

Idaho Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Immigration Hub
In The Works
Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Institute for Policy Studies, Criminalization of Poverty Project
International Nutritional Sustainable Partners
International School of Louisiana
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Islamic Relief USA
James' Place Inc.
JCTOD Outreach, Inc (dba) Johnson Park Center
Jefferson County Farmers Markets
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Johnson County Kansas WIC
Justice Committee: Sisters of St. Joseph
Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
La Cooperativa Campesina de California
La Mesa Boricua de Florida
Lafayette Urban Ministry
Lakeside Place Inc.
Lantern Community Services
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
LeadingAge
LeadingAge Florida
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Lowville Food Pantry, Inc.

LSF Services

Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Marion County Commission On Youth, Inc.--MCCOY

Mary House, Inc.

Maryhurst

Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Maryland National Organization for Women

Maryland Peer Advisory Council, MPAC

Maryland WAM

Massachusetts Association of WIC Directors

Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

MEO

Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Mid Michigan Community Action

Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Mom's Fresh Foods

Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity

Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Montana Food Bank Network

Montgomery County Health Dept WIC Program

Multi County Community Service Agency, Inc.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Community Action Partnership
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Section
National Council of Jewish Women Maryland Action Team
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas
National Council of Jewish Women, Virginia
National Council on Aging
National Diaper Bank Network
National Employment Law Project
National Energy Assistance Directors Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Farm to School Network
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Immigration Law Center
National League for Nursing
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National Urban League, Inc.
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
NH Hunger Solutions
Non Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Nonprofit Finance Fund
North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
North Carolina Justice Center
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oregonizers
Our Children Oregon
Panhandle Community Services
Partnership for America's Children
PathStone Corporation

Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Penny Appeal USA
People's Self-Help Housing, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Poligon Education Fund
Pouhana O Na Wahine
Preble Street
Presentation Sisters Union - USA Unit
Presente.org
Project Bread
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
Puerto Rico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Rachel Carson Council
Redding Pilgrim and Redding RHF Housing
RESULTS
RESULTS DC/MD
RESULTS Fort Worth Global and Domestic
RESULTS Indianapolis Global Group
RESULTS Tennessee
Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Safer Foundation
Samaritan Daytop Village
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen
Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.
Sisters of Charity
Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Francis Assisi
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque
SMOC
Society of Helpers
Sojourners
South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
South Carolina Equality
South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
St. Ambrose Social Justice Committee
St. Francis Friends of the Poor
Stafford County Health Department
Stand UP Alaska
Staten Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Stop TB Massachusetts
Stop TB USA
Sunrise Community Health WIC
Supportive Housing Network of New York
Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program
Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Texas Homeless Network
The AIDS Institute
The Arc
The Center for Popular Democracy
The Ecotopian Society
The Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Dubuque, IA
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province Justice Committee
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
The Workers Circle
Thrive Alabama
Townhall II
TrueCare
Trystereo/New Orleans Harm Reduction Network
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center Inc
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
USAging
Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Utah County Health Department WIC Program
Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Victim Rights Law Center
Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
Virgin Islands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virginia Housing Alliance
Voice for Adoption
Voices for Progress

Voices of Hope, Inc.
Wake County WIC
Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Washington Food Coalition
West Chester Food Cupboard
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
West Virginia Hepatitis Academic Mentoring Partnership (WVHAMP)
WHEAT - the World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training org
William E. Morris Institute for Justice
Win
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Women Helping Women
Woodland Christian Church
Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Youth Villages
YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County
Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department
ZERO TO THREE