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June 27, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Hyde-Smith, Ranking Member Gillibrand, Chair Womack, and Ranking Member Clyburn:

On behalf of Family Promise, a nonprofit that works to prevent and end family homelessness in over 40 states and more than 250 counties, I urge you to please protect funding for the Homeless Assistance Grant program and the Community Development Block Grant program in the FY 2026 budget.

All children need a safe place to call home. Yet, child homelessness is on the rise in the United States, [with a nearly 40% increase in family homelessness last year](#). With homelessness on the rise, the President's FY 2026 budget proposes cutting over \$3 billion in critical aid, putting so many more children and families at risk.

Family Promise has served over a million children and their family members since our founding more than 35 years ago, delivering innovative solutions to family homelessness, including eviction prevention, shelter diversion, emergency shelter, stabilization, and housing programs. Over 80% of the families we serve secure or maintain long-term housing. We understand that ending family homelessness requires more than simply providing a roof. It demands a holistic, service-enriched approach that addresses the root causes of housing instability.

For example, our stabilization model is built on the foundational belief that every family deserves not only to survive, but also to thrive. Our affiliates across the

country provide intensive wraparound services tailored to each family's unique needs: childcare, transportation, job training, mental health support, and more. These services form a critical web of support that ensures families don't return to homelessness and instead gain the tools, confidence, and resources to build a sustainable future.

This work cannot happen without funding from Homeless Assistance Grants, and specifically, the Continuum of Care (CoC) program, which supports longer-term interventions that pair housing with services that promote stability, reducing the likelihood of repeat episodes of homelessness.

In addition to Homeless Assistance Grants, our sites also utilize Community Development Block Grant program funding to operate emergency housing and shelter for children and families who have nowhere else to go. Our facilities provide a safe, trauma-informed space for families to stay temporarily as they receive support to find stable housing. Our average length of stay is under 90 days, and over 80% of the families we serve in our shelters obtain positive housing solutions.

As child and family homelessness increases around the country, our affiliates already struggle to meet the unmet needs of homeless families in their communities. Making significant cuts to the Homeless Assistance Grant program and eliminating the Community Development Block Grant program, as proposed in the President's FY 2026 budget, would be devastating for struggling families and the communities in which they live. Together, these cuts would reduce the number of children and families we can serve by tens of thousands, forcing many more children into unsafe situations and causing untold suffering.

In addition, the proposed change of consolidating the CoC program into the Emergency Shelter Grants program would also greatly limit our ability to provide services that permanently end homelessness, putting the children and families we serve at significant risk of homelessness once again.

Children are the invisible victims of homelessness. Without stable housing and other resources, they experience disrupted education, trauma, and emotional distress—impacts that can last a lifetime. When we fail to support the full continuum of care for children and families experiencing homelessness, we allow trauma to persist and cycles of homelessness and poverty to repeat.

We welcome a conversation on how to improve homelessness assistance programs to better meet the unique needs of children and families. However, making significant cuts and consolidating these programs will not increase their effectiveness in combating family homelessness but instead lead to increased suffering.

As you face tough decisions for the FY 2026 budget, we urge you to please prioritize children and families experiencing homelessness by protecting funding for

the Homeless Assistance Grant program and the Community Development Block Grant program.

Thank you for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl Schuch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Schuch
CEO, Family Promise

CC: All members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees