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October 27, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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 Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, 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 the United States with nearly 200 sites nationwide, I am writing to ask you to please prevent the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from issuing a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Continuum of Care program for FY2025.

All children need a safe place to call home. Yet, child homelessness is on the rise, with nearly 1.4 million school-age children experiencing homelessness in the United States. Family Promise serves over 60,000 families annually, delivering innovative solutions to address family homelessness, including eviction prevention, shelter diversion, emergency shelter, stabilization, and housing programs. Over 80% of the families that Family Promise serves 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.



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Given the rise of child and family homelessness across the U.S., many of our sites are already struggling to meet the unmet needs of families in their communities. They are doing heroic work with often few staff and resources. Requiring them to reapply for funding after relying on a 2-year CoC grant cycle for FY2024 and FY2025, authorized in the FY2024 budget, would pose a considerable burden on their already limited capacity. Issuing a new NOFO at this point would also result in a significant delay in the awarding of funds for calendar year 2026, causing a funding gap that could devastate many existing projects. This change could result in Family Promise serving fewer families while the need is high.

In addition, we remain very concerned that a new FY2025 NOFO may result in a large cut to permanent housing, specifically Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH).

More than a quarter of our sites specifically utilize HUD Rapid Rehousing to provide a pathway to housing independence for families with children. Family Promise pairs rental assistance with wraparound services that support families in their pursuit of economic mobility — everything from help in accessing higher education, job training, affordable child care, and more. This provides the quickest path to long-term stability and reduces trauma from extended shelter stays on children.

For example, Rapid Rehousing funding allowed us to serve a family in Delaware, where a mom and her six children became homeless after being evicted from their home. Family Promise identified a landlord willing to give the family a second chance, and the family was recently able to move into housing with some rental assistance. In addition, we also helped the family obtain child care, furniture, and connected them with services for two children in the family who have a disability. Family Promise is now helping the mom with job placement and providing support for her to co-parent with the children's father, so the family can work towards economic mobility.

Cutting this funding would take housing away from this family and thousands of others, pushing them back into the homelessness system. We understand that HUD is considering shifting some of the funding from permanent housing to transitional housing, which, unfortunately, will prevent many families from being served and therefore not prevent them from experiencing homelessness once again.

Shifting to transitional housing does not help families already stably housed through PSH or RRH. These families should not be moved into transitional housing, as it would throw them back into homelessness and cause significant trauma to the children. Transitional housing is more complex and expensive to operate, reduces the successful exits to permanent housing, and causes further upheaval for children. Therefore, this significant funding shift would further reduce the number of families we can serve and assist in obtaining long-term stable housing, while at the same time costing more.



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We share HUD's sentiment that policy changes are needed to make the CoC program operate more effectively for families with children. However, instead of this abrupt shift, we urge HUD to stick to the previously planned 2-year NOFO cycle and take that time to gather input and data from providers like Family Promise on needed improvements in the CoC program.

We are grateful for the ongoing bipartisan support in Congress recognizing the need for a 2-year NOFO cycle. We ask that Members of Congress solidify this support by including a provision in any upcoming FY 2026 Continuing Resolution or final spending bill requiring CoC grants set to expire in 2026 to be extended by 12 months.

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

Sincerely,

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

Cheryl Schuch
CEO, Family Promise

CC: All members of the House and Senate