



**Dear Colleagues and Partners:**

Per his recently announced budget, **the president has proposed eliminating funding for the [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, or USICH](#)** (one of 19 such agencies and/or federal entities facing such funding elimination).

**It is my opinion that the proposed de-funding of USICH poses the greatest threat to national coordination of homeless services *and* to the success our country has experienced regarding the ending of homelessness.** In 2010, USICH released *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. The Plan established—for the first time ever in our nation's history—four overarching federal objectives regarding homelessness: end chronic homelessness; end veteran homelessness; end child/family/youth homelessness; and finally, reduce overall homelessness.

*Opening Doors* (and its establishment of key national objectives within the homeless services sector) made the homeless services industry more data-driven and outcomes-oriented than ever before. **Since its release, the following successes have occurred as a result of *Opening Doors* (and the subsequent coordination of USICH): overall homelessness has decreased by 14%; veteran homelessness has decreased by 47%; chronic homelessness has decreased by 21%; and finally, the federal government is now attempting to innovatively reduce youth homelessness through HUD's recently awarded Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project.** Moreover, USICH consistently offers webinars and professional development opportunities to enhance local community efforts regarding homelessness.

These accomplishments and activities would not have been possible without the coordination of USICH, and future progress towards ending homelessness will not be accomplished sans the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. **As executive director of MACCH, I strongly oppose the president's proposed de-funding of USICH**, and I will therefore target my personal and professional advocacy towards expressing my respectful opposition (as well as opposing the president's proposed budget cuts to HUD—cuts that will impede future efforts regarding homelessness at state and local levels).

**I strongly encourage you to contact your elected representatives and express your opposition to the president's proposed USICH de-funding. To locate contact information for your elected representatives, please visit [here](#).** If enough of us express our opinions through advocacy, our collective voice will be heard.

In closing, **I thank you for all you do every day to end homelessness and for your commitment to a sustained and successful U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.** It remains my honor to work with you in partnership, collaboration, and success.

Best regards,

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