



Congressman Adam Smith's Efforts to Combat Homelessness

As our country faces a national homelessness crisis, it is imperative that Congress continue to advocate for comprehensive and long-term solutions to reverse this growing epidemic. With local homeless systems operating at maximum capacity and shelters already strained, persistent economic difficulties and rising addiction trends are leading to more people being left on the streets. Providing support and adequate funding for assistance programs must remain a priority for Congress in order to ensure that all individuals and families who are facing homelessness will have a place to call home. Detailed below are programs and legislation Congressman Adam Smith has supported in order to combat the homelessness crisis.

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and end Homelessness

To reverse the trend of Americans, including a large number of families and veterans, living on the streets or without secure housing, Congress should adequately fund critical homeless assistance programs. Opening Doors, which is a comprehensive strategy designed by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, includes nearly \$6 billion for federal agencies and grant programs. Congressman Smith has signed on to support its continued funding in FY 2017 which include:

- *Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program*
- *Health Care for the Homeless Program*
- *Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program*
- *Grants for the Benefit of Homeless individuals (GBHI)*
- *Services in Supportive Housing (SSH) Grants*
- *The Homeless Veterans' Program*
- *Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program*

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Programs and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act

The McKinney-Vento grant programs and the HEARTH Act, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provide assistance identify and fund housing needs while providing resources during emergency situations. Congressman Smith is proud to have co-signed a letter to key Member Appropriators in support of full funding of McKinney-Vento Grants and implementation of HEARTH Act.

To combat the many faces of homelessness, Congressman Smith has also sponsored the following legislation that attempts to target some factors for the growing homelessness crisis. Congressman Smith is dedicated to ensuring that these individuals receive not only housing support, but have access to quality health care, social support, and even employment initiatives.

H.R. 953, Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA)

Congressman Smith has co-sponsored the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2015 because a comprehensive approach is needed to address the heroin and opioid addiction epidemic. This legislation would implement better prescription drug monitoring, improved law enforcement tactics, and expanded treatment for addicts. As our communities continue to combat these epidemics, it is important Congress support sufficient funding and similar efforts such as CARA.

H.R. 1779, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

Our homeless youth population is among the most vulnerable to sexual exploitation or abuse. In order to help strengthen child protection services and provide relief, the act provides street outreach, education, counseling, temporary shelter as well as transitional longer-term housing. Congressman Smith strongly supports the reauthorization of this program.

For more information or questions, feel free to contact my office at 202.225.8901 or visit my website at <http://adamsmith.house.gov>