



**Strategic Planning, Funding and Advocacy Committee (SPFAC)
Meeting Minutes
8.4.2025**

Present: Julia Steinberg, Leah McCall, Max Glick, Ashley Cuniberti, Eric Burton, Jacqueline Elliott, Jenny Poma, Akaash Kolluri

Introductions and Overview of Oakland County Continuum of Care

- The Committee was joined by Jacqueline Elliott and Akaash Kolluri to discuss what their different DC offices are hearing about HUD funding and to introduce the CoC & the member agency's work, and discuss any concerns
 - Akaash Kolluri, Oakland County Regional Manager for Senator Slotkin (Cell: 202-963-8515; email: akaash_kolluri@slotkin.senate.gov)
 - Jacqueline Elliott, Senior Advisor to Congresswoman Haley Stevens

Jacqueline Elliott shared notes from the Housing Roundtable that they hosted in January to discuss projects and gaps with housing community partners

- Congresswoman Stevens is working on bills including:
 - First-time Home Owners Savings Plan Act
 - Healthy Affordable Housing Act
 - Fixed Multi Housing Act
 - Home Accessibility Tax Credit
- The HUD office is in a holding pattern and will be downsizing to operate as a call-center
- Zach Crawford (Housing, Rep. Stevens) email: Zachary.Crawford@mail.house.gov

Akaash Kolluri shared information about proposed budget/cuts to programs

- CoC & CDFI fund proposal to turn into a block grant and cut funding except in rural areas
 - Treasury Secretary wants to continue the program; OMB does not
 - Preserving the CDFI is a funding priority for Senator Slotkin
 - House & Senate continue to push back against consolidating CoC into one block grant
 - Asking that community members push to tell elected officials that the consolidation would exacerbate homelessness
 - Senate subcommittee covering HUD has not adopted the block grant approach and proposes over \$4 billion including renewal of existing projects
- CDBG House & Senate proposals maintain or reduce funding at a preferable level to the President's proposal
- Waiting to hear about HOME funding

**The CoC is advocating for:**

- CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)
 - Oakland County is looking into potentially pursuing funds
- Vouchers/Housing Choice Vouchers
 - HUD is seeing a significant decrease of available vouchers
- Source of Income Protections
- Renter's Bill of Rights
- ESG funding is a major supporter of our shelter operations

The CoC is working on:

- Diversion
- Oakland County's Blueprint to End Homelessness merged with Regional Housing Partnership (RHP)
 - Working on affordable housing, access to services, ending/reducing homelessness, coordinated entry, web-based real-time shelter availability (<https://shelteroakland.com/>), Oakland Connect phone number (for access to assistance/services including nurse on call and HARA)
- Expanding the number of emergency shelter beds
 - Over 80% of our shelter families exit shelter into housing
- The CoC and member agencies can provide testimonials and experiences from clients that are impacted by the changes and cuts to funding

CoC concerns include:

- Housing as it intersects with everything else (healthcare, education, workforce development, equity issues, etc.)
- Staffing cuts and capacity shortages
- Holding back federally appropriated funds
- Flagged words on application for funding

Partnerships:

- The National Alliance to End Homelessness and The National Low Income Housing Coalition are the CoC's biggest partners at the federal level
- Nick Cook is the new Director of Public Policy at Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH)