



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

10-17-96

Dear Friends,

During the past three years President Clinton and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Henry Cisneros have made addressing homelessness a top priority. Toward this end, national homelessness policy has been overhauled and the HUD homelessness assistance budget has been doubled. The new Federal policy has been crafted to better enable communities to address the problem at the local level. The centerpiece of these new Federal policies is the Continuum of Care, first implemented in 1994.

The Continuum of Care approach provides a framework for inclusive community planning to address homelessness. This approach recognizes the complexity of the problems homeless people face and calls for coordinated local efforts to craft a system of emergency, transitional and permanent housing and services to help break the cycle of homelessness.

To ascertain the impact of the Continuum of Care approach and the increased resources, HUD contracted with the Barnard-Columbia Center for Urban Policy to take both a quantitative and qualitative look at what has been accomplished to date. Enclosed is the Summary of Findings from Columbia's report.

This report shows that the Continuum of Care is working well and exceeding expectations. Further, during the years of 1993-1995, HUD funded programs that will serve as many as fourteen times the people served with previously funded programs. In 1992, HUD served approximately 20,000 homeless persons. Today, we will help as many as 280,000 homeless persons reach self-sufficiency. That's progress!

For those of you who are interested in more detail, the full study will be available by October 30. The Barnard Columbia Center for Urban Policy will also be developing technical assistance materials based on the findings from their research.

I want to express appreciation to people across the country for the advice and assistance we have received in our efforts to help address homelessness. We know that much more work needs to be done to help our nation's homeless men, women, and children. I look forward to working with you toward that end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cuomo", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Cuomo

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The Continuum of Care:

A Report on the New Federal Policy to Address Homelessness

Summary of Findings

September 1996

Prepared by
Barnard-Columbia
Center for Urban Policy
Columbia University

