



A Ministry of Service

Rick Bruno, Board Chair
Dianna L. Kunz, President

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Dear Senator:

The mission of the Volunteers of America Colorado Branch is to identify and serve the basic needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families within the community. Last year in addition to our 350 professional staff 17,000 volunteers contributed 262,582 hours to help 205,205 of our most vulnerable citizens.

The Volunteers of America Colorado Branch is grateful for the coalition of supporters which includes individuals, businesses, charities, and governments (local, state, and federal) who recognize meeting the mission of VOA is critical to our state's overall wellbeing.

We feel an obligation to those we serve as well as our coalition of supporters to share with you the impacts of President Trump's proposed FY 2018 Budget. Specifically, the President's proposed budget, if passed, will eliminate hundreds of thousands of dollars to critical services provided to thousands of our Colorado citizens. The list below captures the devastating loss of services currently provided by Volunteers of America if proposed cuts were enacted.

Proposed cuts of 16.2% from Department of Health and Human Services would negatively impact nutrition, transportation and other needed services for Colorado seniors.

- **Meals on Wheels** – Loss of 16.2% in federal funding for Meals on Wheels would result in discontinuance of 46,631 meals to 620 seniors in Metro Denver.
- **Congregate Meals** – Loss of 16.2% of federal funds means 37,623 fewer meals to senior meal sites in Denver and Northern Colorado.
- **Transportation for seniors** – Loss of 16.2% of federal funds means 1,287 less priority trips provided (such as doctor and dentist).
- **Handyman** – Loss of 16.2% of federal funds means 320 less in-home repairs provided for seniors in order for them to be safe and remain in their homes.

The budget proposal recommends the elimination of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteers of America receives \$688,000 for senior support under this federal program.

- **Retired Senior Volunteer Programs** – Loss of 100% of federal funds represents a loss of more than half of the total program funding affecting all of the 116 volunteer sites and over 1,350 senior volunteers in Denver metro, Colorado Springs and Northern Colorado.
- **Foster Grandparent Program** – Loss of 100% of federal funds represents 85% of the total program funding. At least 116 foster grandparents would no longer have this opportunity to give back to their communities, 500 children per year would lose needed one on one contact and over 3,300 children in their classrooms would lose the benefit of this very personal service in our schools.

Proposed cuts of 16.2% in Department of Health and Human Services, 50% in Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care funding as well as 30% cuts to Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) through HUD would severely impact services for children, youth and families in Colorado.

- **Volunteers of America Head Start** – Loss of 16.2% of federal HHS funds would result in the loss of \$80,309 and approximately 14 pre-school slots for extremely low income children.

- **Youth Transitional and Supportive Housing Programs** - Loss of 50% of HUD CoC funds would result in a decrease of \$486,000 to VOA and a loss of services and housing for over 50 formerly homeless youth.
- **Irving Street Women’s Residence** – Loss of 50% of HUD CoC funds would result in a decrease of \$149,000 and homelessness for approximately 20 disabled women per year.
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (HUD)** – Loss of 30% of HUD ESG funds would cut \$73,500 from emergency shelter as well as short-term rental assistance funds, impacting up to 20 families, increasing the numbers and length of homelessness.

The Volunteers of America Colorado Branch urges you to oppose the President’s FY 2018 budget and to protect the services we provide to the most vulnerable individuals across our state. As always, we stand ready to provide additional information on all the services we provide. Please contact CEO Dianna Kunz at 720-264-3320 if you have any questions or if we can arrange a tour of our programs.

Sincerely,

Rick Bruno
 Chairman, Board of Directors
 Volunteers of America Colorado Branch

cc: **The Volunteers of America Colorado Branch Board of Directors**

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