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News Release

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Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO's Statement on White House fiscal year 2018 budget:

Habitat urges Congress to protect social safety net programs that support affordable homeownership opportunities

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. - The White House today released its full fiscal year 2018 budget request, which proposes to eliminate funding for programs that further Habitat for Humanity's efforts to address the affordable housing crisis in the Ozarks and across the United States.

Proposed cuts include the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. These vital programs allow Habitat organizations nationwide, as well as other organizations, to empower more people to access all-too-rare opportunities for affordable homeownership and help provide the tools they need to build better lives for themselves and their families.

Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO (HFHS) encourages its supporters and all advocates for affordable housing to [contact their members of Congress](#) and urge them to support adequate funding for these critical programs in the fiscal year 2018 budget.

Statement from Larry Peterson, Executive Director of HFHS:

"Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO has been blessed to receive assistance from SHOP, CDBG and AmeriCorp resources in the past," said Peterson. "Eliminating or reducing funding for these programs would exacerbate the growing local housing shortages in Springfield and increase the burden of housing costs on families in need of housing stability."

There has never been a more important time for the American people to stand up for quality, affordable housing. Decent, affordable housing provides the stability individuals and families need to improve their health and education, enhance their financial growth and security, and strengthen their neighborhoods.

Without the proven programs that are now sadly in jeopardy, too many of our neighbors and fellow citizens will be denied access to the tools they need, to a hand up that helps them build better lives. These tangible, practical and fruitful investments play an important role in furthering the reach of Habitat's work, and we call upon our elected officials to not lose sight of the effectiveness and significance of these programs in communities large and small as they consider this White House budget request.

For Habitat for Humanity, this is a moral issue, not simply a budget one. Helping more people build and improve decent places to call home only serves to strengthen the fabric and economies of the cities and towns in which we all live and work.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri

Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri (HFHS) believes every person in the Springfield and surrounding area deserves a decent place to live. As an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, HFHS impacts more than 130 households a year. Since 1988, HFHS has either built or renovated more than 490 homes, providing shelter for more than 998 men, women and children from Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties by helping people gain

strength, stability and independence through housing, including home construction, rehabilitation and repairs and by increasing access to improved shelter through products and programs. HFHS is a United Way of the Ozarks partner agency. Learn more, including official word marks and images, at habitatspringfieldmo.org/newsroom or at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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