



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

Tips for Effective Conversation with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff

- **Thank your Member of Congress** for supporting a program or policy related to homelessness.
- **Choose ONLY ONE or TWO issues to discuss.** The more you ask your Member to do, the less likely it is that they will do anything. Members of Congress are like us...if you ask them to do two things, they will do which ever is easier.
- **Relate the issue to the success of a local program.** Describe how successful your program has been with existing resources and what you could accomplish with more.
- **Describe how this policy issue impacts where you live and work.** Tell a story about a particular family or individual who is no longer homeless because of your program.
- **Ask them to do something specific in support of your issue.** Ask your Member of Congress to take specific action in support of your issue. Ex: co-sponsor legislation, write a letter or vote on legislation in support of an issue.
- **Ask who you should follow up with and when.** Congressional staff work on specific issues. Make sure you know who works on the issue you've ask your Member to take action on and when you can follow up on their response.
- **FOLLOW UP!!!!** Follow up with the correct staff person at the time suggested and continue to follow up with phone calls, site visits, letters etc...

Contact Sarah Kahn at the Alliance for more information about working with your Congressional offices by email at skahn@naeh.org or by calling 202-942-8259.