

Hello,

My name is Nikki Ewing. I am a resident at Careways Shelter of New Haven Home Recovery in New Haven, Connecticut. I am asking you not to cut funding for homeless services. I am a mother of two. I have a seven year old son and a nine month old daughter. We have been residents at Careways since November 2009. Due to Section 8 being at a standstill and waiting lists for other housing programs being full, I am left without options for housing, and to cut funding would create a huge impact on other families like mine. As it is, my time is winding down at Careways. No housing is available to bridge the gap between Careways and permanent stable housing.

Before I lived at Careways, my children and I lived in tremendously unhealthy conditions. Being at the shelter was one of the best things I've done for my children. It's sanitary and healthy for us. I couldn't afford better housing, and all my funds were being depleted by rent. I couldn't afford necessities for my children. Because of Careways I have been able to save money and get the things my family needs day to day.

Since coming to Careways, my priorities are recognized, and my goals are becoming realized. I am in a place where there is hope for definite success. I rely heavily on the services provided by my case manager and other staff. Without the shelter, my progress would be stumped and my children and I would have no place to live. My children would probably be taken from me. Funding for the homeless is crucial. There are many many families like mine who do use and appreciate and rely on the services. Please don't cut funding for us.

Thank you for your time.

Nikki Ewing