



Central Outreach & Advocacy Center and Presbyterians for a Better Georgia *Joining Faith, Service and Advocacy*



We advocate for policies that will make Georgians safer, healthier and more secure:

Homelessness and Housing

Advocating for policies and resources to prevent homelessness and restore homeless people to the community by providing access to food, housing and employment.

Food, Healthcare and Identification

- Assist homeless people secure ID to access housing, benefits, healthcare and employment, including recommendations of House Mental Health Study Committee:
 - Waive \$25 fee for Georgia birth certificates for homeless persons.
 - Explore alternative ID options adopted by other states that allow easier access to ID.
- Support re-entry housing options recommended to Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council:
 - Insure persons leaving prison or jail have state issued ID in hand.
 - Suspend rather than terminate Medicaid upon incarceration.
 - Create on-going state support for local re-entry coalitions at prisons and jails that connect prison, jail, health, housing and community non-profit agencies to support successful re-entry.
- Protect access to food stamps and other essential safety net benefits for homeless persons.

Housing

- Support increased access to housing options for people leaving prisons – expanding vouchers and increasing transition housing. (Recommendations to Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform)
 - Enforce HUD Guidelines banning housing discrimination based on arrest or incarceration.
 - Expand Georgia Housing Voucher Program for supportive housing for people with severe and persistent mental illness, to include persons with developmental disabilities and brain injuries.
 - Begin process for application or restoration of Social Security disability benefits before release.
- Expand financial support for the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless to create a continuum of affordable housing options for low income Georgians.
- Provide access to permanent housing for veterans, families with children and people with disabilities.
- Support increased funding for emergency, transition and permanent housing options to address the needs of people who are homeless.
- Support enabling legislation for creation of local Housing Trust Funds to grow affordable housing with expanded options for dedicated sources of revenue.

For more information, please contact:

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia www.p4bg.org or Central Outreach & Advocacy Center www.centraloac.org
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