

# 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 by increasing access to affordable housing and restoring homeless people to the community by providing access to ID, food, housing, healthcare and employment.**

### **Support Recommendations of 2017 Senate Homelessness Study Committee:**

- Access federal Medicaid funds to support services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Increase funding to State Housing Trust Fund for Homeless to expand programs and seek additional federal funds to address homelessness.
- Increase funding to expand federal and state housing voucher programs.
- Fund replacement ID for persons transitioning from prison or jail.
- 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.

### **Support Reentry Housing Recommendations of 2018 Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council:**

- Insure persons leaving prison or jail have state issued ID in hand.
- Enforce federal Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination in rental based on arrest or conviction.
- Strengthen funding and connections to supportive housing for persons with mental illness leaving prison or jail.
- Expand state housing vouchers for people with other types of permanent disabilities.
- Increase funding to State Housing Trust Fund for Homeless to fill gaps in serving reentering persons.
- Begin process for application or restoration of health and disability benefits before release.

### **PBG Priorities on Food, Healthcare and Identification:**

- Assist homeless people secure ID to access housing, benefits, healthcare and employment.
  - Waive \$25 fee for Georgia birth certificates for homeless persons.
  - Explore alternative ID options adopted by other states that allow access to ID.
- Protect access to food stamps, healthcare and other essential safety net benefits for homeless persons.

### **PBG Priorities on Housing:**

- Enforce state obligation to establish housing goals and report to General Assembly every other year.
- Increase funds for State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless to create a continuum of affordable housing options for low income Georgians.
- Increase funding for emergency, transition and permanent housing for homeless persons.
- 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](http://www.p4bg.org) or PBG Public Policy Advocate, Elizabeth J. Appley, Esq. [ej@applelaw.com](mailto:ej@applelaw.com)