



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

## **WHAT IS THE COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS?**

The Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote federal policies to address the needs of people with low-incomes and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include service providers, policy experts, religious, labor, and civil rights organizations, and other advocates concerned with the well-being of people with low incomes, including children, women, seniors, and people with disabilities.

## **COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS PRIORITIES**

Founded in 1981 by organizations concerned about President Reagan's proposals to cut and consolidate federal funding for human needs programs into block grants, the Coalition now promotes needed funding for human needs programs, progressive tax policies, and other federal measures to address the needs of people with low incomes and other vulnerable populations. CHN recruits, convenes, educates, and mobilizes advocates to make their voices heard and hold decision-makers accountable.

The Coalition serves as a clearinghouse for information on poverty and the impact of federal policy and budget decisions on human needs for our members, public officials, and the general public. CHN publishes a legislative newsletter, *The Human Needs Report*, and the blog *Voices for Human Needs*. CHN communicates with hundreds of thousands nationwide through targeted email lists and maintains and updates regularly a comprehensive and informative website at [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org), at which individuals or groups may sign up to receive timely email updates about federal human needs issues. We also sponsor briefings for Congress and advocates on the federal budget's impact on people with low- and moderate-incomes and on other timely issues.

CHN convenes meetings, forums, and issue working groups of our member organizations to share information, forge consensus positions, and take action to carry out collaborative strategies on public policy issues. Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, CHN has held weekly Zoom meetings attracting approximately 150 experienced advocates to learn and share information about legislative developments on Capitol Hill and to learn about actions organizations are taking.

## **COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS LEADERSHIP**

An active Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of our national constituency, guides the work of the Coalition. Board members are senior staff members of leading non-profit organizations addressing human needs issues and take an active part in Coalition committees and issue working groups. The current Chair of the Board is Ellen Teller, Chief Government Affairs Officer for the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). The Vice-Chair is Corrine Yu, Senior Advisor to the President at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. The Treasurer is Ed Jayne, Director of Federal Government Affairs at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. CHN's Secretary is Dina Kastner, Public Policy and Advocacy Manager at the National Association of Social Workers.

## **COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS STAFF**

Joseph Battistelli – Director of Outreach & Membership  
Meredith Dodson – Senior Director of Public Policy  
David Elliot – Editor, *Voices for Human Needs*  
Dominique Espinoza – Policy and Strategic Partnerships Manager  
Leo Nguyen – Digital Communications Manager  
Rebecca Vucic – Membership and Operations Manager  
Deborah Weinstein – Executive Director