

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

## FOR ORGANIZATIONS NO Federal Funding for Homeless Detention Camps

**TLDR:** Utah's Governor wants to defund housing programs to fund a massive, remote, government-run detention camp for homeless people. According to [the New York Times](#), this detention camp will have space for 1,300 beds, more than half of which will be for forced treatment. This plan includes measures to move homeless people to the remote site and force many of them to undergo treatment, "reflecting a nationwide push by some conservatives for a new approach to homelessness, one embraced and promoted by Mr. Trump."

We've seen this before. At no time in human history has forcing people into camps been a good thing. We need your help to make sure history does not repeat itself.

Utah's plan relies on money from the Federal Government. As such, we are launching a campaign to say "no" to federal funding for homeless detention camps. Please see below for sample posts, messaging guidance, and additional context to join us in the fight.

### **Join and Promote the No Federal Funds for Detention Camp Campaign**

On January 29th, we are launching a No Federal Funds for Detention Camp Campaign. Together, we can increase awareness of this backwards plan and fight for a future where everybody has the housing and support they need.

To join the campaign, [please fill out this short form](#).

Below you will find messaging guidance and tools to promote the campaign to your networks.

See [this toolkit by the Housing Narrative Lab](#) for more background and message guidance.

If you have any questions or need additional support, please contact Jesse at the National Homelessness Law Center at [jrabinowitz@homelesslaw.org](mailto:jrabinowitz@homelesslaw.org).

**NOT FOR PUBLIC POSTS UNTIL JAN 29th**

## SAMPLE SOCIAL COPY (CALL TO ACTION)

- Utah wants to use your tax dollars to build a government-run detention camp for homeless people. That's a scary government over-reach and does nothing to get people into housing. Say no to detention camps and no to forced medical treatments in Utah. Raise your voice here: <https://bit.ly/nodetentioncamps>
- The rent is too damn high. Utah's Trump inspired solution is to force 1,300 homeless people into a government-run detention camp. We've seen that before. Join [our org] and take action to say No Federal Funds for Detention camps: <https://bit.ly/nodetentioncamps>
- Housing solves homelessness. Healthcare helps people get and stay healthy. Homeless detention camps waste money and don't work. That's why [our organization] supports the No Federal Funding for Homeless Detention Camps campaign, which will stop the federal government from funding government-run detention centers. [Join us in fighting back.](#)
- We all want to solve homelessness – it's better for all our communities when everyone has a safe place to call home. That means our tax dollars should fund housing and healthcare, not detention camps. That's why [Our organization] endorses the No Federal Funding for Homeless Detention Camps campaign, which will prevent elected officials from using homelessness funding for jails and detention centers. Add your name: <https://bit.ly/nodetentioncamps>
- Good news: We launched the [No Federal Funding for Homeless Detention Camps campaign](#). Bad news: Utah wants to use your tax dollars to build government-run homeless detention camps instead of housing for the homeless. Add your name now: <https://bit.ly/nodetentioncamps>
- I care about people, especially people who are struggling to get by. That's why I want my tax dollars to pay for housing and healthcare, instead of homeless detention camps and jails. Let elected officials know you care, and tell them to REJECT homeless detention camps: <https://bit.ly/nodetentioncamps>

[View and download graphics for social media HERE.](#)

## DRAFT CALL TO ACTION EMAIL

Dear allies, activists and friends,

We have an opportunity to stop a really bad thing from happening in Utah and around the country.

As you might have heard, Utah's Governor wants to defund housing programs and use that money to pay for a massive, remote, government-run detention camp for homeless people. According to [the New York Times](#), this detention camp will have space for 1,300 beds, more than half of which will be for forced treatment.

Utah's plan relies on money from the Federal Government so we are launching a campaign to say "no" to federal funding for homeless detention camps. We cannot allow federal funds for housing and supportive services to be used to create detention camps, and allow homeless people to be locked up and forced into treatments because they cannot afford a place to live.

**Our asks:** 1) Join the campaign by filling out this short form. 2) Share this request with your networks and members through emails, newsletters, and social media. [Click here to view our toolkit for individuals.](#)

In solidarity,

Jesse and the team at National Homelessness Law Center

## PRESS STATEMENTS TO ENSURE A UNIFIED MESSAGE

We all want to solve homelessness and how we do it matters. We can get people off the streets and parks with more affordable places to live and access to healthcare, including quality substance use and mental health treatment. But instead, Utah is choosing to waste millions of taxpayer dollars that's supposed to be spent on housing, and using it to build a massive government-run homeless detention camp instead. Utah should spend their funding on proven solutions – like housing and healthcare – instead of expensive detention centers that get no one into stable housing and on a path to rebuild their lives.

We need more housing that people can afford and healthcare people can access. Instead of doing that, the state of Utah has decided to build a massive government-run homeless detention camp. Utah's governor is planning to throw people in a locked detention center and force them into medical treatments without their consent. History — and common sense — tell us that rounding up people and

forcing them into a detention camp is always horrifying and dangerous.

Everyone needs a place to live and the way we clear our sidewalks and homeless encampments is by investing in what works — repurposing unused buildings, building more housing that's affordable and providing quality healthcare to everyone. Instead, Utah has decided to waste tens of millions of dollars on building a giant government-run homeless detention camp so they can lock people up for being unable to afford sky-high rents. It's horrifying, expensive and ineffective. No one in this detention camp will be housed if they get out.