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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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June 20, 2016

Rafael López  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
Family and Youth Services Bureau  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW  
Washington, DC 20447

Dear Mr. López:

I write in support of the application submitted by New Beginnings to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family and Youth Services Bureau's Street Outreach Program (SOP). New Beginnings seeks to improve and expand its street outreach and support services for homeless youth in Maine.

New Beginnings is an important resource to young people and families across Maine, with a long and successful history of working with street youth and youth at increased risk for homelessness and exploitation. One of only a small number of youth outreach centers in Maine, New Beginnings' outreach workers connect with youth throughout the state who are outside of the traditional service system in high-poverty urban and rural areas of central and western Maine. Many of these young people are living in unstable and potentially dangerous situations or on the streets, where they have been or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation. Last year, New Beginnings made nearly 2,000 contacts via street outreach, served more than 500 young people in their drop-in center, and were able to place 86 percent of homeless youth utilizing outreach case management in permanent housing.

In June 2015, I had the pleasure of inviting U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro to join me for a tour of New Beginnings' newly expanded Youth Outreach Drop-In Center. We heard stories from several young people about how the organization helped them overcome challenges and access the shelter, support services, and housing to become stable, productive, and self-sufficient adults. If chosen for this year's round of SOP grants, the funding would allow New Beginnings to continue providing valuable outreach and resources to vulnerable young people who want to turn their lives around.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of New Beginnings. I urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Katie Seelen in my office at (202) 224-2523 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator