

# NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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## **Homelessness Law Center Sues U.S. General Services Administration for Failing to Release Documents on Program to Offer Unused Federal Property to Serve Homeless People**

(May 2, 2018, Washington, D.C.) – The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, with pro bono support from Sidley Austin LLP, is suing the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for failing to turn over documents under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Law Center requested these documents to monitor whether GSA has been complying with Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which states that suitable unused federal property must first be offered for homelessness services, at no cost, before going on the market.

“The General Services Administration plays a critical role in ensuring that unused federal property is used to prevent and end homelessness,” said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and a primary architect of the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987. “GSA has failed to comply with the law in the past, and now it is withholding the information that we need to determine whether it is currently complying with the law.” The Law Center [has an injunction against GSA](#) and other federal agencies requiring implementation of the Title V program.

The Law Center’s pro bono partner, Sidley Austin LLP, filed the FOIA complaint against GSA on Wednesday in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

“Taxpayers have a right to know what is happening with tax-funded properties,” said Tristia Bauman, senior attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. “Our government must be held accountable if it is preventing vacant federal properties from housing homeless people.”

The complaint can be read [here](#).

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*The [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.*