

Report on June 24 2025 Meeting with Todd Young Staff

Quick Overview:

- Members of the UUCB Hunger and Homelessness Task Forces met with [Monica Kozlowski](#), a regional Director for US Senator Todd Young at Senator Young's Indianapolis office.
- In attendance from UUCB were Mary Blizzard, Jana Pereau, and Dennis Davoren.
- The objective of the meeting was to urge the senator to oppose cuts to food and housing support programs in the Federal Budget bill.
- We reviewed some of the highlights of our task force work to alleviate hunger and homelessness.
- We asked that the senator stand up for his constituents and vigorously oppose cuts to these programs.
- Ms. Kozlowski promised that she would pass our requests on to the senator

Background and Objective(s) of Meeting

The Budget bill that is progressing in congress contains cuts to critical social safety net programs including food and housing support programs as well as to Medicaid. The bill has the potential to make the largest social safety net cuts in US history. In addition, the bill will potentially provide enormous tax cuts, primarily to the wealthy. In our task force work we routinely observe that people continue to experience homelessness and hunger. Current resources for housing and hunger are inadequate. Further cuts would be catastrophic! Our objectives for this meeting were to 1) Present a compelling case for hunger and housing safety net protection, 2) Directly ask Senator Young to oppose these cuts and 3) begin building a relationship with Senator Young

Meeting Content Summary

We introduced ourselves and stated the objective of the meeting (ask Senator Young to oppose cuts to food support and housing support programs). We then asked Monica to introduce herself.

We then provided a brief overview of UUCB and our values, highlighting that we have 500 members, we celebrate life, we nurture one another, we welcome everyone, we care for the earth and we work for the common good.

We then proceeded to establish our credentials and make our case. We highlighted that:

- Our interest is fueled by the work of our 10 Social Justice task forces, especially "Hunger," "Homelessness," and Habitat

- The Hunger Task Force provides food to lessen food insecurity for low income and unhoused people (Mary)
- We volunteer at community kitchens. In 2024 - Community Kitchen served 302,900 meals, 58% were for children, 9% for seniors. In 2025 the Sacked lunch summer program for low-income kids is UP 30% from last year!!
- We provide shelter meals but struggle to provide one hot breakfast at the shelter each week. When the price of eggs went up, we were forced to cut back.
- We ran a food pantry for hungry families in a rent assisted apartment complex. "I don't know what we would do without this pantry."
- Our efforts and those of the community are insufficient and people are still hungry. We stock a Little Free Pantry every day. It is almost always emptied.
- The Homelessness Task Force provides services to people experiencing homelessness in Monroe County, and educates the congregation and community on the struggles of those experiencing homelessness
- We volunteer at Homeless shelters, including Friends' Place, open every night. 30 beds for women. 10 beds for men. This ratio is due to it being the ONLY shelter in Bloomington for women, as Wheeler Mission closed its women's shelter last year due to lack of funding. People are turned away many nights. Lisa story.
- We supply the Shalom center (for the homeless) with 8 cases (192 bottles) of water per week during the summer months.
- The chronically homeless include many who suffer from mental and physical health problems. They are UNABLE to work! Indiana closed their mental health facilities (Madison State Hospital for one) years ago, and left most of their patients with nowhere to go.
- Our efforts and those of the community are insufficient and people are still becoming homeless. Besides Beacon and Wheeler, the only WINTER shelters are run by two churches. They are always full. We occasionally have homeless people die due to sleeping outside in the cold.
- Hoosiers, especially those at low incomes suffer a huge shortage of housing <https://housing4hoosiers.org/2025/03/13/gap-report-2025/>
- Monroe County has massive deficit of affordable housing for low-income residents <https://housing4hoosiers.org/the-gap-2025-maps/>

Our Final "Ask"

After establishing our credentials and making the case we went to our "ask" of the senator. In summary we stated that:

- In our work we routinely observe that people continue to experience homelessness and hunger

- We understand that versions of the budget bill include very substantial cuts to funding for housing support (HUD)
[Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf](#)
- We also understand that huge cuts to food assistance (SNAP) are included
[Trump's budget bill is on the verge of transforming how America eats - Investigate Midwest](#)
- We further understand that versions of the bill include massive tax cuts, mostly for the wealthy [Senate Proposes \\$4.2 Trillion of Tax Cuts | Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget](#)
 - The tax cuts are massively greater than the cuts to SNAP and Housing
- Current resources for housing and hunger are inadequate. Further cuts would be catastrophic! We urge Senator Young to stand up for Hoosiers and vigorously oppose cuts to critical housing and hunger programs

Final Outcome:

Ms Koslowski promised that she would convey our concerns and our request to Senator Young. She did not indicate that she would be an advocate for our positions.

Follow-up Actions

We plan to sustain our advocacy with Senator Young and build a stronger relationship to enable a stronger voice. We will be on the lookout for other issues that we can take up with him. Based on this interaction we believe that Monica is someone with cultivation of a relationship might be helpful for us in the long term

Other Meeting Takeaways

- Monica was engaged, professional and attentive in our meeting. She did not contest or debate us on any of the points that we raised.
- She asked questions about the resolution of the case of the homeless mother and children that we related to her.
- She offered to provide Mary with information on food assistance programs in the
- She shared literature on Senator Young's constituent service program and his "Housing Affordability Agenda". The agenda involves legislation to 1) incentivize private investment for housing, 2) adjustments to zoning, and 3) expanding tax credits for low income housing. Not sure whether he is serious about any of this or how good/bad this legislation is.