

Sequestration Hearing Sample Q&A

Q: I thought the nation was making progress on ending homelessness among veterans. But, according to *xxx* (your organization's name), my state will lose \$*xxx* (go to <http://bit.ly/U90FN3>; use your state's number on the second chart, sixth column) in homeless assistance funding if sequestration happens. How will veterans and others no longer have access to homeless assistance in my state under sequestration?

A: The White House estimates that nationally more than 100,000 formerly homeless people, including veterans, would be removed from their current housing and emergency shelter programs, putting them at risk of returning to the streets.

Q: Right now, *xxx* extremely poor families in my state (go to <http://bit.ly/U90FN3>; use your state's number on the second chart, first column) receive housing choice vouchers funded by HUD. Secretary Donovan, can you tell me how many families could lose their voucher rental assistance in my state under sequestration? What will become of them? According to *xxx* (your organization's name), there are currently only *xxx* affordable and available homes for every 100 extremely poor families in my state (go to www.nlihc.org/library/SHP; use your state's Housing Shortage number for 0-30% of AMI).

A: The first chart has state-by-state numbers on the loss of housing choice vouchers by state under sequestration. Every state has a deficit of housing that is affordable and available to extremely low income families (families with incomes under 30% of area median) (see second chart).

Q: How will sequestration hamper my local housing agency's ability to maintain its units? According to *xxx* (your organization's name), public housing funding in my state would decrease by \$*xxx* in 2013 (go to <http://bit.ly/U90FN3>; use your state's number on the second chart, fourth column) if sequestration is implemented. How will this impact residents and the local housing authority?

A: Public housing agencies serve extremely low income families. Most PHAs operate on a shoe-string as funding has consistently been insufficient over the last several years. A significant cut, as would happen under sequestration, would cause PHAs to trim staff. This would cause units to turn over much more slowly to families waiting for assistance and exacerbate local housing affordability problems.