

Emergency Housing Voucher Program

By Steve Berg, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Administering Agency: HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) in consultation with Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)

Population Targeted: Households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Funding: \$5 billion in the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021”

HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher program has for decades been funded only enough to meet the needs of about one quarter of eligible households, frustrating attempts to reduce homelessness. The “American Rescue Plan Act” provides \$5 billion for additional vouchers for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Communities need to ensure coordination between housing authorities and homelessness systems to ensure an impact on homelessness. These relationships will be important when more vouchers are provided in the future.

THE EHV PROGRAM AND THE “AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT”

The “American Rescue Plan Act” added an additional \$5 billion for tenant-based rental assistance through HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher program. The new resource is called the Emergency Housing Voucher program. Eligible people are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including people trying to escape domestic violence. HUD has required that PHAs receiving these vouchers coordinate with their local Continuums of Care to determine which households should receive the vouchers and mechanisms for ensuring these households have access to additional services.

FORECAST FOR 2023

If targeted properly, the resources are enough to substantially reduce homelessness for people with severe disabilities and/or among domestic violence survivors in many communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NLIHC, 202-662-1530, www.nlihc.org.

NAEH, www.endhomelessness.org.

The Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homeless Response, <https://housingequityframework.org/>, including help for communities on using vouchers.

HUD landing page for EHV: <https://www.hud.gov/EHV>.