

**ADVANCING
HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS**
NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION
NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

Using the FY2025 Appropriations Process to Fund Solutions to Homelessness

May 21, 2024

Agenda



- **Welcome** – Sonya Acosta, CBPP
- **Federal Appropriations Overview** – Kim Johnson, NLIHC
- **FY2025 Appropriations: What's At Stake?** – Sonya Acosta, CBPP
- **Advocacy Opportunities** – Steve Berg, The Alliance
- **Closing Remarks** – Sonya Acosta, CBPP

Welcome & Opening Remarks



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Federal Appropriations 101



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Federal Appropriations 101



Appropriations: The yearly process by which Congress funds federal discretionary programs

Discretionary Programs

Funding levels are determined each year by Congress (HCVs, Homelessness Assistance Grants, SNAP)

Mandatory Programs

Spending is pre-determined by a federal law or regulation (Social Security, Medicare)

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Appropriations bills last one fiscal year (FY), starting **October 1** and ending **September 30** the following year

FY24: October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

FY25: October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

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12 Annual Discretionary Spending Bills:

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration
- Commerce, Justice, Science
- Defense
- Energy and Water Development
- Financial Services and General Government
- Homeland Security
- Interior and Environment
- Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education
- Legislative Branch
- Military Construction
- State and Foreign Operations
- Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development

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Appropriations Timeline (Theoretical):

- **February:** President submits a budget request to Congress
- **February – April:** Members of the President’s administration attend Congressional hearings to justify the budget
- **April-May:** House and Senate agree to a budget resolution, setting topline spending for discretionary defense and domestic programs: **“302(a)” levels**
 - Topline spending for each of the 12 annual spending bills: **“302(b)” levels**

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Appropriations Timeline (Theoretical):

- **May-June:** House and Senate appropriations committees draft, release, and revise 12 spending bills
- **July-September:** House and Senate work together to reconcile differences between draft spending bills, and draft and vote on final bill
- **October 1:** New fiscal year begins 😊

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Appropriations Timeline (Actual, FY24):

- **March 2023:** President Biden releases Administration's FY24 budget request
- **June 2023:** Federal government hits debt ceiling, passes *Fiscal Responsibility Act* to cap FY24 and FY25 spending
- **July 2023:** House and Senate release draft budgets under *FRA* caps
- **July-September 2023:** Lawmakers attempt but are unable to reconcile differences between bills

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Appropriations Timeline (Actual, FY24):

- **September 30, 2023:** Congress enacts a continuing resolution (CR) until November 17
 - CRs extend funding for federal programs for a specified time
- **November 17, 2023:** Congress enacts a CR until January 19, 2024
- **January 18:** Congress enacts a CR until March 1
- **February 29:** Congress enacts a CR until March 8
- **March 8:** Congress passes and President Biden signs into law a final FY24 spending bill

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Where are we now?

- **March:** President released FY25 budget request reflecting *FRA* caps; likely insufficient to cover cost of program renewals
- **Last week:** House Appropriators received 302(b): 2% increase to THUD funding from FY24, but unknown how funding will break down
- Senate Appropriators considering side-deal for additional funding
- Little appetite to finish bills before elections in November

Expect draft bills before July 4 holiday, but no final bills before November elections

FY25: What's At Stake?



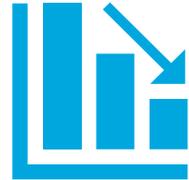
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Tight Spending Caps in Place for 2025



Fiscal Responsibility Act set funding caps for 2024 and 2025

2025 is a 1% increase over 2024 level

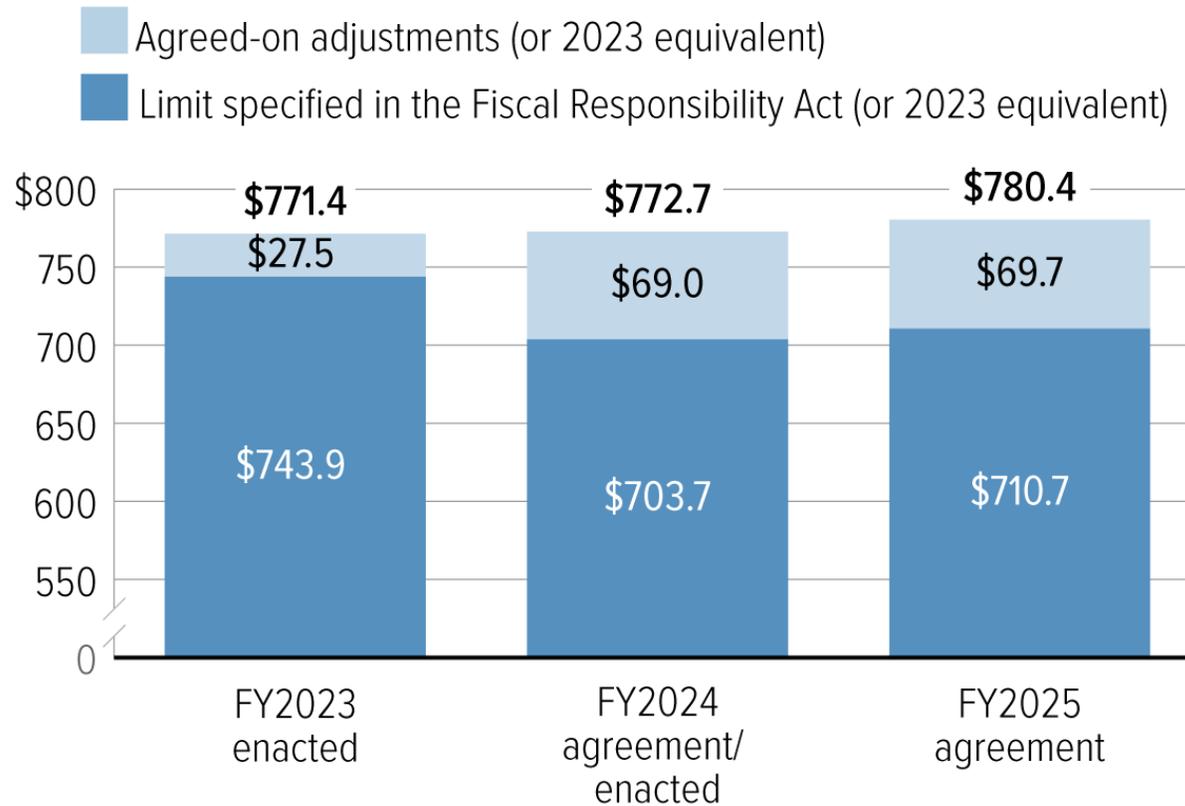


House leadership planning to omit adjustments for certain non-defense spending needs



Adjustments Are Key to Reaching Agreed-On Funding for Non-Defense Appropriations

Appropriations totals, in billions of dollars

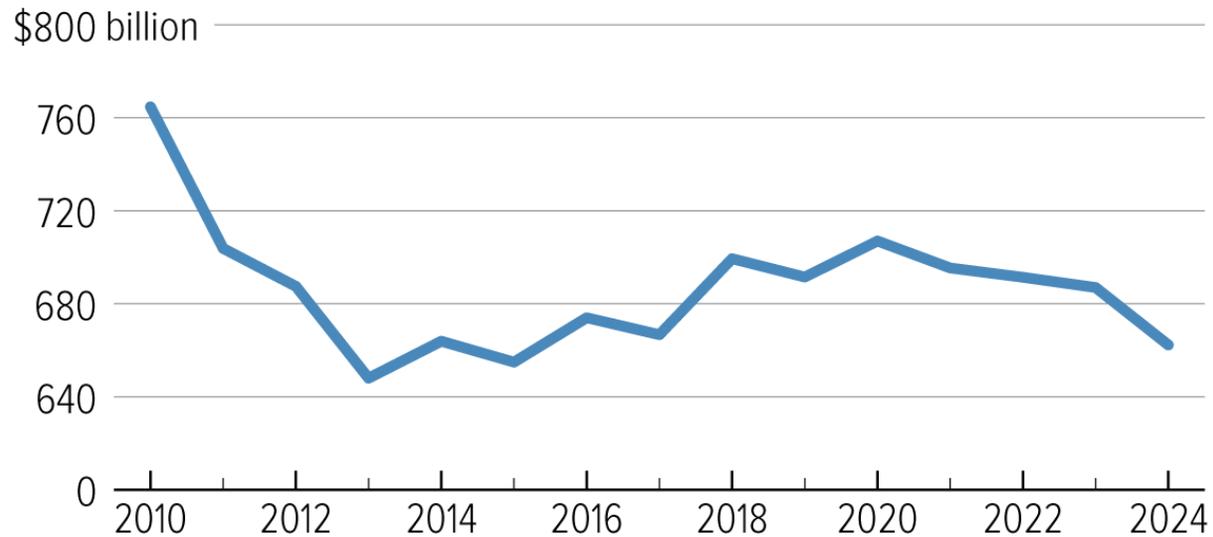


Note: Amounts are in nominal dollars (i.e., not adjusted for inflation).

Source: CBPP analysis of 2023 and 2024 appropriations bills and the FRA and associated agreements

Non-Defense Funding Outside Veterans' Medical Care Down 14 Percent Since 2010

Enacted appropriations, in billions of 2024 dollars, adjusted for population growth and inflation



Note: Totals in this graph include the following categories exempt from the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) appropriations caps: overseas contingency operations, program integrity, wildfire suppression, Cures Act, and Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. They exclude veterans' medical care (budget subfunction 703), and the Census Bureau (excluded to avoid distortions because this graph starts in 2010, a decennial census year when the Bureau's funding rises dramatically). They also exclude offsets from Changes in Mandatory Programs ("CHIMPs") and mortgage insurance receipts. (Note that excluding these two categories of negative numbers raises the overall total.) Also note that for 2023, the FRA directly appropriated some funding and rescinded some other funding that might otherwise be considered discretionary, but we treat those 2023 effects as mandatory, following the legal definition of mandatory funding: funding not provided by appropriations acts.

Source: CBPP analysis of appropriations data

President's Budget Reflects Spending Limitations



| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 President's Budget | Difference |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Homeless Assistance Grants | 4.05 billion | 4.06 billion | 9 million |
| Housing Choice Vouchers | 32.39 billion | 32.76 billion | 369 million |
| Project-Based Rental Assistance | 16.01 billion | 16.69 billion | 676 million |
| Public Housing | 8.81 billion | 8.54 billion | -271 million |
| HOPWA | 505 million | 505 million | --- |
| HOME | 1.25 billion | 1.25 billion | --- |
| Native American Housing Programs | 1.34 billion | 1.05 billion | 291 million |



Increased Funding Necessary in 2025



- Funding to **fully renew** existing **Housing Choice Vouchers** and help 20,000 additional households
- Provide **\$4.75 billion** for **Homeless Assistance Grants**
- Support **Public Housing** with **full funding** for operations and **\$5.2 billion** for capital needs
- Provide \$100 million for the Eviction Protection Grant Program
- Increase funding for **Native American housing programs** to **\$1.3 billion**, including **\$150 million** for competitive funds

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



Steve Berg

Chief Policy Officer

National Alliance to End Homelessness

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Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



1. Have a clear and powerful general message:

- Homelessness is bad – for everyone.
- What we’re doing about homelessness is good – for everyone.

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



2. And make sure you have timely specific requests suitable for federal elected officials.

Congress needs to do its part by investing in what works:

- More housing vouchers.
- More investment in building and preserving affordable housing and public housing.
- More funding for key federal homeless assistance programs – CoC and ESG.

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



- Tell Members and their staff what more resources would mean specifically for their communities and some of their most vulnerable constituents—i.e., how would additional resources actually be used to prevent and reduce homelessness in the states and districts represented by your Congressional Members?
- Explain how your work is getting people housed and ending homelessness for people in great need, improving your community, and reducing the significant costs to communities associated with people experiencing homelessness.
- Remind Members and their staff that homeless services staff are too often being paid barely enough to avoid being homeless themselves—we know how important services are to housing people with acute needs, so how about finally appreciating the homeless services staff responsible for providing those services?

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



- Local homeless services are working harder than ever, housing huge numbers of people experiencing homelessness, but they can't keep up with the inflow, mainly people becoming homeless for the first time.
- Homelessness numbers have increased because of an historic and longstanding failure to invest in affordable housing as well as breakdowns in other systems (e.g., inadequate incomes and behavioral health care, bad zoning and onerous building requirements). Remember that some Members think homelessness programs aren't working merely because homelessness is increasing.

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



3. Participate in advocacy events as a way to get started (e.g., Hill Days).

- Build local coalitions of advocates, including civic and faith-based groups as well as people with lived experience.
- Build relationships with Members' offices, including key staffers and Members themselves, using local contacts to open doors and get meetings.

Engaging in the Federal Appropriations Process



- Virtual meetings with WDC Congressional staff.
- Personal meetings back home with Members and staff, including invitations from you to tour or speak at your facilities.
- If you need help setting up a meeting, please contact NAEH.

And remember: advocacy is something to work on year-round.

Using FY25 Appropriations to Fund Solutions to Homelessness



Panel Discussion

Closing Remarks



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Resources

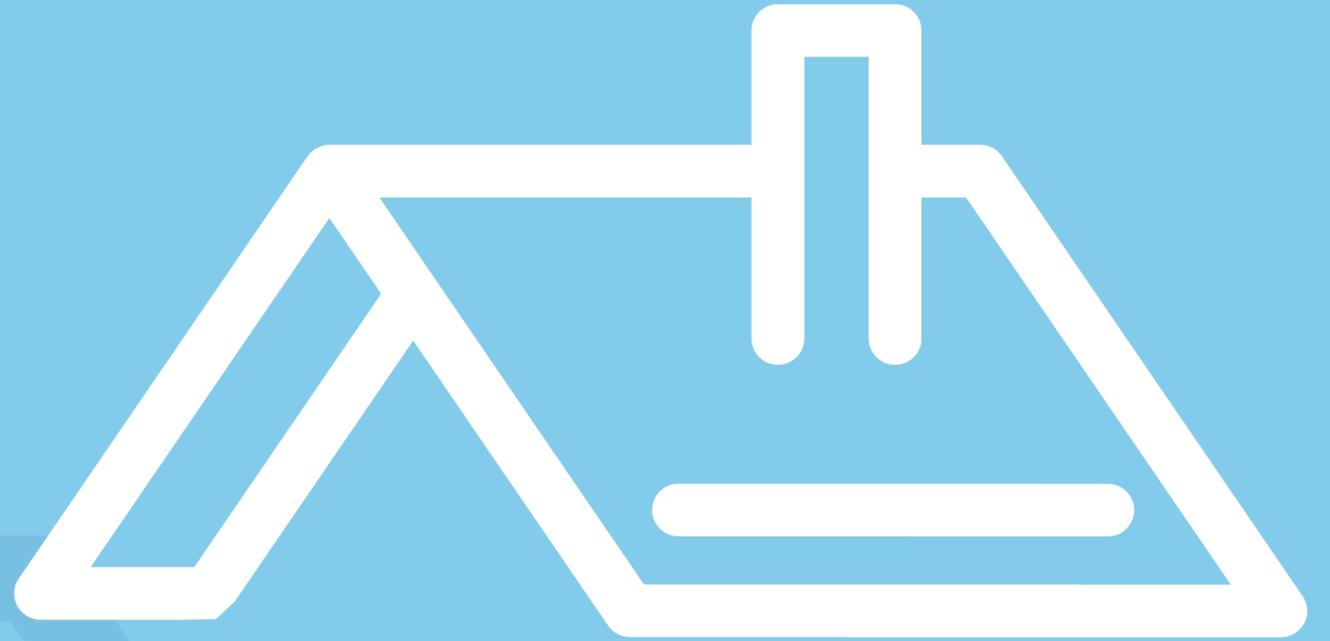


- [Fact Sheet: Using FY25 Appropriations to Fund Homelessness Solutions](#)
- [NLIHC's Take Action page](#)
- [The Alliance's Take Action page](#)
- [NLIHC Advocates' Guide: The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Dangers of a Long-Term CR or Government Shutdown](#)



Thank you!

Join our next
webinar on June 25
at 2:00 pm ET!



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