

HOUSING PLUS SERVICES

Fact Sheet



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

FOCUS OF 2015 ADVOCACY:

- Advocate for the highest funding levels possible for HUD programs that serve extremely low income people and special populations. In particular, sufficient funding should be provided to meet these policy objectives:
 - Ensure adequate funding for Homeless Assistance Grants and other programs that serve people at risk of homelessness to allow for full HEARTH implementation and to meet the targets in “Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.”
 - Ensure increased funding for the Section 202 program over FY16. Appropriations should include capital advance dollars.
 - Ensure adequate funding for Melville Act reforms to continue to be implemented in the Section 811 program.

FUNDING FOR HOUSING PLUS SERVICES PROGRAMS:

The President released his FY16 budget request on February 2. Among the housing provisions included in the request, the President proposed the following funding levels for programs related to housing plus services issues.

- \$177 million for the Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities: as compared to \$160 million in FY15
- \$455 million for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly as compared to \$440 million in FY15.
- \$2.480 for Homeless Assistance Grants as compared to \$2.406 billion in FY15.

Also included in the request were various policy proposals related to housing plus services issues such as:

- Moving the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) program, currently housed at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs. FEMA is requesting \$100 million for EFS for FY16. HUD also requests legislative language to authorize nonprofit organizations to administer rental assistance programs under the Continuum of

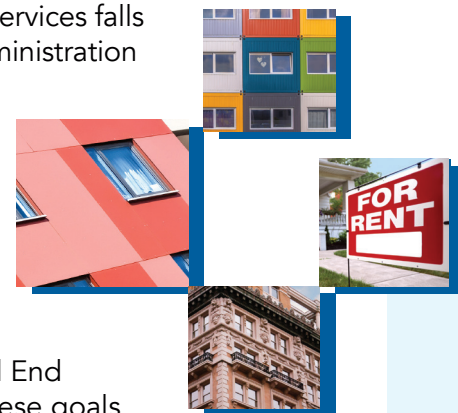
Care program and to establish a more timely and effective process in using surplus federal properties to assist those who are homeless.

- The President includes a request to make unobligated funds available to the Section 202 program through recaptures and carryover, and to allow HUD to use funds for demonstration programs that test housing with services models.
- In keeping with President’s National HIV/AIDS strategy, the President proposes updating the HOPWA funding formula to better reflect current needs.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION:

While appropriations continue to be very important in the 114th Congress, much of the work on Housing Plus Services falls to the hands of the Administration for several initiatives including:

- Making progress on the goals outlined in “Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.” These goals include ending homelessness among veterans by 2015, ending chronic homelessness by 2016 (a one-year delay from the original target date), and ending homelessness among children youth and families by 2020. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released a 2015 amendment to the Opening Doors plan in June.
- Implementing the Section 811 demonstration and other reforms authorized by legislation as well as Section 202 modifications.
- Continuing an increased level of Section 3 compliance work to ensure that the program, which requires 30% of new hires and 10% of contracts from certain HUD funded projects be directed at low and very low income tenants is effective.



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