

**ADVANCING
HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS**

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

Building a Federal Budget that Advances Homelessness Solutions

May 21, 2025

Agenda



- **Welcome & Housekeeping**
- **Homelessness Assistance Grants**
- **Rental Assistance**
- **How to Get Involved**
- **Audience Q&A**

Welcome & Housekeeping



Kim Johnson

Senior Director of Policy

National Low Income Housing Coalition

President's Partial Budget Proposal Would Starve Communities of Funding for Solutions: Housing + Services



What is a “partial” budget request?

The “partial” budget request acts as a preview to the President’s full budget request

- President releases a budget request every year, as part of the annual appropriations process
- "Partial" budget gives the White House more time to draft text for the full budget, while giving Congress the information it needs to start the appropriations process
- President’s full budget request expected in the coming weeks

Remember: The President’s budget request (partial or not) represents the President and his Administration’s priorities – *it is a wish list, not an inevitability*

President's Partial Budget Proposal Would Starve Communities of Funding for Solutions: Housing + Services



What does the “partial” budget request propose for housing and homelessness assistance?

The “partial” request would cut HUD’s budget by 44% from FY25

- Including cutting \$26.7 billion – 43% – from HUD’s rental assistance program, and redesigning HUD rental assistance entirely
- Cuts Homeless Assistance Grants by \$532 million (13% decrease from FY25) and "consolidates" Continuum of Care (CoC) and Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) programs under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program
- Imposes a two-year time limit on receiving rental or homelessness assistance
- Cuts \$479 million from Native housing programs, consolidates into IHBG

President's Partial Budget Proposal Would Starve Communities of Funding for Solutions: Housing + Services



What does the “partial” request propose for housing and homelessness assistance?

The “partial” request would cut funding for:

- Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Funding (-\$296 million)

The “partial” request would eliminate:

- Community Development Block Grants
- HOME Investment Partnership Programs
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) Housing Grants
- Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP)

President's Partial Budget Proposal Would Starve Communities of Funding for Solutions: Housing + Services



What comes next?

Remember: The President's budget request (partial or not) represents the President and his Administration's priorities – *it is a wish list, not an inevitability*

- President's full budget request expected in the coming weeks
- Leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will need to reach an agreement on topline funding for FY26 (302(a) agreement) and topline funding for each of the 12 annual appropriations bills (302 (b) agreements)
- House and Senate appropriators will draft, debate, and pass their own draft bills for FY26, and then reconcile the differences between the House and Senate passed bills
- A final FY26 budget is due by the start of the new fiscal year – October 1

How can we impact legislation in 2025?



Block – stop bad things when we can



Delay – we have things take effect later hoping we get another bite at the apple



Mitigate – when we can't stop or delay harm we try to ease it's impact



Document – show impact on people to building a case for undoing it later



Look for opportunities - to make progress where possible



Continue to lay groundwork - for future advances

Homelessness Assistance Grants



Steve Berg

Chief Policy Officer

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Homelessness funding needs to catch up in FY26



- **Homeless Assistance Grants account in the T-HUD appropriations bill funds the Continuum of Care program, Emergency Solutions Grants, and small items to implement these programs**
 - Continued rental payments for people who have escaped homelessness
 - Keeping people safe while homeless
 - Moving people from homelessness into housing
- **FY25 provided level funding: a reduction in capacity because of rising rents, insufficient because of rising homelessness**

Homelessness funding needs to catch up in FY26



What's needed:

- **\$4.922 billion, an increase of \$871 million over FY25 and FY24**
 - Adjustments for rising rents and rising cost of living for workers
 - Substantial increase for Emergency Solutions Grants, to address insufficient shelter and unsheltered homelessness
 - \$150 million for new CoC projects
- **Positive policy changes**
 - Two-year NOFO made permanent
 - Technical assistance

President's Proposals Would Increase Homelessness



- **FY25 Funding**

- The Homeless Assistance Grants account was flat-funded, which will create big cuts in capacity due to rent and operating cost increases.

- **President's FY26 Budget Proposal**

- Cuts of 12 percent in homelessness programs
- “Consolidating” CoC and HOPWA with ESG – basically block granting homeless programs, at a lesser funding level
- Block granting at a much lower funding level for mainstream housing programs (e.g. Housing Choice Vouchers), the source of most recent permanent housing for people escaping homelessness (more on this later)

Homelessness Funding: The Latest on Capitol Hill



- **“Dear Colleague” letters on Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG):** adopted our recommendations, strong support from Senators and Representatives. Closed now.
- **Members can still make HAG requests through the T-HUD Appropriations portal until 5:00 pm est Friday May 23**

Homelessness Funding: Action!



- **Contact Members' offices NOW:**

- If they signed the HAG Dear Colleague (John or Samantha have the list), THANK THEM! (John Threlkeld, jthrelkeld@naeh.org; Samantha Wood, swood@naeh.org)
- Encourage them (if they haven't already) to make HAG requests through the T-HUD Appropriations portal before 5:00 pm EST Friday May 23 (a good ask for Republican Members or Dems who didn't sign)
- Ask them, particularly Dems, to sign the EHV "Dear Colleague" by 5:00 pm Thursday May 22

Rental Assistance



Sonya Acosta

Senior Policy Analyst

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

2025 Rental Assistance Funding Falling Short



Program	Difference (in millions)	Percent Change
Housing Voucher Renewals	\$3,654	12.8%
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Sec. 811)	\$48.7	23%
Housing for the Elderly (Sec. 202)	\$18.4	2%
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$480	3%

Source: Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025

Millions of People Would Face Eviction or Homelessness under Trump Budget



Block Grant & Cut Rental Assistance

- Lump together 5 programs into block grant to states:
 - Housing Choice Vouchers
 - Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance
 - Public Housing
 - Section 202 Housing for the Elderly
 - Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities
- Cut by **\$27 billion** (43 percent)

Implement Time Limits

- Two-year time limit
- Would likely exclude older adults and some people with disabilities
- Ignores reality of low wages and high rents

Block Granting Will Lead to Future Cuts

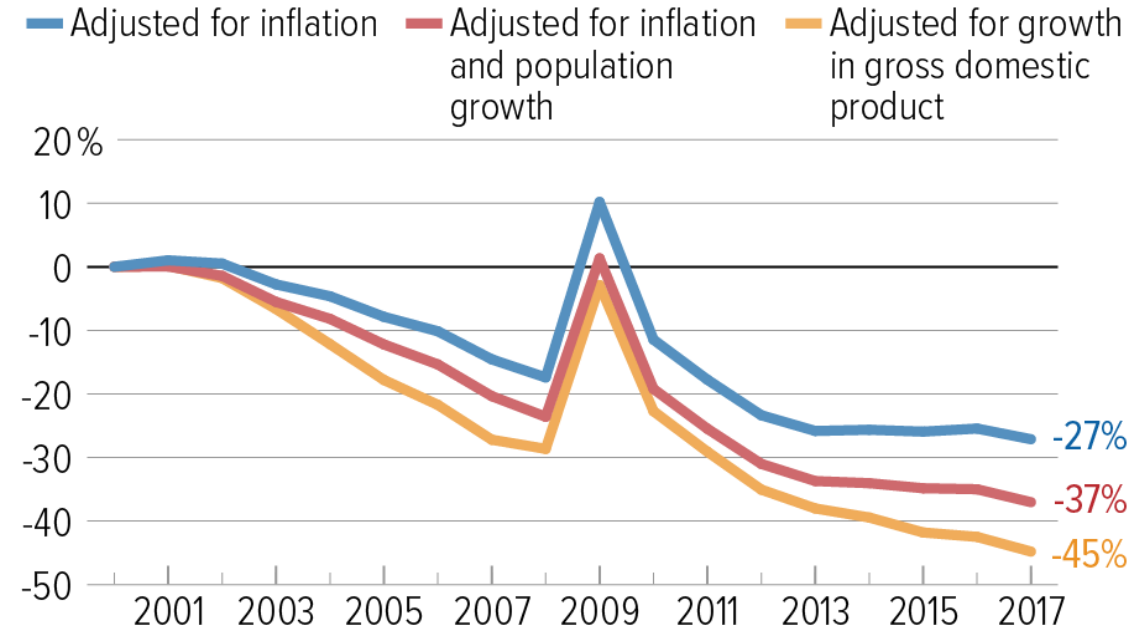
History shows block grants for people with low incomes lose funding over time

Any state funding available to “share costs” would just be offsetting cuts

States then responsible for implementing harsh cuts

Overall Funding for Housing, Health, and Human Services Block Grants Has Fallen Significantly Since 2000

Change relative to 2000 funding level



Note: Includes funding from the 2009 Recovery Act. For non-entitlement programs, 2017 levels represent annualized funding under the current continuing resolution (which expires on April 28, 2017); final levels for 2017 may end up higher or lower than shown here.

Source: CBPP based on Congressional Research Service reports, agency budget justification documents, and appropriations legislation. Inflation data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; population data from the Social Security and Medicare Trustees; gross domestic product data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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Additional Funding Needed to Ensure Nearly 60,000 Households Stay Housed



Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) received \$5 billion in 2021

- Targeted to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic violence and trafficking

Funding projected to run out mid-way through 2026 or sooner for some agencies

- Rapid rent increases in 2021 and 2022 led to higher program costs

More than 59,000 households still rely on EHVs to pay rent every month

- Communities lack resources to transition them to other programs

Losing EHV's Will Have Major Impact on People in Your Community



A mom and her kids who had been living in a motel in Texas following her husband's death were able to move into an apartment near a school and public transportation

A mother of two was able to settle debts and move with her children into a new home after leaving a controlling husband

Households with EHV's

A dad and his daughter in New York City were able to move out of a homeless shelter and into a stable home

A trafficking survivor was able to settle in a new home that "finally brought [their] family stability and calm"



Housing Voucher Funding Asks for 2026 and Beyond



1. Fully Funding Housing Choice Vouchers

Includes ensuring that no one with an EHV loses assistance

2. Reject Proposal to Block Grant Rental Assistance

3. No Policies That Take Assistance Away from People

Includes time limits and work requirements

4. Looking forward, we need a rental assistance guarantee

Rental assistance is a proven tool, the remaining need is high, and improvements can be made that don't deny people assistance

Rental Assistance—Action!



- Urge Congress to provide full funding for Housing Choice Vouchers, including Emergency Housing Vouchers. (The EHV [toolkit](#) makes it easier!)
 - Ask members to sign on to EHV “Dear Colleague” letter by **5:00 pm tomorrow**, May 22! Our [toolkit](#) has template language.
- Work with state and local officials and agencies to mitigate harm of potential funding losses

Putting it All Together: How to Get Involved



Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)—Contact Members' offices NOW:

- Overall: [\\$4.922 billion](#), an increase of \$871 million
- If Members of Congress signed the HAG Dear Colleague, THANK THEM!
- Encourage Members of Congress to make HAG requests through the T-HUD Appropriations portal before 5:00 pm EST Friday May 23 (a good ask for Republican Members or Dems who didn't sign)
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Rental Assistance

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Resources



Take Action

- [NLIHC's Action Portal](#)
- [NAEH's Action Portal](#) and [Summary of Funding Asks](#)

President's Budget Analysis

- [NAEH-FY26 President's Budget Analysis](#)
- [NLIHC FY26 President's Budget Analysis](#)

Emergency Housing Vouchers

- [EHV and Voucher Funding Toolkit](#)
- [EHV Dashboard](#)
- [Urban Institute EHV Case Studies](#)

Homeless Assistance Grants Dear Colleague Letters

- [House](#)
- [Senate](#)

Audience Q&A

Stay Up To Date

endhomelessness.org

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