

# USING FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025 APPROPRIATIONS TO FUND HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

**R**obust federal investments for affordable housing and homelessness programs are needed to address the growing affordable housing and homelessness crisis in communities across the country. HUD's [2023 Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Count](#) showed a 12% increase in homelessness, the highest number ever recorded. The PIT count showed increases in homelessness even among families and veterans, despite years of significant investments towards helping those subpopulations and resulting reductions in homelessness.

The [severe lack of affordable rental homes](#) is driving the rise in homelessness across the country. In 2022, over 12 million households spent more than half their income on rent. Households earning less than \$30,000 a year [faced the worst affordability issues](#). Many cannot afford a home at all – on a single night in January 2023, [653,000 people experienced homelessness in the United States](#). The fastest growing population of people experiencing homelessness are adults over the age of 55 and it is anticipated that this number will triple by 2030. In 2023, nearly 1 in 4 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness were over the age of 55.

Local homeless response systems are housing more people than ever, but these systems lack adequate resources to keep up with the inflow of people falling into homelessness. At current funding levels, only [one in four](#) eligible households receives housing assistance, leaving other households to struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Without large-scale, sustained federal investments in affordable housing, more people will experience housing insecurity and homelessness.

## CONGRESS NEEDS TO KEEP HEARING FROM YOU!

Urge your members of Congress to fund HUD's housing and homelessness programs at the highest level possible in FY25, including significant funding for these top priorities:

- **Full funding to renew all existing contracts for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and expand rental assistance to 20,000 more households.**
  - Rental assistance is a critical tool for helping the lowest-income people afford decent, stable, accessible housing, and the HCV program has a [proven track record](#) of reducing homelessness and housing poverty. Because program costs are tied to rental costs, which have increased greatly in the past few years, the program requires additional funding each year to maintain the number of households served.
- **\$4.75 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG).**
  - HAG funds the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. The CoC program pays for, among other things, permanent supportive housing, which combines rental subsidies without a designated length of stay with supportive services for households with at least one person with acute needs (e.g., mental illness, physical illness, or substance use); rapid

re-housing, which provides households with short term (up to 3 months) or medium term (up to 24 months) rental assistance along with lower levels of services; and street outreach, which identifies and assists people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, connecting them to services on a voluntary basis.

- Increased HAG funding could ensure many more vulnerable households - especially those experiencing chronic homelessness - receive the housing assistance and supportive services they need to obtain and maintain housing. Rental assistance alone is not enough - the level of engagement and the quality of supportive services offered depends on the availability and experience of the staff providing those services, and many non-profits, local governments, and even the Department of Veteran Affairs are finding it difficult to recruit and retain homeless services staff because of low pay and high caseloads. Compensation for front-line homelessness services workers should be made more competitive to ensure that case managers are not struggling to avoid homelessness themselves or struggling under unrealistic caseloads.
- An increase in HAG funding could also provide the ESG program with additional resources. For most jurisdictions, ESG is the only federal funding source for addressing two urgent needs: renovating, converting, and operating shelters, and preventing homelessness.
- **\$6.2 billion for public housing operations and \$5.2 billion for public housing capital needs.**
  - Increased funding is required every year to provide housing agencies with additional resources needed to maintain services and make critical repairs that will improve living conditions for tens of thousands of residents in public housing. Our country's public housing infrastructure currently has an estimated capital needs backlog of over \$70 billion; absent additional funding, public housing units will continue to fall into disrepair, exposing residents to potentially dangerous and unhealthy living conditions.
- **\$100 million for the Eviction Protection Grant Program.**
  - HUD's Eviction Protection Grant Program provides communities with grants to establish and operate programs that provide legal representation for tenants facing eviction. Legal representation plays a crucial role in protecting tenants, and it can help households resolve a dispute and avoid eviction, and in the worst cases, homelessness.
- **At least \$1.3 billion for Tribal housing programs, plus \$150 million for competitive funds targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.**
  - Native Americans in tribal areas have some of the worst housing needs in the United States. They face high poverty rates and low incomes, overcrowding, lack of plumbing and heat, and unique development issues. Despite the growing need for safe, decent homes, federal investments in affordable housing on tribal lands have been chronically underfunded for decades, particularly in more rural and remote areas.

Read the [House](#) and [Senate](#) FY25 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Homeless Funding Sign-On Letters.

## Take Action!

- **Email or call members' offices** to tell them about the importance of affordable housing and homelessness resources to you, your family, your community, or your work. You can use [NLIHC's Take Action page](#) or the [Alliance's Take Action page](#) to look up your member offices or call/send an email directly!
- **Use social media** to amplify messages about the country's affordable housing and homelessness crisis and the continued need for long-term solutions.
- **Share stories** of those directly impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Storytelling adds emotional weight to your message and can help lawmakers see how their policy decisions impact actual people. Learn about how to [tell compelling stories with this resource](#).

For more information, contact NLIHC Policy Manager Kim Johnson at [kjohnson@nlihc.org](mailto:kjohnson@nlihc.org) or the Alliance's Senior Congressional Affairs Manager John Threlkeld at [jthrelkeld@naeh.org](mailto:jthrelkeld@naeh.org).

