

# NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign for Long-Term Housing Solutions

April 8, 2025

# Agenda



## **Updates on Homelessness Policy: Take Action April 22!**

- Ann Oliva, CEO, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Donald Whitehead Executive Director, National Coalition for the Homeless

## **Defending HUD Programs & Resources in Your Community**

- Meg Zaletel, Executive Director, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

## **Policy Update**

- Kim Johnson, Policy Manager, NLIHC

## **Resources & Next Steps**

# Updates on Homelessness Policy: Take Action April 22!



**Ann Oliva**

*Chief Executive Officer*

National Alliance to End Homelessness

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# Housed Campaign Call

Ann Oliva, CEO

April 8, 2025

# Items To Cover

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- CoC Funding and FY23/24 Grant Agreements
- Homeless Assistance Grants FY25 and FY 26 Budgets
- Rollback of Evidence Based Approaches
- HUD Workforce and Other Threats

# Continuum of Care Program

- On January 17, 2025, HUD announced the award of nearly 7,000 grants awarded under the FY2024 CoC Program NOFO—the first year of funding of a two-year NOFO. Funding was delayed for months after the announcement.
- As grant agreements for FY2024 CoC funds began reaching recipients of funding, **news spread quickly that new provisions had been added to the standard language.** These new provisions — required of all funding recipients — are vague and confusing in terms of their applicability to CoC Program funding. The Alliance advises CoCs and funding recipients to engage legal counsel to help understand obligations.
- We have received reports that FY2023 grant agreements that had been on hold seem to be moving forward.
- Not sure if the 2-year NOFO will survive, or what additional changes they may make if a new 2025 NOFO is released.

# HAG Budget/EHVs

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- For FY2025, the full year continuing resolution could effectively mean a cut in CoC program funding of between \$150 million and \$200 million.
- The Alliance is preparing its request for FY2026.
- Also at risk: Emergency Housing Vouchers

# Rollback of Evidence Based Approaches

- Decades worth of evidence demonstrates that pairing immediate and permanent housing with accessible and voluntary services both gets and keeps people housed.
- The Administration is discouraging local governments from following the federal policy, telling them it will not enforce homelessness contracts “to the extent that they require the project to use a housing first program model.”
- The core principles of Housing First have been critical components of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ broader homelessness assistance programs since it became VA’s official policy in 2012. The results speak for themselves. Since 2010, Veteran homelessness has decreased by over 52%, and 83 communities and three states have effectively ended homelessness.



# Workforce Cuts & Other Threats

- Recent Administration actions, including the reported staff cuts to both HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Executive Order to raid encampments, unexpected interruptions to federal grants that local providers rely on, and proposals to eliminate fair housing and equal access to shelter services— **are deeply concerning**.
- Proposals to cut **Medicaid** will disrupt vital housing stabilization services for residents of permanent supportive housing and deprive communities of key resources to support crucial activities like housing navigation.
- Attempts to weaken or remove the **Equal Access Rule** will burden providers and create barriers for clients, threatening universal access to HUD programs, particularly for some of the most vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness, including transgender and gender expansive people.
- **The recent Trump Administration’s Executive Order, *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*, includes instruction for the U.S. Department of the Interior to rapidly dismantle homeless encampments on federal land in Washington, D.C. that are subject to the National Park Service’s jurisdiction.**

# Updates on Homelessness Policy: Take Action April 22!



**Donald Whitehead**

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# HOUSING NOW! NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Housing and Healthcare for ALL, Not Budget Cuts, Fines and Jail



## YES to Housing and Healthcare, NO to Funding cuts, Fines and Jail

**Last year**, the Supreme Court ruled that communities can arrest and ticket people for living outside, and, one year later, over 150 cities have passed laws making it illegal to be homeless **without** addressing the dire **lack of affordable housing** that causes homelessness.

On April 22, 2025, thousands of advocates will rally nationwide, and in Washington DC at the Capitol, to demand **Housing NOW!** We know what ends homelessness, and we will call on our elected officials to reject budget cuts that only worsen the crisis and stand against fines and mistreatment of the homeless.

We know what works! Communities are fighting for **proven solutions**. We want to use this moment to lift up what YOU are fighting for in your community. This is an opportunity for **YOU to share [your story](#)**.

*If you'd like to host your own event, fill out the registration form to be featured on the official Housing NOW! National Day of Action website. Click the button below to get involved!*

Attend the DC Rally

Register your Event



# Defending HUD Resources and Programs in Your Community



**Meg Zaletel**

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# Policy Update



**Kim Johnson**

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# Policy Update

## **What's Going On**

- 1. HUD Staffing Cut Updates**
- 2. FY26 & Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) funding**
- 3. Reconciliation**

# Policy Update



## HUD Staffing Cuts

**Topline:** Half of HUD staff are at risk of being laid off

- Office of Community Planning and Development – cut by 84%
- Office of Fair Housing – cut by 76%
- Office of Policy Development and Research – cut by 76%
- Office of Public and Indian Housing – cut by 50%

**HUD Field and Regional Offices are being targeted for closure**

# Policy Update



## HUD Staffing Cuts

### HUD staff presented with second “fork in the road” email

- Current staff have until April 11 to accept a deferred resignation offer
- According to HUD, the first “fork in the road” email led to 7.4% of staff departing
- Reduction in Force (RIF) memo issued in February – agency has until May 18 to develop plan to “abolish all positions of GS-13 and below” for employees of HUD’s Office of Field policy and Management

### In addition...

All staff responsible for administering the LIHEAP program at HHS were fired last week



# Policy Update



## HUD Staffing Cuts

### What's next?

- April 22 Housing Now! rally: [tinyurl.com/9pzs7ye](https://tinyurl.com/9pzs7ye)
- Join organizational sign-on opposing HUD staff cuts: [nlihc.quorum.us/campaign/111236/](https://nlihc.quorum.us/campaign/111236/)
- Contact your members of Congress and urge them to support HUD and the communities it serves: [nlihc.quorum.us/campaign/109331/](https://nlihc.quorum.us/campaign/109331/)

## EHV Funding Cliff

**Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) were created in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)***

- ARPA provided \$5 billion for the creation of 60,000 EHVs, targeted specifically to people and families at imminent risk of or experiencing homelessness; people escaping intimate partner violence or human trafficking; and people who recently experienced homelessness
  - EHVs have been tremendously successful
  - When allocated, funding for EHVs was expected to last until 2030; drastic increases in the cost of rent have drawn down EHV funds much faster than expected
- EHV program is at risk of running out of funding in 2026**

# Policy Update



## FY26 & EHV Funding

**Congress has until October 1 to pass a fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget**

Priorities in FY26:

- Increased funding for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)
- Sufficient funding to cover Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) renewals, *plus increased funding to cover Emergency Housing Voucher Renewals*
- Additional funding for Public Housing, the Eviction Protection Grants Program, and the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and IHBG-Competitive program

## Reconciliation

**Both the House and Senate have passed their own budget resolutions outlining the provisions of a reconciliation package**

*Quick reminder: “Reconciliation” is a legislative process that allows for the quicker consideration of bills by limiting debate time; suspending the Senate filibuster rule; and limiting the provisions that can be included*

→ With Republicans in control of the House, Senate, and White House, they can use Reconciliation to pass a bill without any bipartisan support or input ←

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## Reconciliation

### Senate passed “skinny” budget resolution February 21

- \$350 billion in spending: defense, immigration enforcement
- At least \$5 billion in cuts: Changes to Medicaid and SNAP policy, rescinding funding from the *Inflation Reduction Act*

### House passed resolution for “one big, beautiful bill” on March 3

- \$4.5 trillion in spending: defense, immigration enforcement, and extending tax cuts benefiting the wealthy and corporations
- Over \$2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and energy funding from the *Inflation Reduction Act*

## Reconciliation

### Where are things now?

- House and Senate must reconcile the differences in their budget resolutions, and pass the same resolution before either chamber can bring forward legislative text
- Senate passed on April 4 their reconciled resolution:
  - Over \$5 trillion in spending: defense, immigration enforcement, and extending tax cuts primarily benefiting wealthy households and corporations
  - Proposed over \$4 billion in Medicaid, SNAP, and energy funding from the *Inflation Reduction Act*
- House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) wants House to pass resolution before April 11

# Resources & Next Steps



Learn more about the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) and the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#).

Join the National Coalition for the Homeless on April 22 for [the Housing Now! Day of Action!](#)

Learn more about the [Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness](#).

Add your organization to a [national sign-on letter](#) and [contact your members of Congress](#) to urge them to protect HUD's workforce.

If you or your program have been impacted by staffing cuts, you can [share your story](#) with the National Housing Law Project!

View [recordings](#) of previous National Calls and [register](#) for future calls.

**Join our next National HoUsed Campaign Call:  
Tuesday, April 22 at 4:00 -5:00 pm ET**