

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

STRATEGIC GOAL/OBJECTIVE	ACTUAL 2002	ESTIMATE 2003	ESTIMATE 2004
<b>Strategic Goal C: Strengthen communities.</b>			
Discretionary BA (Dollars in Thousands)	\$1,122,525	\$1,129,500	\$1,325,000
FTE			
Headquarters	43	48	48
Field	122	136	143
Subtotal	165	184	191
S&E Cost (Dollars in Thousands)			
Personal Services	\$14,329	\$16,444	\$17,470
Travel	165	162	176
Printing	117	90	94
Other Services	468	499	666
Supplies	14	6	6
Subtotal	15,093	17,201	18,412
<b>Strategic Objective C.3: End chronic homelessness and move homeless families to permanent housing.</b>			
Indicator: The number of chronically homeless individuals declines by up to 50 percent by fiscal year 2008.	NA	Establish Baseline	NA
Indicator: At least 180,000 homeless persons become housed in HUD funded transitional housing with supportive services.	192,392	115,000	180,000
Indicator: At least 45,000 homeless persons become employed while in HUD's homeless assistance projects.	16,520	19,000	45,000
Indicator: At least 360 functioning CoC Communities or 90 percent of our Continuum will have a Homeless Management Information System	24	75	360
Indicator: HUD homeless programs will help at least 80,000 homeless persons move into permanent housing.	47,905	34,000	80,000

EXPLANATION OF PERFORMANCE

Performance/Means and Strategies

HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program provides Federal support to one of the nation's most vulnerable populations while working to reduce overall homelessness and end chronic homelessness in 10 years. These grants assist localities in establishing systems that can address the needs of different homeless populations while providing coordinated continuum of care systems that ensure the support necessary to help those who are homeless to attain permanent housing and move toward self-sufficiency.

For Homeless Assistance Grants, the Department requests \$1.325 billion in Program funding and \$18.4 million in S&E for a total of \$1.343 billion in fiscal year 2004 to support Strategic Goal C: Strengthen communities.

Eliminate chronic homelessness in 10 years. The additional resources requested in fiscal year 2004 will result in increased permanent housing resources and to a lesser extent transitional housing resources beginning in fiscal year 2005 and the further out-years as the consolidated program is fully implemented. By streamlining HUD's array of different programs into a single program, communities will be able to both receive the funds in a much more timely manner and focus attention on that portion of the homeless population that tends to cycle in and out of the homeless system. Anecdotal evidence indicates persons with disabilities who are homeless for extended periods of time, often referred to as the chronically homeless, consume a disproportionate share of available resources (psychiatric facilities, jails, detox centers, hospitals, emergency shelters, etc.) without having their basic needs appropriately addressed. In an effort to achieve this long-term goal, HUD is working towards reducing the number of chronically homeless by 50 percent by fiscal year 2008.

HUD's efforts to combat homelessness and eliminate chronic homelessness also reflect a substantially strengthened interagency collaboration that is also reflected in the reconstituted United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. In fiscal year 2002 HUD, HHS, and VA, began a jointly administered grant to reduce chronic homelessness. The fiscal year 2004 Budget builds on this effort with the proposed Samaritan Housing Program described in a separate justification. A key ingredient to the overall success of these efforts is to effectively accomplish the accessing of mainstream health, social services and job programs and through our homeless program.

The proposal also supports the objective to end chronic homelessness by ensuring that at least 30 percent of the grant funds be dedicated to providing permanent housing, many of those housed will be chronically homeless. By providing a permanent solution, chronically homeless persons will not need to continue to cycle from the streets to shelters, receiving stop-gap assistance that does not address their primary need, permanent housing and supportive services.

Finally, the proposal would provide for a portion of the grants to be used to implement and operate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). These systems will allow communities to among other things, measure the incidence, reduction and eventual elimination of chronic homelessness. The coordination of housing and supportive services is crucial to breaking the cycle of homelessness. HUD's proposal allow grantees to use a percentage of their grant to implement and operate an HMIS can help facilitate a coordinated set of housing and service resources for homeless persons within the community.

While the chronically homeless are often the most visible of the homeless population, there are a substantial number of families and individuals who experience temporary crises and then become homeless. The factors that lead to their homelessness include a lack of affordable housing, high unemployment and low wages, and the presence of domestic violence, substance abuse, or health problems.

The proposal's provision to ensure that at least 30 percent of the grant funds are used for permanent housing provides a significant amount of resources for meeting the objective of moving persons to permanent housing.

The proposed program would significantly improve communities' ability to prevent homelessness. Currently, the only avenue through HUD's homeless assistance programs to prevent homelessness is through the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program. The law limits the amount of ESG funds that can be used for prevention to 30 percent. As such, only about 4.5 percent of the current overall HUD homeless funding account can be used for prevention. The proposed homeless fund would allow communities to use a larger portion of the overall grant for prevention. Moreover, the proposal emphasizes that these funds be used to prevent discharge from publicly funded institutions into the homeless system. This increased flexibility will allow communities to better target resources to prevent homelessness so that the much higher human and financial costs associated with a family falling into homelessness can be avoided.

## Homeless Assistance Grants

### Homeless Assistance Reporting and Program Evaluation

The proposal would improve reporting and evaluation in several ways. Homeless funding would be tied to the Consolidated Plan, ensuring better coordination between homeless funds and other HUD funds benefiting communities. Homeless program reporting would be consistent with reporting for other Consolidated Plan programs, making program evaluation more standardized.

Finally, HMIS would enable communities to generate reports using client-based information that is richer and easier to analyze than the current project-level reporting now required.

### Resource Management Information

The total FTE level for Homeless Assistance Grants will increase by 7 field FTEs from fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2004.