

## **FACT SHEET: Secretary Fudge Announces 100th Community Joins “House America” Homelessness Initiative and Highlights National-Level Progress**

Today, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge announced that the 100<sup>th</sup> community joined the “House America” homelessness initiative. In September 2021, Secretary Fudge launched [House America](#) to address the crisis of homelessness by leveraging American Rescue Plan and other federal resources through a Housing First approach. In less than one year after the launch, communities within the initiative have issued more than 95% of their Emergency Housing Vouchers to American households, and have dedicated over \$400 million in grants toward rehousing efforts.

House America is a federal initiative in which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) invited mayors, city and county leaders, tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership. House America utilizes billions of dollars provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach. The initiative aims to re-house at least 100,000 households experiencing homelessness, and to add at least 20,000 new units of affordable housing into the development pipeline by December 31, 2022.

In a time when people experiencing homelessness are facing unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19 and its impacts on housing affordability and availability, the Biden-Harris Administration provided historic resources through the American Rescue Plan – 70,000 emergency housing vouchers, \$5 billion in HOME grants, and significant investments to preserve and protect housing on tribal lands – to help more Americans obtain the safety of a stable home. The American Rescue Plan also provides \$350 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Department of the Treasury to support the many needs communities face, including needs related to homelessness and housing instability, as they respond to the pandemic and its negative economic impacts. Communities also have resources through previous rounds of pandemic relief funds to re-house people experiencing homelessness and create additional dedicated housing units to address homelessness.

Today, Secretary Fudge joined local elected officials and housing authority and nonprofit leadership to announce Santa Clara County, California as the 100th community to join House America. Secretary Fudge also discussed House America’s progress on the national level and the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to make housing more affordable, fueled by investments from the American Rescue Plan.

Since its launch in 2021, House America has made meaningful progress in addressing the homelessness crisis:

### **Participating Leaders**

Elected leaders representing 100 communities have joined House America. These include 78 municipalities, 15 counties, one regional leadership council, one regional council of governments, three states, one U.S. territory, and one Tribal nation. Together, these jurisdictions represent 50 percent of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S.

### **Progress and Impacts**

Housing First is a proven model of addressing homelessness by quickly rehousing people experiencing homelessness and ensuring that they have access to permanent housing and supportive services. House America communities are using resources provided by the American Rescue Plan, along with resources

through previous rounds of pandemic relief funds, and other state, tribal, and local resources to tackle homelessness in their communities through a Housing First approach.

To date, House America communities have:

- Issued more than 95% of their 22,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers to households, getting crucial resources to people who need them. Of these, 7,338 households successfully leased up.
- Dedicated at least \$400 million in Emergency Solutions Grants - CARES Act (ESG-CV) funds towards re-housing activities (Rapid Rehousing).
- Shared with HUD their goals to collectively rehouse more than 57,000 households from homelessness and add more than 44,000 units of deeply affordable housing to development pipelines. These numbers are expected to grow as communities that recently joined House America continue to work with HUD on setting their goals.

HUD and the Biden-Harris Administration have provided to House America communities:

- More than \$1.25 billion through HUD's most recent Continuum of Care competition awards.
- More than \$1.3 billion through CARES ESG-CV for housing, shelter, and outreach services.
- 22,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers through the American Rescue Plan.
- More than \$1.5 billion in HOME-ARP funds for housing development, rental assistance, or services through the American Rescue Plan.
- More than \$50 billion through the American Rescue Plan's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Treasury) that communities can use to respond and recover from the pandemic, including housing development, rental assistance, or other housing services.
- Twice monthly virtual convenings of House America leaders to spotlight successes and share best practices.
- Tools and technical assistance to support House America communities in meeting their goals.
- House America communities can apply for resources through HUD's recently announced first-ever funding opportunity for coordinated approaches to address unsheltered homelessness, including resources for rural communities. This package includes:
  - \$322 million in Continuum of Care Program grants through a Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to fund homeless outreach, permanent housing, supportive services, and other costs as part of a comprehensive community approach to solve unsheltered homelessness, including a set-aside of \$54.5 million specifically for rural communities.

These grants will fund projects for three-years, after which they will be eligible for renewal through the annual Continuum of Care program competition.

- \$43 million to fund approximately 4,000 new incremental vouchers will be allocated via a separate notice to public housing authorities with a priority to those that are partners in comprehensive community approaches to solve homelessness. These vouchers can serve households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness; those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meets one of the proceeding criteria. Congress has provided HUD with waiver authorities to facilitate lease-up for vulnerable households.

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