



FACT SHEET: HUD Provides Resources and Program Flexibilities to Help Communities Successfully Rehouse More People Experiencing Homelessness

Through President Biden’s American Rescue Plan, HUD provided communities with historic resources and programmatic flexibilities to prevent and address homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those resources and flexibilities helped to [prevent a spike in homelessness during 2021](#), preventing hundreds of thousands of households avoid eviction and housing loss while helping thousands of people transition from homelessness into housing.

With many of the pandemic protections and programs having wound down, data shows that more people are falling into homelessness. To help communities address the growing problem of homelessness, HUD, under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, has prioritized substantial investments to support communities in addressing the housing needs of individuals facing homelessness, particularly focusing on our most vulnerable populations.

- HUD’s Continuum of Care Program is the “backbone” federal program supporting community homelessness response systems across the country, providing grants to non-profit providers, States, Indian Tribes, and local governments for permanent and short-term housing assistance, supportive services, planning, data, and other costs. In March 2023, HUD announced an additional \$2.8 billion in FY 2021 Continuum of Care CoC (Program) awards, further fortifying support for a multitude of local homeless service and housing programs throughout the United States. In July 2023, HUD released its Notice of Funding Opportunities for a historic expansion of these CoC Program grants, announcing **a record-breaking \$3.1 billion in CoC grants**. This historic expansion of CoC Program grants reflects the Biden Administration’s recognition of the important work of Continuums of Care in coordinating local responses to homelessness.
- In April 2023, HUD provided communities with a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address homelessness among people in unsheltered settings (streets, encampments, vehicles) and in rural communities. **The agency awarded 62 communities \$486 million in grants, approximately 3,300 Stability Vouchers, and technical assistance** to help communities improve outreach services and quickly transition people from homelessness into permanent housing with supportive services.

- In September 2023, HUD awarded a total of \$60 million in **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grants** to 16 communities to implement coordinated systems to prevent and end homelessness among youth. Communities receiving these awards are required to support youth to serve as leaders in the design and implementation of a range of housing and supportive services interventions to help youth achieve housing stability, educational and economic opportunity, health and well-being, and permanent connections.
- In June 2023, HUD issued updated [guidance](#) to more than 3,000 public housing agencies (PHAs) outlining the resources and programmatic flexibilities available to help them assist people experiencing homelessness. The guidance encourages PHAs to expand their partnerships with Continuums of Care and victim services providers to prioritize admission for people experiencing homelessness including survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; reduce barriers to housing by modifying applicant screening practices; and coordinate public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers with supportive services. Leadership at HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing lifted up this guidance in [a November 2023 letter to PHAs](#) encouraging them to address homelessness.
- HUD is promptly providing grants to rehouse homeless individuals, families, and survivors of violence and trafficking. Committed to preventing youth homelessness, HUD introduced a **\$50 million Youth Homelessness System Improvement grant program** in November 2023. In September 2023, **\$60 million was invested in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**, supporting 16 communities across the country, including rural areas, in helping youth secure stable housing. The Department actively involves youth with homelessness experience in enhancing the YHDP, relying on their insights to assess funding applications and ensure a deep understanding of the needs of the young people they aim to serve.
- In working with our federal partners, HUD is also taking action to support those who proudly served in the U.S. military and protect their basic rights to sustainable housing. HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched a set of intensive workshops across the country, known as 'HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Bootcamps,' to assist hundreds of local VA medical centers and public housing agencies to fully utilize HUD-VASH vouchers to re-house veterans experiencing homelessness.
- With over 44 million households, or roughly 35 percent of the U.S. population living in rental housing, one major goal to preventing unhoused families is making sure tenants are informed and understand their rights. In July 2023, **HUD announced \$10 million in new funding for tenant education and outreach** to empower residents around their rights and protections and help sustain safe, decent, and affordable housing. HUD also proposed a new rule, affecting an estimated 3.9 million people that will require providers of HUD-assisted housing to give tenants at least 30-days written notice prior to lease termination for non-payment of rent and include instructions for tenants on how they can catch up if they fall behind on their rent.

- A huge priority for HUD is putting in the work to provide increased affordable housing for all Americans and making strong investments in existing public housing agencies and communities to assist households.
 - Through the Administration’s American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP) which provides funding to assist people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless and other vulnerable populations, **HUD has approved nearly all community allocation plans submitted by the 643 jurisdictions that received a total of \$5 billion in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)-ARP funds.** These community grants work to prevent and address homelessness by building more deeply affordable and supportive housing, and funding supportive services, tenant-based rental assistance, and expanding non-congregate shelter. The 619 jurisdictions whose plans have approved to date report that they will use HOME-ARP funds to create over 21,000 units of new housing to address homelessness, and assist an additional 23,800 households through rental assistance, services, and non-congregate shelter.
 - Over the last three years, **HUD has issued 120,000 Housing Choice Vouchers, more vouchers than have been provided in a similar timeframe in nearly two decades.** HUD awards Housing Choice Vouchers to public housing along with incentives fees to assist households experiencing homelessness and provides messaging to public housing agencies that outline the resources and flexibilities available to help people experiencing homelessness quickly exit homelessness and obtain housing.
- HUD is working in lockstep with partners across the Biden-Harris Administration to implement **President Biden’s first-ever [Housing Supply Action Plan](#)**, through new actions to incentivize communities to build more affordable housing. In proof of that work, **[more apartments](#) are on track to be built in 2023 than any year on record.**

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