

HUD's Initiative for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Technical Assistance Strategy

In 2023, HUD awarded 62 communities with [a package of resources](#) to address homelessness among people in unsheltered settings and in rural areas. This package includes:

- [\\$486 million in grants](#) to 62 Continuums of Care (CoCs) to fund permanent housing programs, homeless outreach and housing navigation, housing-related supportive services, data improvements, and system coordination;
- \$45 million to allocate over 3,300 [Stability Vouchers](#) to 135 public housing agencies who are partnering with the 62 CoCs. Stability Vouchers can serve people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

In addition to these grants and vouchers, HUD's initiative includes implementing a multi-pronged technical assistance strategy to assist these communities to improve coordination of programs and services, support people with lived experience to serve in advisory roles, improve their engagement of people in unsheltered and rural settings, improve connections to permanent housing with supportive and health services. This technical assistance strategy includes:

Housing Central Command

A select number of communities will be provided intensive support to implement Housing Central Command, an approach that uses emergency management structure and processes to resolve homeless encampments that: a) organizes key local government agencies and services providers under a unified command structure, similar to Emergency Support Functions (ESF) used during disaster response, b) systematic identification of encampments and unsheltered people and a centralized, community-wide plan for resolving them, c) dedication of housing and supportive services resources to support encampment resolution, and d) planned and coordinated resolution of encampments through the rapid delivery of housing and services to people in encampments.

Direct and Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance for Grantee Communities Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

All communities that received grants and vouchers to address unsheltered homelessness will receive a robust package of direct technical assistance, monthly community-to-community knowledge and practice exchange convenings, and trainings and expertise around specific topics. Each community has been paired with a dedicated coach who will work to identify improvement areas and barriers; support partnerships between Continuum of Care providers, public housing agencies (PHAs), and health and behavioral health providers; support the use of data to monitor and improve performance; and help grantee communities set and achieve short-term milestones.

Technical Assistance on Use of Stability Vouchers to Assist People Experiencing Homelessness

HUD will provide the 135 PHAs and their partners with a series of webinars to support the use of Stability Vouchers to assist people experiencing homelessness. This webinar series will include topics such as: improving PHA, CoC, and victim services provider partnerships around Stability Voucher administration; streamlining referrals of people experiencing homelessness from homeless coordinated entry systems to PHAs; engaging people with lived experience: strategies for working with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and strategies for advancing equity around race and disability status.

In addition to these webinars, HUD's technical assistance provider will also develop tools that will increase the rate of successful admissions to the Stability Voucher program among people experiencing homelessness referred to the PHA by the CoC. These tools include a referral template that clarifies for CoCs the set of required information and documentation that PHAs need to determine eligibility for the program, thereby reducing delays in admissions that result from incomplete applications. In addition, the TA provider will develop a Stability Voucher Roadmap that will serve as an easy-to-follow how-to-guide for participating PHAs and their partners. In addition to providing a plain language overview of Stability Vouchers, this roadmap will also cover: the respective roles of PHAs and CoCs and victim services providers; waivers and alternative requirements that streamline documentation requirements and reduce barriers to admission; outline the referral process; considerations for rural communities; and procedures for helping voucher holders to move from one community to another.

Tailored and Direct Technical Assistance to Grantees Communities Addressing Rural Homelessness

Communities that received grants and vouchers to address rural homelessness grants will receive direct technical assistance from providers that have expertise in homelessness response in rural contexts. Through onsite and virtual engagements, rural homelessness grantee communities will receive support around the adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices such as Housing First, increasing access to shelter and interim housing, supporting housing search and landlord engagement efforts, improvements to housing quality, and use of data to set and achieve milestones and targets. Rural homelessness grantee communities will also engage in monthly opportunities for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, as well as participate in a rural homelessness webinar series.

Federal Interagency Support

HUD is also coordinating closely with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), multiple agencies in the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#), the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#), and others to ensure that all grantee communities are leveraging other federal programs and resources to support their efforts. In addition, HUD will facilitate opportunities for knowledge exchange between grantee communities and the communities receiving direct federal support through the [ALL INside Initiative](#).