Housing: Homelessness Assistance & Supportive Services Program

What We Won

$5 billion for homelessness assistance.

How funds can be used

The Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) may provide more guidance on the use of funds, but for now, we know that funds may be used for...

- Tenant-based rental assistance.
- Development and support of affordable housing.
- Supportive services, including housing counseling and homelessness prevention, and activities listed in 401(29).
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units, some or all of which can remain as non-congregate shelter units, be used as emergency shelter, or be converted to permanent affordable housing or permanent housing.
- Assistance can be provided to individuals and families who are
  - Homeless;
  - At-risk of homelessness;
  - Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or similar endangerment;
  - In other populations where supportive services or assistance would serve those most at risk of housing instability or prevent homelessness; or
  - Veterans and their families that meet one of these circumstances.
- In addition, grantees may use up to 15% of their allocation for administration and planning costs, and another 5% of the allocation to support the operating expenses of community development and nonprofit organizations, as long as those funds are used to help build capacity of those organizations to carry out the funded activities and if the assistance is limited to the greater of $50,000 or no more than 50% of the organization’s annual operating budget.
How funds can be used (cont'd)

- HUD may use up to $25 million to make awards to existing technical assistance providers to support capacity building and technical assistance on project implementation.

- HUD may use up to $50 million for administration and oversight, including for the HOME program more generally.

  HOME is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

- HUD is permitted to waive or alter requirements in order to expedite the use of funds, except as they relate to fair housing, nondiscrimination, and labor and environmental standards.

How the funds flow

- HUD will allocate amounts to grantees who received funds in FY2021, based on the formula provided for in the McKinney-Vento Act.

- Allocations must be made by April 12, 2021.

  That is, within 30 days of enactment.