Understanding the 3 Phases of Federal Budgeting

Take action during each phase to secure funds to end homelessness.

Phase 1: Congress Sets Overall Federal Spending Levels

Phase 2: Congress Sets Department of Housing and Urban Development Funding

Phase 3: Congress Sets Funding for Homeless Assistance Programs

Read on to learn what Congress does in each phase, and how you can advocate at each step.
Congress Sets Overall Federal Spending Levels

- President’s budget is released.
- Budget Committees mark up bill and pass a resolution agreement.
- House and Senate vote, set a conference agreement that reconciles their budgets and sets overall discretionary spending levels.

**DO THIS**

- Visit your members’ district offices.
- Host site visits to your organization.
- Send helpful information on homelessness to the staff (e.g., Alliance resources, local news stories, press releases, your annual report).
- Build a network of advocates.

**SAY THIS**

“To end homelessness, Congress must commit to a robust federal budget.”
Congress Sets HUD Funding

- Full Appropriations Committee leadership sets funding levels for House and Senate’s Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) subcommittees.
- T-HUD Subcommittee determines allocations for HUD accounts.

DO THIS

☐ Visit the Alliance’s Take Action center for action alerts.
☐ Call, email, or tweet your members of Congress asking them to communicate homelessness funding priorities to T-HUD subcommittee members.

SAY THIS

“No federal agency has a greater ability to end homelessness than HUD does. To end homelessness, Congress must fund HUD appropriately.”
SAY THIS

“Congress must fully fund HUD’s Homeless Assistance programs to serve those currently experiencing homelessness and the growing number of people falling into homelessness.”

DO THIS

☐ Call, email, or tweet your members of Congress to communicate specific funding requests for HUD programs.

☐ Mobilize your advocacy network to take action.

☐ Encourage members of Congress to send “Dear Colleague” letters.

SAY THIS

☐ Members of Congress circulate “Dear Colleague” letters to build support for funding homeless services.

☐ Congress hosts hearings to establish priorities for the budget.

☐ House and Senate mark-ups begin.

☐ House and Senate work out differences for a final funding bill.

Congress Sets Funding For Homeless Assistance Programs
We Need Your Help Year-Round!

Your ongoing advocacy is essential to convince Congress to boost funding for homelessness services.

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At every phase of the federal budget process, we’ll help you take action with emails, tweets and other resources. Visit our Take Action center to get started and sign up for advocacy alerts to stay involved.