

# 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.

## Phase 1



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

# 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

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- 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

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**“To end homelessness, Congress must commit to a robust federal budget.”**



## Phase 2



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

# 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.”**



## Phase 3

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Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

# Congress Sets Funding For Homeless Assistance Programs

- 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.

## DO THIS

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- 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

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



# 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.