

Well, thank you, everyone for joining.

Today's field briefing and policy webinar on homeless policy in the recovery plans.

I'm Jerry Jones with the National Alliance to end homelessness.

The topic for today is sort of both.

What's in this package are really three packages of \$6 trillion that President Biden has proposed in his first 100 days.

And what that would mean to providers and system leaders and other advocates in the.

Field I am joined by.

A stellar group of experts, Marion Sanders, the Deputy Director of hopping in Los Angeles, one of the leading providers in South LA.

And Oliva, the visiting senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

And then steep Berg, Vice President for policy and programs at the now.

So thank you, panelists for giving us this information.

Marion I'll turn it over to you.

Thanks.

my name is Mary and Sanders.

And I'm definitely Director at the Homeless Outreach Program, integrated care system, which is a division of unless wider non-profit costs special service for.

Where a multi-service agency that has been in the community for more than 30 years, where 300 strong, 300 employees, we started nearly 15 thousand households, households annually.

All low-income, overwhelmingly minority and predominantly those experiencing homelessness.

Or on the brink of homelessness.

If I can sum up the breadth of our work.

Reentry and holes and housing services.

Part of the work that we do is in homelessness housing.

Agency Angeles for homeless services.

A key part of our role is to understand the full scope of the homeless landscape, including internal and external factors that impact the work our community.

Just minute by minute.

Can I stop you for 1 second year audio went away.

it sounds very low if you have a mic setting that you can turn up maybe.

There we go..

sorry.

I'll start back.

I'm not sure where we left off.

What I'll just dig in here.

The largest part of the work that we do at hopping.

Is homeless and housing services, where the lead agency in South Los Angeles for homeless services and a key part of a role that we play in our community is understanding the full scope of the homeless landscape, including internal and external factors that impact the

work that our community does minute by minute.

To end homelessness.

As we cut the ribbon on our 15th temporary housing site, that we've stood up in the past two years.

We understand even more so that the business of ending homelessness does not in because it's five PM.

It's 24 7 main market.

The tenth year.

My year with and consistent commitment towards ending homelessness.

And like many of you, that are participating in this webinar, I'm fortunate to be in great company with local leaders like my division director Veronica Lewis, and other community champions who are more.

Who tenured in this work.

And that will echo my sentiments that there's never been such a groundswell an investment in homeless services like the present time.

We're in unprecedented times and that we may never see again.

So I'm asking all of my colleagues in this work, direct service providers to key in on what is happening around homelessness at the federal level, like you've never done before.

The decisions may relative to the American jobs plan and other investments related to strengthening our continuums.

Like increasing McKinney Vento Act funding are vital to our to end homelessness in the future.

It's time to start digging in.

And pushing federal policymakers to answer the question that we already know.

Can we end homelessness on current, current federal investments?

The answer we all know is absolutely not.

American jobs plan.

And similar policy uplifts the critical needs.

That many direct service for writers have seen as a barrier to ending homelessness for years.

We need a dramatic increase in Section 8.

We need more permanent supportive housing.

We need to modernize public housing projects.

We need to increase home-based care giving.

And we need to increase investments.

In our continuum.

Los Angeles has housed over 20 to households in 2020.

That's a huge number.

However, consistently it gets overshadowed by the growing number of people in our communities experiencing homelessness.

And basically.

On our 2020 count, 66 thousand people are currently experiencing homelessness in los Angeles and 75 percent of those are unsheltered.

The major contributor to growth in the number of people experiencing homelessness is the inflow.

This tells us a number of things.

Mainly that affordability is a huge issue in, 2019 we saw a 3 thousand people fall into homelessness.

Dramatic expansion of Section 8, and frankly, universal sex and section eight is the solution to this problem. Millions of low wage workers, seniors, and people with disabilities make up the population of people on the brink of homelessness. I am sure that you all have seen time and time again in your work and your personal life, where individuals just needed a long-term subsidy to ensure that they maintain their housing. Their housing.

A personal example that comes from me, my mother see 64 years old. She's disabled. She's a recovering. She's formerly. Actually receive Social Security benefits. She lives in Las Vegas in a studio apartment, and she pays \$799 a month for her rent with utilities included after she pays her rent, she's left with \$5 and food stamps. In the month of April, she was a victim of identity theft, which left her with the inability to pay her rent for the month of May. Two things saved her from being evicted. One, the moratorium on evictions, and two her nosy daughter, that would be me. I'm sure you all have similar. Examples like this in your own families AND immediate circles. And let alone in the work that you guys do every single day. Many of the people that we serve don't have nosy sons or daughters like me or you, or even a relative to lean on for support. And we'll assume not have the covering of the moratorium on evictions in Los Angeles. Nearly 25 percent of our population is over 55 have just master least a house departments, house tin, older adults because we recognize they not only that, they are not. All we have different needs, but need supportive services to retain their housing. We are currently in the process of retrofitting this unit with a chair lift and other ADA accessories to ensure that we're able to improve the quality of life for these seniors. The seniors that we've identified to live in this house permanently, do not have a support network or family or caregivers to help with their health needs. There are more than 2000 older adults currently actively participating in South [inaudible]. South Central homeless services programs. And 25 of them are enrolled in a program with we know there are there needs to be more done to help with the older adult population because our homeless population is just is aging and continuous. Grow if the sizing the need for more permanent supportive housing as an agency, we continue to come up with innovative strategies, like using the recovery housing funding to pilot a program that most people from encampment into housing with supportive services. In the first two months of this.

This project, we were able to house over 100 individuals.
And we've come across some severe health issues that underscore the need for home-based health care.
That our case managers do not have the capacity nor expertise to provide.
We have a 70 one-year-old male, formerly homeless and incarcerated. He has throat cancer and you can't talk.
Here's a medical device in his throat that needs to be drained temporarily or nurse case managers are filling in the gap until we're able to provide and connected.
Tim to a resource that will be able to provide that home-based support that he needed, him, that he needs for long-term care.
There's so many other examples just like this.
Public housing has been a real solution for low-income households since the thirties.
But the folks in public housing having been forgotten and pushed aside, we know about public housing story history.
But one of the most basic, fundamental things that we can do to ensure.
Sure that they are properly maintained and habitable is provide funding.
We can't continue to defer the maintenance on public housing units. There is a failure of the federal government to provide sufficient funding of public housing for some time, causing what they call deferred maintenance.
Los Angeles has 16 public housing projects and many of its residents are aging in place.
Like many of our like maybe of our current homeless participants, they're requiring ADA accommodations to assist with mobility issues. And quality of life.
Modern amenities are nowhere to be found.
This coupled with the recovering February to provide ongoing maintenance makes.
Public housing.
I'm sorry.
The housing of last resort.
The currently the Jordan Downs, one of the 16 housing projects in Los Angeles is going through a complete overhaul.
Notably, there are 700 units in this project.
And since 2008.
This overhaul has been going on.
And they're still in phase one only having completed 250 units in 13 years.
The RAD program has been essential to helping to renovate the Jordan. Now this project and many others throughout the nation, but more investments are needed to improve these housing projects.
And attract private investors.
For ongoing sustainability.
As we call for a more robust and sustainable.
And quite frankly, universal housing solutions from the federal

government.

I cannot forget the need to continue to improve our continuous, care during crease investments.

And McKinney Vento.

Act funding to improve low performing projects, expand cross-sector collaboration.

And to help to fully integrate domestic violence work into the work of homeless services.

Direct service for riders.

I'm calling on you all to put on your advocacy hats and lean in here.

Like never before.

And now, I'll turn it over to my colleague, Annelida Hi, everybody.

And Maryann.

Thank you so much for that description.

I will also note that I am also a nosy daughter who has done that kind of intervention.

With my with my mom too.

So it's an important resource that not everybody has for sure.

so thank you everybody for having me today.

Thanks to the alliance in particular for having me.

I'm going to share my screen and while I'm doing that, I'll note that Marion talked about.

A number of resources and today I'm going to focus on one resource in particular.

And you'll see why I'm doing that in just a moment.

I'm going to focus on housing choice vouchers, and, expansion of the housing choice voucher program.

so hopefully a lot of you who are out in the audience know me and have seen me speak before.

You know, I have been doing this work along time a little a bit over 25 years.

Right alongside Steve Bergen and others who are on the panel today.

And what I'm gonna look right into the camera and say this as clearly as I can.

This is the first time certainly in my career that we have a president who's talking about unit.

Of all, housing vouchers and housing as a human, right?

And we have a Congress that is making investments in housing at a really large scale.

So I want to be as clear as possible.

We have an opportunity right now to change the lives.

Of the people that we serve.

To strengthen the communities that those folks reside in, to strengthen families, and improve outcomes for children.

And to pursue racial justice and equity.

To start to correct the harms that have been done.

By historical racist practices and disinvestment.

And what I'm asking you to do today as you look at my slide

presentation and listen to Steve is to imagine a, world the world that we work in.

Where when a household comes to us, presents to an organization or to coordinated entry in a housing crisis that there is a guaranteed housing choice voucher available to that household, whether it be a family with children or a single individual person.

I think with disabilities, somebody who's elderly.

Imagine how different our system could be when we are really working to connect a household and crisis to a guaranteed to a guaranteed housing choice voucher.

Influx.

00 we have homeless services systems that are serving more families and individuals and housing more families and individuals per year than ever before.

But we [inaudible] actually.

Keep up with the inflow into the system.

So expanded housing choice vouchers will impact our inflow and decrease that inflow.

So we can divert people from homelessness.

And our systems will actually be crisis response systems that can operate better.

These changes, no matter what happens, won't be.

But it will be the strongest step that we can take as a field towards housing justice.

So I am asking everybody who's on the call today to talk to your colleagues and talk to your to your partners in this work, too.

To do everything that we can to increase housing choice vouchers in this way, I'm going to lay this out for you because even though folks don't always think it, this is exactly in our wheelhouse as homeless service providers.

So let's start with making the case about why we need an expansion in the housing choice voucher program.

You've all seen these numbers.

Homelessness is increasing unsheltered and chronic homelessness are going up at alarming rates.

And they were going up even before the pandemic.

And at the same time, we know that discretionary spending on housing assistance has dropped to historic loss.

And why are we not just talking about increasing funding to the McKinney programs that Maryann mentioned.

It's because the research tells us that housing choice vouchers have a strong positive impact in a variety of different ways.

Is it can reduce, reduce poverty.

They will reduce homelessness and overcrowding.

They'll reduce domestic violence, improve health and educational outcomes, and advance racial equity so we need to, do an needs to be both.

As we mentioned before, people should not have to become homeless to get housing.

Our systems are more people than ever and can't keep up with inflow.

So vouchers will address both inflows into homelessness and exits from homelessness.

Studies tell us that housing choice vouchers can help us reduce homelessness and housing instability. There are a number of resources and evaluations that tell us exactly that.

Nearly 16 million households need rental assistance in this country. But don't get it. That means that there are at any given time is 16 million households that are potentially flowing into housing instability or homelessness. Inside those households. There are a variety of different needs. 32 percent of those folks are children, 34% are working adults, 12 percent are seniors, 17 percent have a disability and we have the ability to address those needs. Further, we can reach communities of color and begin sort of our efforts. And our work towards achieving housing and racial justice. Housing choice vouchers also provide a way to address racial disparities and invest in communities and people who have been subject again to historical racist policies and disinvestment. So I'm going to pause here and sort of, let folks take in that very brief set of data and an argument for for housing choice vouchers. I think the case is pretty compelling. So now that we know that the case is incredibly compelling, we know that we need to make that case. And reach people who are deciding about priorities for the next package. Moving through Congress. As we speak. But let's start with what we have already. We know that in March 2020, the cares Act was passed and it included a number of resources that can be used to serve the populations that we're talking about specifically. People who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. And most importantly, in that first bullet, the \$4 billion for homelessness assistance through the ESG CBE program. We also have nearly 50 billion dollars and that's billion with a B, \$50 billion in emergency rental assistance that was passed in two tranches, 1st through December 2020, budget, the Omnibus. And again, a second tranche through the American rescue plan [inaudible] March of this year. But most importantly, the American rescue plan includes two specific pots of money for people who are experiencing homelessness. The first is [inaudible] billion for about 70 thousand housing choice vouchers for people who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. If you hadn't seen already those allocations were announced yesterday on hubs website. The problem with those vouchers, it's a great resource and it's the right investment to be making, right now is that they're not permanent

vouchers.

The vouchers can be re-used.

Between now and 2023, but after that, can only be used by the family or household that holds them at that time.

So they're permanent for the household, but they are not permanently added to the housing choice voucher account.

So we have to be able to make up the difference.

We also have \$5 billion for homelessness assistance through the home program.

Those allocations have also been announced by HUD.

And again, these investments are right.

And they're going to make a big difference in the work that we're doing right now.

But they are actually not enough.

So we need to take a look at the entire package and see what's missing.

The Biden administration has released two plans.

The American jobs plan and the American families plan.

And these plans are heavy on what we would call the supply side.

In other words, they are heavier on the funding for development or production of new units, which is incredibly important.

And it was a key part of getting these plants.

It was a key part of these plans and of these plans being successful.

But we need both supply and affordability.

So we need strategies in both areas.

And here's why.

Or building units only address as part of the issue.

Development subsidies often do not actually have funding in them that but allow that cover the operating expenses for landlord, for example, they can build the unit, but then a landlord without a subsidy attached to a year.

Actually has to set the rent at a rate where they can cover their own operating expenses.

And for people who are experiencing homelessness and deep housing instability, those rents without a subsidy attached to them are usually out of their reach.

So while we would be building supplies.

The affordability gap actually hasn't been addressed.

So we need both.

A supply strategy and an affordability strategy so.

to solve for the omission of an expansion in the housing choice voucher programs where you really need to make the case for a multi-year mandatory expansion of the housing choice voucher program.

In the next package.

And right now, it is up to Congress to add that component as they.

Define what that next package looks like.

we know that a permanent voucher is an evidence evidence-based way of addressing homelessness.

And we know that because of the family options study that clearly found that housing choice vouchers have.

Have a number of positive impacts on families and children. We also notice we're experience with the hug bash program and other programs like it, that pair housing choice vouchers with supportive services to create permanent supportive housing at and remember that housing choice vouchers like and HUD Bash can be permanent supportive housing went.

They're paired with supportive services.

That evidence also tells us that housing choice, voucher expansion will positively impact communities of color and households of color. Particularly black and Latino families.

So to recap, we need both supply side investments and investments that address housing affordability.

And in order to do that, Congress has to add mandatory multi-year funding to the economic recovery package that they are considering right now to make housing choice vouchers.

Available to as many households as possible.

Because safe, stable, and affordable housing is so important, not just for the housing investments themselves, but these types of housing investments actually make the other types of investments that are available through the American.

Rescue plan more effective.

Think about the education, the investments that are being made in education for children, for families who are moving around a lot or living in their car or living in a shelter.

They can't actually really take the best advantage of those resources that already in place without a safe, stable, and affordable place to live.

The same thing goes for healthcare.

We're making investments through the ARP in healthcare resources.

But for people who are living in unsheltered locations, those healthcare resources really can't be maximized.

So not only will it impact the families.

And households that are experiencing homelessness and communities of color in the most positive way.

It actually will make other investments more effective over time.

So how do we get what we think is necessary?

And I think you all know what I think is necessary at this point, we have to really influence our decision-makers and make that strong case to them.

And Steve is going to talk about this in a little bit more detail.

But I just want to note a couple of things.

We can all make a difference.

In how this plays out by setting up meetings with our congressional delegations, by telling compelling stories the way that Marion did. But using the media to do that.

And setting up social media efforts and initiatives to get the word out that we really need folks to pay attention to afford.

Affordable housing in this next package.

You could do a sign on letter or you could do a memo to your state delegation.

The folks that co HIO, for example, are just in the process of doing a sign on letter to ensure that these investments are in the next package and they're sending that sign on letter.

To their congressional delegation in Ohio.

And then the last thing that I would say here is that we really need to make sure that state congressional delegations from all over the country are telling our leadership within the House and the Senate.

And I have the four leaders, the Big Four listed on this.

On this slide, they need to hear from their own caucus that housing is a priority.

They are getting inundated with folks who were telling them about different kinds of priorities that should be included.

We need to make sure that the voice of people who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability is included in that message and that they.

Hear loud and clear that housing should be included in the next, an expansion of housing choice vouchers in particular, should be included in the next package.

And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Steve Burke, Who's gonna go through some more of the details.

Steve.

All right.

Thank you.

Thanks.

Thanks to everybody who's on the call today.

We rely very heavily on people all over the country to let their lead decision-makers at the federal level know what, what's going on., why this is important to your community.

So I'm going to spend a little bit of time just giving us sort of a systemic overview of what the alliances policy agenda is this year and how you can help.

And then we'll get to questions and the answers.

So the way after explaining this to various staffers for members of Congress over and over again.

I've come to think there's a way of talking about, which is [inaudible] if we're, really going to end homelessness in our community, which is something almost everybody would like to see happen..

Almost any member of Congress would say, Yes, I agree.

If we could not have people almost in our community, it would be a better set.

So in order to do that, you need to have two things.

You need to have a homeless services system that will if somebody loses their housing and becomes homeless.

People will be there.

Rule, find the person, engage with them, keep them safe, and then help them quickly get back into house.

Range of different models depending on what the person's needs are.

Diversion or rapid rehousing permanent supportive housing, whatever.

But the other thing you need as and said and Maryanne said is we need

housing, so that people aren't becoming homeless all the time.
And so when we go to say we're going to quickly move someone back into housing.

There's a way to do that.

And so both for the homeless services system and for housing, we need things from the federal government.

One of the things we need is funding.

And a lot of this conversation is about funding and that's because that's the main thing that's needed at this point.

The programs that exist at the federal level are good programs.

Are set up to really work.

But the HUD programs, whether for homelessness or for housing, more generally, are just not funded to actually do the job they're supposed to do.

Unlike other parts of the federal anti-poverty infrastructure, to HUD programs, aren't entirely and programs funded programs that, you know, the section.

I remember when I first learned about Section 8 was when I was in law school, longer ago than I care to think.

And what we learned about it was that this is a program that really works.

People line up for it.

They get on waiting lists of people who are served by the program.

Really like it for the most part.

But it's only funded.

So that about a quarter of the people who are eligible get help.

And now.

It's later, the factor remains.

It's funded so that only about a quarter of the people get out.

Unlike, say, the in the healthcare world, the Medicaid program is a federal program for health care for low-income people.

Everyone who's eligible, kids, services, and managed in the snap program, which is the federal.

Program the benefits used to be known as food stamps.

Everyone gets gets to help with our program.

Most of the people who are eligible to get on a waiting list, we need to change that.

And now.

For homeless services, the main funding program, the largest funding program is the HUD homelessness error and the immersion grams program, the VA, of course, has homeless programs for veterans.

There are other.

For homeless programs like Health Care for the Homeless, Education for homeless children and youth spread among different agencies.

The Substance Abuse mental Health Services Administration has almost programs.

The largest one is high.

Another important surfaces, of course, having the services now I just the housing, but the sort.

Versus go with it so that people can get into housing.

And then stabilized there and stay there.

And get the help they need to make.

So that's almost services.

And then the housing piece, I think the most important thing and I would just reiterate what, what AMP said.

That.

Biden's statement in his campaign platform that we need to make the housing choice voucher program.

A universal program where everyone who's eligible, he has helped would be the most important thing for low-income people probably since the enamel.

The Medicaid program and the 1980's, it would be the most important thing in the last [inaudible] years.

And would make a huge difference in how many people were homeless, how long people stayed, almost.

Whether anybody even stayed home.

So the voucher pieces.

Very important.

Development is important.

I mean, if, vouchers were to become something that everyone who is eligible got help with.

It would require changes that require there to be more housing.

That people without Ford and people in communities where rents are going up, It's something.

Hard use a voucher that require outside.

There needs to be emergency assistance so that if people lose a job or have medical emergencies, they have some way to deal without and to pay their rent.

So.

Both homeless services and housing are parts of and we need to the policy agenda is about building those things up.

Right now.

What's on the table in terms of getting more funding for those processes is two kinds of built his recovery emergency.

Legislation and talked about that there's already been the cares Act has been emergent, but it's fast and December, there's the President has put out the American Jobs Act, which is an infrastructure bill, wouldn't be emergency legislation.

To.

And part of that would be to make more housing available, to build more housing to provide rental subsidies.

They're important piece of the emergency legislation that was in the proposal that the President is.

We haven't seen more Congress is going to do that.

Important funding for services as well.

There's something called Home and Community-Based Services, which is basically using Medicaid to fund a range of different services that people in housing need to stabilize their housing.

The the home computer proposals that are being talked about in Congress now would make it so that the federal government would spend,

would fund a 100 percent of those services if they were provided through a state's Medicaid program.

Whereas usually with medical, now as people might know, the federal government pays part of it and the state pays partners.

So that's another important piece.

It was the president of talked about it in his job plan to details are still a little unclear.

People in Congress are working to develop those bills right now.

So that's the recovery legislation.

And then there's also the sort of regular annual and those of you who have been involved with the Alliance for a long time know every year we talk about the bill for that provides funicular continuum of care and provide funding, for example.

Team Boucher programs.

That's happening to the president has sent out his initial proposal.

Not a lot of details yet.

That's more details we think are coming the end of this month in terms of what the President is asking Congress to provide for the, for the regular funding.

But one thing he did spell out, is he wants a 500 million increase for the hide homeless programs, which would be the largest increase in those basically ever since the programs were first ramped up.

Back in the late 1980s.

And so we're.

We're going to try to work with the committees that have jurisdiction over that to make sure that that money is in there.

There's also the the regular annual funding, the President's proposal also says that they want to add to 100.

1000 more housing choice vouchers to the program.

That would also be good.

We got a lot of work to do to convince people in Congress to put down money on the table.

So let me talk just a moment about Congress before we get onto questions.

And I can, CAN has.

Another slide to pull it up here.

As you know right now, we've got a Congress that has already gone along with great deal of emergency spending, including for homelessness programs and for housing programs.

There are.

They are under a lot of pressure from a lot of different interest groups to spend money on a lot of different things.

So there is no guarantee at all that these things that President Biden has asked for or things that President Biden has asked for that we think are necessary.

There's no guarantee at all.

Will be in Congress because Congress has just set priorities and there's a lot of competition.

On the other hand, it's very, very possible, maybe more possible than ever before to get substantial increases in funding for these

activities.

From Congress.

This year and next year.

But I think this year is really a special time.

We really need everybody to think about who their members of Congress are, who will support this.

The homeless programs are fortunate today, vertices bipartisan support over the years.

So don't just think about Democrats, but the Democrats are in the majority in the House and the Senate.

This question of priorities is really important.

Every member of Congress has a say in what the priorities are.

The listed and has put up here is people who have a particular influence at this point, it is Congress.

Everybody to think about how they can get their members.

On board with this agenda.

If people from the that are listed here, we want you to think even harder about that and please be in touch with us after the webinar.

I think Jerry Jones, who's to the web.

He's our point person on field activity around advocacy and would love to hear from people in these states and other places who feel like they wanted to some more work to get their members of Congress are important.

So let me just leave it at that.

Just with, again to reiterate the other, please.

From the other speakers, please get involved.

Please work with your members of Congress to make sure these possibilities are really an people who are homeless need our help for this.

We'll give them are help every day.

This is something a little special, a little different, but something that can make this year.

There's opportunities to make a change like never before.

And it's not going to happen by the way, when needed happen.

Hopefully, we're all heard out.

So let me.

Stop there and turn it back over to Jerry Jones and he'll start getting some of the questions and answers going to and and Marion and I can try to answer.

Thank you, Steve.

And thank you to all three of you for those presentations.

as Steve said, we have some time.

For questions and answers.

So there's a Q&A box that many of you have already been using, please direct your questions there and I will read them off to our panelists. And some of you have also put questions in the chat, but I'll, from here forward.

The reading, the Q&A box.

So that's the that's the other button.

You should have access to.

There was one question that appeared a number of times in the session that I can answer this one quickly, which is, well, the slides be available?

Is there a video for this?

Webinar and the answer is yes.

We will have.

Up in several days on our website at endhomelessness.org, if you go to events and then videos, you'll find this after after today, and that will be a good resource for you if you joined late as well, you can watch the whole thing there.

Me read a question from this is for an question about housing vouchers.

And can you say more about how the availability of vouchers will make other investments in the American families plan go further or hat or be more effective.

Mentioned that I think I did mention that.

Thank you for the question.

The point that I was trying to make in my presentation is that housing really should be considered sort of the baseline for other types of and Marion please jump in here.

I see you.

Shaking your head, nodding your head.

Actually, this should really be the baseline to amplify the other types of efforts that and investments that are being made in the two examples that I used were first healthcare, we know that housing is a social determinant.

Of health.

Right and that without safe, stable, and affordable housing, these investments with in healthcare will be great for people who are in safe, stable, and affordable housing, but really won't reach or have the desired impact for people who are experiencing, homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness.

And the same goes for other types of investments like the child tax credit.

For example, the child tax credit can lift some families out of out of poverty, but many, many more families will be lifted out of poverty if they have access to the child tax credit.

Plus.

A safe, stable, and affordable place to live, provided through housing choice voucher.

And then, you know, the other most obvious example is about educational outcomes for children, children who move around a lot because they are in unstable housing situations, or who are living in shelters or.

On shelter locations, won't really reap the benefits of these investments in education for children that had been part of the American rescue plan or that are proposed.

As we move forward.

So housing really should be considered the base and other investments really can add.

Base.

Marion, you want to.

know, I think you summed it up really well because it's kinda point out that, that we know through the housing first model that when you put folks into housing, you see a decrease in mental health symptoms. You see a decrease of physical health symptoms, and those are just the true signs that how and supportive services are the thing that folks need to just stabilize and improve their quality of life just overall. great.

Steve, here's a question.

I'll start with you.

Kevin, would like to know more COC funding is needed.

And would be great.

What are the chances of flexibility in the match requirements for continued care funding.

so the mastery, of course, are blocked.

I feel like right now, I mean, loosen the match with quite a bit and were surprised to find many, many very strong [inaudible].

And we need the local community to show that it's got a stake.

So I think the McKinney programs are somewhat unique among federal programs.

They allow other kinds of federal money to serve as a match.

So at some point.

We have already I think its people really need to talk to their members of Congress about because I think it's not something a lot of understanding of too.

Bye.

Buying members of Congress.

So we say that's not an issue that immediately right for being progress, but I think if people were able to get their members of Congress to understand more what the impact otherwise it would make a big difference.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Anything from other panelists on that, if not, I've got another question.

And please everyone keep questions coming.

We'll get to as many as we can.

Question for Marion.

You talked about the impact on clients of the lack of federal funding.

People coming to providers for help.

And that those are staggering.

Can you talk about the impact of an overwhelmed and under-resourced homeless system on the public's confidence in actually ending homelessness.

Thank you for that question.

Almost services specifically now.

Overwhelmed and I talked about the inflow into homelessness, where we're trying to do so much to serve the people that are currently homeless and stay off the inflow.

And what typically happens is that.

The public, the general public sees that, they believe that we're not doing enough.

We're not doing enough.

And we know that we're doing every single thing that we can with the resources that we have in trying to leverage other systems to come in to help assist with ending homelessness within.

If we had more resources and more investment than we could do more.

One of the other things that I think is critically important is that folks don't understand what the whole service system is designed to do and what it's not.

Design.

We cannot solve for poverty, we serve the people who are impoverished.

We cannot resolve the rising rents, right?

We can advocate for those things are system.

It's not designed to do those things.

And so a greater understanding of the homeless services in general and what it can and cannot do is critically important to helping, helping to understand, helping our system to kind of get out from under those, those misnomers.

An under-resource system.

In Los Angeles is definitely that under resource.

We can't do as much as we need to do for folks experiencing domestic violence.

We can't do as much as we need.

To do for the youth who are falling into homelessness.

It increasingly we can't do as much as we need to do for seniors.

We can't do we can't do a lot of the upstream work that we need to do for people on the brink where bogged down with the people that are currently in the system.

And so it paints a negative light on the work that we are, we are doing it, like I said, before, we house 22 thousand people in 2020, but we were overshadowed by the 83,000 people who fell into homelessness.

And that big number of 66,000 people.

That are currently experiencing homelessness.

And we will continue to be overshadowed by that.

What's the moratorium on evictions is up.

We don't know what that number is gonna be.

We have estimates about what it's gonna be and that will be what is being talked about.

And so.

Yeah, I hope that answered the question.

Thank you.

Yes.

So I think that those exact reasons are why we as a field need to advocate for universal housing choice vouchers.

And let me just.

Keep going with that.

With that example that Marion gave, right?

Let's say even half of the people who are flowing into homelessness Over the course of a year are eligible for housing choice voucher in a universal housing choice voucher world, were diverted.

Our system has now changed to really diverting folks back into housing or into housing through the use of this particular resource.

And then we're able for our system to do the thing that it is designed to do, which is really to assist folks in housing crisis.

Says and get them.

So and something like don't quote me on this, but something like 98% of people who are experiencing homelessness meet the income requirements for housing choice vouchers.

So you can see how the system would change to be able to.

Needs at a different scale if we had access to both supply and affordability, which is what we really need to press.

Our policymakers on right now.

Something else to add to it is the onetime investment and things like that cause a sick.

Into homelessness.

We can we can keep somebody house for a certain amount of time and then we don't have those longer-term investments.

We can bank on the fact that those people are going to fall back into homelessness because the external factors contributing to people experiencing homelessness are there and they're magnifying on an ongoing basis.

And so that's something., you know, folks who really don't understand the homeless service system miss.

And so we're battling all of those things at one time, trying to serve this population as a system of care.

thank you, Marion.

I'm going to combine two questions.

I want to squeeze in a few more.

And participants stay with.

We'll get to as many as we can.

Bree and New Mexico asks both of these are related to voucher.

So how do we make sure that a major expansion of vouchers doesn't lead to rent inflation as a system becomes flushed with temporary cash.

And then Lisa and Vermont.

Also sort of related what's what's also the strategy for the challenge of people who already have vouchers now, who are struggling to be able to use those vouchers, especially in higher resource communities.

And let me, let me post that to you first.

so I think that those are really both really important operational questions.

I'm not sure that we know the answer exactly to the first one, Steve or Marion might be better informed than me on this, but it would have to be part of our implementation plan to ensure that.

We're actually doing implementation over a number of years.

And that we're doing it in a way that doesn't have that effect.

So I think if we plan for it and plan to it, we can mitigate that to some extent.

But I also think in terms of sort of landlord engagement and and and how to use vouchers that are already in play.
There's two things that folks should be thinking about.
Many of you have probably read the news and seeing that in the state of Iowa, it is now legal to discriminate against people for the source of income they have in specifically for housing choice vouchers.
So we need to advocate for protections around source of income discrimination.
And we also need a robust way to engage with our landlords.
That's really positive.
The team that works on the framework for an equitable COVID-19 homelessness response.
That includes the alliance and the center and many other experts are planning to work with some folks in the field who are really good at doing this.
And Mary and might know the folks that Brilliant Corners who work in LA are gonna be partnering with us on some of these, on some resources.
Is to help folks really think about maybe how to restructure and centralized housing navigation and landlord engagement.
I'm going to add onto that just a little bit.
One of the things, the two things that I see, one there has to be system alignment within the homeless service system.
We have kinda.
Multiple systems doing this work.
We have the homeless services.
We have Department of Mental Health, we have Department of Health Services.
We have those systems.
And we're all competing for the same units, right?
And so it creates an unintended competition.
Maybe 11 agency is able to provide a little bit more.
Rate than another agency.
And the property owners get wind of that.
And so there's why prefer a BUS voucher that are [inaudible] the subsidy over that subsidy.
And that's not what we want to see.
What needs to happen is regional coordination around landlords and property owners helping them to understand what.
What our system is doing and where we're going.
And get them in alignment with this work.
So that they can walk alongside of us.
And see what resources we have.
And the population [inaudible] understand that.
We understand that, you know, renting units and all of that is it's a business.
However, we want them to stand alongside us as our allies.
And I think that that's a large part of the work.
In making sure that we don't have that type of competition within our system.

you are so many other great questions that I apologize.
We're just not going to be able to get to, but I want to give Steve a chance to make some final comments.
And the other questions went to and toward the end.
Let me also say, everyone who registered will be receiving a link. To the video that'll be on the website.
And so you'll have our contact information that way to follow up with questions after after today.
State did it looked like you were about to chime in on that last question or to make a final point,
let me just let me just end by saying.
Thank you to everybody again for being part of this.
We believe everyone has said there's a huge opportunity this year to make the kind of progress on astrobiology that we just haven't made ever.
And I mean average like history.
We need people to be [inaudible] happy.
We get such a good response to these kinds of webinars and we'll be in touch about how to get organized to make sure that Congress is hearing these things because we want to take advantage.
Feel like we can do it.
So looking forward to that and looking forward to working with everybody future you, Stephen.
Thank you, everyone.