

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

[[DATE]]

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Hyde-Smith and Ranking Member Gillibrand:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we urge your continued support for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) homeless assistance programs. Specifically, we urge you to provide: 1) at least \$4.92 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG), including at least \$500 million for Emergency Solutions Grants, 2) at least \$39 billion for Tenant-Based "Section 8" Rental Assistance (TBRA), 3) enough funding to maintain existing vouchers under the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, and 4) consistent funding for HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

Single-family home prices have risen 48% over the past five years, while rents are up around 20% over the same period. This has placed considerable financial strain on Americans across the country. In fact, according to HUD's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress, a record number of Americans are now experiencing homelessness. HUD's report found 771,480 people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2024, including nearly 150,000 children—a staggering 33% increase from 2023.

Robust funding for TBRA is essential to help more families weather stubbornly high housing costs, while HAG programs have been particularly effective in providing housing and wraparound services that successfully transition individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. These funds also help ensure service providers have the funding they need to hire and retain experienced staff to execute effective homelessness assistance strategies and best serve unhoused individuals and families.

Finally, we must also maintain our long-standing investment in HUD-VASH, which has been extremely successful in assisting veterans who are homeless and their families in finding and sustaining permanent housing. Indeed, since Congress first began appropriating funds for HUD-VASH in FY2008, veterans' homelessness has decreased by nearly 75%. We must do all that we can to ensure that those who have bravely served our country do not then find themselves without a home.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and we look forward to working with you on the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

[[CLOSING]]

[[SIGNATURES]]