

MESSAGING GUIDANCE: EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

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Through the Emergency Housing Voucher program (EHV), funded under the American Rescue Plan, HUD provided 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to assist individuals and families who are homeless; at-risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability.

EHV's provided a new opportunity for PHAs and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to work together to provide tenant-based voucher assistance to eligible households. Added program flexibilities allowed communities to utilize them almost immediately.

In March 2025, HUD announced that PHAs would receive their final funding allocation for EHV's and indicated that it anticipated funds would be depleted by the end of FY2026. Although originally projected to be available until the end of FY2030, funds were expended more quickly due largely to the rapid increase of rent over the last four years.

Top Line Messaging

- In addition to the need for increased funding in FY26 to cover the cost of rental assistance renewals, Congress will need to [provide funding to ensure that almost 57,000 households who receive an Emergency Housing Voucher](#) do not lose their assistance.
- We need to invest in what works, and the EHV program has been extremely successful. Almost 57,000 households — many families with young children, and people who have experienced chronic homelessness — find and maintain stable housing through this program. While funding was originally slated to last until 2030, the rapid increase in the cost of rent over the last four years has exhausted funding much more quickly than expected.
- Many PHAs around the country don't have the available resources to absorb these tenants, meaning many residents will likely become homeless if funding runs out.
- Unless additional funding is allocated by Congress, HUD estimates that funding for the program will likely run out in 2026 (specific timelines vary by PHA). Given the tremendous need for federal housing investments, our communities cannot afford to underfund or make dramatic cuts to critical housing and homelessness programs.

Tailored Messaging

- Advocates should work together to develop local- and state-level talking points based on what is happening in your community and state. These could include:
- The impacts of the EHV cliff and rental assistance cuts on the people who will lose housing. Emphasize who would be hurt by cuts to these programs: vulnerable people with serious health conditions and disabilities, children, and other people needing support.
- Additional talking points for EHV's can be found [here](#).