

# TAKE ACTION NOW: Urge Congress to Protect and Expand Critical HUD Programs!

Dear Representative/Senator,

Homelessness and vulnerability to homelessness are at historic highs, with 17,500 people entering homelessness for the first time each week, and homelessness response systems not resourced at a scale to meet the demand. Therefore, it is imperative that Congress make significant investments in critical programs that allow communities to respond to homelessness and address the housing needs for the lowest income households, particularly older adults.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following for FY2027:

**Provide the Homeless Assistance Grants Account**, which includes the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs with \$5.1 billion (\$600 million increase) which would account for increased renewal demand and need while giving communities the ability to:

1. maintain at least 85% of renewal demand to ensure stability of funding needed in the community;
2. use local data and information to make determinations about what types of projects are most needed based on community-specific needs;
3. better respond to unsheltered homelessness and increase capacity to address the needs of specific priority populations including older adults, families with children, youth, domestic violence survivors, or the people with complex behavioral health needs;
4. ensure that emergency accommodations are sufficient to move more people off the streets and better serve older adults and people with disabilities; and,
5. improve the recruitment and retention of qualified case managers.

**Provide the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Account** with \$45.6 billion (\$7.16 billion increase) to cover the cost of renewing assistance and adding new incremental vouchers to ensure that the more than 40,000 households still being served by the pandemic-era Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program can remain housed through calendar year 2027 as well as meet the increasing need for assistance.

**Make a significant investment in housing opportunities for older Americans** by providing HUD's Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program (Section 202) with \$1.85 billion (\$850 million increase) including a \$50 million set-aside for housing assistance targeted to very low-income older adults aged 55 and over who are at risk of and who are experiencing homelessness.

The Alliance's conscientiously prepared recommendations come in stark contrast to the Administration's FY2027 budget proposal which seeks to eliminate the Continuum of Care (CoC)

program and move all funding in this account to the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. It also aims to reduce the overall funding amount for the Homeless Assistance Grants account by \$400 million. Such a change would have catastrophic impacts in communities across the country, sending more people directly into homelessness while slashing the funding available to communities across the nation to provide shelter, housing, and services to people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness is a complicated problem cutting across housing and health care, among other sectors, and one which requires national solutions and national resources. More than 250 Representatives and Senators sent letters last month to the House and Senate Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee affirming their support of robust funding for HUD, particularly for the Homeless Assistance Grants programs, as recommended by the Alliance.

Please tell me how you will support a strong federal role in the fight against homelessness and the provision of robust federal resources in the FY27 appropriations process to prevent and reduce homelessness.