U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Performance & Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2022

Report for Congress

NOVEMBER 2022

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Message From Executive Director

USICH was established in 1987 by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and most recently reauthorized by the [Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act](#) of 2009. USICH's mission is to prevent and end homelessness in America. The agency accomplishes this mission by:

- Driving an efficient, effective, and equitable federal response to homelessness

- Building a national partnership at every level of government and among the private sector

- Providing news, tools, and resources for success

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) made significant progress strengthening collaboration across the federal government and the field through filling key vacancies and appointing a new executive director. USICH focused on rebuilding relationships with key federal partners, demonstrated by representation at the highest levels of government on the USICH Council. The agency also re-established its presence in the field and with Congressional partners, devoting significant energy to developing and promoting the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to address the homelessness crisis—through media, guidance, newsletters, presentations, site visits, and meetings with national, state, and local stakeholders in the public and private sector.

One of USICH's most critical tasks for FY 2022 was the development of a new Federal Strategic Plan (FSP) to Prevent and End Homelessness, titled *All In.* The new plan sets a bold vision and is built around three foundational pillars—equity, data, and collaboration—and three solution pillars—housing and supports, homelessness response, and prevention. Each pillar includes strategies the federal government will pursue to facilitate increased availability of and access to housing, economic security, health care, and stability for all Americans.

State of Homelessness

While the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted recent data collection efforts, available data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#) (AHAR), submitted to Congress in February 2022, reveals ongoing challenges and promising successes in ending homelessness for all Americans. According to the 2021 AHAR:

- More than 326,000 people experienced sheltered homelessness in the U.S. on a single night in 2021—a decrease of 8% from 2020.[1]

- The number of sheltered individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness increased by 20% between 2020 and 2021.

- While homelessness impacts people of all ages, races, ethnicities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, it disproportionately impacts some groups and populations. For example, more than 4 of every 10 people experiencing sheltered homelessness were Black or African American, even though Black and African American people only comprise 12% of the general population.

The last most comprehensive [HUD data from 2020](#) indicate:

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[1] Because of pandemic-related disruptions to counts of unsheltered homelessness in January 2021, the 2021 AHAR Part 1 focuses only on people experiencing *sheltered* homelessness. In response to these data limitations, data cited in this report relies primarily on numbers from HUD's 2020 data collection efforts.

- On a single night in 2020, roughly 580,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the U.S.

- For the first time since data collection began, more individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered than were sheltered.

- 1,253,000 unique people occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens at some point in the year.

- Approximately 93,000 unaccompanied youth used a shelter program.

- 185,000 people who used shelter programs had chronic patterns of homelessness.

- People identifying as Black or African American accounted for 39% of all people experiencing homelessness and 53% of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children but only represent 12% of the total U.S. population. Together, American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian populations account for 1% of the U.S. population, but 5% of the homeless population and 7% of the unsheltered population.

Various other federal data sources illustrate trends for preventing and ending homelessness:

- According to the Department of Education's report titled "Student Homelessness in America: School Years 2017-18 to 2019-20," during School Year (SY) 2019-20, public schools identified 1,280,886 students who experienced homelessness, representing 2.5% of all students enrolled in public schools. While student enrollment in public schools remained stable, the number of identified students experiencing homelessness decreased by nearly 8% between SYs 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- According to HUD's 2021 Worst Case Housing Needs Report to Congress, 7.77 million renter households experienced worst-case needs in 2019. Renter households with very low incomes who do not receive government housing assistance are defined as having worst-case needs for adequate, affordable rental housing if they pay more than one-half of their income for rent, live in severely inadequate conditions, or both. Furthermore, the private market and public rental assistance programs together made available only 62 affordable units per 100 very low-income renters in 2019.

Challenges

Communities face many challenges in the work to prevent and end homelessness, including:

- **Lack of Housing Supply:** Housing ultimately ends homelessness, but prior to the pandemic, the U.S. already lacked 7 million affordable and available homes for renters with the lowest incomes, disproportionately impacting people of color—especially Black/African Americans.

- **Rise of Rent Amid Slow Wage Growth:** Wages continue to fail to keep up with rising rents. According to a 2021 report, in no state can a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the fair market rent. As a result, 70% of the lowest-wage households routinely spend more than half of their income on rent, placing them at risk of homelessness if any unexpected expenses or emergencies arise. Housing unaffordability and discriminatory employment practices disproportionately impacts people with disabilities LGBTQ+, and people of color, especially Black/African American and Latino/a workers who are more likely to work in low-paying sectors.

- **Inadequate Access to Quality Health Care, Education, and Supportive Services:** Low-barrier, culturally and linguistically competent, and accessible supportive services—including mental and substance use disorder treatment—often are not available or funded at a level to meet the need, especially in rural areas. Without

stronger coordination among and for various systems, including the homelessness response and early childhood systems, people seeking these services may face long waits or may not receive them at all, and service providers may only be reimbursed for a fraction of the cost of care. People of color, especially Black/African Americans, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized populations face greater barriers to receiving the support they need, which leads to severe disparities in health and other wellness outcomes.

- **Limited Alternatives to Unsheltered Homelessness:** The number of people living in tents and vehicles continues to rise, yet current interim housing and shelter options often cannot reach capacity and/or present barriers to people—including those with HIV, a substance use condition, a criminal record, disability or chronic condition, or who identify as LGBTQ+. In many communities, a rise in encampments has resulted in the criminalization of homelessness through encampment clearings, public camping bans, and other policies. These "out of sight, out of mind" policies can lead to lost belongings and identification; trauma and distrust; breakdowns in connection with outreach teams, health care facilities, and housing providers; and overall disruption to the work of ending homelessness.

- **Fatigue Among Providers:** The pandemic has strained the capacity of service providers—many of whom earn wages low enough to qualify them for the programs they help administer. Many are overwhelmed and exhausted from the pressure and trauma associated with supporting not only the people they serve but also themselves and their families during a sustained global pandemic. As a result, many programs experience high rates of staff turnover, which can disrupt continuity of care and limit positive outcomes.

Opportunities

Despite these challenges, recent successes and innovations provide hope, including:

- **Unprecedented Investment of New Funding:** The American Rescue Plan (ARP)—along with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act—provides billions of dollars for new and existing programs that can move people into housing and increase the availability of housing and housing subsidies. These resources provide communities with a historic opportunity to innovate and improve existing systems. Moreover, President Biden's budget request for FY 2023 includes significant increases in funding for targeted programs and housing choice vouchers.

- **Demonstrated Commitment Through Regulatory Flexibility and Executive Action:** The CARES and ARP Acts created regulatory flexibilities that spurred greater innovation, strengthened partnerships, and created new collaborations. President Biden issued several executive orders focused on bold and ambitious steps to root out inequity within the economy and to expand opportunity for people of color and other marginalized groups. The White House has also initiated whole-of-government action plans and strategies that address the nation's most pressing needs, such as the Housing Supply Action Plan, the National Mental Health Strategy, and the National Drug Control Strategy.

- **Lessons Learned From the Pandemic:** In response to the public health emergency, federal programs have found ways to rapidly waive requirements that were impeding mitigation and recovery. As a result, new partnerships have been created and new approaches have emerged—including the conversion of previously vacant hotels to non-congregate shelter and housing, expansion of unemployment benefits, use of eviction moratoriums, launch of emergency rental assistance, and provision of direct cash transfers.

- **Increased Focus on Racial Equity:** A nationwide discourse on racial justice ensued, demanding urgent change and accountability at all levels of government in public policies and programs that either intentionally or unintentionally perpetuate racism. While homelessness impacts people of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, it disproportionately impacts some groups and populations, particularly people of color and especially Black people and American Indians and Alaskan Natives. This increased focus— which resulted in executive orders from President Biden—provides an opportunity to hold federal, state, and

local governments accountable for achieving more equitable outcomes for people of color.

- **Dedication of Providers:** The homeless services sector is comprised of many passionate and compassionate people—many of whom are volunteers—who dedicate every day of their lives to the work of preventing and ending homelessness in their communities. This work is difficult under any circumstances, and the pandemic made it exponentially more difficult. But people continue to show up, persevering through the toughest circumstances.

Annual Performance Measures and Metrics

Beginning in FY 2018, USICH has used the following performance metrics to track and measure our activities and impact.

Driving an Efficient and Effective Federal Response to Homelessness

Performance Measures and Metrics:

1. Provide expert guidance and input to federal agencies to strengthen the implementation of more than $6 billion of federal investments into targeted homelessness programs.

   Result: Achieved and exceeded. USICH provided guidance and input across our council member agencies on nearly $8 billion in FY 2022 targeted resources for homelessness programs from across multiple federal agencies and covering multiple subpopulations and focus areas. USICH also produced a guide on how communities are implementing American Rescue Plan resources. The agency further provided an inventory for communities to identify and access federal non-emergency health and social service programs so they can use multiple streams of funding for holistic supportive services that meet the short- and long-term needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

2. Coordinate quarterly meetings of the Council Policy Group (CPG) and Interagency Council on Homelessness annually. Convene at least 30 interagency working group (WG) meetings annually.

   Result: Partially achieved. USICH convened four quarterly council meetings in FY 2022 (October of 2021 and February, June, and August of 2022). USICH also convened two CPG meetings and convened or co-led 28 interagency WG meetings. As USICH implements the FSP in FY 2023, it expects to regularly convene several standing interagency WGs and other subgroups and bodies as needed.

3. Manage the development and implementation of action plans for at least four population-specific interagency WGs and ensure that at least 75% of strategies and activities projected within those action plans are implemented or achieved.

   Result: Not achieved. During FY 2022, USICH operated without a federal strategic plan. Following the transition of the last administration in January 2021, USICH determined that *Expanding the Toolbox* does not align with the priorities of the Biden-Harris administration and does not support evidence-based practices, including Housing First. USICH has spent FY 2022 conducting a robust stakeholder input process and collaboratively working with all 19 member agencies to produce a new, bold, and comprehensive FSP. While USICH did not center FY 2022 activities around subpopulation action plans, staff pursued strategies to advance the outcomes of veterans, children and families, youth, and people experiencing chronic homelessness, among other subpopulations, as described further below.

Building a National Partnership at Every Level of Government and Among the Private Sector

Performance Measures and Metrics:

1. Provide expert guidance, convene strategic meetings, and/or host peer-to-peer conversations to educate

state officials and leaders in at least 15 states and local officials and leaders in at least 40 communities.

    Result: Achieved and exceeded. USICH provided guidance and coaching to state leaders in 45 states and territories and community leaders in more than 100 communities across all 50 states.

2. Convene at least one workshop in each of the 10 federal regions each year to provide professional and technical assistance to states, local governments, and other public and private nonprofit organizations.

    Result: Achieved. USICH convened at least one workshop or presentation in each federal region, ranging from smaller, focused conversations to larger, statewide or regional convenings and FSP listening sessions.

3. Review and confirm at least 15 communities as achieving the goal of ending veteran homelessness and three communities as achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness.

    Result: Not achieved. During FY 2022, USICH confirmed one community as achieving the goal of ending veteran homelessness and zero communities as achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness. As communities and the federal government continued to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, USICH saw a steep decline in the number of community submissions. USICH will revisit this metric to determine an appropriate target for FY 2023.

Providing News, Tools, and Resources for Success

Performance Measures and Metrics:

1. Publish and disseminate bimonthly educational newsletters providing information on federal programs, resources, and guidance regarding effective strategies and best practices, as well as increase subscribers 20% annually.

   Result: Achieved. USICH published 26 newsletters. Subscribers grew by 7,500.

2. Publish and/or disseminate at least 50 new or updated tools and publications.

   Result: Achieved and exceeded. USICH published and/or disseminated at least 213 tools and publications.

3. Deliver at least 100 presentations, workshops, and speeches via national, regional, and local conferences, webinars, and conference calls.

   Result: Achieved and exceeded. USICH delivered at least 140 presentations, workshops, and speeches via national, regional, and local virtual conferences, webinars, and conference calls.

Driving an Efficient, Effective, and Equitable Federal Response to Homelessness

USICH focuses on using data and performance measurement to maximize several billions of dollars in targeted federal homelessness funding and to engage other federal, state, and local non-targeted programs, by providing a foundation for evidence-informed practices. USICH does not administer programs or have regulatory authority, nor does it duplicate the efforts of other agencies. Rather, USICH tools for advancing good governance are through innovative collaborations and strategic engagements that drive smart, efficient changes and progress across partners and stakeholders.

Building Consensus at the Highest Levels

Through USICH efforts, collective action to end homelessness reaches the highest level of the federal government. USICH staff plan and implement quarterly meetings of the USICH Council, which include the secretaries/principals of the 19 member agencies.

The full council met four times during FY 2022, in October 2021 and February, June, and August 2022. USICH utilizes other interagency policy and planning structures to set the strategic direction for the council and interagency activities. Through CPG meetings, USICH provides a forum for senior staff from member agencies to coordinate policies and programs, collect data, develop special initiatives and prepare recommendations for consideration by council members and for council meeting discussions. The body convened twice in FY 2022, in October 2021 and March 2022, and will convene at least quarterly with the forthcoming implementation of the FSP. USICH met regularly with agency CPG representatives in a variety of other forums and WGs.

USICH works across the federal government to center homelessness in a variety of topical forums. For example, the agency presented at the White House Interagency Working Group on Safety, Inclusion, and Opportunity for Transgender Americans, as well as at the White House Council on Native American Affairs. USICH further regularly participates in White-House convened working groups around topics like harm reduction and tenant protections.

Driving Interagency Action

To drive day-to-day progress, USICH convenes a variety of ongoing and ad-hoc interagency WGs comprised of high- and mid-level agency staff from all 19 member agencies. As noted above, many historic WGs were on hold for much of FY 2022 due to collaborative development of the new Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. However, USICH convened several ad-hoc and one ongoing interagency WG during the fiscal year. FY 2022 WGs outside the immediate context of the FSP included:

- **Federal and National Partners COVID-19 Coordination:** USICH convenes a biweekly WG with key federal partners, including HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and key national partners, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, to coordinate efforts related to the spread of infectious diseases. This body routinely collaborates on the development of guidance, discusses joint messaging, and otherwise fosters coordination and information-sharing among these partners.

- **Partner Encampment Workgroup:** USICH convened an ad-hoc group of federal and national partners to form a time-limited working group to discuss coordinated approaches to addressing unsheltered homelessness and encampments. Among other outputs, this body helped develop the USICH guidance titled "7 Principles for Addressing Encampments."

- **Prevention Working Group:** USICH supported a short-term White House WG to convene federal partners in late 2021 to identify a series of commitments related to homelessness prevention. The strategies included in the prevention pillar of *All In* were derived from this WG.

- **Unsheltered Homelessness Workgroup:** Working with the White House Domestic Policy Council, USICH has convened an Interagency Policy Committee, through which USICH is leading an interagency WG to develop strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in high-need areas.

- **Solving Veteran Homelessness as One**: USICH has continued to convene this ongoing WG to design and prioritize actions to accelerate progress on ending veteran homelessness, including through developing a set of strategies and measures to operationalize the HUD/VA Joint Statement on Ending Veteran Homelessness.

Building Common Regional Goals

USICH works with Council agencies to strengthen Federal Regional Interagency Councils on Homelessness (FRICHs) in all 10 federal regions. We provide technical assistance to regional staff from multiple federal agencies—including HUD, HHS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Education (ED), and the Department of Labor (DOL)—to further develop their collaborative structures and unite behind common regional goals. Activities in FY 2022 included:

- Distributed a quarterly update that highlights activities and action taken by FRICHs

- Provided presentations, content development, key resources, and tools from USICH and other federal agencies to FRICHs

- Directed guidance and coaching with regional federal colleagues from 19 council member agencies to identify regional challenges on opportunities to strengthen best practices, including through the implementation of *House America*—a federal initiative in which HUD and USICH invited mayors, city and county leaders, tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to utilize the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach.

Mobilizing Nationwide Actions in Support of a Shared Vision

As the only federal agency solely focused on ending homelessness, USICH's role includes building and sustaining a shared national vision—which is captured and communicated in the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness—of progress and success in driving federal-state-local partnerships and public and private sector collaboration and coordination. USICH also works to create a shared vocabulary and understanding of the data regarding homelessness and to make sure that federal technical assistance to the field conveys both that shared understanding and the best practices for achieving our goals.

Developing the Next Federal Strategic Plan

USICH invested significant staff time in FY 2022 creating a new FSP. *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* is a multi-year, interagency blueprint for a future where no one experiences homelessness, and everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable home.

To develop this plan, USICH undertook a comprehensive input process that included more than 80 listening sessions and an online public comment portal. Through these mechanisms, USICH received more than 1,500 public comments and received feedback from organizations and people who represent nearly 650 communities and every state, including more than 500 people who have experienced homelessness.

USICH synthesized all this direct input and used it as the basis of the six pillars included in the FSP. In February 2022, the council approved these six proposed pillars. In April 2022, USICH shared an early draft of the plan with its member agencies for a pre-clearance review process. In addition, USICH sought input from national consultants, including people with lived experience of homelessness, people with expertise in the areas of racial equity and housing justice, tribal homelessness, LGBTQI+ homelessness, and/or youth homelessness. USICH resolved more than 1,000 comments and proposed edits through this process, and in August 2022, the USICH Council voted to approve submitting the plan into federal interagency clearance process. The plan has been cleared by OMB, and USICH anticipates release in December 2022.

Encouraging Understanding and Action to Address Racial Inequities

Racial disparities in experiences of homelessness are clear in the data, driven by a complex array of inequities within systems and social dynamics—biases and prejudices, overt discrimination, systemic and institutional racism, and many other related and intersectional forces—that impact our responses to homelessness. To develop understanding, promote awareness, and encourage action, USICH:

- Released an [Equity Action Plan](#) on April 14, 2022, in accordance with Executive Order 13985. This plan aims to:

  o Establish racial equity as a core part of the upcoming Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, with corresponding goals and priorities within the plan that incorporates racial equity

  o Engage tribal sovereign nations by developing an advisory group, holding facilitated convenings, reestablishing our interagency working group on Native American homelessness

  o Strengthen internal operations, starting with assessment of the current climate of equity to identify areas where USICH can model the operational behavior we encourage communities and partners to exemplify in advancing racial equity. Further exploring opportunities to develop a Civil Rights Office will enable the agency to improve advanced civil rights and racial equity.

- Created an internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Plan to foster an inclusive organization where all employees feel valued, respected, and engaged through:

  o Ensuring a diverse organization in all areas and at all levels

  o Actively seeking out and encouraging diverse ideas, perspectives, and points of view

  o Establishing an inclusive work environment that respects and embraces diversity

  o Taking steps to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in agency activities, products, and publications

- Gathered input from more than 500 people with lived experiences of homelessness through the public input process and consulted with experts who have lived experience of homelessness in the development of *All In*. These perspectives particularly informed the development of the strategies under the "Lead With Equity" foundational pillar.

Ensuring Consistent Federal Technical Assistance on Ending Homelessness

Communities across the country receive technical assistance from different, and sometimes multiple, federal agencies/programs and national organizations that guide their strategic planning and implementation of best practices. USICH works to ensure that technical assistance is as streamlined and coordinated as possible so that all communities receive the same guidance. In FY 2022, this technical assistance, for example, centered around implementing USICH and federal partner initiatives, such as *House America*, and guidance, such as USICH's "[7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#)."

Providing Technical Assistance to Inform Local Responses to COVID-19 and Homelessness

In FY 2022, USICH continued to provide extensive technical assistance to communities as they faced ongoing operational impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish this goal of supporting communities, USICH convened and worked with a group of interagency partners from HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HUD, VA, and other agencies and offices. This work included:

- Providing a tool, titled "[Expiring Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness](#)," that identifies federal funding, flexibilities, and waivers that may impact homelessness and are set to expire at various points in FY 2022, including those with expiration dates directly tied to the public health emergency for COVID-19.

- Publishing joint guidance with partners at CDC, HHS, HUD, and VA, titled "[The Omicron Variant of COVID-19: What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know](#)," intended to help communities minimize the spread and impact of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness, who face an increased risk of infection and severe disease compared to the general population.

Building a National Partnership at Every Level of Government and Across the Private Sector

USICH drives national, regional, state, and local collective action through outcome-oriented partnerships with a wide variety of leaders and decisionmakers, including:

Launch of *House America*

House America calls on state, tribal, and local leaders to partner with HUD and USICH to use American Rescue Plan resources—alongside other federal, tribal, state, and local resources—to set and achieve ambitious goals to rehouse people experiencing homelessness through a Housing First approach, and to add new units of affordable housing into the development pipeline by December 31, 2022. More than 100 communities have set local rehousing and unit creation goals.

State Interagency Councils on Homelessness

USICH has encouraged every state to develop a State Interagency Council on Homelessness to align public resources, build on innovations and best practices across the country, and promote cost-effective strategies to strengthen coordination within state departments. In FY 2022, USICH focused on sharing information related to CARES Act and ARP resources as well as strategies to leverage these resources effectively. USICH hosted a peer-to-peer call with state leaders to coordinate promising practices, challenges, and opportunities.

USICH also continued to work closely with the state of California as it transitions from the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness and worked local leaders in Illinois, providing guidance on the structuring of Interagency Councils (ICHs). At the end of FY 2022, an executive order was signed to establish the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness. USICH worked with states to provide guidance, coaching, resources, and peer-to-peer conference calls and connections on strengthening state ICHs.

Governors, Mayors, and Other Elected Officials

Political leadership at the state and local level is critical to advancing progress. USICH's executive director and national initiatives team met regularly with governors, mayors, and other elected officials and local leaders to provide individualized guidance to address the unique needs of their jurisdiction, including governors' offices in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Utah and mayors' offices in Anchorage, Alaska; Baltimore; Boise, Idaho; Boston; Columbus, Ohio; Honolulu, Hawaii; Kansas City, Missouri; New York City; Philadelphia; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Washington D.C.; Austin and Houston, Texas; Berkeley, King City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco, California; Bridgeport and Newark, New Jersey; Mesa, Phoenix, and Tucson, Arizona.

USICH also worked with associations that support the efforts of a broad array of elected officials, such as the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). USICH presented on affordable housing and homelessness at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting and presented during the USCM Fall Leadership Summit.

In FY 2022, USICH continued to facilitate monthly conference calls with the West Coast Alliance of Mayors, which represents mayors' offices in 17 western cities to share strategies to address common challenges in their efforts to end homelessness. The calls focused on topics such as: COVID-specific non-congregate shelter, leveraging CARES and ARP resources, and responding to encampments and unsheltered homelessness. Additionally, USICH presented and supported monthly conference calls, office hours, and news bulletins as part of *House America*.

National Nonprofit Organizations and Associations

Through outreach to national stakeholders, USICH partners with national organizations that drive and influence public agendas on homelessness, housing, and related issues, such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Racial Equity Working Group, Corporation for Supportive Housing, and National Low Income Housing Coalition. USICH hosted a national stakeholder meeting in FY 2022, which allowed major national non-profit and faith-based organizations to provide input on federal programs and policy development and to identify opportunities for collaboration on important strategic objectives.

Private Sector, Faith-Based, and Philanthropic Partners

The private sector and faith-based and philanthropic organizations dedicated to serving populations at risk of or experiencing homelessness play critical leadership roles, in partnership with public agencies and programs. USICH works with a variety of stakeholders across those sectors, including a partnership with Funders Together to End Homelessness, which represents more than 220 national and local philanthropic organizations. Funders Together is one of the many organizations USICH has consulted to help inform the next iteration of the FSP. Additionally, USICH engages faith-based groups and other national partners via the National Stakeholders Groups, including Catholic Charities, City Gate, and Salvation Army.

Community Leaders

USICH provides a range of targeted community engagement and technical assistance to community leaders, including guidance on coordinating federal funding, following COVID-19 safety protocols, and implementing coordinated entry, Housing First, rapid rehousing, and other best practices for ending homelessness. In FY 2022, USICH provided strategic guidance to stakeholders in all 50 states. USICH also maintained focus on several communities—in California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington—that are facing significant challenges. While the COVID-19 pandemic restricted USICH's ability to travel during the first quarter, USICH maintained regular communication through virtual channels, holding hundreds of meetings with state and local leaders. As the opportunity to travel began in April, USICH conducted more than 29 site visits to communities across the country.

Providing News, Tools, and Resources for Success

Through a communications strategy that includes emails and email newsletters, speaking engagements, website publications, conference presentations, social media, and media engagement, USICH shares messages and disseminates best practices to a wide range of stakeholders across the country.

Focus of Communication

USICH's communications strategy in FY 2022 focused on helping communities mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, implement the unprecedented funding made available by the CARES and American Rescue Plan Acts, and address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness. To achieve those goals, USICH disseminated guidance from federal agencies and issued its own guidance, including:

- [The Omicron Variant of COVID-19: What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know](#)
- [Getting It Done: The American Rescue Plan Way](#)
- [7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#)
- [Expiring Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness](#)
- [Federal Health and Social Service Programs That Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [The Keys to Strong Relationships Between Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Continuums of Care (CoCs)](#)

Modes and Reach of Communication

In FY 2022, USICH published 26 newsletters and disseminated 213 news items, tools, and resources. The newsletter is delivered to the inboxes of more than 46,000 people, which includes people experiencing homelessness as well as federal, national, regional, state, and local stakeholders in the public and private sectors. It shares information about federal funding and best practices.

USICH's audience on social media continues to grow, consisting of more than 15,000 Twitter followers, 10,000 Facebook followers, and 1,500 LinkedIn followers.

During FY 2022, the USICH website received roughly 1 million pageviews, and USICH staff served as presenters for more than 140 homelessness and/or housing-related events that included conferences, meetings, webinars, and congressional briefings for audiences that included federal, national, regional, state, and local stakeholders. Here are some event highlights:

- White House Briefing for Mayors and CEOs on Housing Investment
- Congressional Briefing on Housing First
- DOJ Briefing on Effective Strategies for Law Enforcement and Community Partners' Response to Homelessness
- National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference
- U.S. Conference of Mayors' Summer and Winter Meetings
- National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference on Ending Unsheltered Homelessness
- National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Conference
- Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA) Program Managers Conference
- The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) National Summit on Youth Homelessness
- National Coalition for Homeless Education's Annual National Meeting for State Coordinators
- Housing First Partners Conference
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council's Conference and Policy Symposium
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans' Annual Conference
- Webinar on How to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Hosted by NAEH, NLIHC, and CBPP
- Funders Together to End Homelessness' Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)

USICH frames and clarifies homelessness issues in national and local media. USICH staff appeared on the radio and TV as well as in print and online publications. In FY 2022, USICH provided interviews/information and/or received coverage from a wide range of publications, including:

- Bloomberg
- Forbes
- Fox News
- The Hill
- Reuters
- Houston Chronicle
- Sacramento City Express
- San Diego Union Tribune

- San Jose Spotlight
- Seattle Times
- Street Sense

Population-Specific Work

Since the release of the first FSP in 2010, USICH has focused its work across four key subpopulations: veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, and youth. The forthcoming FSP, *All In,* focuses instead on the establishment of a broad, universal goal and strategies, recognizing that actions and guidance will need to be tailored for various groups. Although USICH has been working on the new FSP, most of our work in FY 2022 has involved supporting communities with the continued response to COVID-19 and building up capacity within the agency.

Nevertheless, USICH remains committed to ending homelessness for all Americans, including veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, and unaccompanied youth. Accomplishing these goals requires leadership at all levels of government and strong partnerships with businesses, researchers, philanthropy, and nonprofits. It also demands a commitment to reassessment and the ability to alter course based on changing conditions and lessons learned.

Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

New data from HUD released in November 2022 shows that veteran homelessness in the U.S. has decreased by 11% since 2020, the last year for which complete data is available. This represents the biggest drop in veteran homelessness in more than five years, and it happened during a global pandemic — proving that we can resolve homelessness even under the most difficult circumstances. Altogether, the estimated number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has declined by 55.3% since 2010.

Through USICH's efforts, federal agencies continue to engage in strong coordination efforts, using data-driven decision-making to drive the deployment of resources through the HUD-VA. Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, and Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, which enable communities to provide a range of housing and services interventions.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

USICH and council agencies are continuing to drive progress through the Solving Veterans Homelessness as One interagency working group, made up of USICH, HUD, and VA officials. Senior leaders at USICH also serve as ex-officio members of the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and inform the group on progress and the work ahead for interagency strategies to end veteran homelessness.[2]

During FY 2022, USICH focused on developing and implementing the joint HUD/VA/USICH strategies to end veteran homelessness. Key accomplishments include:

- VA and HUD developed and implemented an enhanced homelessness prevention screening tool, which is now in use by all SSVF grantees.

- VA issued two capital grant Notice of Funding Opportunities totaling $128.9 million to modify existing congregate settings into private living units. In addition, VA's GPD and Health Care for Homeless

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[2] HUD recently published 2022 Point in Time Count data on veteran homelessness in November 2022. The full 2022 data set will be available in the coming months: New Data Shows 11% Decline in Veteran Homelessness Since 2020—the Biggest Drop in More Than 5 Years | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Veterans programs have recommitted to ensuring low-barrier access to temporary housing programs.

- VA, HUD, and USICH developed a technical assistance plan in December 2021. As of June 2022, 20 communities are receiving direct technical assistance to end veteran homelessness.

- As of September 30, 2022, VA has achieved 30,914 permanent housing placements for veterans experiencing homelessness, meeting 81.35% of the goal set for permanently housing 38,000 veterans in calendar year 2022.

- VA, HUD, and USICH continued to encourage public housing authorities to utilize flexibilities included in the HUD-VASH program, including the ability to serve veterans up to 80% of area median income, and to increase rent payment standards to 120% of the fair market rent.

- VA and HUD collaborated on a project-basing toolkit to support public housing authorities interested in project-basing a portion of their HUD-VASH vouchers.

Driving Progress in Communities

USICH—particularly the six-member national initiatives team and executive director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decisionmakers to advance progress in communities across the United States.

During FY 2022, USICH:

- Participated in the VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans meetings and presented to the committee on topics such as USICH priorities related to veteran homelessness, and USICH's process for developing the FSP.

- Helped several communities with their efforts to end veteran homelessness, including Oakland and St. Clair Counties in Michigan; the Central Minnesota Continuum of Care; the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care; Fremont, Colorado; the Quad Cities region in Iowa and Illinois; Muskogee, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; and Riverside County, California.

- Presented on the forthcoming FSP and USICH priorities at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans annual conference.

- Facilitated and presented at a quarterly technical assistance coordination meeting of federal and national partners, including an update on the FSP, *House America*, and status of communities seeking federal confirmation that they have achieved the goal of effectively ending veteran homelessness.

- Facilitated a presentation and discussion on SSVF Shallow Subsidies and related funding to an audience of SSVF and CoC (Continuum of Care) providers in the state of California.

- Led a time-limited WG to develop a set of strategies, milestones, and measures that HUD, VA, and USICH will take to achieve the objectives outlined in the joint HUD/VA statement on ending veteran homelessness.

- Led a time-limited task force to examine HUD-VASH utilization and interview public housing authorities and VAMCs to identify barriers to utilization and potential solutions.

News, Tools, and Resources to Strengthen Practices to End Veteran Homelessness

USICH disseminated a diverse array of relevant news, tools, and resources via our website and newsletter, including:

- [HUD Awards 3rd Round of Tribal HUD-VASH Grants](#)
- [VA Awards More SSVF Funding to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [HUD Awards 2nd Round of Tribal HUD-VASH Grants to Help Native American Veterans](#)
- [VA Awards $431M in SSVF Grants for Veteran Homelessness](#)
- [New VA Regulation Expands What the Grant and Per Diem Program Covers](#)
- [VA Publishes Interim Final Rule for Legal Services for Homeless Veterans Grant Program](#)
- [US Department of Labor Awards More Than $57M to Help Veterans Overcome, Avoid Homelessness; Reenter the Workforce](#)
- [New VA White Paper on Effective HUD-VASH Contracting](#)
- [VA Vows to House 38,000 Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in 2022](#)
- [VA Awards $64.7M in Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Funding](#)
- [VA Research Reveals Preferred Homelessness Language Across Populations](#)
- [VA Designates Flexible Funding for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [VA Exceeds Secretary's Housing Goal in L.A. and Names Senior Executive Homelessness Agent](#)
- [Labor Department Now Taking Applications for Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Grants](#)
- [VA Announces New SSVF Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Local VA Partnership Helps Fill Newly Housed Veterans' Homes](#)
- [HUD and VA Award More HUD-VASH Vouchers](#)
- [The Biden-Harris Administration's Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness](#)
- [VA Provides Relief for Veterans in High-Cost Rental Markets](#)
- [USICH Votes on Federal Strategic Plan and Veteran Homelessness at October Meeting](#)
- [Supporting Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma](#)
- [VA Homeless Programs Office Pathways](#)
- [Ending Veteran Homelessness Podcast on Tiny Shelters and the Low-Barrier Revolution](#)
- [VA Research Brief on the Sector-Wheel Approach](#)
- [New Phone Number for the Veterans Crisis Line](#)
- [New Episode of "Ending Veteran Homelessness" Podcast](#)

Ending Chronic Homelessness Among People With Disabilities and All Other Individuals

Between 2010 and 2020, chronic homelessness increased by 4% overall and by 17% among unsheltered homelessness. For the fourth consecutive year, between 2019 and 2020, the number of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness increased by 15%. While increases were reported among both sheltered and unsheltered populations, the sizable increase from 2019 to 2020 in the number of unsheltered people with chronic patterns of homelessness (21%) was the key driver.

The recent trends in chronic homelessness mean we must redouble our efforts to bring to scale what works to end the recurring or long-term homelessness of people with disabilities: supportive housing implemented through Housing First approaches. By prioritizing people experiencing chronic homelessness for existing supportive housing, by creating opportunities to bring new units online, and by pairing housing with health and behavioral health services of individuals' choice, communities must make many more units available for people experiencing chronic homelessness with the highest needs.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

During FY 2022, USICH focused on:

- Responding to unsheltered homelessness, particularly in encampments. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness comprise a significant share of the overall unsheltered population, and many communities continue to see high numbers of unsheltered chronic homelessness. During FY 2022, USICH convened a federal and national partner WG to coordinate work on helping communities address encampments, and this body informed a suite of USICH resources, such as a blog, guidance on principles for encampment engagement, and a resource roundup.

- Strengthening collaborations between health and housing partners. During the COVID-19 pandemic, USICH continued to collaborate closely with CDC, HHS, HRSA, HUD, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and other homelessness and health-care partners, to weigh in on CDC guidance and invite representatives of these organizations to speak on webinars and peer-to-peer calls. USICH leads biweekly calls among federal and national partners to coordinate responses to infectious disease outbreaks, which disparately take a toll on people experiencing chronic homelessness, who often face greater health challenges and barriers to accessing care. As part of this group, USICH coordinated the production of a tool covering expiring federal provisions tied to COVID-19 flexibilities and waivers that could impact homelessness. The group further published guidance to homelessness providers on how to address the Omicron variant.

Driving Progress in Communities

During FY 2022, the USICH national initiatives team supported communities by:

- Providing technical assistance to communities across the country on COVID-19 safety protocols for the most vulnerable, on Housing First, on the prioritization of people experiencing chronic homelessness in permanent supportive housing, on outreach and engagement, on working with the criminal justice system, and on systems change. USICH further promoted the Criteria and Benchmark for Achieving the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness, published in FY 2016, and reviewed progress in several communities.

- Convening peer-to-peer calls to facilitate information-sharing among cities on topics such as addressing encampments and effective state and local interagency coordination.

- Providing coaching and support to numerous communities, including many in California, as they considered opportunities to use Project HomeKey funds to create new permanent supportive housing and other housing opportunities for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

News, Tools, and Resources to Strengthen Practices to End Chronic Homelessness

USICH disseminated a diverse array of relevant news, tools, and resources via our website and newsletter, including:

- HUD Releases 2020 AHAR Part 2. Here Are the Key Findings.
- Findings—and Limitations—of the 2021 Point-in-Time Count
- 16 Years of SOAR and 100,000 People Helped

Ending Homelessness Among Families With Children

Between 2010 and 2020, homelessness among people in families with children declined by 29%, including a 67% drop in unsheltered homelessness, as documented within communities' annual Point-in-Time counts. That progress was driven by the vision of a comprehensive community response to family homelessness described within our Criteria and Benchmark for Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness, published in FY 2017,

which are helping government, non-profit, and other partners increase their focus on evidence-based solutions and using their time and resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. To maintain our national progress on family homelessness, it will be essential to continue our focus on cross-system collaboration to identify and engage families as early as possible and to expand the stock of affordable and available housing options for families.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

During FY 2022, USICH focused on:

- Coordinating with domestic violence services. In FY 2022, USICH continued to partner with the federally funded Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium. USICH also delivered a briefing to Congress on barriers to effective implementation of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization emergency transfer and voucher implementation processes to better serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Driving Progress in Communities

USICH—particularly the six-member national initiatives team and executive director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decisionmakers to advance progress in communities across the United States.

During FY 2022, USICH:

- Provided intensive, ongoing technical assistance to, and facilitated peer-to-peer discussions with, communities working to achieve both the family and youth criteria and benchmarks for ending homelessness, including outreach to Day One Fund communities.
- Provided coaching and guidance to communities on the Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness and strategies to strengthen partnerships in many places, including Atlanta; Bridgeport and Newark, New Jersey; Des Moines, Iowa; Fort Worth, Texas; Los Angeles; Milwaukee, Minnesota; and Rockford, Illinois.

News, Tools, and Resources to Strengthen Practices to End Family Homelessness

USICH disseminated a diverse array of relevant news, tools, and resources via our website and newsletter, including:

- The Advance Child Tax Credit Webinar
- Information about Vaccinating Your Child (Updated)
- Vaccination for Children and Adolescents: Considerations (Updated)
- Vaccination for Children and Adolescents: Considerations for Family Shelters and Housing Programs (Updated)
- VA Awards More SSVF Funding to Help Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- VA Awards $431M in SSVF Grants for Veteran Homelessness
- Education Department Distributes ARP ESSER Funds to All 50 States
- Education Department Approves Every State's Plan for ARP-HCY Funding
- Webinar: Creating and Strengthening Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)-K12 Education Partnerships
- HUD Releases 2020 AHAR Part 2. Here Are the Key Findings.
- New VA Regulation Expands What the Grant and Per Diem Program Covers

Ending Homelessness for Unaccompanied Youth

Local Point-in-Time counts estimate that there were 34,210 unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness on any given night in 2020. Another 7,335 youth were experiencing homelessness as parents, with at least one child under the age of 18.

Data from the Department of Education and Voices of Youth Count also show that there is still much work to be done to reduce and end youth homelessness in America. According to ED's "Student Homelessness in America" report covering school years 2017-18 and 2019-20, public schools identified 1,280,886 students who experienced homelessness in SY 2019-20, representing 2.5% of all students enrolled in public schools. While student enrollment in public schools remained stable, the number of identified students experiencing homelessness decreased by nearly 8% between SYs 2018-19 and 2019-2020.

Efforts to improve data on the scale and scope of youth homelessness are helping us to better understand the full range of solutions, collaborations, and investments needed to achieve and sustain an end to homelessness, by any federal definition, for all youth. Through strong collaboration at the national and local level among the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors, momentum is growing.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

In FY 2022, USICH focused on:

- Strengthening connections between housing and education. In FY 2022, USICH produced a report to Congress that identifies areas where schools and housing agencies—specifically public housing agencies—can partner to improve housing stability for students and youth in K-12. USICH further hosted a webinar on creating and strengthening emergency rental assistance K-12 education partnerships, which highlighted promising local collaborations.

Driving Progress in Communities

USICH—particularly the six-member national initiatives team and executive director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decisionmakers to advance progress in communities across the United States.

During FY 2022, USICH:

- Provided intensive, ongoing technical assistance to, and facilitated peer-to-peer discussions with, the communities working to achieve both the family and youth criteria and benchmarks for ending homelessness.

- Provided guidance and recommendations to communities participating in the current cohort of 100-day challenge communities.

- Provided support to communities participating in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and served as application reviewers, as well as conducted site visits with YHDP providers and action boards.

- Presented on the role of education in developing a community response to ending youth homelessness and federal priorities and best practices pertaining to homeless children and youth at the annual NAEHCY Conference and stateside conferences, including the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth and the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth conferences.

- Conducted a federal strategic plan listening session with youth with lived experiences of homelessness.

News, Tools, and Resources to Strengthen Practices to End Youth Homelessness

USICH disseminated a diverse array of relevant news, tools, and resources via our website and newsletter, including:

- Webinar: Creating and Strengthening Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)-K12 Education Partnerships
- HUD Awards More FYI Funding to Keep Foster Youth Housed
- HUD Awards More Funding to Help Keep Former Foster Youth Housed
- HUD Awards Additional $1.4M in Housing Assistance for Foster Youth
- Apply Now for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- Education Department Approves Every State's Plan for ARP-HCY Funding
- Education Department Distributes ARP ESSER Funds to All 50 States
- HUD Announces Additional Assistance to Keep Foster Youth Housed
- HUD Releases 2020 AHAR Part 2. Here Are the Key Findings.
- USICH Visits Oklahoma to Meet With Tribal Leaders, State Officials, and Local Service Providers
- Apply Now for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- HUD Announces Additional Assistance to Keep Foster Youth Housed
- The Advance Child Tax Credit Webinar
- Notice CPD-22-09: Expedited Regulatory Waivers for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), Continuum of Care (CoC), Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Programs

News, Tools, and Resources to Strengthen Practices to End All Homelessness

During FY 2022, USICH disseminated a diverse array of relevant news, tools, and resources via our website and newsletter, including:

- Help the Biden-Harris Administration Tackle the Triple Threats Facing America: Climate Change, Homelessness, and Housing Shortages
- It's Been 1 Year Since the Launch of "House America." What's Changed?
- The State of Homelessness: Why I Feel Hope Amid Crisis After Traveling Around the Country
- HUD Releases Allocation Strategy and Program Requirements for New Stability Vouchers
- USICH Unanimously Elects VA and HHS Secretaries as New Council Leaders
- Continuum of Care Program Applications Are Due September 30
- White House Hosts Summit on Eviction Prevention Reform
- Treasury Releases More Guidance for Increasing the Affordable Housing Supply
- Susan Rice Delivers Remarks to the National Conference on Ending Homelessness: "We Can and Must Do Better"
- HUD Funds More Mainstream Vouchers for People With Disabilities
- "We All Have a Role to Play": Jeff Olivet's Full Remarks at NAEH Conference on Ending Homelessness
- 87% Leased or Issued: The Unprecedented Progress of Emergency Housing Vouchers
- HUD and USICH Announce 100th Community to Join "House America"
- Biden Administration Announces First-of-Its Kind Funding Opportunity for Unsheltered Homelessness
- USICH Votes on National Goal to Reduce Homelessness
- USICH Meets with California Congresswoman to Discuss Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- USICH Releases Principles for Addressing Encampments
- Baltimore, Boise, Vermont Join "House America" to Address Homelessness Crisis
- What Other Cities Can Learn From Boston's Public Health Approach to Homelessness
- DOT Announces New Grants to Address Homelessness Through Transit Planning
- Responding to the Growing Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments
- HUD Doubles Funding for the Eviction Protection Grant Program
- Biden Announces New Actions, and Urges Congress, to Make Housing More Affordable

- "Homelessness Is Not Just an Urban Issue": USICH Visits Seattle to Meet With City and Suburban Mayors
- USICH Visits Houston to Witness 62% Drop in Homelessness
- HHS Renews Public Health Emergency for COVID-19
- USICH Releases Racial Equity Action Plan as Part of Administration-Wide Effort to Support Underserved Communities
- FHIP Agencies: Apply Now for More American Rescue Plan Funding to Fight Housing Discrimination
- Treasury: At Least 60% of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Has Been Spent or Obligated
- You Belong: An Open Letter to Transgender People Experiencing Homelessness
- How State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Are Being Used to Address Homelessness
- The 1-Year Impact of the American Rescue Plan's Emergency Rental Assistance
- FEMA Extends Coverage of COVID-19 Response Costs
- HUD Awards $2.6B in Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding
- HUD Awards More American Rescue Plan Funding to Combat Housing Discrimination
- Treasury: Lowest-Income Renters Received 80% of the ERA That's Been Delivered
- My Vision for Preventing and Ending Homelessness: A Message From USICH Executive Director Jeff Olivet
- HUD Relaxes a Spending Deadline for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
- USICH Council Advances Federal Strategic Plan and Introduces New Executive Director at February Meeting
- Biden Administration Names New Executive Director of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Year In Review: How USICH and the Biden Administration Addressed Homelessness in 2021
- HUD Awards Housing Counseling Grants
- HUD Updates Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Registration
- HUD Awards More COVID Relief to Tribal Communities
- USICH, CDC, and Other Federal Partners Release Omicron Guidance for Homeless Service Providers
- November Set New ERA Record as Evictions Remained Below Pre-Pandemic Levels
- FEMA Allocates $530M to Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Treasury Issues Final Rule for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- What We're Hearing From YOU About the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- USICH Releases Voting Guides for Homeless Providers and People Experiencing Homelessness
- How Cities Can Expand Affordable Housing and Reduce Homelessness: Join #HouseAmerica
- Homeless Persons' Memorial Day: An Opportunity to Honor Those Who Passed—and to Take Action
- HHS and HUD Launch New Housing and Services Resource Center
- HUD Awards More Indian Community Development Block Grants
- HUD Awards $41 Million in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grants
- HUD Announces $5.7 Million More to Combat Housing Discrimination
- Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Payments Surpass 2.5 Million
- HUD Awards $20 Million For Eviction Protection and Diversion
- FEMA Extends Coverage of COVID-19 Response Costs
- USICH's Core Values as We Create a Federal Strategic Plan
- New Treasury Data Shows ERA Progress, But "Every Unnecessary Eviction Is One Too Many"
- CoC NOFO Applications Are Due in Less Than a Month. Here Are the Highlights.
- Treasury Releases ERA Reallocation Guidance
- HUD Issues New Rules for Landlords Considering Eviction
- Resource Roundup for Addressing Encampments
- Expiring Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness
- FY 2023 Proposed Federal Budget for Homelessness
- FY 2021 Targeted Homelessness Assistance
- Federal Health and Social Service Programs That Support People Experiencing Homelessness
- Getting It Done: The American Rescue Plan Way
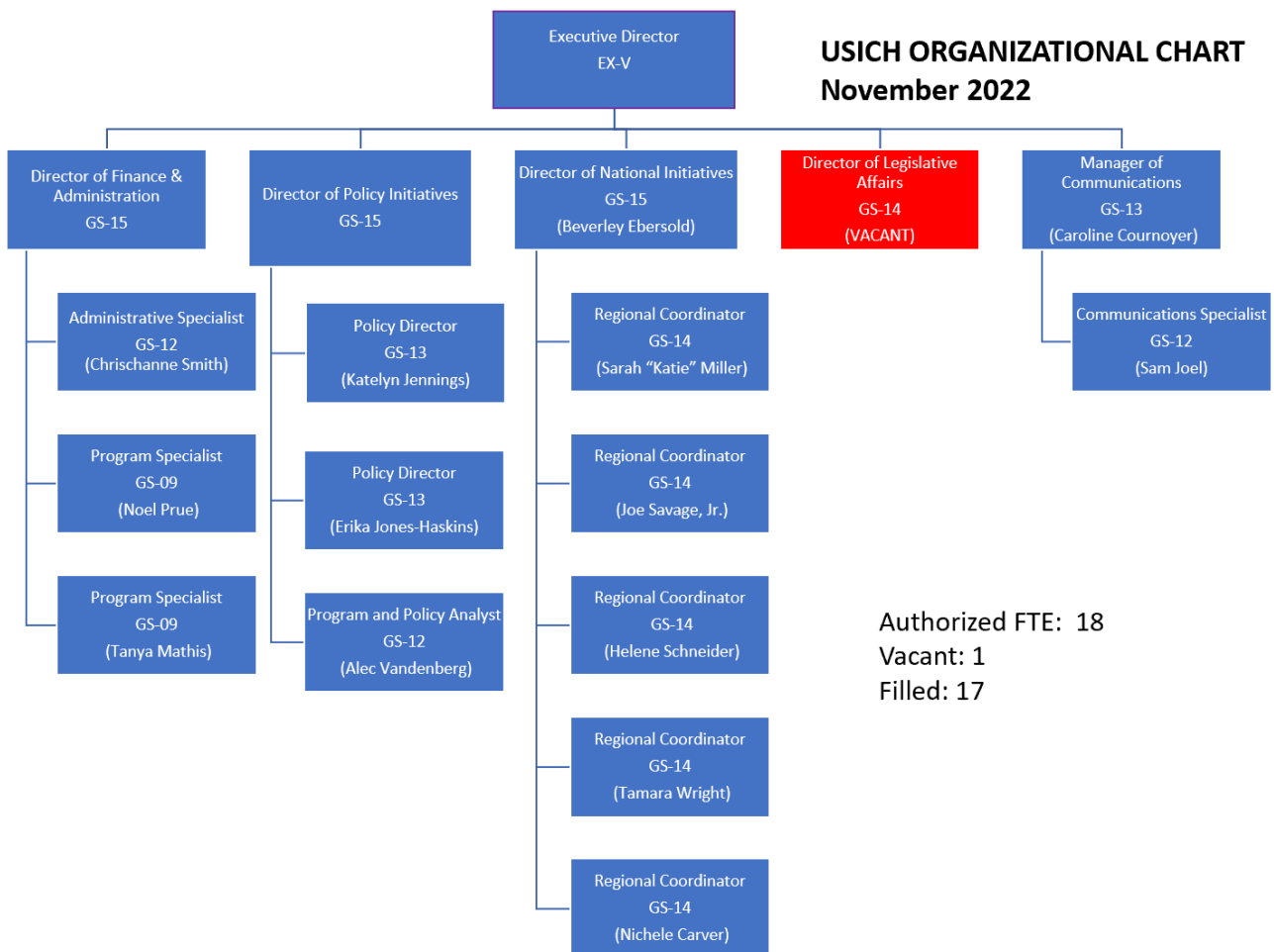- The Keys to Strong Relationships Between Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Continuums of Care (CoCs)

- CoC and ESG Financial Management Virtual Binder
- Make the Most of Federal Resources to Stop Increases in Homelessness
- Re-Evaluating Your ESG-CV Approach
- CPD Memo: Update on Availability of Waivers and Suspensions of the HOME Program Requirements in Response to COVID-19
- CoC Program Special NOFO Digest: Landlord Engagement
- CDC TRAIN: Training on Homelessness for Public Health Providers
- Homelessness to Housing Webinar Series Materials
- Eviction Prevention for CoCs
- IDIS for HOME-ARP Supportive Services Webinar Recording and Materials.
- Fillable Flyer for Outreach – What You Need to Know About Monkeypox
- Protecting Yourself and Others from Monkeypox Flyer
- What To Do if There Is a Monkeypox Case in the Shelter Flyer
- Monkeypox Education Ambassador and Job Description
- The Time Is Now! Talking to People Experiencing Homelessness About Monkeypox
- Monkeypox Preparedness Considerations for Homeless Shelters
- Addressing Homelessness in Rural Communities: A Technical Assistance Guide
- Addressing Your Concerns About the COVID-19 Booster Shot (Updated)
- Commonly Asked Questions About Monkeypox
- Monkeypox Info You Should Know Flyer
- Working with Local Partners to Prevent and Respond to Monkeypox Transmission
- Community Capacity Building
- Vaccine Ambassador Training Companion Workbook
- Addressing Your Concerns About the Vaccine (Updated)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Conversation Tips for Homeless Assistance Providers and Program Leaders (Updated)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Considerations for Specific Populations (Updated)
- Transit Considerations: Transporting Participants to a COVID-19 Vaccination Event (Updated)
- Considerations for Reducing Monkeypox Transmission in Congregate Living Settings
- Training on Homelessness for Public Health Providers
- Preventing Monkeypox Spread in Congregate Settings
- CoC Program Special NOFO Digest: Serving People Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Areas
- ESG-CV Notices CPD-22-06 and CPD-21-08 Summary
- FY 2022 Grant Inventory Worksheets (GIWs) for CoC Review
- Notice Community Planning and Development (CPD)-22-06 Quick Reference Guide
- State Recipients Office Hours – April 21, 2022
- State Recipients Office Hours – May 19, 2022
- Non-HMIS Data
- Paying People with Lived Experience and Expertise
- Protecting the Health and Well-Being of People in Encampments and Other People Who Access Public Spaces
- Recording of ESG-CV State Recipients Office Hours – February 17, 2022
- Recording of ESG-CV State Recipients Office Hours – March 17, 2022
- Housing Navigation
- Strengthening Partnerships With Continuums of Care and Housing Counseling Agencies
- Video: Vaccine Ambassador Onboard Training
- Onboarding Toolkits for ESG-Funded Programs
- ESG-CV Duplication of Benefits:
- ESG-CV Duplication of Benefits Quick Guide
- ESG-CV Duplication of Benefits Checklist
- Sample ESG-CV Duplication of Benefits Policies and Procedures

- [Notice CPD-21-08: Waiver and Alternative Requirements for the ESG Program Under the CARES Act](#)
- [Preventing Homelessness Among People Leaving Prisons and Jails](#)
- [Program Transfer Considerations for Households in ESG-CV Rapid Re-Housing Programs](#)
- [Alternative Approaches to Isolation and Quarantine Spaces](#)
- [Shelter-Based Isolation in Place](#)
- [CDBG-CV Rental Assistance Quick Guide](#)
- [HOME-ARP Implementation Notice Fact Sheets](#)
- [Outdoor Vaccination Event for Unsheltered Populations (Spanish)](#)
- [Emergency Housing Vouchers: A How-To Guide for Public Housing Agencies](#)
- [Using EHV Data Between PHAs and CoCs](#)
- [Leveraging ESG-CV Landlord Financial Incentives to Expedite Engagement](#)
- [ESG-CV State Recipients Office Hours – January 20, 2022](#)
- [Program Transfer Considerations for Households in ESG-CV Rapid Re-Housing Programs](#)
- [Addressing Your Concerns About the COVID-19 Booster Shot](#)
- [Shelter Renovation to Address Infection Control and Improve Shelter Quality](#)
- [Strategies to Address Staffing and Service Shortages](#)
- [Qualitative Data 101](#)
- [CoC Performance Profile Updates](#)
- [Carrying Out Coordinated Entry Activities Under the ESG Program](#)
- [Disposition and Record Keeping Requirements for ESG-CV or ESG Funds to Purchase Furniture or Household Furnishings](#)
- [Office Hour Summaries: Detection and Mitigation of COVID-19 in Homeless Service Sites and Other Congregate Facilities (Office Hour Summaries)](#)
- [Waivers Available for Community Planning and Development (CPD) Grant Programs to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and Mitigate Economic Impacts](#)
- [Training On FY2022 HMIS Standards: C1 Well-Being Data](#)
- [HMIS CSV Data Quality Tool](#)
- [LSA Common Flags Library](#)
- [HOME-ARP FAQs](#)
- [Helping HMIS Leads Solve Complex Fund Source Problems: EHVs](#)
- [Temperature Check on COVID-19 Preparedness: A Webinar Recording for Homeless Assistance Providers and Partners](#)
- [Winter Planning Resources](#)
- [Unit Acquisition Strategies and Examples to Support Housing Development](#)
- [Client-Informed Data Collection Best Practices: Community Examples](#)
- [HOME-ARP Introduction for CoCs](#)
- [HOME-ARP Webinar Recording: Planning Process](#)
- [HOME-ARP Fact Sheet: Creating Projects and Activities in IDIS](#)
- [ESG-CV State Recipients Office Hours - November 18](#)
- [Allocating ESG-CV to Support Strategies to Prevent and Respond to COVID-19 Outbreaks](#)
- [Rehousing and Coordinated Investment Planning Tool](#)
- [HMIS CSV Data Quality Tool (Beta) for Local Use](#)
- [HOME-ARP Fact Sheet: Accessing Your Administrative and Planning Funds](#)
- [ESG-CV Expense Tools](#)
- [ESG-CV State Recipients Office Hours – October 28](#)
- [Summary of ESG Program Waivers and Alternative Requirements](#)
- [Equal Access Agency Assessment Tool](#)
- [Methods for Integrating HOPWA and Coordinated Entry (Case Studies)](#)
- [EHV Waiver and Alternative Requirements Summary](#)

- [Housing Problem-Solving](#)
- [CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities](#)
- [A Response Guide for Staff and Vaccine Ambassadors to Address Questions and Building Confidence About the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [HOME-ARP Webinar Recording on Overview of Notice CPD-21-10, Qualifying Populations, and Allocation Plan Requirements](#)
- [HOME-ARP Webinar Recording on Preferences, Referral Methods, and Rental Housing Requirements](#)
- [HOME-ARP Webinar Recording on Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Supportive Services, and Non-Congregate Shelter](#)
- [HOME-ARP Webinar Recording on Program Administration and Nonprofit Operating Expenses](#)

Agency Operations

The success of USICH's efforts to prevent and end homelessness in this country is heavily dependent on USICH's ability to attract, support, and continuously develop highly skilled staff. USICH employee performance is tied directly to the success of the agency's mission, strategies, objectives, and overall performance. The agency's organizational structure supports USICH's success in achieving its mission, goals, and objectives.

USICH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
November 2022

Executive Director
EX-V

Director of Finance & Administration
GS-15

- Administrative Specialist GS-12 (Chrischanne Smith)
- Program Specialist GS-09 (Noel Prue)
- Program Specialist GS-09 (Tanya Mathis)

Director of Policy Initiatives
GS-15

- Policy Director GS-13 (Katelyn Jennings)
- Policy Director GS-13 (Erika Jones-Haskins)
- Program and Policy Analyst GS-12 (Alec Vandenberg)

Director of National Initiatives
GS-15
(Beverley Ebersold)

- Regional Coordinator GS-14 (Sarah "Katie" Miller)
- Regional Coordinator GS-14 (Joe Savage, Jr.)
- Regional Coordinator GS-14 (Helene Schneider)
- Regional Coordinator GS-14 (Tamara Wright)
- Regional Coordinator GS-14 (Nichele Carver)

Director of Legislative Affairs
GS-14
(VACANT)

Manager of Communications
GS-13
(Caroline Cournoyer)

- Communications Specialist GS-12 (Sam Joel)

Authorized FTE: 18
Vacant: 1
Filled: 17

11/2/2022

Financial Statements, Auditor's Reports, and Other Requirements

To keep operational costs at a minimum and focus most of the agency's budgetary resources directly toward

accomplishing the agency's mission, USICH utilizes outsourced support for several mission support components to other government entities via shared services agreements—the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the General Services Administration (GSA). These support areas include human capital, finance, payroll, legal counsel, and EEO processing.

USICH maintains control of the work and approval/authorization processes, and both USDA and GSA execute transactions and perform other operations support work as directed by USICH. USICH also outsources website and network support to private entities. These and other mission support areas fall under the agency's director of finance and administration's responsibility.

USICH utilizes USDA's accounting system to track and report on its finances. USICH was responsible for no instances of improper payments occurred during FY 2022 or previous years.

As a federal agency, USICH prepares annual financial statements in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and undertakes an independent annual audit to ensure reliability in assessing the council's financial health and performance. Each year, USICH prepares the following financial statements:

- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Net Cost
- Statement of Changes in Net Position
- Statement of Budgetary Resources

These statements are accompanied by corresponding notes below.

For FY 2022, USICH received an unmodified opinion—the highest audit opinion available. Furthermore, independent, certified auditors found that USICH's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2021, and 2020, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the procedures performed; and, no reportable noncompliance for Fiscal Year 2022 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and contracts that were tested.

USICH processes payroll transactions through USDA's Pentaho accounting system as well as other subsystems and GSA's PAR payroll accounting system. Both offices operate out of Kansas City, Missouri.

USICH's financial statements and notes are presented in the format required for the current year by OMB (Office of Management and Budget) guidance, such as Circular A-136, *Financial Reporting Requirements*, and other applicable guidance. USICH's financial statements and notes are audited via the *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards* issued by the AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountant) and the standards of financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and other applicable guidance.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet presents the total dollar amounts available for use by USICH (assets) against the amounts owed (liabilities) and amounts that comprise the difference (net position). Total assets for USICH are $1,659,214. Of those total assets, $1,658,509 are attributable to the agency's fund balance with the U.S. Department of Treasury and $704 are attributable to accounts receivable. Fund balance with Treasury is funding available for specific fiscal years through the Department of Treasury accounts from which USICH is authorized to make expenditures and pay amounts due.

For depreciation purposes, a threshold of $5,000 per item is used to determine capitalization. Capitalized property, plants, and equipment is recorded at original acquisition cost. Straight-line depreciation and a useful life of five years are used in depreciation calculations. Acquisitions not meeting these criteria are recorded as expenses.

Total liabilities equal $286,920, including accounts payable, which consists of liabilities to other government agencies,

commercial vendors, contractors, and disbursements in transit. At fiscal yearend, USICH accrues the amount of estimated unpaid expenses. Also, at fiscal yearend, USICH accrues payroll for services rendered by USICH employees and leave accrued, but not yet paid out. To the extent current and prior-year appropriations are not available to fund annual leave earned but not taken, funding is obtained from future appropriations.

Statement of Net Cost

This statement presents the annual cost of operating USICH. The gross cost less any offsetting revenue is used to arrive at the net cost of operations. All USICH's costs incurred were directly related to the support and advancement of its mission and directives per the Biden-Harris administration and Congress. Net cost of operations for FY 2022 equals $3,641,540.

Statement of Changes in Net Position

The statement of changes in net position presents accounting items that caused the net position section of the balance sheet to change from the beginning to the end of the reporting period. USICH's net position for FY 2022 is $1,372,293.

Statement of Budgetary Resources

This statement provides information on how budgetary resources were made available to USICH and the status of those budgetary resources at yearend. USICH is funded through congressional appropriation totaling $3,800,000 for operations attributable to FY 2022. Unobligated balances from prior fiscal years totaled $1,132 giving USICH total budgetary resources of $5,150,950. Net outlays for activity during FY 2022 totaled $3,610,910 for all funds, including new obligations as well as upward adjustments of past obligations.

Limitations of the Financial Statements

As required by OMB Circular A-136, *Financial Reporting Requirements*, USICH discloses the following limitations on USICH's FY 2022 financial statements, which are contained in this report. The financial statements are prepared to report the financial position and results of operations of USICH, pursuant to the requirements of 31 U.S.C. § 3515 (b). The statements are prepared from the books and records of USICH in accordance with GAAP for federal entities and the formats prescribed by OMB. These statements are in addition to the financial reports used to monitor and control budgetary resources, which are prepared from the same books and records. The statements should be read with the realization that they are for a component of the U.S. Government, a sovereign entity.

Fraud Reduction

OMB Circular A-136 requires agencies to report on its fraud reduction efforts. USICH reports the following actions:

- USICH has taken measures to reduce fraud opportunities and incidents. We have in place controls that keep the likelihood of these events to a minimum, including the following:

  - o New employees are required to attend ethics training upon hire with HUD ethics attorneys.

  - o The handbook details certain actions that are taken seriously, including fraud, waste, and abuse, and associated actions that will be taken by management if these actions occur, including an ethics/code of conduct policy. Each employee is required to sign an acknowledgement of/and agreement to adhere to this and other applicable policies upon receipt and review of the handbook.

- A periodic review, update, and physical count of USICH inventory and property.

- Management sets the ethical tone at the council through its own actions and through its dialogue with council

staff.

- USICH contracts with GSA to post and process all financial transactions, generation of vendor payments, generation of financial reports and financial statements, and processing of payroll and benefits payments and withholding for USICH employees. GSA employees review each transaction for accuracy as well as validity.

Biennial Review of User Fees

OMB Circular A-136 requires agencies to review, on a biennial basis, fees, rents, royalties, and other charges imposed by the agency for services and things of value. For FY 2022, USICH had no items applicable to this review requirement.

Management Assurances

Per Circular A-123, USICH management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls and financial management systems that meet the objectives of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). With respect to any and all internal and external reviews of the agency, to the best of our knowledge and belief, USICH provides reasonable assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls over operations, management systems, and financial reporting and that its internal controls over the effectiveness and efficiency of operations were in compliance with applicable laws and regulations as of September, 30, 2022, and no material weaknesses were identified in the design or operations of internal controls.

USICH relies on the USDA and GSA, both shared services providers, for accounting, payroll and financial services, systems and reporting requirements. USICH has no in-house financial systems. USICH, however, considers the USDA's financial system, Pegasys, as well as any other financial systems used by USDA and GSA to support USICH financial operations, to be reliable and effective. To assist in assessing internal controls over USICH financial reporting, USICH reviewed each entity's statement on standards for attestation engagements (SSAE) No. 18 audit report. After a review of FY 2022 results, in which both USDA and GSA received favorable opinions on their SSAE No. 18 audits, USICH discovered no significant issues or deviations in its financial reporting during FY 2022 and therefore believes its internal controls over financial reporting are sufficiently strong.