



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Preventing and Ending Homelessness in the United States

Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Fact Sheet: Homelessness Assistance

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget clearly demonstrates the high priority this Administration has for achieving to the goals of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. This year's budget proposal includes more than \$5.69 billion for targeted homeless assistance funding, a 12 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations. This fact sheet serves as an overview of the homeless assistance programs across the government.

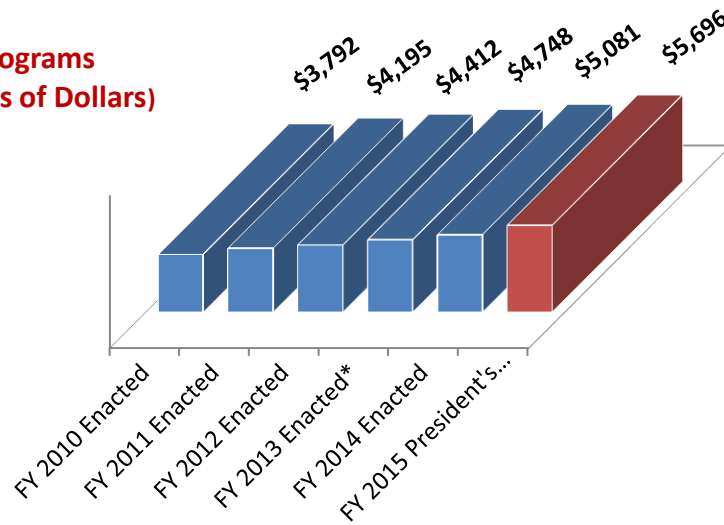
The 2013 point-in-time count documented that *Opening Doors* is working and that this Administration, working in partnership with communities across the country, is changing the trajectory of homelessness. During the first three years since *Opening Doors* was launched, homelessness has declined overall, and homelessness among families was reduced by eight percent. Chronic homelessness has declined by 16 percent, and homelessness among Veterans has declined by 24 percent. The President's Budget request will provide the resources needed to reach the goals of ending homelessness among Veterans and chronic homelessness, and will sustain and advance progress on ending homelessness among families, youth, and children.

"The President's Budget includes historic investments to prevent and end homelessness," said incoming USICH Executive Director Laura Zeilinger. "Together, we have proven that investing in data-driven, evidence-based solutions to homelessness works on a national scale."

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget request reflects a core tenet of *Opening Doors*, that to end homelessness, we must invest in what works: evidence-based solutions like Housing First, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing. *Opening Doors* calls for the strategic targeting of resources and effective implementation focused on outcomes. The budget request was constructed through a careful analysis of the specific number of housing units needed to achieve an end to Veterans homelessness in 2015, chronic homelessness in 2016, and to achieve an end to family homelessness in 2020, taking into account policy actions by Federal agencies to ensure that existing resources being deployed as efficiently as possible.

The President's budget request includes the resources needed to reach the goal of ending homelessness among Veterans in 2015. The tremendous progress we have made on ending homelessness among Veterans demonstrates what is possible when resource investments are made in evidence-based solutions like permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and Housing First, and when government works in partnership with communities to target and use these resources effectively and efficiently.

Homeless Assistance Programs (Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars)



The President's FY 2015 Budget Proposal is the fourth budget developed by USICH member agencies since the launch of *Opening Doors* and includes historic investments, such as:

- Unwavering commitment to ending homelessness among Veterans and their families in 2015.** The Budget contains \$1.64 billion for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs that prevent or end homelessness among Veterans. This includes an increase of 17.8 percent, or \$248 million, over the 2014 level, continuing VA's steady progress toward ending homelessness among Veterans and their families in 2015. Specifically, \$500 million is proposed for VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families program—built on best practices developed across the country. For HUD-VASH program, \$321 million for VA case management and \$75 million proposed HUD funding for 10,000 additional vouchers.
- Historic and strategic investments to implement the HEARTH Act.** The budget provides \$2.4 billion for Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless Assistance Grants, \$301 million above the 2014 enacted level. This funding supports new permanent supportive housing units and maintains more than 330,000 HUD-funded beds, which assist persons who experience homelessness nationwide. These resources enable the Administration to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness in 2016 through the creation of 37,000 new permanent supportive housing units, while sustaining and advancing progress in ending homelessness among families and youth. The Administration is working with communities to create coordinated entry systems, and retool existing local programs and policies to create more effective and efficient crisis response systems, while gathering further evidence of which interventions are most effective for specific sub-populations.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE

HUD - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH) combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness with case management and clinical services provided by VA. VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA Medical Centers and community-based outreach clinics. To date, approximately 58,155 of these vouchers have been awarded to public housing agencies nationwide. HUD is requesting an additional \$75 million (10,000 vouchers) for HUD-VASH in 2015.

In FY 2015, VA will also provide \$321 million in case management funding, a 15.47 percent increase over FY 2014.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY DEPARTMENT

Department of Education

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

To ensure that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education available to other children, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program provides assistance to States to: (1) establish or designate an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youths; (2) develop and carry out a State plan for the education of homeless children; and (3) make sub-grants to local educational agencies to support the education of children experiencing homelessness.

FY 2010 - \$65.4 million

FY 2011 - \$65 million

FY 2012 - \$65 million

FY 2013*– \$62 million

FY 2014 - \$65 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$65 million

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Care for the Homeless

The purpose of the Health Care for the Homeless Program is to provide primary health care, substance use treatment, emergency care with referrals to hospitals for in-patient care services and/or other needed services, outreach services to assist difficult-to-reach people experiencing homelessness in accessing care, and assistance in establishing eligibility for entitlement programs and housing.

FY 2010 - \$171 million

FY 2011 - \$215 million

FY 2012 - \$232 million

FY 2013*– \$248 million

FY 2014 - \$308 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$323 million

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness is a formula grant program that provides financial assistance to states to support services for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and who have serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

FY 2010 - \$65 million

FY 2011 - \$65 million

FY 2012 - \$65 million

FY 2013* – \$61 million

FY 2014 - \$65 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$65 million

Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals

The Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals Program in SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment enables communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for individuals experiencing homelessness with substance abuse disorders, mental illness, or co-occurring substance abuse disorders and mental illness. HHS can award grants of up to five years duration to community-based public or nonprofit entities to provide addiction and mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

FY 2010 - \$43 million

FY 2011 - \$42 million

FY 2012 - \$42 million

FY 2013* – \$39 million

FY 2014 - \$41 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$41 million

Services in Supportive Housing Grants

The Services in Supportive Housing Program in SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services was created to help prevent or reduce chronic homelessness by funding services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness while living with severe mental illness or co-occurring mental and substance disorders. The program addresses the need for treatment and support service provision to individuals and families.

FY 2010 - \$32 million

FY 2011 - \$33 million

FY 2012 - \$33 million

FY 2013* – \$31 million

FY 2014 - \$33 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$33 million

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program funds more than 740 public, community and faith-based organizations through three grant programs that serve the runaway and homeless youth population. In addition, the President's Budget requests an additional \$2 million to develop national data on the number of youth experiencing homelessness and an improved understanding of the needs of runaway and homeless youth to support *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. The information collected through this national effort will help HHS to more effectively prevent and address youth homelessness.

Basic Center Program

The Basic Center Program establishes or strengthens locally controlled, community and faith-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Basic Centers provide youth with temporary emergency shelter, food, clothing and referrals for health care. Other types of assistance provided to youth and their families may include individual, group, and family counseling, recreation programs, and aftercare services for youth once they leave the shelter. Grants can also be used for outreach activities targeting youth who may need assistance.

Transitional Living Program

The Transitional Living Program provides shelter, skills training and support services to homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 22 for a continuous period generally not exceeding 540 days, or in exceptional circumstances 635 days. Youth are provided with stable, safe living accommodations and services that help them develop the skills necessary to move to independence. Living accommodations may be host family homes, group homes, or supervised apartments.

Street Outreach Program

The Street Outreach Program provides educational and prevention services to runaway and street youth who have been subject to, or are at risk of, sexual exploitation or abuse. The program works to establish and build relationships between youth and program outreach staff in order to help youth leave the streets.

FY 2010 - \$115.6 million

FY 2011 - \$115 million

FY 2012 - \$115 million

FY 2013* – \$108 million

FY 2014 – \$114 million

FY 2015 (proposed) – \$116 million

Department of Housing and Urban Development

In 2015, HUD requests \$2.406 billion to support programs designed to prevent and end homelessness through the Continuum of Care Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant. This represents an increase of \$301 million over the FY 2014 enacted level, which will provide the funding necessary to implement HEARTH requirements and to continue implementation of *Opening Doors*. Specifically, these resources enable the Administration to end chronic homelessness in 2016 through the creation of 37,000 new units of permanent supportive housing, while sustaining and advancing progress in ending homelessness among families and youth by 2020.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

The Continuum of Care Program is HUD’s largest and broadest targeted program to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness, funding evidence-based programs and approaches like permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and Housing First. It also provides the infrastructure for the implementation of a comprehensive planning approach, data collection and analysis, and performance measurement. CoCs have the dual role of planning and operating programs, and using data collected through Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) to inform planning decisions and track performance at both the project and systems levels. Eligible activities include CoC planning; acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction for capital projects; leasing; rental assistance; housing operations; HMIS; supportive services; and administration.

The Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)

The Emergency Solutions Grant Program includes funds for a variety of life-saving activities in addition to newer interventions like rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention that have proven to be successful in many communities at preventing and ending homelessness. ESG is an essential component of continuing the program infrastructure that was started via the Recovery Act Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and has proven an efficient and effective way of quickly transitioning people from homelessness to permanent housing.

FY 2010 - \$1.865 billion

FY 2011 - \$1.901 billion

FY 2012 - \$1.901 billion

FY 2013* – \$1.933 billion

FY 2014– \$ 2.105 billion

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$2.406 billion

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

The FY 2015 Budget proposes to transfer funding and administration of the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter program from the Department of Homeland Security to HUD. No changes to how the program operates are proposed. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program helps meet the needs of people experiencing hunger or homelessness throughout the United States and its territories by allocating funds for the provision of food, shelter as well as homelessness prevention through the administration of rent, utilities and mortgage assistance. The program is governed by a National Board, chaired by FEMA, and comprised of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, and National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Jewish Federations of North America, Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide.

FY 2010 - \$200 million

FY 2011 - \$120 million

FY 2012 - \$120 million

FY 2013* – \$114 million

FY 2014 - \$120 million

FY 2015 (proposed) – 100 million

Department of Justice

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for the Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program focuses on a holistic, survivor-centered approach to providing transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. These grants support programs that provide assistance to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services. Transitional housing programs may offer individualized services such as counseling, support groups, safety planning, and advocacy services as well as practical services such as licensed child care, employment services, transportation vouchers, telephones, and referrals to other agencies.

FY 2010 - \$18 million

FY 2011 - \$18 million

FY 2012 - \$25 million

FY 2013* - \$23 million

FY 2014 - \$25 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$25 million

Department of Labor

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

The Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program provides services to help Veterans experiencing homelessness obtain meaningful employment and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems to address the complex problems facing Veterans experiencing homelessness. It is the only nationwide program exclusively focused on helping Veterans experiencing homelessness reintegrate into the workforce. Funds are awarded through competitive grants. The program also includes funds specifically for grantees providing specialized services to female Veterans experiencing homelessness and Veterans with families experiencing homelessness. This specialized funding was initiated in FY 2010 in recognition of the special needs of these subgroups.

FY 2010 - \$36.3 million

FY 2011 - \$36 million

FY 2012 - \$38 million

FY 2013* - \$36 million

FY 2014 - \$38 million

FY 2015 (proposed) – \$38 million

Department of Veterans Affairs

The proposed VA budget for FY 2015 contains \$1.64 billion for programs that prevent or end homelessness among Veterans. This includes an increase of 17.8 percent, or \$248 million, over the 2014 level, continuing VA's steady progress toward ending Veteran homelessness in 2015.

Since the launch of *Opening Doors*, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night has declined 24 percent from 76,329 in 2010 to 57,849 in 2013.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing. Funds are provided through grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veterans' families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability. Through the SSVF Program, VA aims to prevent Veterans from falling into homelessness whenever possible and to rapidly re-house Veterans' families who become homeless, thereby improving housing stability for very low-income Veterans' families.

FY 2010 - \$20 million

FY 2011 - \$61 million

FY 2012 - \$100 million

FY 2013* - \$300 million

FY 2014 - \$300 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$500 million

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program funds community agencies that provide services to Veterans experiencing homelessness. The purpose is to promote the development and provision of transitional housing and services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

FY 2010 - \$175.3 million

FY 2011 - \$172 million

FY 2012 - \$224 million

FY 2013* - \$235 million

FY 2014 - \$250 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$253 million

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program provides 24-hours-per-day, seven-days-per-week structured and supportive residential rehabilitation and treatment services for economically disadvantaged Veterans and Veterans experiencing homelessness. Each year, the program provides rehabilitation and treatment to approximately 6,000 Veterans who are experiencing homelessness and who have health problems.

FY 2010 - \$119 million

FY 2011 - \$219 million

FY 2012 - \$201 million

FY 2013* - \$234 million

FY 2014 - \$219 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$219 million

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

The core mission of the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV) is primarily to perform outreach, provide by VA social workers and other mental health clinicians, to identify Veterans experiencing homelessness who are eligible for VA services and assist these Veterans in accessing appropriate health care and benefits. The main goal of outreach is to connect Veterans with needed services that will end their homelessness. HCHV also provides residential treatment through contracts with community providers and longer-term case management through the HCHV- Supported Housing program.

FY 2010 - \$83 million

FY 2011 - \$140 million

FY 2012 - \$135 million

FY 2013* - \$137 million

FY 2014 - \$137 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$155 million

The Justice Outreach, Homelessness Prevention: Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV, prison outreach) and Veteran's Justice Outreach (VJO, law enforcement, jail and court outreach)

Justice Outreach addresses the justice involvement continuum from first contact with law enforcement through release from prison or jail. Veterans Justice Outreach is designed to help justice-involved Veterans avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring that eligible Veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate. Health Care for Reentry Veterans assists Veterans released from prison to readjust to community life through access to community reintegration, health, and social services provided through VA and community services.

FY 2010 - \$6 million

FY 2011 - \$14 million

FY 2012 - \$22 million

FY 2013* - \$21 million

FY 2014 - \$34 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$35 million

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

USICH ensures interagency collaboration and local engagement, helping to guide homelessness funds into evidence-based solutions that are measurably reducing homelessness in America. The Council performs this work through support to Federal council members and partners in the field.

The President's FY 2015 Budget Proposal includes funding for USICH to continue and accelerate the ambitious collaboration, focus on data and performance measurement, emphasis on evidence-informed practice and policy, coordination among Federal agencies, innovation, disciplined place-based work, and above all, an aggressive commitment to getting to the finish line of ending homelessness.

FY 2010 - \$2.5 million

FY 2011 - \$2.7 million

FY 2012 - \$3.3 million

FY 2013* - \$3.1 million

FY 2014 - \$3.5 million

FY 2015 (proposed) - \$3.53 million

**includes Sequester cuts*