



**U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness**  
**Fiscal Year 2023**  
**Congressional Budget Justification**



I am pleased to present the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) FY 2023 Congressional Budget Justification.

USICH is implementing a comprehensive national approach to realize the Administration's goal of ending homelessness in the United States through coordinating a whole of government approach, and creating national, state, and local partnerships. USICH's role in coordinating this interagency, and multisector response to homelessness, navigating silos that reduces fragmentation, and identifying evidence-based and cost-effective solutions is key to achieving the objectives of preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. This is an ambitious task for a small agency.

The reported accomplishments and planned activities herein reflect USICH's role in coordinating the federal government's response to homelessness and leading the implementation of the Administration's priorities to end homelessness. In addition to coordination and building partnerships, USICH uses multiple communications tools to disseminate information and best practices to federal, state, and local decision makers. The USICH website serves as a resource for communities and federal partners to stay up to date on solutions and tools that are helping men, women and children exit homelessness. USICH and federal partners publish resources on the site, and webinars are hosted by both USICH staff and experts in the field on topics relevant to USICH's federal and non-federal partners.

I am confident that our work going forward will produce many more accomplishments that get us closer to ending homelessness. We remain committed to this goal and look forward to the day that every American has a safe, stable, and permanent place to call home.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Olivet".

Jeff Olivet  
Executive Director  
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

## USICH Comparisons by Budget Object Classification: 2021-2023

	2021 Enacted	2021 Actual	2022 CR Level	2023 President's Budget
<b>11.0: Personnel</b>	\$2,334,570	\$1,590,726	\$2,334,570	\$2,991,619
<b>FTP (Full-Time Personnel)</b>	18	18	18	22
<b>12.0: Civilian Personnel Benefits</b>	\$778,791	\$523,975	\$778,791	\$809,792
<b>21.0: Travel and Transportation of</b>	\$191,170	\$38,558	\$191,170	\$205,000
<b>22.0: Transportation of Things</b>	\$960	\$1,176	\$960	\$1,500
<b>23.0: Communications, Utilities, Misc.</b>	\$65,000	\$72,973	\$65,000	\$69,000
<b>25.0: Services</b>	\$407,509	\$701,949	\$407,509	\$603,089
<b>26.0: Supplies and Materials</b>	\$22,000	\$16,197	\$22,000	\$20,000
<b>Total Obligations, Actual/Estimate</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>	<b>\$2,945,555</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>

### I. Executive Summary

USICH was originally authorized by Congress through Title II of the landmark Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (PL 100-77) to serve as an “independent establishment” within the executive branch. We were charged with coordinating the federal response to homelessness and creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness.

In accomplishing our mission, we coordinate and catalyze the federal response to homelessness, working in close partnership across our 19 federal member agencies. The 19-agency council coordinates response measures that address homelessness as a public health issue and guides resource allocations to address the causes and effects of homelessness.

Further, through the work of its Regional Coordinators, USICH organizes and supports leaders such as Governors, Mayors, Continuum of Care leaders, and other local officials. With these partners, we drive action to achieve the goals of the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Covid-19 significantly impacted USICH in FY 21, as spending was significantly reduced by the restrictions on recruiting for vacancies and travel restrictions. In FY 22, USICH has been ramping back up, with several new hires and slowly beginning travel for the regional coordinators. To support our continued work, USICH presents its FY 2023 Budget Request. **The total funding level is \$4,700,000, a 24% increase over our enacted FY 2021 budget and includes 22 Full Time Personnel (FTP) and necessary operational costs.** This request reflects a proposed increase of 4 FTEs (moving from 18 to 22 FTEs) and corresponding increases to applicable personnel and operating categories. The FY 23 request builds on this and adds 4 new FTP: one additional Regional Coordinator, one Research Analyst, one Financial Analyst, and one Legislative Specialist. USICH plans to strengthen its research, analysis, and finance functions to strengthen reporting, compliance, and financial accountability.

## **II. Our Request**

### **OC 11.0 Personnel - \$2,991,619**

USICH can drive federal policy through a small number of dedicated staff. Our employees work nimbly and efficiently across the federal government, in close partnership with state and local governments, and with the non-profit and private sectors to end homelessness and foster housing stability throughout the country. Staff coordinate the work of federal partners across HHS, HUD, VA, and other Council member agencies to better align their investments and achieve maximum impact and return on investment of taxpayer dollars.

USICH uses its OPM-approved performance management system to sustain and encourage continued high performance among our staff. This tool helps support the ability to recruit and maintain our staff to carry out the Agency's mission. For Fiscal Year 2023, USICH requests funding for 22 FTP 4 FTEs in addition to existing staff of 18. These staff carry out our policy work, collaborate with our federal partners and national, state, and local stakeholders, carry out our internal mission support functions, communications work, and other areas – all in support of the mission of the Agency. In FY23, USICH's funding level would include a Legislative Specialist, Financial Specialist and Research Analyst, to strengthen USICH administrative capacity, as well as an additional Regional Coordinator, which would bring the total number of Coordinators to 6 to cover the 10 regional designations of our Council Agency, Housing and Urban Development (HUD). USICH has also evaluated its current staffing levels and plans to eliminate the vacant Chief Operating Officer Position, Grade 15, and replace it with two additional Regional Coordinator positions, Grade 14; one in FY 22, and one in FY23. USICH believes this is necessary to strengthen its Regional Coordinator work, which is critical to the success of the *House America* initiative and the implementation of the Federal Strategic Plan. The Executive Director will assume the duties of the COO, with the support of the Director of Finance and Administration role and the positions requested as part of the FY23 budget.

### **OC 12.0 Civilian Personnel Benefits - \$809,792**

These costs reflect agency-provided and OPM-approved benefits for all applicable employees.

### **OC 21.0 Travel and Transportation of Persons - \$205,000**

USICH continues to utilize new technologies as much as practicable to preserve and maintain our local partnerships virtually, particularly considering the ongoing pandemic. We recognize also that working directly with our partners on the ground allows us to build relationships which translate to local actions and policy change.

Headquarters and regional staff work directly alongside state and local stakeholders to provide guidance and develop cross-sector partnerships and solutions. Travel costs are necessary to support USICH's ability to directly engage with partners and further progress towards ending homelessness in states and communities.

USICH continues to maximize the stakeholder work conducted through each trip, ensuring travel funds are used in the most cost-effective manner.

### **OC 22.0 Transportation of Things - \$1,500**

Estimated costs are for mailings and deliveries.

### **OC 23.0 Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous - \$69,000**

These costs cover office and cellular phones, internet connectivity, postage, and package delivery costs.

**OC 25.0 Services - \$603,089**

This category includes agency-leased office space, as well as operations assistance and infrastructure support from USDA and GSA in finance, payroll, human resources processing, outside auditors for compliance with the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act, information technology desktop and network support and other operational support items. Services funding also supports USICH communications work in support of the agency's strategic plan, as well as website management and webinars hosted by USICH. USICH projects a cost increase for the financial and HR shared services in FY23, which will be absorbed through expected rental cost savings from new facilities. USICH plans to use additional cost savings to fund staff training and development initiatives.

**OC 26.0 Supplies and Materials - \$20,000**

This category covers necessary supplies and materials to support the work of USICH.