



# Federal Homelessness Assistance Programs that Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness

For young people experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, to thrive, and to avoid future experiences of homelessness, they must have [stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, and an overall sense of well-being](#). To positively impact these outcome areas, communities need the capacity to build a [coordinated community response](#) that leverages public, private, and philanthropic funding, including available federal, state, and local services and programs.

The federal programs described below offer targeted funding for preventing and ending homelessness, including among youth. Community-based organizations or local entities must apply to federal agencies to receive some, while others are funded through block grants that state and local governments then allocate, often through competitive application processes.

## Funds That Communities Must Apply For

These federal funds are awarded through a competitive process. Funding announcements are usually forecasted and released on [Grants.gov](#). Applications are funded based on criteria established under the solicitation. Read each funding announcement carefully for eligibility and requirements.

**Continuum of Care Program** (HUD): Funds collaborative, community-wide efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly re-house and provide services for people experiencing homelessness and to promote access to, and effective utilization of, mainstream programs. [Learn more.](#)

**Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals** (HHS/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Enhances and/or expands the infrastructure and mental health and substance use treatment services for people experiencing homelessness, including permanent supportive housing. [Learn more.](#)

**Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals for States** (HHS/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Enhances or develops the infrastructure of states and their treatment service systems to provide evidence-based treatment services, permanent supportive housing, and other recovery support services to people experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

**Family Unification Program Voucher Program** (HUD): Provides vouchers to promote unification of families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the separation, or the threat of imminent separation, of children from their families or the delay in discharge from out-of-home care. Also for 18-21-year-olds who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing. [Learn more.](#)

**Grant and Per Diem Program: Per Diem Only and Transition in Place** (VA): Funds short-term housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness using one or a combination of the following housing models: Bridge Housing, Low Demand, Hospital-to-Housing, Clinical Treatment, Service-Intensive Transitional Housing, and Service Centers. [Learn more about Per Diem Only.](#) [Learn more about Transition in Place.](#)

**Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals** (HHS/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Supports the development and/or expansion of community infrastructure that integrates

behavioral health treatment and services for substance use disorders and co-occurring mental and substance use disorders, permanent housing, and other services for people experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

**Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals - Services in Supportive Housing** (HHS/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Funds comprehensive treatment and recovery-oriented services for behavioral health to support individuals that have exited homelessness in permanent housing. [Learn more.](#)

**Healthcare for the Homeless Program** (HHS/Health Resources and Services Administration): Funds health centers that provide primary and preventive health care services to people experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

**HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)** (HUD/VA): Combines HUD Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness with case management and clinical services provided by VA. [Learn more.](#)

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program** (HHS)/Family and Youth Services Bureau): Provides youth up to age 18 with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. [Learn more.](#)

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program** (HHS/Family and Youth Services Bureau): Funds street outreach workers to build relationships with youth who are experiencing homelessness and provide support services that aim to move youth into stable housing. [Learn more.](#)

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program/Maternity Group Homes** (HHS/Family and Youth Services Bureau): Provides longer-term housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness ages 16 to 22. [Learn more.](#)

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families** (VA): Funds rapid re-housing and prevention services for Veteran households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program** (HUD): Funds communities to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

### **Funds Available Through Federal Block or Formula Grants**

These federal funds are awarded as block or formula grants to states or other government entities, which, in turn, award funds to local providers.

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants** (ED): Provides funding to states to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to free and appropriate public education. Communities then compete for state funding. [Learn more.](#)

**Emergency Solutions Grants** (HUD): Provides funding to: (1) engage individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and (6) prevent families/individuals from experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

**Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness** (HHS/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Funds services for people with serious mental illness experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)