



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Annual Report to the Congress on Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness

January 2025

BACKGROUND

Authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as codified in [42 U.S.C. § 11311 et seq.](#), the mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to “coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create 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.” USICH is required to report annually on programs that assist people experiencing homelessness, including (1) the number of homeless individuals served by each program, (2) any statutory and regulatory restrictions that impede individuals experiencing homelessness from obtaining services or benefits under each program, and (3) agency efforts to increase opportunities for homeless individuals to get shelter, food, and supportive services.

Pursuant to Section 203[c] of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11313 (c)(1)), this document serves as USICH’s *Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Annual Report on Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness*. In addition, we have opted to include some non-targeted programs from agencies for reference (i.e., programs serving a broader population that includes but is not limited to people experiencing homelessness).

PROCESS

USICH collaborated with its federal member agencies to compile the data summarized in this report. Specifically, USICH asked agencies to describe programs that address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and to provide data on the number of individuals served for the most recently completed fiscal year.¹ USICH also asked agencies to provide a brief program narrative to identify impediments, successes, challenges, and future actions to help people experiencing homelessness. Most programs’ most recent available data is for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 (FY 2024).²

The following table provides a list of targeted homeless programs with levels of federal funding enacted in FY 2022-2024:

¹ At the time of the report’s drafting, 2024 was the most recently completed federal fiscal year.

² In some instances, agency program data for the most immediate past fiscal year was not available at the time of this report’s creation. In those instances, USICH has included data from the most recent fiscal year for which data is available.

Table 1: List of Targeted Programs Assisting Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and Federal Funding Enacted (in Millions)

Agency	Program	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Enacted
USDA	USDA/FNS: Emergency Food Assistance Program	481	538	555
ED	Education for Homeless Children and Youths	114	129	129
HHS	HRSA: Health Care for the Homeless	481	501	627
HHS	SAMHSA: Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness	65	67	67
HHS	SAMHSA: Mental Health, Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) for Homelessness ³	33	36	36
HHS	SAMHSA: Substance Use Services, Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) – Treatment Systems for Homeless ⁴	36	37	37
HHS	ACF: Runaway and Homeless Youth	140	146	146
HHS	ACF: Head Start	682	766	783
FEMA	Emergency Food and Shelter Program	130	130	117
HUD	Homeless Assistance Grants ⁵	3,213	3,633	4,051
HUD	New HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program Vouchers ⁶	50	50	15
DOJ	Transitional Housing Assistance Grants to Victims of Sexual Assault	43	50	50
DOL	Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program	61	66	66
VA	Health Care for Homeless Veterans ⁷	202	229	268
VA	Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans	198	232	249
VA	Compensated Work Therapy / Transitional Residence	62	193	223
VA	HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program Services	883	958	1046
VA	Grant and Per Diem Program	321	276	306
VA	Veterans Justice Outreach Program	67	73	94
VA	Supportive Services for Veteran Families	395	740	775
VA	Other Programs	148	170	208
USICH	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	3.8	4.0	4.3

³ The Mental Health PRNS is composed of the “Homelessness Prevention Programs” and “Homelessness” budget line items in SAMHSA’s Mental Health Account.

⁴ The Substance Abuse PRNS is composed of the “Treatment Systems for Homeless” budget line item in SAMHSA’s Substance Abuse Treatment Account.

⁵ Not included in this amount is HUD’s Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) Grant program. HUD announced a total of \$8 million in RUSH allocations in Fiscal Year 2023 and \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2024.

⁶ HUD-VASH Vouchers have been appropriated since FY2008 and are renewed within the HUD Voucher account. This table does not report on total renewal funding for HUD-VASH or Tribal HUD-VASH - only new funding for incremental vouchers.

⁷ VA funding levels for FY 2022 exclude CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Total	7,808	9,024	9,852
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PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING OR AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

This section provides a general description for each program, including (where available) the number of people served annually and a program summary identifying impediments to serving people experiencing homelessness.

In this section, we make a distinction between “targeted” and “non-targeted” programs:

- A targeted program is a program dedicated to serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- A non-targeted program is a program that is targeted to a broader population – such as low-income Americans, persons with disabilities, or older adults – that may include people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

NOTE: Some agencies have elected to submit information on additional programs not listed in the table above.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Targeted Programs:

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Program Description: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), authorized in the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 ([7 U.S.C. § 7501 et seq.](#)), provides low-income Americans with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost through distributing state agencies. Each state is allocated food based on the number of residents who are either unemployed or living below the poverty line. States receive allotments and provide the food to local agencies, such as food banks, which distribute the food to local soup kitchens and food pantries. States also provide food to local organizations, such as community action agencies, which distribute the food directly to low-income households. Participating organizations may use the food to prepare meals in congregate settings. Recipients of food for individual use, including people experiencing homelessness, must meet income eligibility criteria set by the states. Individuals experiencing homelessness can also receive immediate food assistance in the form of prepared meals in a congregate setting, and they are not required to meet any income eligibility criteria to access such meals.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: Not Applicable. TEFAP does not collect participant-level data.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Through [rulemaking](#), USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is proposing to remove the regulatory requirement for address collection for TEFAP participants receiving foods for home consumption, recognizing this poses a difficulty for unhoused participants. Current program regulations require TEFAP distribution sites to collect the address of an individual receiving TEFAP foods for individual use. TEFAP policy memorandum FD-036 TEFAP – Local-Level Record-Keeping Requirements (Revised) offers some flexibility, recognizing that individuals experiencing homelessness may be unable to provide an address. Additionally, program regulations prohibit TEFAP meal sites—often soup kitchens and shelters—from employing a means test for individuals seeking meals so that all individuals, including individuals experiencing homelessness, can access emergency food assistance. USDA works collaboratively with program stakeholders—including nonprofit partners addressing hunger and homelessness—to improve program effectiveness and access. TEFAP program regulations encourage state agencies to establish a state advisory board. The board’s purpose is to inform how states allocate TEFAP resources among various eligible outlet types, which areas and populations most need food assistance, and how to serve eligible populations best. In FY 2022-2023, USDA’s FNS awarded \$100 million in TEFAP Reach and Resiliency grants to TEFAP state agencies as supplemental funding to expand TEFAP’s reach into remote, rural, tribal, and/or low-income areas that are underserved by current program operations.

Non-Targeted Programs:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Program Description: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the largest federal domestic nutrition assistance program, provides nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income households via a monthly allotment of benefits placed on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card and is used to purchase food at authorized retailers.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2022: In FY 2022, SNAP served 1.2 million households, representing 1.4 million SNAP participants who reported experiencing homelessness when the household was certified for SNAP benefits.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: People experiencing homelessness can access SNAP benefits via special provisions to support their unique needs, including the use of authorized representatives, flexibilities regarding mail pick-up, and, in some states, access to restaurant programs to purchase prepared foods. Nine states (AZ, CA, IL, MA, MD, MI, NY, RI, VA) operate the Restaurant Meals Program, which allows the elderly, people who are disabled, and people who are homeless to use SNAP benefits to buy prepared meals at state-approved restaurants. However, not all programs are statewide; some are only in selected counties. Furthermore, SNAP does not require a permanent address for program participation, and people without a home can use shelters or local SNAP offices to receive SNAP-related mail. SNAP also confers categorical eligibility to participants in other FNS programs, such as the National School Lunch Program, TEFAP, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). SNAP continues to prioritize ensuring access to nutrition benefits for low-income people eligible for SNAP.

Annually, FNS issues guidance to the state agencies, encouraging them to implement outreach strategies to inform underserved populations about nutrition assistance available through SNAP. States may choose to focus on specific populations, including people experiencing homelessness, and FNS reimburses state agencies 50% of their allowable costs for outreach activities. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 added new exemptions to time-limited participation in SNAP by Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) for individuals experiencing homelessness, Veterans, and individuals who are 24 years of age or younger and in foster care on their 18th birthday.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ED)

Targeted Programs:

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY)

Program Description: The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY), authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act, assists states in establishing or designating an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth to develop and carry out a state plan for the education of children experiencing homelessness and make subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to support the education of those children. The purpose of the assistance is to ensure that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education that is available to other children. This is achieved by outreach and identification activities, supporting immediate enrollment, school of origin and extra-curricular activity transportation, and connections or referrals to homeless assistance services regardless of whether the LEA receives a subgrant.

Number of Students Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in Public School Districts During the 2022-2023 School Year: 1,374,537

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The program supports efforts to address youth experiencing homelessness through technical assistance (TA) and collaborations with other agencies and programs serving children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Department's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program and its TA center, the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), have supported coordinated technical assistance and evaluation for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grantees since FY 2017. In Fall 2024, under a new contract, NCHE began providing coordinated technical assistance to Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Demonstration Program grantees who collaborate with early childhood programs, LEAs, or institutes of higher education. The Department recognizes that limited capacity is a major barrier to implementing programs for students identified as homeless. Coordinating efforts across agencies and programs is challenging, especially since many local liaisons handling students experiencing homelessness have other roles and high caseloads. Many of these liaisons do not receive McKinney Vento subgrants, although they should have access to a reservation for homeless students from Title I, Part A in most districts. These liaisons collectively serve close to 1.5 million students. State coordinators often manage multiple programs, leaving them unable to fully focus on McKinney-Vento activities. The federal program team supporting these efforts is small and works as part of a larger group focused on special populations under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant programs. The Department also funds the NCHE, which enables it to provide critical implementation support to state and local education agencies' McKinney-Vento coordinators and liaisons.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Targeted Programs:

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): Health Care for the Homeless (HCH)

Program Description: HRSA's Health Center Program provides affordable, accessible, quality, and cost-effective primary healthcare services to vulnerable populations regardless of their ability to pay. In 2023, 298 Health Center Program grantees received funding under the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Program, which provides comprehensive primary health care, including substance use services as needed, to people experiencing homelessness, including children, youth, and Veterans as well as temporary continued provision of services to certain formerly homeless individuals. Comprehensive services include basic health services, diagnostic laboratory and radiologic services, preventive health services, emergency medical services, and pharmaceutical services. Outreach, case management, and eligibility assistance are among other required

services that are especially critical to ensure patients experiencing homelessness can access all appropriate programs. Optional services include mental health, oral health, optometry, recuperative care, environmental health, and occupational therapy. Recipients of services include people who are experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, individuals who are at risk of homelessness and are doubled up, and people who are living in permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, or other housing programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. HRSA also supports two National Training and Technical Assistance Partners through cooperative agreements that fund training and technical assistance to health centers that serve people experiencing homelessness.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served by All 1,361 Health Centers (Including Health Care for the Homeless Grantees) during FY 2023: 1,447,033

Number of Patients Served by HCH Grantees during FY 2023: 985,226

Number of Patients Served by HCH Health Centers who were diagnosed with substance-related disorders (excluding tobacco use) during FY 2023: 111,099

Number of Visits for substance-related disorders (excluding tobacco use) provided by HCH Health Centers during FY 2023: 540,654

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Despite ongoing challenges, HCH grantees continue to provide quality primary care and other services to people experiencing homelessness. In addition to brick-and-mortar service sites, some HCH grantees offer “street medicine” and health center services through mobile units to meet the needs of the unsheltered individuals where they reside. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s (NHCHC) National Institute of Medical Respite Care has been active since July 2020. NHCHC continues to champion medical respite work by hosting learning collaboratives, creating online training courses on medical respite, and providing ongoing technical assistance to grantees launching new programs.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Program Description: Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) is a formula grant program administered by SAMHSA to provide financial assistance to states and territories to support services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have serious mental illnesses (SMI), or SMI and co-occurring substance use disorders. Eligible programs and activities include outreach and engagement services, case-management services, screening and diagnostic treatment services, habilitation and rehabilitation services, community mental health services, alcohol or drug treatment services, staff training,

supportive services, and referrals for primary health services, job training, educational services, and limited housing services. Across the country, there are over 400 local PATH provider organizations.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023: PATH program staff contacted over 104,000 people experiencing homelessness, of whom 54,445 were actively enrolled in PATH at some point.

SAMHSA: Mental Health, Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) - Homelessness Prevention Programs and Substance Use Services (PRNS) - Treatment Systems for Homeless

Program Description: SAMHSA funds the following programs through the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to address serious mental illness (SMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorder treatment and recovery support services.

- CHMS supports **Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)**, a competitive grant that provides comprehensive, coordinated, and evidenced-based services for individuals, youth, and families with SMI, SED, or a co-occurring disorder or co-occurring disorder (COD) who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. TIEH supports activities that connect the population to behavioral health treatment, case management, and recovery support services. It facilitates the identification of sustainable permanent housing through collaboration with homeless service organizations and housing providers (including public housing agencies). Additionally, it funds case management services that include care coordination, service delivery planning, and strategies to ensure stability during service and housing transitions.
- CSAT administers **Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)** a competitive grant that helps communities expand and strengthen evidence-based treatment and recovery support services for individuals (including youth and families) experiencing homelessness who have substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. The grant funds activities aimed at supporting individuals with substance abuse or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. These include outreach, treatment, and recovery-oriented services, coordination of housing and supportive services to establish sustainable community systems with permanent housing, and efforts to connect clients to essential enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream programs like Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance

(SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023 by TIEH: 5,762

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in FY 2023 by CSAT: 3,748

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: SAMHSA works with grantees (PATH, TIEH, GBHI, and other discretionary and block grant programs) to address housing stability by encouraging collaboration with housing provider agencies and homeless services organizations, including referral partnerships with public housing agencies and coordination with local homeless Continuums of Care and Coordinated Entry Systems. SAMHSA has issued a new [Practical Guide on Expanding the Community-Based Behavioral Health Workforce](#) as well as a [Behavioral Health Workforce Career Navigator](#) tool providing basic requirements to enter the field in each state to address the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff. SAMHSA also continues to partner with USICH on the ALL INside Initiative and utilize resources such as USICH's [19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively](#). Grantees are encouraged to assist with local efforts to address behavioral health service needs to address the displacement of unsheltered clients (and resulting challenges in maintaining continuity of care).

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB): Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

Program Description: The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program provides funding to local community-based organizations to address the needs of youth and young adults by providing shelter, programming, and comprehensive, individualized supports to improve outcomes for youth and young adults in four core outcome areas: (1) Safe and stable housing (2) Education and employment (3) Social and emotional well-being, and (4) Permanent connections.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start: Head Start

Program Description: The Head Start Program, through Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start, is a comprehensive child development program that serves children from birth to age five, pregnant women, and their families. Head Start is a child-focused, multi-generational program that aims to increase the school readiness of young children in low-income families. The children of families experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for Head Start, and programs may reserve up to 3% of their funded enrollment for 30 days before they have an additional 30 days to fill that slot. Head Start provides nutrition, developmental

screenings, medical and dental screenings, immunizations, mental health and social services referrals, family engagement, and, in some cases, transportation.

Number of Families Facing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: 54,885

Number of Children Facing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: 58,284

Number of Families Who Accessed Housing in 2024: 1,256

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: In FY 2024, the Office of Head Start has implemented a strategic plan to increase enrollment and provide responsive services to families experiencing homelessness. The plan includes strategic communications about prioritizing children experiencing homelessness for enrollment; training and technical assistance to support informed program outreach, recruitment, and supportive services; and policy guidance to clarify common staff questions about applying the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness to HS/EHS families' living circumstances.

Non-Targeted Programs:

Medicaid

Program Description: The Medicaid Program provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. States administer Medicaid according to federal requirements. The program is funded jointly by states and the federal government.

Program Data: 68% of Continuum of Care (CoC) program participants reported receiving Medicaid benefits.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Program Description: TANF provides federal funding to states to give monthly cash assistance payments and other benefits and services to financially eligible families with children. The goals of the TANF program are to: (1) Assist needy families so children can be cared for in their homes, (2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage support, (3) Prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and (4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. TANF agencies provide various services to eligible families, such as job skills training, childcare assistance, transportation, and other work-related expenses. TANF agencies may also use TANF funds to serve families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. For example, they may use TANF funds to help families on a short-

term basis with support related to housing and employment. The 2013 Information Memorandum [Use of TANF Funds to Serve Homeless Families and Families at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness](#), 2016's [Enhancing Family Stability: A Guide for Assessing Housing Status and Coordinating with Local Homelessness Programs for TANF Agencies](#) and [2024's Dear Colleague Letter](#) provides more information.

Administration for Community Living (ACL), Adult Protective Services (APS)

Program Description: APS programs across the country work to support older adults and adults with disabilities who experience or who are at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. APS programs investigate reports of maltreatment, conduct case planning, monitoring, and evaluation, and provide or connect people who have experienced maltreatment to a variety of medical, social service, economic, legal, housing, law enforcement, and other protective, emergency, or support services to help them recover. APS has been designed and administered wholly at the state or local level until recently. Consequently, there is wide variation in APS services and practices between, and even within, states. The ACL took steps to provide more federal guidance and stewardship, publishing a [final rule](#) to establish the first-ever federal regulations for APS in May 2024.

Research shows that at least 1 in 10 older adults who live in the community experiences some form of maltreatment each year – and this is likely an undercount because only 1 in 14 cases is reported. People who experience abuse have higher rates of depression, hospitalization, and institutionalization – and they are more likely to die prematurely. The isolation and loss of services during the COVID-19 pandemic placed older adults at increased risk, and incidents of abuse are estimated to have doubled. Maltreatment of older adults can have serious physical and mental health, financial, and social consequences, including homelessness. APS programs work with clients whose experience of maltreatment has forced them into homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness.

As is required by the Older Americans Act Sections 102 (33) and 307(a)(11)(E), legal assistance is a priority service provided by contract by every Area Agency on Aging in the country. Legal assistance providers work with their clients to prevent and mitigate homelessness among older Americans by contesting unwarranted evictions and foreclosures in communities and by representing long-term care residents facing unlawful involuntary removal from long-term residential facilities. Many older adults facing problems with legal solutions will only receive them if the demand for legal assistance consistently exceeds the capacity of legal assistance programs to meet it.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

Targeted Programs:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

Program Description: The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) was established on March 24, 1983. The program's purpose is to provide funding to local social service organizations, both nonprofit and governmental, to help meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness and hunger. The law requires FEMA to award the full amount of appropriated funds to the EFSP National Board. It further requires the National Board to sub-award the funding to eligible local social service organizations. Though the law establishes EFSP as a FEMA program, it is not a disaster or emergency assistance program authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. However, it is an emergency program in terms of meeting the immediate needs of those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger and homelessness. The National Board governs EFSP and is chaired by a FEMA representative and comprised of representatives from six national nonprofit agencies: American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. The National Board allocates funds to qualifying jurisdictions (counties or cities) based on a formula. Those jurisdictions convene Local Boards that determine which local service organizations are to receive funding in their communities. An additional small portion of funds is allocated to State Set-Aside Committees that select jurisdictions for funding based on need indicators that they choose. Funds can be used for food (in the form of served meals or groceries), lodging mass shelters or hotels/ motels, rent or mortgage payments up to 90 days, utility payments up to 90 days, transportation costs associated with the provision of food or shelter, minimal repairs to mass feeding or sheltering facilities for building code violations or for handicap accessibility, and supplies necessary to feed/shelter people.

Program Data: Neither FEMA, the National Board, nor the United Way Worldwide, which serve as the Board's secretariat and fiscal agent, collects data specifically on the number of at-need people assisted with EFSP funding. The latest date for which data on total resources provided available is FY 2018:

- **Meals Provided:** 66,658,525
- **Nights of Lodging Provided:** 2,782,253
- **Rent/Mortgage Payments Made:** 44,458
- **Utility Payments Made:** 41,648

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act allows the National Board to use up to 5% of the total appropriated for administrative allowance. However, annual appropriations statutes have continually capped the National Board’s administrative allowance at 3.5%, and there have been cases in which Local Boards and/or Local Recipient Organizations (LROs) have declined EFSP funds because they were not able to absorb the financial burden of administering the funds in their communities. Declinations of awards due to administrative burdens pose a clear impediment to maximizing EFSP implementation at the local level. The National Board allows and encourages partnerships between small and larger LROs operating in the community to share administrative burdens to overcome the challenge posed by the low administrative allowance. Although this approach does not fully address the issue of the low administrative allowance for regular EFSP funds, it illustrates how the National Board flexibly administers the program to maximize limited LRO resources.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

Targeted Programs:

Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)

Program Description: HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) fund state and local governments, Indian Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and nonprofit providers to serve individuals and families across the U.S. affected by homelessness. The grants include both formula and competitive grant programs (i.e., Emergency Solutions Grants, Continuum of Care). Included in the Continuum of Care (CoC) program is the Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus), which funds projects targeted to serve people fleeing these circumstances. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) has been included in annual appropriations for HUD since FY 2016 and is another competitive grant program governed under the CoC Program regulation. HUD continued receiving funding in FY 2024 for the National Homeless Data Analysis Project, which provides critical resources to communities to improve data collection and integration with other federal funding streams and enhances communities’ ability to report and analyze data about people experiencing homelessness. The Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants were awarded for the first time in FY 2024, and the CoCBuilds Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published for the first time in FY 2024, with awards expected in FY 2025.

Homeless Assistance Grant: Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

Program Description: The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program is a formula program that provides funds to states, qualified metropolitan cities, urban counties, and territories. States must subgrant most ESG funds to local governments and private nonprofit organizations to implement the program components. The

funds may be used for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing assistance, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023, Emergency Shelter: 463,000

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023, Rapid Rehousing: 98,000

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023, Homelessness Prevention:
116,000

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: COVID-19 provided a unique opportunity to improve coordination among homelessness assistance, healthcare, and public health providers. The pandemic also allowed HUD to implement temporary administrative flexibilities that have since become unavailable. In FY 2024, HUD helped communities close out the pandemic-related allocations of ESG, including reporting requirements, expenditure deadlines, and disbursement closeout actions. HUD continues to release technical assistance documents to assist agencies in complying with program regulations and increasing housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. For example, HUD released its Housing-Focused Street Outreach Webinar Series in the summer of 2024 to help ESG recipients understand the fundamentals of housing-focused street outreach, highlight the benefits of shifting to a housing-focused street outreach orientation and show how other communities are implementing a housing-focused street outreach approach. Also, persistent elevated rental costs and the need for more deeply affordable housing units limited housing options for program participants exiting into permanent housing. Additionally, the program continues to integrate its equity priorities and recommendations and perspectives of people with lived expertise fully.

Homeless Assistance Grant: Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) Grants

Program Description: Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) grants, awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, are made to states or local governments to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness who have been residing in a “declared disaster area” and have needs that are not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs. Eligible activities include emergency shelter, rapid re-housing or homeless prevention and related financial assistance and services, street outreach, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and administration.

In FY 2024, more than \$20 million was provided across 16 jurisdictions to address the needs of individuals and families in disaster-affected areas who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have needs not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The RUSH program started in October 2022. HUD worked to streamline internal processes to decrease response time even in the face of increased disasters. HUD technical assistance providers utilized lessons from early RUSH implementation and strengthened their response curriculum.

Homeless Assistance Grant: Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

Program Description: The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is a competitive program that awards funds through CoCs to states, local governments, Indian Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and nonprofit organizations to promote community-wide efforts to end homelessness. The CoC Program awards funds to eligible organizations through five components: Permanent Housing (PH), Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH/PH-RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), Supportive Services Only (SSO), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Homeless Prevention.

- **Permanent Housing (PH)** is community-based housing with no designated length of stay. Grant funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services. This component includes permanent supportive housing (PSH) for people with disabilities and rapid rehousing (RRH).
- **Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing- Rapid Rehousing (TH/PH-RRH)** projects provide a safe place for people to stay – transitional housing – with financial assistance and wraparound supportive services determined by program participants to help them move to permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- **Transitional Housing (TH)** facilitates the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to PH within 24 months of entering TH. Grant funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services.
- **Supportive Service Only (SSO)** funds may be used for the acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation costs, or leasing of a facility where supportive services will be provided to unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness. Street outreach is also an allowable cost under SSO.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** funds may be used by HMIS leads for operations or to lease space where HMIS can operate and for other costs eligible in 24 CFR § 578.57.

- **Homelessness Prevention** funds may be used by recipients in CoC-designated high-performing communities for housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance, as described in 24 CFR § 576.105 and 24 CFR § 576.106, that are necessary to prevent an individual or family from experiencing homelessness.
- **Other:** Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) projects are also part of the CoC grant.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in CoC Residential Programs in FY 2023: 302,000. In addition to residential programs, thousands of clients receive supportive services as they seek to gain and maintain stable housing.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Collaborative Applicants and project-level recipients under the CoC Program face staff shortages and capacity limitations impacted by staff turnover, lack of training, and limited resources and infrastructure. CoCs are tasked with a level of responsibility associated with coordination, partnership, strategy implementation and system change, and resource development but with very limited capacity and funding to support the level of staffing needed to carry out these roles effectively. In recognition of this gap, for the first time, HUD issued a two-year CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) as authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. Changing from an annual competition to a bi-annual competition will significantly reduce the administrative burden on homeless service providers. Additionally, the FY 2024 CoC Program NOFO continued the use of an alternative maximum amount for CoC planning grants. In both FY 2023 and FY 2024, the maximum amount for CoC Planning Grant applications will be \$50,000 or 5% of the applicable Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN), depending on which will be greater so long as the total grant amount for CoC planning activities does not exceed \$1.5 million (previously capped at 3% before FY 2023). The FY 2024 CoC Program NOFO also incorporated increases in cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to supportive service activities and other staffing-focused budget lines to allow CoC budgets to better keep up with rising staffing costs. HUD continues to improve effectiveness by investing in technical assistance that can be deployed to develop guidance and training materials or provide direct technical assistance to CoCs based on a broad range of topics. HUD routinely engages people experiencing or who have experienced homelessness and other stakeholders, including advocacy and constituent groups, in the office's work.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

Program Description: The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a competitive demonstration program that awards funds to states, local governments, Indian Tribes, Tribally Designated

Housing Entities (TDHEs), or nonprofit organizations to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. YHDP has been included in each annual appropriation for the Homeless Assistance Grants account since FY 2016. As of September 2023, HUD has awarded YHDP funding to 110 communities, representing a \$440 million investment to prevent and end youth homelessness.

YHDP generally follows the CoC Program rules but allows communities to innovate by seeking waivers to regulatory and statutory requirements to better serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Selected communities must develop a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness, and all projects must be consistent with the community's coordinated community plan. Selected communities can generally apply for the following projects: Permanent Housing, Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing, Homeless Management Information System, Supportive Services Only, Host Homes and Kinship Care, and Shared Housing.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023: 8,900 people served in residential programs. In addition to residential programs, thousands of clients receive supportive services as they seek to gain and maintain stable housing.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: While Integrating Youth Action Boards (YABs) into CoC governance on a permanent and sustainable basis has been a challenge, YHDP communities have been successful in creating YABs and empowering the YAB members to lead YHDP planning and implementation. Communities have had success facilitating flexible program design through special YHDP activities, such as youth peer housing navigators, extended rapid rehousing, and joint TH-RRH projects, even as programs have also encountered challenges with staffing shortages and access to a lack of affordable housing options. YHDP projects that have been most successful have created partnerships that can best leverage funds to assist youth. These partnerships include collaborations with K-12 schools, higher education institutions, child welfare agencies, and the justice system. Nonetheless, communities still have opportunities to increase collaboration among these systems.

Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants

Program Description: Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants (YHSI) grants support selected communities in either improving an existing response system for youth homelessness or establishing and implementing a new youth homelessness response system. By helping communities build strong, resilient, and

equitable homelessness response systems, YHSI grants reduce silos and break down barriers for youth in crisis. Recognizing that systemic change often extends beyond a single CoC, HUD incentivized statewide or cross-community project proposals to emphasize the importance of coordination across communities. The grants focus on systemic change by funding projects that create and build capacity for YABs, collect and use data on at-risk youth and youth experiencing homelessness, develop strong leaders within a community, and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies. These grants are designed to make and improve connections, coordination, and information sharing within and between systems that serve at-risk youth, including education, child welfare, and juvenile justice. In June 2024, for the first time, HUD awarded \$51 million in YHSI Grants to 30 communities across the United States, including 26 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds (CoCBuilds)

Program Description: Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds (CoCBuilds) targets efforts within CoC geographic areas to address and reduce homelessness by adding new units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) through new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation through one-time CoCBuilds awards under the CoC Program. HUD is encouraging CoCs to leverage funds provided for the construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of new PSH units with other funding sources to maximize the amount of housing that can be directed to meeting the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, no more than 20% of each award may be used for other eligible CoC Program activities associated with the PSH project (e.g., supportive services, operating costs (Section IV.G.3 of this NOFO)), and no more than 10% of an award may be used for project administration. The CoCBuilds NOFO was published in July 2024, making \$175 million available.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Program Description: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), commonly known as the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, provides greater access to housing choices and better housing opportunities for very low- and extremely low-income families. The HCV program is the federal government's largest program targeted at assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities to rent affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. HCV assistance is primarily tenant-based assistance, which means the assistance is not permanently tied to a particular unit or project but rather to an individual household. The public housing authority (PHA) administers the program and pays monthly housing assistance directly to the owner on behalf of the family. That payment helps cover the affordability gap between what very

low-income families can afford to pay for rent and the actual rent charged. Special Purpose Vouchers (SPV) – a type of HCV – are also administered by PHAs. When utilized strategically and collaboratively with CoCs and other partners, these programs provide unique opportunities to target rental assistance resources to specific populations to advance a community’s plan to end homelessness. Although a different funding account from Congress, the Public Housing Fund is another program that can serve people experiencing homelessness. The Public Housing Fund supports PHAs in operating, maintaining, and making capital improvements to approximately 917,000 affordable public housing units in 2024, serving over 1.7 million residents across 860,000 households, over half of whom are extremely low-income. The public housing stock serves an important role in the Nation’s housing market, ensuring housing for some of the Nation’s most vulnerable families.

Families and Individuals admitted into public housing that were experiencing homelessness at the time of admission FY 2023: 8,230

Mainstream and Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers

Program Description: Mainstream and Non-Elderly Disabled (NEDs) vouchers are Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) with special eligibility criteria to serve non-elderly persons with disabilities (at least 18 years and less than 62 years) or households with a member with disabilities. There are some differences between the Mainstream and NED programs. NED vouchers are for non-elderly persons and families with disabilities, and Mainstream Vouchers are for persons leaving institutional care for community-based housing and services. HUD awards these vouchers through competitive Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) processes, and additional awards based on performance (including voucher utilization) have also been made to Mainstream applicants funded through the NOFO.

Number of Vouchers Awarded as of the end of FY 2024: 71,217 (Mainstream) / 54,717 (NEDs)

Number of Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 58,045 (Mainstream) / 45,876 (NEDs)

Percentage of Allocated Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 81.50% (Mainstream) / 83.83% (NEDs)

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: In FY 2024, HUD implemented waivers and alternative requirements to provide programmatic flexibilities to help PHAs improve Mainstream utilization and more successfully target certain Mainstream-eligible populations, such as people exiting institutions or at serious risk of institutionalization. In targeting housing assistance to non-elderly persons with disabilities and their families, particularly those transitioning out of institutions or at serious risk of institutionalization,

Mainstream Vouchers help further the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). One specific goal under the ADA is to ensure that services, programs, and activities are provided by public entities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of persons with disabilities. Recognizing that housing plays a central role in supporting community integration, HUD's policy priorities for Mainstream Vouchers reflect its commitment to help PHAs further localities and states' implementation of community-living efforts and compliance with the ADA.

Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers

Program Description: Family Unification Program (FUP) is a program under which HCVs are provided to (1) families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in either the imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care or the delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care., and (2) Youth at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years old who left foster care or older or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and are homeless; or are at risk of homelessness.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers serve the same population as FUP-Youth vouchers. By statute, FUP vouchers used by youth are limited to 36 months of housing assistance or up to an additional 24-month extension, as applicable under the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) Amendments. Public housing agencies (PHAs) administer FUP in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) and, in some cases, the CoC or other third-party community partners.

Number of Vouchers Awarded as of the end of FY 2024: 31,203

Number of Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 24,333

Percentage of Allocated Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 77.98%

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The FUP and FYI programs experience utilization challenges related to a lack of affordable housing, referral partnerships, and unique challenges confronting youth. HUD actively partners with HHS's Children's Bureau to provide training and outreach, promote the program, and troubleshoot local concerns. In FY 2024, HUD, alongside HHS's Children's Bureau, hosted two regional convenings on youth housing solutions, engaging youth with lived experience, PHAs, CoCs, PCWAs, and other local community partners to ensure the successful utilization of available resources to address youth homelessness. These training and action planning resources are in the process of being published to HUD Exchange to be rolled out nationwide. HUD also engaged with nonprofit and philanthropic partners to present at two Youth Villages convenings on FYI and gather feedback on challenges, barriers, and

successes in FYI/FUP implementation. HUD is in the process of publishing policy guidance to implement programmatic flexibilities (i.e., waivers and alternative requirements) to streamline effectiveness.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

Program Description: 70,000+ Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) were awarded to more than 600 PHAs to serve households experiencing homelessness, recently homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. Requiring a formalized partnership between PHAs and homeless service providers, EHVs have provided a significant opportunity for PHAs, CoCs, and Victim Service Providers (VSPs) to develop collaborative partnerships and strategies that effectively address the needs of vulnerable populations in their communities.

Number of Vouchers Allocated in FY 2024: 69,972

Number of Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 76,590

Percentage of Allocated Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 98.49%

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: EHVs were funded under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), and statutory provisions prohibit the re-issuance of turnover EHVs after September 30, 2023. This temporary assistance program to serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness has been very successful, as evidenced by the utilization rate of almost 98%. HUD has provided extensive outreach and technical assistance to PHAs to ensure program success in addressing homelessness through collaborative community partnerships. Funding for EHVs is set to expire in 2030.

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program Vouchers

Program Description: HUD-VASH combines the HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program rental assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness with case management and supportive services provided by the VA at its medical facilities and in the community. Veterans experiencing homelessness are first screened by their local VA medical facility (VAMC). They are then referred to the partner public housing agency (PHA) for the HCV eligibility determination and issuance of the voucher. Veterans must agree to participate in case management to receive rental assistance.

Number of New Admissions in FY 2024: 17,608

Number of Vouchers Available as of the end of FY 2024: 112,346

Number of Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 86,533

Percentage of Allocated Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 77.02%

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: HUD, in collaboration with the VA, published an update to the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements Federal Register Notice (89 FR 65769). This made important updates to the program, allowing additional flexibilities, and expanding program eligibility, including requiring program eligibility to go up to 80% AMI, excluding VA service-connected disability to be excluded from income calculations for the purposes of program eligibility, and allowing for noncompetitive selection of projects for HUD-VASH project-based vouchers (PBV). In FY 2024, HUD and VA collaborated to host the remaining 8 sessions in a series of 10 in-person HUD-VASH Boot Camp Process Improvement workshops. These HUD-VASH Boot Camps were two-day, action-oriented, in-person workshops designed to improve coordination and collaboration, streamline, and improve systems and processes, and increase referrals and utilization for HUD-VASH programs. Additionally, HUD and VA held a virtual version of the HUD-VASH Boot Camps in March 2024. HUD/VA awarded 3,000+ additional HUD-VASH vouchers in FY 2024. Utilization of available vouchers improved from just under 74% in FY 2023 to over 77% in FY 2024. HUD and VA regularly collaborate to continue to increase voucher utilization.

The Stability Voucher Program

Program Description: The Stability Voucher Program, like the EHV Program (EHV), makes HCVs available to PHAs in partnership with local CoC and/or Victim Service Providers(VSPs) to assist households experiencing or at risk of homelessness, those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and Veterans and families that include a Veteran family member that meets criteria that will be outlined in the notice. Over 3,300 Stability Vouchers were awarded to 135 PHAs, and PHAs awarded these vouchers have agreed to work with their CoC and other local providers to couple vouchers with supportive services to promote increased housing stability.

Number of PHAs with Stability Voucher Awards: 133

Number of Vouchers Awarded as of the end of FY 2024: 3,328

Number of Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 865

Percentage of Allocated Vouchers Leased in FY 2024: 25.99%

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Some PHAs awarded Stability Vouchers had never previously partnered with their CoC on a voucher program and coupled the vouchers with services. PIH is working with technical assistance (TA providers) to provide direct TA to PHAs in need of additional support.

It has published multiple products in the spring and summer of 2024 to support PHAs in effectively using Stability Vouchers.

Research and Technology

Program Description: The Research and Technology (R&T) account, administered by the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), provides fundamental evidence to support the mission of the Department through policy analysis, research, surveys, and program evaluations. PD&R's work enables the Secretary, the Congress, and principal staff at HUD and other agencies to make informed decisions on budget and legislative proposals and to strengthen housing and community development policy. Technical Assistance provided through the R&T account helps improve implementation of most of HUD's existing programs, as well as launching new programs and program expansions so HUD's partners and customers have the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems needed to successfully implement HUD programs and be effective stewards of Federal funding. This account houses HUD's Eviction Protection Grant Program, which funds legal assistance to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction. This competitive grant program was first funded in 2021. There are currently 21 grantees in 19 States.

Eviction Protection Grant Program

Program Description: In 2021, HUD launched the Eviction Protection Grant Program (EPGP), a first-of-its-kind federal program designed to expand the reach of legal services to low-income tenants at risk of, or subject to, eviction. The Eviction Protection Grant Program aims to help tenants who do not have access to legal assistance that may help them reach more mutually beneficial resolutions with landlords or defend against illegal evictions. Grantees of this program provide no-cost legal assistance to prevent or divert eviction and mitigate the consequences of eviction across 19 states. Through this demonstration program, Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), seeks to expand the evidence base around eviction diversion programming as local, state and federal policymakers consider new ways to support tenants and landlords and build new eviction systems and processes.

Number of households Served as of the end of FY 2024: 44,224

The Evaluation of the Eviction Protection Grant Program: The Interim Report, which analyzed program implementation through June 30, 2023, found that tenant households served by the program reflect demographic characteristics like groups identified as experiencing a higher risk of formal eviction nationally, including women, Blacks and African Americans, and households with children. Specifically, more than one-

half (52.7%) of households had at least one child; nearly 3 in 4 (71.1%) presenting tenants were women; and almost one-half (47.6%) of presenting tenants were non-Hispanic Black or African American. 2 in 3 (65.1%) households had extremely low incomes (for households with reported income, the average annual family income was \$22,794). Finally, almost 3 in 10 (28.5%) presenting tenants had a disability, and nearly 2 in 10 (17.8%) had limited English proficiency. The forthcoming Final Report will present further analysis of the implementation experiences of grantees, sub-recipients, and HUD staff, document program outcomes, and discuss potential associations between household characteristics, services provided, and outcomes.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Recent program evaluation reports revealed broad support of the EPGP by grantees, sub-recipients, and beneficiaries. Grantees and sub-recipients appreciated the program's flexibility in how funding could be used, which helped them strengthen existing partnerships and expand access to services among people who otherwise may not have been eligible. However, grantees and sub-recipients experienced implementation challenges with recruiting experienced staff, coordinating activities with partners, conducting outreach to certain populations, and meeting HUD data reporting requirements. To address these challenges, HUD provides direct support and technical assistance to grantees to reduce implementation and hiring challenges, improve outreach, and help grantees meet data reporting requirements. PD&R is in the process of onboarding additional personnel and implementing program improvements to increase the efficiency and efficacy of support to EPGP grantees. Finally, EPGP modified reporting requirements to standardize submission formats and processes while reducing the burden on grantees and EPGP staff.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

Targeted Programs:

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW): Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program

Program Description: The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Program (Transitional Housing Program) supports programs that assist people experiencing homelessness or those in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Housing assistance is typically provided in the form of vouchers or rental subsidies. Transitional housing programs may also offer individualized services like counseling, support groups, safety planning, advocacy services, and practical services like licensed childcare, employment services, transportation vouchers, telephones, and referrals to other agencies.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023: 2,750 survivors and 3,500 children of survivors. Please note that OVW collects data from Transitional Housing Program grantees twice per calendar year (CY). The most current data available are from the first half of CY 2023 (July-December).

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Transitional Housing Program grantees cite a lack of safe and affordable long-term housing as the biggest obstacle confronting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to high prices and low availability of rental units, victims encounter additional challenges to securing housing, including long waitlists for Section 8 and public housing, no credit or poor credit history, inability to meet the income requirements of landlords and property managers; a history of evictions; the presence of a criminal background; and outstanding debt. OVW’s 2022 “Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs under the Violence Against Women Act” and 2024 report “Answering the Call: Thirty Years of the Violence Against Women Act” include information about issues and challenges grantees cite as impediments to project success and barriers to survivor safety and justice. OVW also provides grantees with training and technical assistance to support their efforts to serve survivors and hold offenders accountable using promising and proven approaches.

Non-Targeted Programs:

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments

Program Description: The Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) enhances tribes’ ability to respond to violent crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. The program’s objectives are to support Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking; to provide services to survivors (including emergency and transitional housing), and to ensure that people who commit these crimes are held responsible for their actions through a strong coordinated community response. Please note that OVW collects data from Tribal Governments Program grantees twice per CY. The most current data available are from the first half of CY 2022 (January – June) because of challenges related to data collection systems.

Number of Survivors Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2022 in shelter: 1,400

Number of Survivors Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2022 in transitional housing:
180

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Tribal Governments Program grantees cite housing—including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing—as their biggest unmet need. While shelter services were sometimes available in nearby areas, grantees report that victims are often reluctant to use these resources, preferring to remain within their own communities. Additionally, grantees report that victims struggle to achieve independence due to their inability to access necessities, such as transportation, employment and job training, and childcare. OVW’s 2022 “Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs under the Violence Against Women Act” and 2024 report “Answering the Call: Thirty Years of the Violence Against Women Act” include information about issues and challenges grantees cite as impediments to project success and barriers to survivor safety and justice. OVW continues to provide grantees with training and technical assistance to support their efforts to serve survivors and hold offenders accountable using promising and proven approaches.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

Targeted Programs:

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

Program Description: Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) is an employment-focused grant program intended to enable Veterans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness the ability to reach their full employment potential and obtain high-quality career outcomes. HVRP grant recipients address the complex employment-related requirements and supportive services necessary to meet the needs of this population. Collectively, three programs are referred to as HVRP, which serve all eligible populations; the Incarcerated Veterans’ Transition Program (IVTP), exclusively for justice-involved Veterans and Veterans transitioning from certain institutions; and the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Grant Program (HWVHWC), exclusively for homeless women Veterans and homeless Veterans with children. Eligible entities include state and local Workforce Development Boards, Native American tribal governments (federally recognized), Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments), state agencies, for-profit entities, and nonprofit organizations, including community- and faith-based organizations, and public, state, and private institutions of higher education.

Grant recipients provide job placement, job training, job development, career counseling, and resumé preparation services, among other services, to assist the Veteran in overcoming barriers to employment and be successful in the labor force, as well as follow-up services. Through HVRP, funding is also available for “stand-downs,” which are typically one-to-three-day events providing supplies and services to Veterans experiencing homelessness, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness (Excluding Stand-Down participants) Served in FY 2024: 15,974

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: In FY 2024, DOL began a Customer Experience study to assist DOL in understanding how Veterans experience HVRP services. VETS used the results from this study to update policies and the upcoming funding opportunity announcement (FOA) and will continue to analyze the results to determine additional program enhancements. VETS will also conduct a gender equity impact analysis as part of the study’s research. Additionally, in 2025, VETS will commence a study on how to estimate the number of Veterans at risk of homelessness for each county, as well as identifying and assess the risk of homelessness for Veterans. VETS’ goal is to use this information to supplement the Point-in-Time (PIT) count for homelessness by identifying counties where there is a greater risk for Veterans to become homeless. The study results will aid VETS in policy-making decisions relating to the criterion for homelessness factors for HVRP enrollment. DOL has also expanded its [Off-Base Transition Training \(OBTT\)](#) pilot program to extend its traditional Transition Assistance Program beyond transitioning service members separating from active military installations to serve areas where large Veteran populations face high unemployment rates. HVRP participants benefit from the OBTT virtual or in-person workshops covering topics such as job search tactics, resume essentials, interview skills, salary negotiation, and more. These participant support services help HVRP participants meet their employment goals.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Targeted Programs:

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

Program Description: HCHV connects Veterans experiencing homelessness to needed health care and social service programs via extensive outreach. HCHV outreach is conducted by clinical teams at 135 VA Medical Centers (VAMCs), making it possible for Veterans to enter the network of VA-funded health care and social service programs to eliminate homelessness. HCHV also provides residential treatment for mental health

and substance use problems through contracts with community service providers, as well as long-term case management for Veterans in permanent housing who need ongoing support.

Number of Veterans Served with Outreach in FY 2024: Over 23,900

Number of Veterans Served with Case Management in FY 2024: 12,600+, decreased Veteran homelessness by 55.6% since 2010, housed or prevented homelessness for 83,715 Veterans and their families, housed 47,925 as part of [VA's Fiscal Year 2024 Homelessness Goals](#). Engaged 42,064 unsheltered Veterans.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: As the Veteran homeless population ages, there is a need for more transitional housing that can provide immediate shelter and meet the complex medical needs of aging Veterans. Additionally, there is a need for more outreach workers and homeless program staff to coordinate with community partners to ensure that VAMCs are fully integrated into local coordinated entry systems. In FY 2024, HCHV funded 17 Medical Respite pilot contracts to help meet the complex medical needs of aging Veterans. In addition, over 40 new contracts will be funded to address emerging needs and gaps like transitional housing options for justice-involved Veterans and the need for flexible, single occupancy design to accommodate vulnerable Veteran populations, including female Veterans and LGBTQ+ Veterans. HCHV is in the process of developing a grant program to coordinate substance use disorder (SUD) services for homeless Veterans with an emphasis on rural and tribal areas. HCHV continues to advocate for and support the expanded eligibility for the HCHV program for those Veterans who are ineligible for health care, which will require congressional action. This expanded eligibility would align the HCHV program with other homeless programs like HUD – VA Supportive Housing) (HUD-VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Grant and Per Diem (GPD). HCHV continues to advocate for and support legislation to reinstate flexibilities made possible by temporary 4201 authority in providing funds to assist with the safety and survival of homeless Veterans and Veterans in the HUD-VASH program. This is currently known as the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)

Program Description: Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) is a supportive residential rehabilitation and treatment program for Veterans experiencing homelessness who have complex and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, medical conditions, and/or psychosocial needs. This intensive clinical care program provides 24/7 supervision and support from VA staff and emphasizes self-care and personal responsibility in addition to treatment for conditions that inhibit Veterans from exiting homelessness. With the opening of a 40-bed DCHV in Houston, TX, this fiscal year, the DCHV program offered more than 1,650 operational beds at 45 VA Medical Centers in support of homeless Veterans.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: Over 4,400.

During FY 2024, 51.4% of Veterans were discharged to permanent housing. Among all Veterans discharged from DCHV during FY 2024, 33.2% were discharged to another Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MH RRTP), a healthcare institution, or transitional housing (including temporary stays with family and friends). Data on housing status at discharge cannot be summed in aggregate as the denominators vary based on defined rules for the permanent housing discharge metric.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The current authority for establishing DCHV programs limits the number of programs to no more than 45 programs (38 U.S.C. § 2043(a)). At this time, VA has reached that limit and can no longer establish new DCHV programs. The DCHV programs also continue efforts to return to full capacity following the sustained impact of the pandemic from previous fiscal years. The Office of Mental Health continues to work actively with the DCHV programs to address remaining operational challenges, including staffing challenges, to increase overall capacity and utilization.

Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR)

Program Description: The Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) program is a work-based Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment (MH RRTP) Program offering a therapeutic residential setting for Veterans involved in compensated work therapy. The CWT/TR program provides a rehabilitation-focused residential setting for Veterans recovering from chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, and homelessness. CWT/TR bridges hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful community reintegration. At the end of FY 2024, 37 CWT/TR programs had 492 operational beds.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: Approximately 780.

The number of completed CWT/TR treatment episodes during FY 2024 was over 550, and the average length of stay was approximately 145 days. Of the Veterans discharged during FY 2024, 50% of those Veterans eligible for employment had secured competitive employment at discharge. An additional 23.9% of Veterans discharged from CWT/TR were engaged in CWT Transitional Work or receiving additional training at the time of CWT/TR discharge. In FY 2024, 66.4% of Veterans discharged from CWT/TR were discharged to permanent housing. Among all Veterans discharged from CWT/TR, 27.4% were discharged to another MH RRTP, a healthcare institution, or transitional housing (including temporary stays with family and friends). Data on

housing status at discharge cannot be summed in aggregate as the denominators vary based on defined rules for the permanent housing discharge metric.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The program continues to have challenges with aging infrastructure, resulting in homes being taken out of service and, at times, program closures. VA is exploring options to make General Post Funds available to address repair and maintenance needs.

HUD- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

Program Description: HUD-VASH is a collaborative program that pairs HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services. These services are designed to help homeless Veterans and their families obtain permanent housing and access the health care, mental health treatment, and other supports necessary to help them improve quality of life and maintain housing over time.

Number of Homeless and Formerly Homeless Veterans Who Received Case Management and Supportive Services in FY 2024: 93,550

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: At the end of FY 2024, VA data showed more than 88,000 Veterans housed with a HUD-VASH voucher. This is the highest number of formerly homeless Veteran families housed in the program's history. While the number of Veteran families housed in HUD-VASH has increased most years since the program expansion in 2008, the overall percentage of vouchers allocated under lease has not kept pace. Various factors, internal and external to VA, impact HUD-VASH voucher utilization. Barriers to full utilization vary widely from VAMC to VAMC and even among Public Housing Agencies (PHA) but broadly include factors such as the availability of safe and affordable housing stock, VAMC and PHA staffing, and the number of eligible Veterans in the PHA/VAMC catchment area. Of note, Congress has continued to provide funds for new HUD-VASH vouchers annually, increasing the availability of vouchers in the field and impacting voucher utilization rates year-over-year. Efforts VA is making to address voucher utilization concerns include the following:

- Prioritizing/expediting recruitment for vacant positions with incentives and special salary rates.
- Increasing HUD-VASH case management capacity and expediting housing placements through internal collaboration with VA and VA-funded programs (such as GPD and SSVF), expanding contracting efforts, and expanding external collaboration through the VA Secretary designation of community partners as designated service providers (DSP) instead of VA.

- Partnering with HUD to encourage the utilization of HUD-VASH vouchers in project-based developments, thereby increasing the supply of appropriate and affordable housing for HUD-VASH Veterans.
- Increasing the use of HUD special housing types (such as shared housing and Single Room Occupancy) in HUD-VASH. This can be helpful info for Veterans with special needs, such as aging/disabled Veterans.
- Increasing landlord recruitment and retention efforts.
- Partnering with HUD to ensure full utilization of all available flexibilities and waivers for HUD-VASH vouchers. HUD and VA have also collaborated to conduct regional meetings with partnering VAMCs and PHAs in each of HUD’s ten regions. These “HUD-VASH Boot Camps” focus on improving collaborative operations of the HUD-VASH program at the local level, aiming to increase voucher utilization overall. HUD-VASH continues to advocate for and support the statutory change and/or regulatory waiver necessary to allow formerly homeless Veterans housed with a subsidy other than HUD-VASH to “transfer” the subsidy to a HUD-VASH voucher. Such action would allow Veterans to receive necessary case management and supportive services through HUD-VASH, increase HUD-VASH voucher utilization, and free up the original subsidy for other individuals in need.

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

Program Description: The Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program is the VA’s largest transitional housing program for Veterans experiencing homelessness and is permanently authorized under Public Law 109-461. It has approximately 11,000 beds nationwide. Since 1994, the GPD Program has awarded grants to community-based organizations to provide transitional housing with wraparound supportive services to assist vulnerable Veterans in obtaining stable housing. The grants are designed to meet Veterans at various stages as they move to permanent housing. Community-based organizations receiving GPD grants offer focused transitional housing services through various housing models targeted to different populations and needs of Veterans. The GPD program plays a vital role in the continuum of homeless services by providing supportive services to those Veterans who would otherwise be among the unsheltered homeless population.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Exited to Permanent Housing FY 2024: 10,500

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: One challenge GPD has faced in recent years is how to adequately reimburse grantees for services they provide to vulnerable Veterans. Costs in communities continue to rise, and the VA continues to ask grantees for more and better services and staffing. Yet the

statutory reimbursement options VA may offer are not sufficient for many grantees. For example, from around the time when the COVID-19 public health emergency ended (after May 11, 2023) through the beginning of FY 2025, over 60 GPD grants ended early or were not submitted for continuation funding. Although grantees are not required to give a reason for ending a grant, several grantees reported the reason was insufficient funding. In preparation for this reality, and in response to it, GPD supported legislative efforts to increase the maximum per diem rate for grantees serving Veterans. For example, GPD provided technical assistance to Congress on bills to increase the maximum rate. Also, GPD proposed legislation to increase the maximum rate, which was approved by the Office of Management and Budget for the FY 2024 President's Budget and is pending enactment. Finally, GPD continues to explore reimbursement alternatives that would better support the cost of services for Veterans. For example, efforts are underway to legislatively untether the GPD payment method from the State Home domiciliary rate. Restructuring and reorganizing the way grant types are bundled and awarded is another way GPD will continue to use limited resources effectively to help Veterans gain and retain stable housing. In FY 2024, GPD offered a grant opportunity to help vulnerable Veterans obtain housing and supportive services. As a result, the VA awarded 14 special need grants totaling approximately 105 beds and approximately \$8.9 million to community-based organizations that provide certain populations of Veterans with transitional housing and case management — including connecting Veterans to VA benefits, community-based services, and permanent housing.

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program

Program Description: The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program seeks to provide timely access to VA services for eligible Veterans to prevent homelessness while providing resources for mental health and clinical treatment aimed toward lasting rehabilitation and independence for the involved Veterans. Veterans who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, those in frequent contact with the criminal justice system, and those re-entering the community from incarceration are the primary beneficiaries of these programs. VJO provides outreach to Veterans involved with the local justice system (e.g., police, jails, and courts). Each VAMC has at least one VJO specialist who liaises between the VA and the local criminal justice system.

Number of Justice-Involved Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2023: Over 44,400. VA provided support to 727 Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused court programs. VA partnered with legal providers to offer 170 pro-bono legal clinics to Veterans on-site at VAMCs.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Effective outreach to justice-involved Veterans depends on accurately identifying Veterans among larger criminal justice populations. To assist its

criminal justice partners with this process, the VA offers the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS), a web-based tool that prisons, courts, and jails can use to identify Veterans among the inmates or defendants in their systems and simultaneously notify Veterans Health Administration (VHA) outreach staff. In FY 2024, VRSS had 463 criminal justice users, including the Bureau of Prisons and 29 state prison systems. Although substantial, this number of users represents a small fraction of the more than 3,000 criminal justice agencies in the U.S., leaving unrealized opportunities for identifying Veterans in many jurisdictions. VA is promoting the use of VRSS by more criminal justice agencies, particularly jails and courts. With the assistance of the Department of Justice (DOJ's) Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Corrections, and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, VA advocates adopting VRSS in national training venues for criminal justice professionals.

Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)

Program Description: Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) provides pre-release outreach, assessment, linkage, and brief post-release case management services for incarcerated Veterans released from state and federal prisons. HCRV specialists across the country partner with state and federal correctional staff to identify incarcerated Veterans, perform pre-release assessments, and facilitate post-release linkages. VA is promoting the use of VRSS by more criminal justice agencies, particularly jails and courts. With the assistance of the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Institute of Corrections, as well as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, VA advocates adopting VRSS in national training venues for criminal justice professionals.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

Program Description: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program works with nonprofit organizations and consumer collaboratives to provide housing and supportive services for low-income and very low-income Veterans and their families who are at imminent risk of homelessness or who are experiencing literal homelessness. Funding to these organizations provides outreach and case management to Veterans and Veteran families to help them access the VA and mainstream benefits for which they are eligible. These benefits include health care navigation, housing counseling, temporary financial assistance, transportation, childcare, and legal services. This program allows families (defined as a single person or a family in which the head of household or the spouse of the head of household is a Veteran) to receive guidance and case management to access a full range of community benefits available to maintain stable housing.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Assisted by SSVF in FY 2024: Over 140,638 individuals, with over 91,155 Veterans assisted. In FY 2024, SSVF also served more than 29,000 children. Seventy-seven percent of those discharged from the SSVF program obtained permanent housing. More information, including demographics and outcomes, is available in the [SSVF Annual Reports](#).

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: The primary challenge for the SSVF program is the lack of affordable housing and the growing number of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the shortage of affordable housing and rent-burdened low-income households has impacted every state and community, leaving few options for placements. SSVF has several initiatives to address the growing affordable housing crisis and the growth of street homelessness. These initiatives include:

- Providing shallow subsidies with the potential for renewal and a 2-year subsidy worth up to 50% of rent.
- Offering landlord incentives to assist in recruiting landlords who are wary of housing higher-risk tenants.
- Offering tenant incentives and augmented housing navigation services to help homeless Veterans find and move into housing.
- Providing Rapid Resolution that places homeless or imminently at-risk Veterans with family or friends as an alternative to entering the homeless system.

In addition, VA has provided technical assistance on proposed legislation that would allow bulk leasing (master leasing). Bulk leasing arrangements would open more housing opportunities for Veterans by reducing barriers and increasing access to units.

Other VA Programs:

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRC)

Program Description: Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs) are collaborative, multi-agency programs that provide “one-stop” access to housing, health care, job development programs, and other VA and non-VA benefits through a partnership with local community-based homelessness providers and other federal and state partners engaged in providing services to people experiencing homelessness. All centers are in community settings, facilitating access to services for Veterans and their families.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served by 33 CCRCs in FY 2024: 70,000+.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Outreach to all unsheltered Veterans is one of the primary functions of a CRRC. HCHV continues to advocate for and support the expanded eligibility for the HCHV program for those Veterans who are ineligible for health care, which will require congressional action. This expanded eligibility would align the HCHV program with other homeless programs like HUD – VA Supportive Housing) (HUD-VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Grant and Per Diem (GPD). HCHV continues to advocate for and support legislation to reinstate flexibilities made possible by temporary 4201 authority in providing funds to assist with the safety and survival of homeless Veterans and Veterans in the HUD-VASH program. This is currently known as the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

Stand-Downs

Program Description: Community agencies hold stand-downs in partnership with the VA to reach out and provide services to Veterans experiencing homelessness. Stand-downs are 1- to 3-day events providing health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to various other necessary services, such as housing, employment, and substance use disorder treatment.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Receiving Outreach through 241 Stand-Downs Supported by the HCHV Program in FY 2024: 48,680

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: HCHV continues to examine ways to advance innovative and effective national Stand-Down efforts. In FY 2024, our program worked closely with the White House Council on Native American Affairs to improve and highlight the importance of Stand-Downs on Tribal lands. An emphasis on improving front-line staff's knowledge of Tribal issues has been made in FY 2024 and will continue work in this space for FY 2025.

Veterans Benefits Assistance (VBA) Outreach Program

Program Description: Each of the 56 Veterans Benefits Assistance (VBA) regional offices (ROs) has a homeless Veteran coordinator. These coordinators can be either a Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator (HVOC) responsible for outreach to homeless Veterans or a Homeless Veterans Claims Coordinator (HVCC) responsible for homeless Veteran outreach, case management, and expediting the processing of homeless claims. The HVOCs and HVCCs perform outreach to homeless Veterans at homeless shelters, homeless stand-downs, and other areas where Veterans may be located, and through coordination with state and local

community partners. The HVOCs and HVCCs provide information and assistance through outreach efforts and direct Veteran engagements. In addition to efforts to support homeless Veterans, HVOCs and HVCCs also serve as Justice-Involved Veteran Outreach Coordinators, providing outreach at VTCs and federal and state prisons to assist justice-involved Veterans and their families.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: VBA Regional Office outreach personnel conducted over 8,343 hours of outreach directed towards homeless Veterans and over 1,913 hours of outreach at 773 events specifically for justice-involved Veterans. VBA expedited 43,101 homeless Veterans' Compensation and Pension claims (41,691 compensation claims and 1,410 pension claims).

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Although there were no documented Homeless Veteran Outreach Program impediments for FY 2024, increasing collaborative efforts with Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinators and Homeless Veterans Claims Coordinators in the field may improve the overall effectiveness of the program. Outreach, Transition and Economic Development hosted the Virtual Homeless Veteran Outreach Symposium, *Understanding the Unique Needs of Homeless Veterans* on January 25, 2024. This symposium educated, informed, and empowered Veterans, Service members, family members, caregivers, survivors, and advocates about valuable VA resources for homeless Veterans. The symposium provided information on VA benefits, homeless services, Vet Centers and the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

Homeless Veterans Dental Program (HVDP)

Program Description: Homeless Veterans Dental Program (HVDP) works with VA-sponsored and VA-partnered homelessness rehabilitation programs nationwide to increase access to quality dental care.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Receiving Dental Care through HVDP in FY 2024: Over 7,900

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: For the last several years, limited-use, special purpose funding (i.e., Homeless Veteran Dental Initiative [HVDI]) has been utilized by ~40 VA dental facilities, per their request. If the HVDI funding ceases, there could be diminished access to dental care for homeless-experienced eligible Veterans. By statute, an episode of dental benefits only becomes available when the healthcare-enrolled Veteran meets a 60-day minimum stay in certain transitional residential rehabilitation programs. The Office of Dentistry's HVDP Directorate provides fund oversight and management of the HVDI to support the delivery of dental services for Veterans eligible under this classification.

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT)

Program Description: Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT) provides a coordinated “medical home” specifically tailored to the needs of Veterans experiencing homelessness. At selected VA facilities, Veterans are assigned to an HPACT care team that includes a primary care provider, nurse, social worker, homeless program staff, and others who provide medical and mental health care, case management, housing, and social services assistance, to provide and coordinate the health care they may need while assisting them in obtaining and staying in permanent housing.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness and At-Risk of Homelessness Actively

Enrolled in the HPACT Model of Care in FY 2024: Nationally, over 18,100, with over 23,000 served annually. In FY 2024, over 87 HPACT teams and providers were operating at 60 VAMCs, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), and CRRCs nationwide.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Access and engagement in health care and supportive services continues to be a challenge for Veterans experiencing homelessness. The HPACT Program Office has worked to address this with the funding of 5 new HPACT sites in FY 2023 to serve homeless Veterans and with the HPACT Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) project. 25 VAMCs were awarded an MMU in FY 2023 to bring primary care, mental health, and social services directly to Veterans in the community setting. All 25 MMUs were deployed in FY 2024 and are ready to serve Veterans. This project works to increase access and long-term engagement in the VA system for homeless Veterans, including unsheltered Veterans, while meeting them where they are. In addition, the Homeless Patient Care Aligned Teams (HPACT) only serves Veterans eligible for VA medical benefits. However, the program office works to refer VA ineligible Veterans to community health care providers as needed.

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)

Program Description: Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES) is staffed by Vocational Development Specialists embedded in homeless programs at VAMCs. They complement medical center-based employment services and are a bridge to opportunities and resources in the local community. HVCES provides more site-specific employment services.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Served in FY 2024: Approximately 5,400 Veterans exited homeless residential programs with competitive employment (e.g., GPD, Low-Demand Supportive

Housing (LDSH), and HCHV– Contract Residential Services (HCHV-CERS). More than 12,800 Veterans were employed, exiting from all VHA homeless programs and services. There were 13,110 newly documented, unique instances of employment for Veterans engaged in or exited from VA Homeless Programs or Services.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Employment for Veterans who have experienced homelessness is complicated, as they often have multiple barriers to re-entering the workforce, such as disabling medical conditions, mental health problems, substance use disorders, histories of justice involvement, and long periods of unemployment. VA continues to enhance access to employment services through collaboration between VHA homeless programs and Department of Labor (DOL) programs such as, but not limited to, Veterans’ Employment and Training Services (VETS), Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), and Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), which offer opportunities for joint training for staff, improved cross-agency communication, and public-facing stories of Veteran successes as a result of these collaborative efforts. Employment outcomes for homeless Veterans improve when these services, and others, are well integrated into housing and case management activities. This integration continues to be a focus for HVCES.

CHALENG Program: The Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) Program for Veterans

Program Description: The Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups Program for Veterans (CHALENG) enhances coordinated services by bringing VA together with community agencies and other federal, state, and local governments that provide homeless services to assess the needs of homeless Veterans and develop plans to meet those needs. CHALENG includes two components: CHALENG meetings and the CHALENG survey, which consists of the perspective of Veterans, the VA, and community providers.

Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Completing a CHALENG Participant Survey

FY 2023: 5,717. This included 2,530 homeless Veterans and 3,187 providers (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, and volunteers).

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Collecting CHALENG survey information changed from a paper and pencil survey to an online survey, and not all Veterans and homeless service providers have consistent access to computers, which can limit stakeholder input. VA designed a printable copy

of the survey so VAMC homeless programs can collect pencil and paper surveys for stakeholders who prefer that method.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)

Program Description: National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) provides 24-hour assistance to Veterans experiencing homelessness, those at risk of homelessness, and community organizations to make connections to local resources for help in times of crisis.

Number of Calls Received in FY 2024: The NCCHV received more than 195,834 actionable calls and 14,872 chats. In addition, VAMC staff have responded to over 115,571 VA Medical Center points of contact.

Summary of Program Impediments and Agency Actions: Homeless program staff responding to NCCHV referrals at VA facilities perform these functions outside their primary duties and responsibilities. Calls and referrals continue to increase with a small budget provided to NCCHV and no budget within the VHA Homeless Programs Office for program management.

CONCLUSION

USICH coordinates and catalyzes the federal response to homelessness, working in close partnership with senior leaders across its 19 federal member agencies. By organizing and supporting leaders—such as governors, mayors, Continuum of Care leaders, and other local officials—USICH drives action to achieve the goals of the Federal Strategic Plan (FSP) to Prevent and End Homelessness and ensures that homelessness in America is ended once and for all. USICH recognizes that ending homelessness requires an adequate supply of housing and the availability of community-based, high-quality, low-barrier, and voluntary supportive services. To address barriers identified in this report and others, the FSP focuses on a wide range of activities designed to increase the uptake and effectiveness of federal programs and benefits. The FSP recommends specific strategies and actions directly intended to reduce eligibility barriers, eliminate program inefficiencies, and promote cross-system collaborations. The federal programs and resources described in this report are vital to our efforts to end homelessness. USICH looks forward to collaborating with our partners to address many of the impediments identified in this document as part of implementing the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.