



Thinking Bold:

# Policy Solutions to End Homelessness

Join the  
conversation!



#Solutions2019  
#HousingtotheHill





# Thinking Bold: Policy Solutions to End Homelessness

December 3, 2019

Jemine A. Bryon

Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Needs



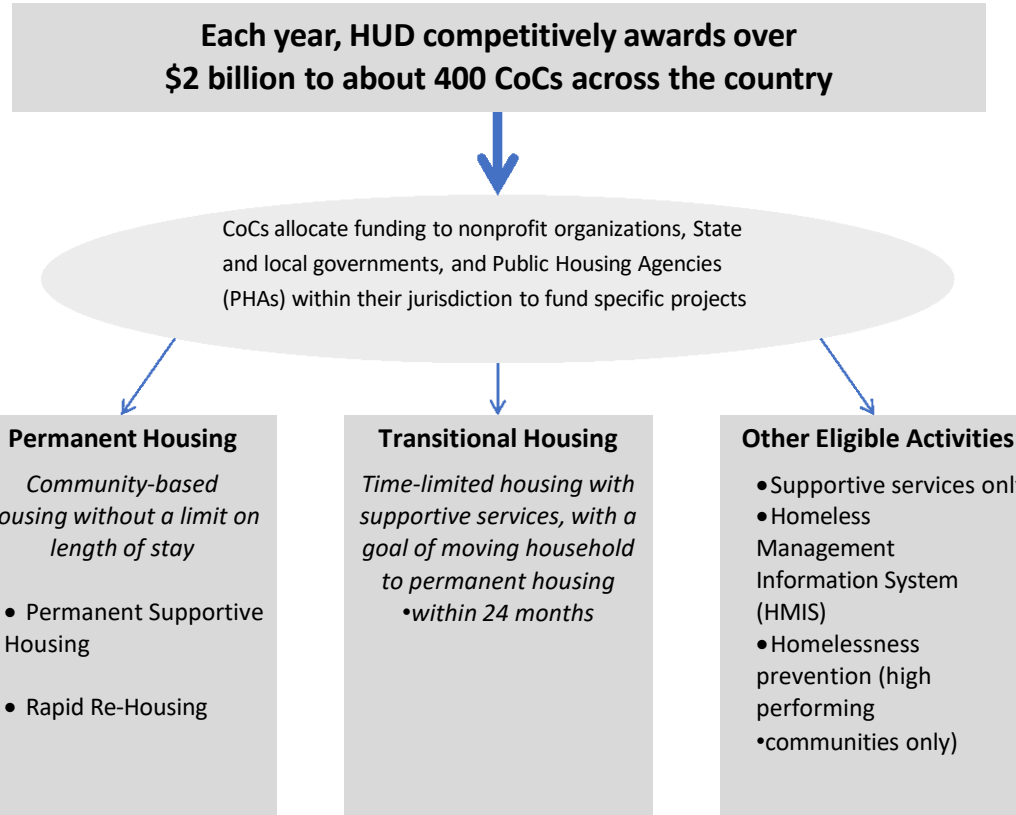


# Homeless Assistance Grants



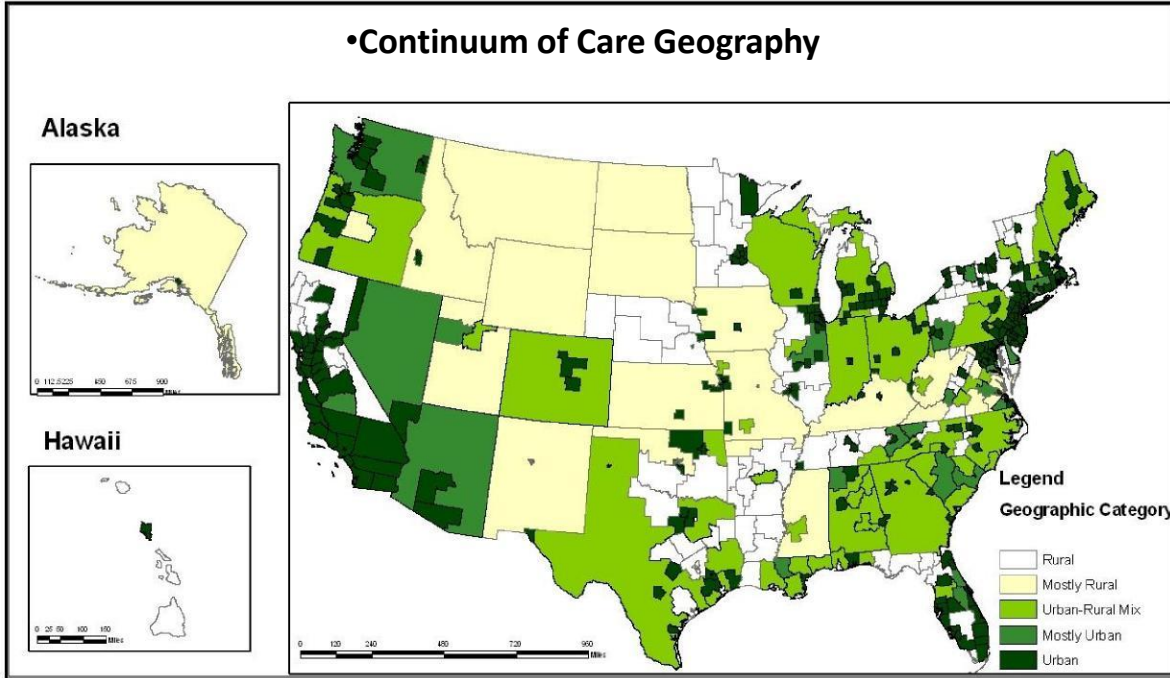
# Continuum of Care Program

## Operations and Eligible Activities



# Continuums of Care

Introduced in 1994, Continuums of Care (CoCs) are community-driven processes to address local needs and prioritize projects locally



•Image courtesy of [NAEH.org](http://NAEH.org)

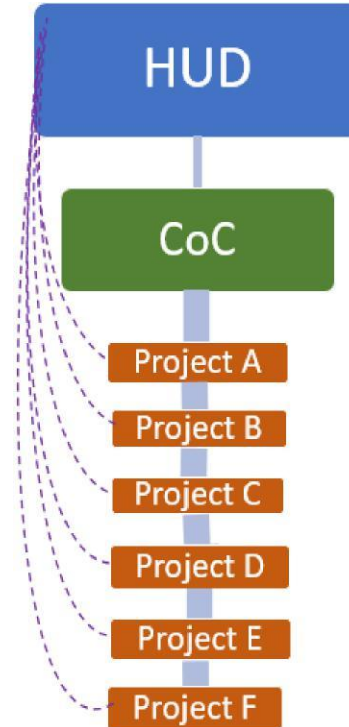
# Background

CoCs run local competitions to select and rank projects for their consolidated application

HUD awards projects based mostly on the order in which CoCs rank them and HUD has grant agreements with individual recipients for each project

The amount of funding a CoC receives depends on:

- A formula for the geographic area covered by the CoC
- The amount of funding needed to renew all projects in the CoC for one year
- How well the CoC scores in the competition



# Competing for Funding

Congressional direction on the CoC Program Competition:

*Holding projects accountable to their ability to demonstrate effectiveness is essential to getting the most of limited federal resources.*

Source: 2016 House Report Language: House Report 114-129

To compete well, CoCs must demonstrate they are:

- Reducing homelessness
- Using system performance measures to improve their outcomes
- Collaborating with stakeholders across the system, including mainstream housing and service providers
- Implementing best practices, including Housing First

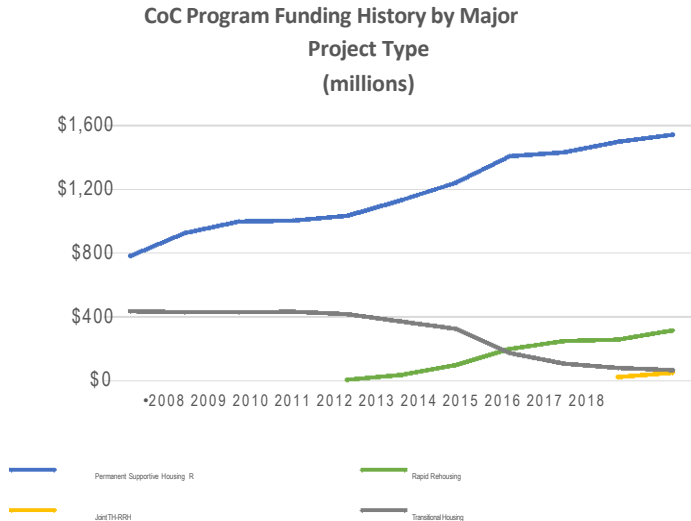
# In FY 2018 HUD Awarded \$2.165 Billion

## Major Activities

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Joint TH & RRH

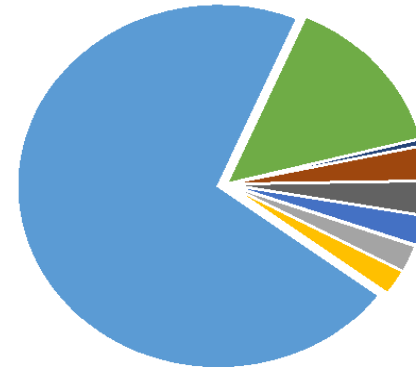
## Other Activities

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Supportive Services Only (SSO)
- Safe Haven (SH)
- CoC Planning
- Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Costs



**CoC Program Funding for all Project Types (millions)**

- CoC Planning
- UFA Costs
- HMIS
- Joint TH-RRH
- PH-PSH
- PH-RRH
- SH
- SSO
- TH





# Current Data

2018 Point-In-Time Count:

- Approximately 553,000 people experienced homelessness in a 24-hour period in January 2018, trending down from 2010.

•2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

## •Populations

<b>Homeless Families (Households)</b>	<b>79,442</b>	<b>77,184</b>	<b>77,155</b>	<b>70,957</b>	<b>67,613</b>	<b>64,197</b>	<b>61,265</b>	<b>57,886</b>	<b>56,342</b>
Homeless People in Families	241,937	236,175	239,397	222,190	216,261	206,286	194,716	184,411	180,413
Homeless Individuals	395,140	387,613	382,156	368,174	360,189	358,422	355,212	366,585	372,417
<b>Total Homeless People</b>	<b>637,077</b>	<b>623,788</b>	<b>621,553</b>	<b>590,364</b>	<b>576,450</b>	<b>564,708</b>	<b>549,928</b>	<b>550,996</b>	<b>552,830</b>

## •Key Subpopulations

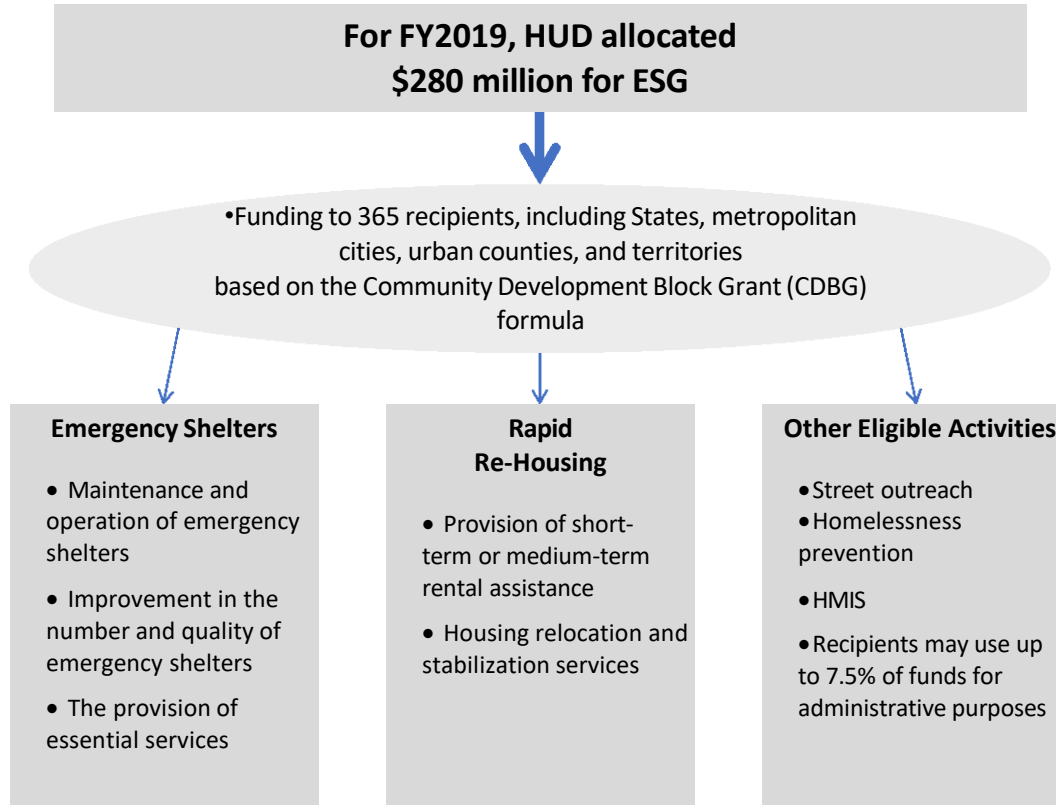
Homeless Veterans	74,087	65,455	60,579	55,619	49,689	47,725	39,471	40,020	37,878
Chronically Homeless Individuals	106,062	103,522	96,268	86,289	83,989	83,170	77,486	86,705	88,640

2017 Annual Data:

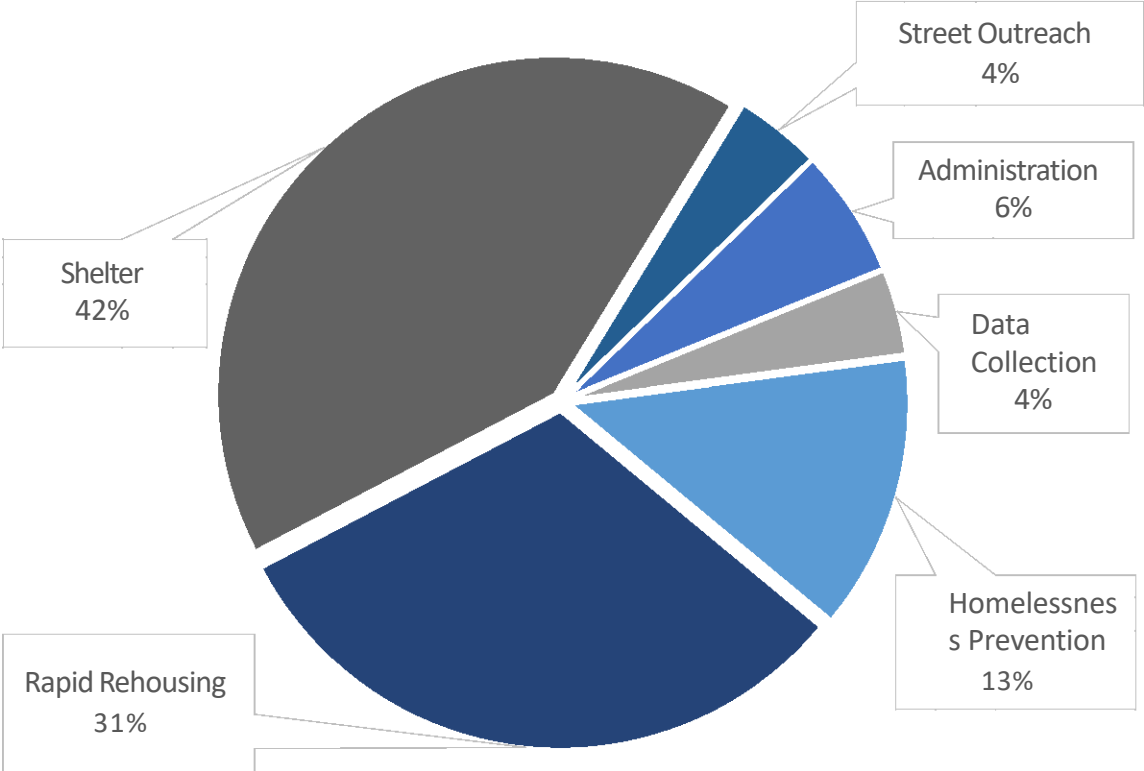
- About 1.417 million people sleep in emergency shelter or transitional housing during the entire year

# Emergency Solutions Grants

Formula grants to communities for homelessness assistance and homelessness prevention activities



# Quick Facts: ESG Program Funding





**HOPWA**  
Housing Opportunities  
for Persons With AIDS

# Housing Opportunities For Persons With AIDS



# HOPWA Program Origin and Purpose

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program was created to address the housing needs of low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

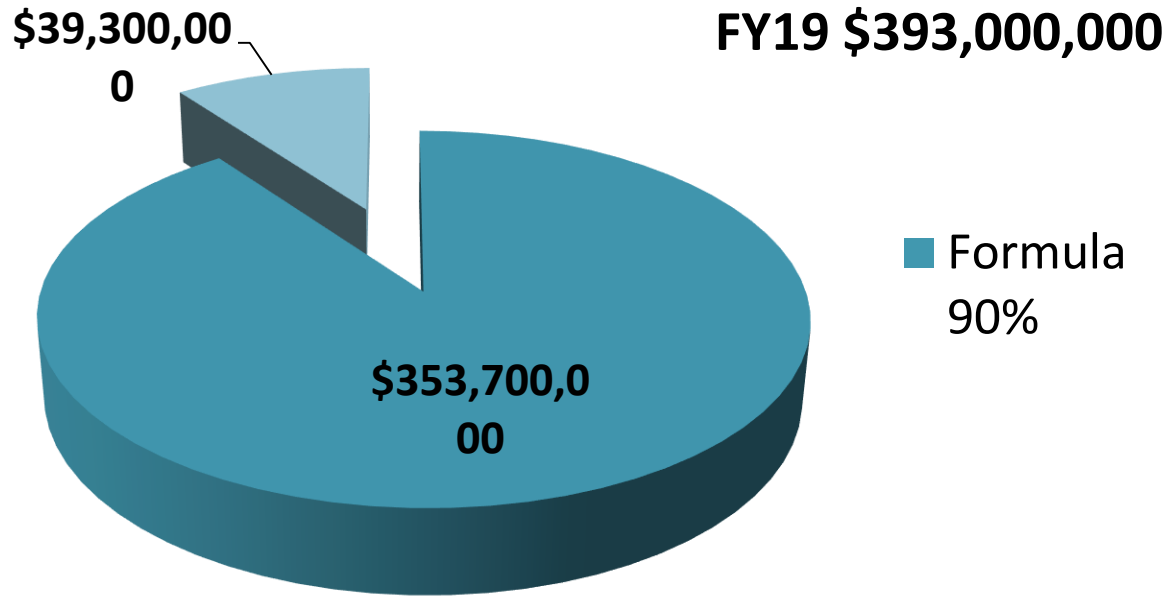
Established by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12901)

To provide **state and local governments** with resources and incentives for devising **long-term strategies** to develop a range of housing assistance and supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS **and their families** to overcome key barriers to stable housing - affordability and discrimination.

# HOPWA Structure

- The HOPWA program funds HIV/AIDS housing and support service programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The annual HOPWA appropriation (\$393 million in FY 2019) is divided between two programs:
  - 90 percent for formula program grants that are made using a statutorily-mandated formula to allocate funds to eligible cities on behalf of their metropolitan areas and to eligible states.
  - 10 percent for HOPWA competitive grants that are awarded to state and local governments and non-profit organizations on the basis of a national competition, with priority given by congressional authority to the renewal of expiring permanent supportive housing grants.

# HOPWA Funding Division



# HOPWA Eligible Activities

- Eligible HOPWA activities include:
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Emergency Housing
  - Transitional/Short-term Housing
  - Supportive Services
- By providing assistance with housing and related services, the HOPWA program helps persons living with HIV/AIDS enter into housing, access and remain in medical care, and adhere to complex treatment regimens.



# Thinking Bold: Policy Solutions to End Homelessness

**Douglas Rice**

December 3, 2019



# Some Key Facts about Housing Costs & Federal Rental Assistance

- Only about one-third (37%) of extremely low-income (ELI) households have access to affordable housing
- In 2017, 8.8 million ELI households either paid more than half their income for housing costs (7.7 million) or experienced homelessness (1.1 million)
- Federal rental assistance accounts for more than one-half of the housing that is affordable and available to extremely low-income households
- State/local rental assistance programs also important, but much smaller (~5 million vs. 120,000 units)

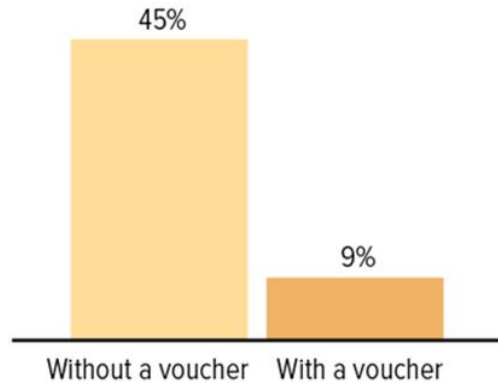
# Housing Choice Vouchers

- Deep subsidy — income-based rents ensure affordability even for households with little/no income
- Targeting — PHAs may set vouchers aside for households with particular needs, e.g., are homeless
- Flexible — primarily “tenant-based” (portable) but may be “project-based” (tied to particular housing)
- Services — may be paired with services, e.g., in supportive housing for homeless people with significant health problems
- Effective — rigorous studies find that housing vouchers sharply reduce homelessness & instability

---

## Housing Choice Vouchers Sharply Reduce Families' Housing Instability

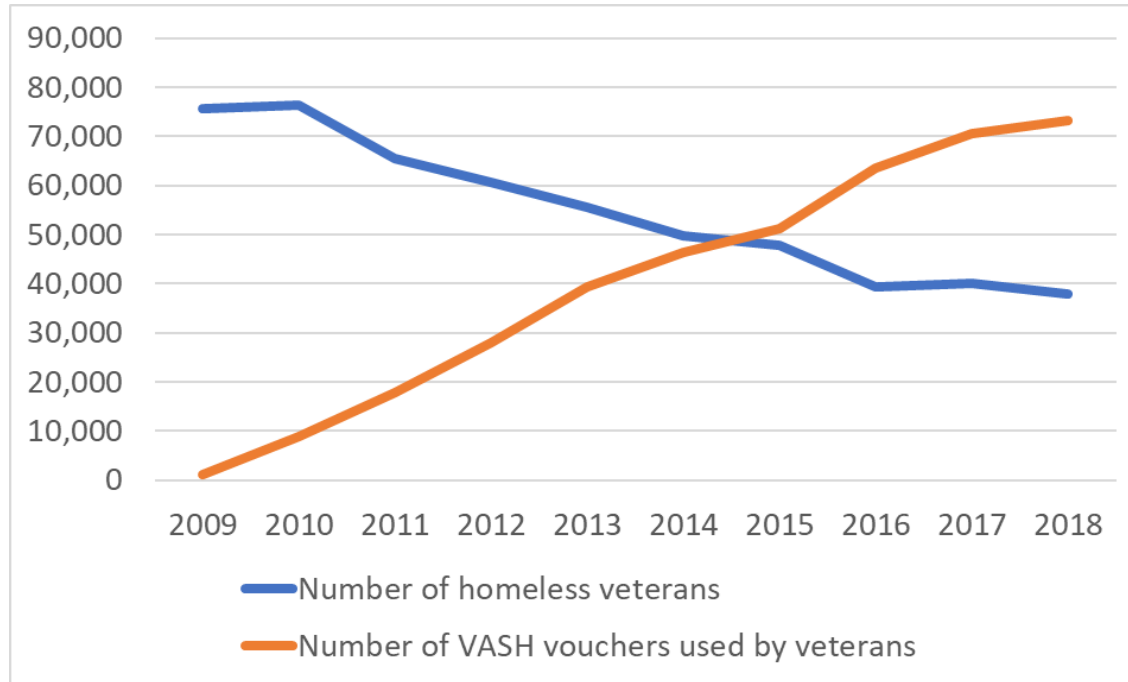
Share of families with children living in shelters,  
on the street, or doubled-up with friends or  
relatives in the prior year



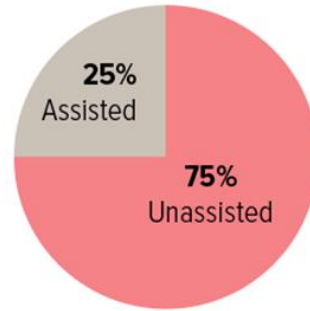
Note: Chart compares housing status of low-income families in six U.S. cities who were randomly selected to receive a voucher and used it for at least part of the previous year to families in a control group who did not use vouchers.

Source: Michelle Wood, Jennifer Turnham, and Gregory Mills, "Housing Affordability and Family Well-Being: Results from the Housing Voucher Evaluation," Housing Policy Debate, 2008.

# Veterans' Homelessness Fell 50% as Congress Expanded Housing Vouchers



## Three Out of Four Households In Need of Federal Rental Assistance Do Not Receive Any Due to Funding Limitations



Note: In need = households earning 80 percent or less of the local median household income and paying more than 30 percent of monthly income for housing and/or living in overcrowded or substandard housing.

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) custom tabulations of the 2017 American Housing Survey and CBPP tabulations of 2017 HUD administrative data; 2018 McKinney-Vento Permanent Supportive Housing bed counts; 2017-2018 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grantee performance profiles; and the Department of Agriculture's 2018 Multi-Family Fair Housing Occupancy Report.

**Douglas Rice**

rice@cbpp.org

www.cbpp.org

202.408.1080



# Homelessness: Housing First and Congress

Steve Berg

National Alliance to End Homelessness



# Homelessness

## Homelessness in the U.S.

- About half a million people in shelters and on the streets each night
- About three times that many spend some time in homeless programs each year
- Who's overrepresented: people with extremely low incomes; Black, Native American, and Latinx people; people with disabilities; young children; LGBTQ

# Homelessness: Ending it

Need two things to combat homelessness:

- A crisis response system to find people who are homeless, keep them safe, and get them quickly back into some kind of housing
- Progress on housing for low-income people more generally

# What is Housing First?

A systemic approach to dealing with homelessness, that houses as many people as possible as quickly as possible with existing resources, while addressing people's other problems once the people are housed.

(Also used for a more specific program model)

# Is Housing First controversial?

- Some program operators take a different approach – not as cost effective in many cases, although appropriate for some
- If follow-up services are not in fact available in the community, raises concerns
- Different views about the appropriate relationship between program and client

# Housing First as a hot issue

- Provisions regarding Homeless Assistance in House and Senate Appropriations bills
- Dollar amount for Homeless Assistance in Appropriations bills and in larger mandatory spending bills – “We know what to do” is a talking point

# Homeless Appropriations Status

## HUD Homeless Assistance Appropriations

- Current status:
  - The FY 2019 bill included \$2.636 billion
  - House FY20: \$2.8 billion (maintain existing capacity, DV initiative, youth initiative, small ESG increase)
  - Senate FY20: \$2.761 billion (maintain existing capacity [?], DV initiative, youth initiative)
- Our FY 2020 ask: \$3 billion (increase capacity in light of increasing numbers becoming homeless)

Many other important appropriations items, housing bills

# Homelessness

Steve Berg

National Alliance to End Homelessness

[sberg@naeh.org](mailto:sberg@naeh.org)

Twitter @sberg0



# Q&A

Join the  
conversation!



[#Solutions2019](#)  
[#HousingtotheHill](#)

