

April 15, 2025

The Honorable French Hill
Chairman
U.S. House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hill:

I write to ask that you join me in requesting that the House Appropriations Committee fully fund currently leased Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) in the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bill. By doing so, we will help keep more than 59,000 families stably housed, including 262 households in the State of Arkansas.¹

As you may recall, during the height of the pandemic, people experiencing homelessness faced disproportionate risks of COVID infections and complications.² To address these concerns, I secured \$5 billion in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the first-of-its-kind, bipartisan Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program to help rehouse individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and victims of human trafficking.³ Separate and distinct from the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, the EHV Program provides administrative flexibilities and higher payment standards, which have helped 71,000 households successfully utilize EHVs since 2021.⁴ As of April 9, 2025, over 59,000 EHVs were being utilized.⁵ This means homelessness has effectively ended for these households, including 262 Arkansas families, so long as they have an EHV to help them achieve full self-sufficiency.

Given the demand for EHVs, successful utilization rates, and rising rental market prices nationwide, the program spend-down rate has been much faster than initially projected.⁶ In its FY 2025 Congressional Justifications, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated that “EHV assistance for families will be insufficient to fund all families starting in 2027.” However, on March 6, 2025, public housing authorities (PHA) received notices that their final EHV funding allocations for calendar year (CY) 2025 would be their last.⁷ In the notice, HUD informed PHAs that EHV funding will be exhausted after the final CY 2025 obligations and no additional funds will be made available to cover leased up EHVs.⁸

The success of EHVs in helping to end homelessness for tens of thousands of households cannot be overstated and, in addition to building more affordable housing, are an effective tool to combat homelessness. I hope that you will consider this urgent request to keep over 59,000 families housed through the EHV Program.

Sincerely,

¹ HUD, [Emergency Housing Voucher Dashboard](#) (Last updated Apr. 9, 2025).

² National Alliance to End Homelessness, [Population At-Risk: Homelessness and the COVID-19 Crisis](#) (Mar. 2020); See also Department of Health and Human Services, [Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Are Likely To Have Medical Conditions Associated With Severe Illness From Covid-19](#) (Jun. 2020).

³ PL 117-2; See also Financial Services Committee, [American Rescue Plan Act Contains Key Provisions Authored by Committee Democrats](#) (Mar. 11, 2021).

⁴ HUD, [Office of Public Housing and Indian Affairs Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Budget Justification](#) (Accessed Apr. 9, 2025)

⁵ *Supra* note 1.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ [Letter](#) from HUD to Public Housing Authorities (March 6, 2026).

⁸ *Id.*

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services