

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairwoman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,  
and Urban Development and Related  
Agencies

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Womack, and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you consider the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill, I urge you to make addressing homelessness a top priority as we continue to face a national homelessness crisis. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2023 annual point in time count, the U.S. saw an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness between 2022 and 2023. On any given night, more than 653,100 people are experiencing homelessness. This represents an overall 12% increase from 2022 and is affecting more people than ever before, with a 25% increase among people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives. In the city and county of Los Angeles, the homelessness is now affecting over 75,518 people, leading the nation with some of the largest number of homeless individuals, veterans, and chronically homeless individuals. While the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act included substantial new resources to address homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds are nearing depletion, and much more is needed in the way of resources and flexibilities to address the evolving needs of individuals forced into homelessness in the post-pandemic housing market

Given this urgent need, I respectfully request that you fund HUD's homelessness programs and require HUD to assess flexibilities to improve program operations as follows:

- Appropriate at least \$3.8 billion in FY25 funding for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants;
- Appropriate \$7 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers targeted specifically to homeless individuals;
- Appropriate \$5 billion to develop new permanent supportive housing to help close this resource gap;
- Allow HUD to apply similar flexibilities that Congress provided in the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, which was enacted through the American Rescue Plan Act, to more swiftly and permanently house people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, **to this end, we urge you to include the following language:** *Provided, That the Secretary may specify additional terms and conditions to ensure that public housing agencies provide vouchers for use by survivors of domestic violence, or individuals and families who are homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)), or at*

- risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1)); and*
- Require HUD to study whether revisions to the Continuum of Care (CoC) grant renewal process can improve grant management and better serve people experiencing homelessness, including allowing grant renewal funding to be based on the bedroom size of units leased by CoC participants, as opposed to the number of certificates requested in the initial grant. **To this end, we urge you to include the following language:** *The Subcommittee encourages the Department HUD to study whether revisions to the Continuum of Care (CoC) grant renewal process can improve grant management and better serve people experiencing homelessness, including allowing grant renewal funding to be based on the bedroom size of units leased by CoC participants, as opposed to the number of certificates requested in the initial grant.*

By providing this additional funding and flexibility, we can deliver a surge of new resources to communities and people who so desperately need it. Indeed, in one of the richest countries in the world, it is simply unconscionable that so many of our neighbors across the country are living without a place to call home. The federal government must recognize the national crisis at hand and support communities in their efforts to aid the growing number of people that are forced into homelessness. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact Alia Fierro with Chairwoman Waters at [Alia.Fierro@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alia.Fierro@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



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Maxine Waters  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Financial Services