

# THE ENDING HOMELESSNESS ACT OF 2016

*- Ranking Member Maxine Waters -*

Homelessness in many parts of America has reached crisis proportions. The results of the 2015 point-in-time (PIT) count reported by HUD showed that progress towards the national goals to end homelessness has virtually stalled in the absence of new funding. The 2015 PIT results also show that homelessness in the country's largest metropolitan areas is increasing, not decreasing. It is clear that we need a surge of new resources in order to continue to make any significant progress towards the national goals to end homelessness.

The Ending Homelessness Act of 2016 (**H.R. 4888**) is designed to do just that. This is a bold piece of legislation that lays out a comprehensive plan to ensure that every homeless person in America has a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home. The bill would appropriate **\$13.27 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years** to several different federal programs and initiatives, which is designed to act as emergency relief funding above and beyond the annual appropriated amounts. All in all, this bill is expected to provide **an estimated 405,000-410,000 units of housing for the homeless**. But this bill goes beyond just housing the homeless, it would implement a holistic strategy that would provide funding for outreach and case management to ensure that homeless people are effectively connected to the services that they need, as well as technical assistance to help states and local jurisdictions better align their healthcare and housing strategies. It would also permanently authorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to ensure that the progress we achieve is sustained for years to come. Further details on how the funding would be targeted are outlined below:

## ***\$5 billion over five years for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants***

- This funding is estimated to provide an additional 85,000 new permanent supportive housing units, which should effectively eliminate chronic homelessness across America.
- A revised funding formula would ensure that funding is distributed more accurately to communities based on need.
- While this funding would prioritize permanent supportive housing, it can also be used to fund all eligible activities under McKinney-Vento, including transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelters.

## ***\$2.5 billion over five years for new Special Purpose Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers***

- This funding is estimated to provide an additional 295,000 – 300,000 housing vouchers, and would give preference to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless on an ongoing basis.
- This also includes increased administrative fees (up to 10 percent) to public housing agencies to ensure that there is sufficient capacity help place homeless households.

## ***\$1.05 billion in mandatory annual appropriations for the National Housing Trust Fund (permanent)***

- In the first 5 years, this funding is estimated to create 25,000 new rental units that are affordable to extremely low income households.
- Tenants living in these units would not pay more than 30 percent of their adjusted gross income.

## ***\$500 million over five years for outreach funding***

- This funding would be provided on a competitive basis to jurisdictions to provide case management and social services for homeless or formerly homeless persons.

## ***\$20 million for HUD's Healthcare and Housing (H2) Systems Integration Initiative (one-year)***

- This funding would expand the H2 initiative, which provides technical assistance to help state and local governments coordinate their healthcare and housing initiatives.