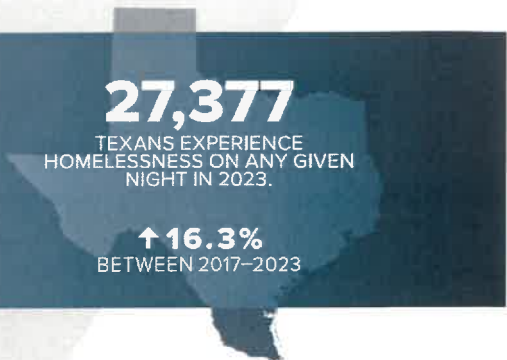


Common Acronyms in Homeless Services

AHAR	Annual Homelessness Assessment Report	NIMBY	"Not In My Backyard"
AMI	Area Median Income	NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	PBRA	Project Based Rental Assistance
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and People of Color	PH	Permanent Housing
CDBG	Community Development Block Grants	PHA	Public Housing Authority
CE	Coordinated Entry	PIH	Office of Public & Indian Housing
CMS	Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services	PIT Count	Point-in-Time Count
CoC	Continuum of Care	PJs	Participating Jurisdictions
CTC	Child Tax Credit	PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
CTI	Critical Time Intervention	RRH	Rapid Re-Housing
CTI-RRH	Critical Time Intervention for Rapid Re-Housing	SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
DV	Domestic Violence	SMI	Serious Mental Illness
e-snaps	Electronic grants application and management system for HUD Homeless Assistance Programs	SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
EHVs	Emergency Housing Vouchers	SNAPs	Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
ELI	Extremely low Income	SOAR	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery
ERA	Emergency Rental Assistance	SRO	Single-Room Occupancy Units
ES	Emergency Shelter	SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant	SSI	Supplemental Security Income
FMR	Fair Market Rent	SSVF	Supportive Services For Veterans Families
FY	Fiscal Year	SUD	Substance Use Disorder
FYI	Foster Youth to Independence vouchers	T-HUD	House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development
GPD	Grant & Per Diem	TA	Technical Assistance
HAG	Homeless Assistance Grants	TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
HCV	Housing Choice Voucher	TBRA	Tenant Based Rental Assistance
HEARTH Act	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, S. 896	TH	Transitional Housing
HHS	US Department of Health & Human Services	TH-RRH	Transitional Housing-Rapid Re-Housing Joint Component
HIC	Housing Inventory Count	USICH	US Interagency Council on Homelessness
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System	VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
HUD-VASH	HUD Vouchers through Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	WIC	Women, Infants, & Children
LIHTC	Low Income Housing Tax Credit	YHDP	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	YIMBY	"Yes In My Backyard"

MORE INVESTMENTS ARE NEEDED TO END HOMELESSNESS IN

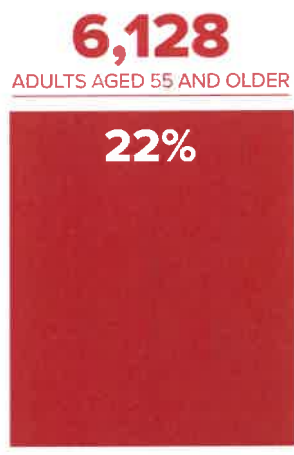
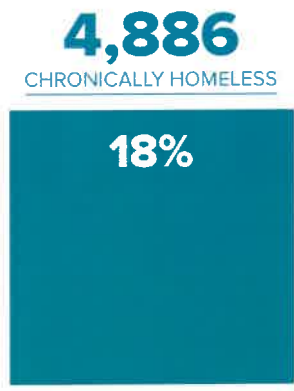
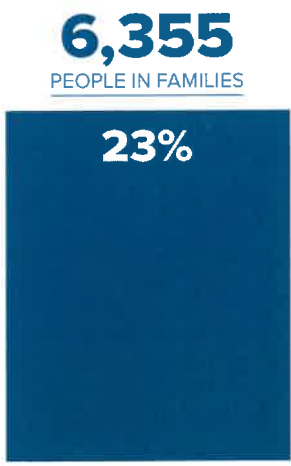
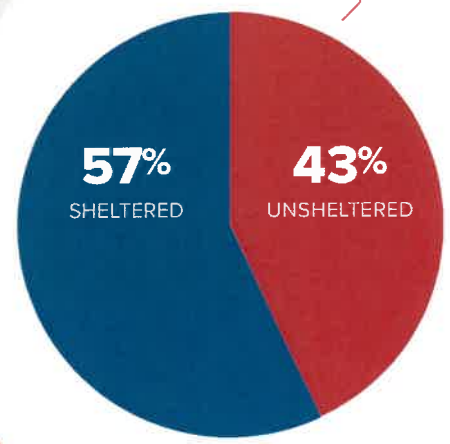
TEXAS



While **19,922** TX residents were permanently housed last year,

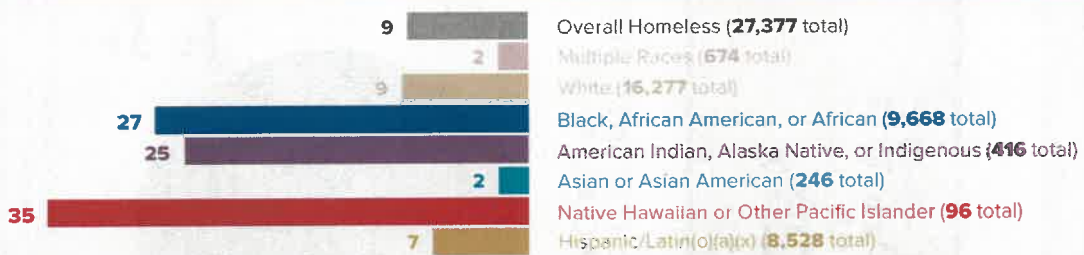


11,686
TEXANS LIVING IN PLACES NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION



CATEGORIES AMONG TX RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.
Categories are not mutually exclusive. Statistics drawn from the 2023 HUD Point in Time Count.

Rates of Homelessness (per 10,000 TX residents)



To prevent and end homelessness, lawmakers must invest in increasing access to **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** and expanding the nationwide network of **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**.



2024 TEXAS HOUSING PROFILE



Across Texas, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

SENATORS: John Cornyn and Ted Cruz

KEY FACTS

906,885
OR
22%

Renter Households with extremely low incomes

-679,301

Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

\$29,070

Average income limit for 4-person extremely low-income households (state level)

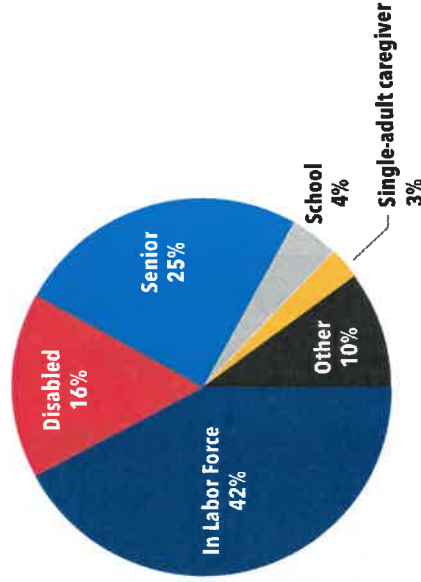
\$52,134

Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

79%

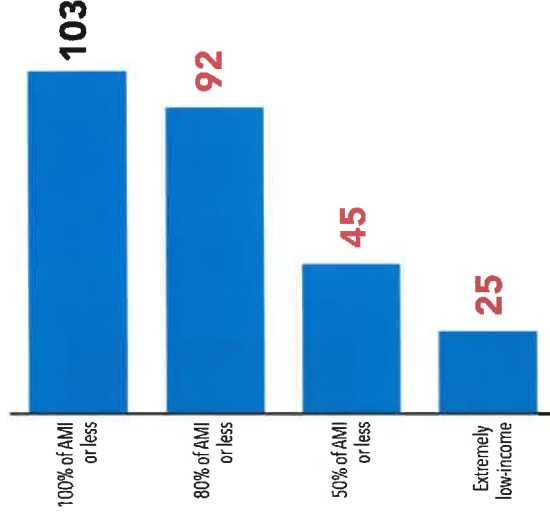
Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



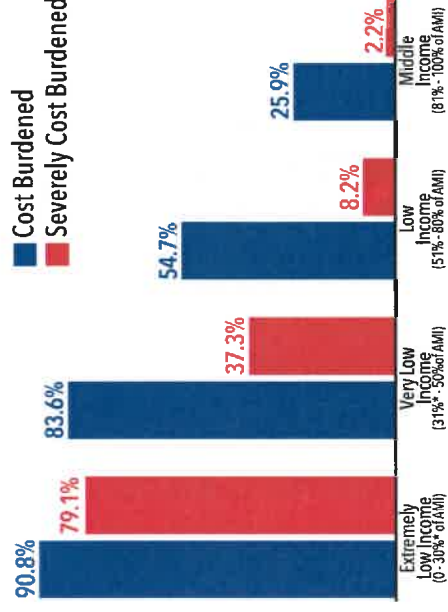
Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or of a household member with a disability, and other. Nationally, 13% of extremely low-income renter households are single adult caregivers, 53% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Source: 2022 ACS PUMS.

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2022 ACS PUMS

HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP



Note: Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2022 ACS PUMS

Homelessness in the United States is a public health crisis which impacts every community across the country.

The most significant drivers of homelessness include:

- disinvestment in affordable housing and failure to upkeep public housing stock,
- wages that have not kept up with rising housing costs,
- inadequate safety net programs (e.g., SNAP), and
- systemic racism and discriminatory practices that result in inequitable access to quality housing, health care, education, and economic opportunity.

Homelessness means lacking a regular nighttime residence, sleeping in an emergency shelter, or living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a vehicle or outdoors.

The word, emergency, can denote urgency and duration. Yet, many people experiencing homelessness are not able to receive an immediate solution to their need: affordable housing. **Emergency shelter is NOT housing** (temporary or permanent). Homelessness can also mean:

- Earning a wage that is insufficient to meet housing costs.
- Aging out of foster care and not having a permanent place to live.
- Fleeing an abuser as you seek a safe place to live.
- Living in a constant state of survival mode.
- Being arrested for sleeping in a public location, despite having nowhere else to go.

HOMELESSNESS AND THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY GAP

Homeowners and renters are feeling financially squeezed as housing costs continue to rise and the availability of affordable housing continues to decrease.

- A significant **rise in property taxes** can lead to long-term homeowners finding themselves disadvantaged, exacerbating social inequalities.
- Twenty-two million renters spend **more than 30 percent** of their income on rent and utilities, according to a report by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies.
- Many landlords are requiring at least two months' rent for security deposits and application **fees have increased**.
- According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, the U.S. has a shortage of more than **7.3 million** rental housing units, affordable and available to extremely low-income households, and no state has an adequate supply of affordable rental housing.
- Approximately **400,000 units** in the USDA Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program's portfolio and the mortgages for 83% of them are on track to mature by 2050, resulting in a significant loss of affordable housing.
- As the housing affordability gap rises, **more Americans are experiencing housing instability and homelessness**.

THE IMPACT

Without sufficient funding for homelessness, housing, and safety net programs, the results are dire.

- The U.S. has seen a **twelve percent increase** in the rate of homelessness. On one night in January 2023, **653,104 people** across the country were experiencing homelessness. **Seventeen percent** were children and **twenty-one percent** were over the age of 55.
- The lack of access to affordable housing **disproportionately impacts** people with disabilities, communities of color, LGBTQIA people, and people with low incomes.
- Unhoused people face a **higher risk of premature death** when compared to housed people due to exposure to harsh weather conditions, violence, and lack of access to healthcare.
- Every time a child moves due to homelessness, **three to six months of their education is lost**.
- Lack of sufficient funding **endangers survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault** as demand for services skyrockets.

CONGRESS, WE NEED YOU!

Ending the affordable housing crisis and homelessness requires Congress to make sufficient investments in safety net, housing, and homelessness programs. It means investing in new ways to accelerate housing production and preserve existing affordable housing units and incentivizing flexible financing structures and zoning policies. Congress must address systemic racial inequities, enforce fair rental practices, and end cycles of poverty in support of upward mobility. Congress must support evidence-based approaches and the homeless workforce. Most importantly, Congress must include the perspectives of people with lived experience of homelessness as they design a path forward.

HOUSING + SERVICES =

A PROVEN SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

DEFINING THE HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

The Housing First approach prioritizes moving people immediately into stable housing while assisting them with access to supports which improve housing stability.

Ultimately, the Housing First approach recognizes two key points:

1. that people can most successfully address underlying challenges when they are safely in housing, and
2. people thrive when their autonomy is respected and are not coerced to participate in services without their consent.

WHY THIS MODEL WORKS

Decades worth of evidence demonstrates that the Housing First approach, when implemented with fidelity:

- increases housing stability for people experiencing homelessness
- **increases** use of outpatient care
- **saves** communities money through, for example, reduced hospital and jail stays
- **reduces** homelessness more than programs which mandate treatment first

The Housing First approach works best when:

- communities build and preserve enough affordable, accessible, and safe housing
- programs are fully funded and can employ and retain enough staff to serve clients
- clients can opt into available, adequate, and tailored services

How the Housing First Approach Has Helped Reduce Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to prevent and end homelessness **center** around the **bi-partisan** evidence-based **Housing First approach**. The **pairing** of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services (HUD-VASH) represents the Housing First approach in action: veterans and their families can obtain permanent housing and access necessary supports. **And this approach works.** Since 2010, veteran homelessness has decreased by over 52%, and 83 communities and three states have effectively ended homelessness amongst veterans.

KEEPING THE FOCUS ON EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Although homeless service providers re-house thousands upon thousands of people annually, the significant inflow of people entering homelessness (on average, roughly 17,000 people weekly) has meant rises in overall homelessness in many communities. Elected officials want to respond to this crisis. And they should respond with proven approaches like Housing First – not alternatives that only exacerbate the problem.

Displacing people out of sight and out of mind, through tickets, sweeps, and arrests, only addresses the mounting public pressure to solve visible homelessness, but it does nothing to address the root of homelessness itself nor end anyone's episode of homelessness. When elected officials focus on displacing people, it results in a rise in camping bans and other punitive policies. Instead of solving homelessness, this approach only:

- **traumatizes** people experiencing homelessness,
- creates additional barriers to accessing housing,
- **displaces** people to other unsheltered locations, and
- wastes taxpayer dollars.

Compare:

\$10,051

annual cost to provide supportive housing for someone experiencing homelessness.

\$31,065

annual cost per person for a city to enforce unconstitutional anti-panhandling laws, maintain hostile architecture, and conduct police raids of homeless encampments.

Source: [Data from Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties](#)

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO TO HELP

The Housing First approach works when the government chooses to invest in it — and it works best when all of these resources are available. **Congress must invest in increasing access to affordable housing and expanding the nationwide network of supportive services.** These investments in housing and services will allow communities to scale the Housing First approach, and fully implement its best practices, stabilizing people re-entering housing, and ultimately, ending homelessness.

LEGISLATION ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS



Updated: June 7, 2024

The Alliance collaborates with public, private, and nonprofit partners to develop, analyze, and advocate for policy solutions to homelessness on a nonpartisan basis at the federal and state levels. The following is a list of many important bills the Alliance supports:

The Ending Homelessness Act of 2023 (HR 4232) would end homelessness and significantly reduce poverty in America by transforming the Housing Choice Voucher program (also known as Section 8) into a federal entitlement. This means every household who qualifies for assistance would receive it. The bill would also ban housing discrimination based on source of income and veteran status.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA-43)

The Housing Crisis Response Act of 2023 (HR 4233) would address our nation's affordable housing crisis, chronic undersupply of housing, and bolster an equitable economy by providing over \$150 billion in critical investments to support public housing, create and preserve affordable and accessible housing, promote equitable community development, and expand homeownership opportunities.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA-43)

The Housing for All Act of 2023 (S 2701, H.R. 5254) would authorize significant investments in several federal programs: the Housing Trust Fund, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities, Home Investments Partnerships Program, Housing Choice Voucher Program, Project Based Rental Assistance, the Emergency Solutions Grants program, and the Continuum of Care program. This bill would also authorize safe parking programs and eviction prevention programs, and help local homeless organizations invest in administrative capacity necessary to bill Medicaid for services.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)

The Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All (DASH) Act (S 680, HR 6970) would require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to (1) provide housing vouchers to households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, (2) provide grants for the modular construction of affordable housing, (3) propose a new formula for distribution of Housing Trust Fund amounts, and (4) encourage zoning and community planning methods that promote multi-family housing. The bill also makes certain homeless assistance programs permanent.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Val Hoyle (D-OR-4)

The Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) Act (S 1688, HR 3507) would require certain Community Development Block Grant program recipients to submit information to the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding their implementation of certain land-use policies, such as policies for expanding high-density single-family and multifamily zoning.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Todd Young (R-IN), Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6)

The Rural Housing Reform Act (S 2790, HR 6785) aims to improve the housing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS) through several reforms, including decoupling rental assistance from maturing mortgages, permanently establishing the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration, making permanent the Native CDFI Relending pilot program, and improving staff training and capacity within RHS.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-3)

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) would increase the reimbursement rate from 115% to 133% for non-profit organizations which provide veterans with short-term transitional housing, with a potential increase of up to 200% under certain circumstances; and restore the Department of Veterans Affairs' authority to provide COVID era services (transportation and telephony) and supplies (food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items) to veterans experiencing homelessness.

↳ **Sponsor:** Representative Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-6)

The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S 2767, HR 5408) would raise the resource limits used to determine eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and the limits would adjust annually for inflation. Raising the resource limit aims to ensure older adults and disabled individuals with low incomes are able to prepare for financial emergencies without putting their SSI benefits at risk, and jeopardizing their ability to meet their basic needs, like housing. An individual's resource limit would increase from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and a couple's resource limit would increase from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

↳ **Sponsors:** Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Representative Danny Davis (D-IL-7)

The Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act (S 4120, HR 7994) Homelessness itself can exacerbate chronic medical conditions. An individual can become chronically homeless when a health condition becomes disabling and stable housing is too difficult to maintain without help. These bipartisan bills would ensure the nation has a strong, qualified pipeline of workers to provide desperately needed care for older adults and people living with disabilities by improving compensation and providing a safe work environment, identifying effective recruitment and retention strategies, and providing a career pathway for people of color and those living with disabilities.

↳ **Sponsors:** Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6)

The Housing Access Act (S 2932, HR 7647) would direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury Departments to jointly provide guidance to state Medicaid agencies and housing providers on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries to housing-related services. This bill would align Medicaid housing-related services with existing federal housing resources to streamline coordination of programs and resources for Medicaid beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.

↳ **Sponsors:** Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representative Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA-44)

The Unhoused Persons Bill of Rights (H. Res. 634) would express that the United States is obligated to permanently end the unhoused crisis by 2027. This bill would uphold, protect, and enforce the civil and human rights of unhoused individuals, including the human rights to: housing, universal health care, livable wages, education, employment opportunities, access to public facilities, free movement in public spaces, privacy, confidentiality, internet access, vote, freedom from harassment by law enforcement, private businesses, property owners, and housed residents, and equal rights to health care, legal representation, and social services without discrimination based on housing status.

↳ **Sponsor:** Representative Cori Bush (D-MO-1)

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (S 1257, HR 3776) would create 250,000 new housing mobility vouchers to allow families to move to areas with greater opportunity.

↳ **Sponsors:** Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) & Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO-2) & Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)

Fair Housing Improvement Act (S 1267, HR 2846) would prohibit landlords from denying housing to individuals who use Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as Section 8) and HUD-VASH vouchers to pay for rent.

↳ **Sponsors:** Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representative Scott Peters (D-CA-50)

FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

HUD'S TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE:
A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

Updated: June 7, 2024

	Alliance Recommendation	Administration	House	Senate	Actual
FY 2025	\$34.5 billion	\$32.76 billion	TBD	TBD	TBD

SUMMARY

The inability to afford housing is the key driver of homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s rental assistance line items included in the Appropriation Committee's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) account are the federal government's **most important programs**. These initiatives help individuals with low incomes afford decent, safe, and accessible housing in the private market. These programs include Housing Choice Vouchers, HUD-VASH, and other tenant-based vouchers.

Rental assistance provided by TBRA programs is critical to reducing homelessness by improving outcomes for children and families and lifting people out of poverty. However, **many renters are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness are unable to obtain Housing Choice Vouchers because of limited funds.**

BACKGROUND

The Alliance is calling for a robust **increase of more than \$2.1 billion** from FY24's amount, to total \$34.5 billion in the FY25 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Account. Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies reports troubling statistics to support this need:

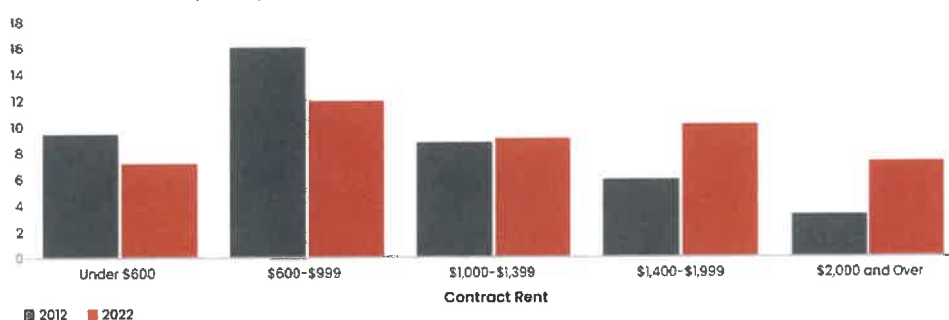
- 12.1 million households spend **more than one-half** of their income on rent.
- 42 million households spend **30 percent** of their income on housing.

Rents continue to skyrocket, with the shortage of affordable housing exasperating the problem. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance programs, designed to alleviate this situation, have **not been able to keep pace** at their current funding levels.

It is clear that the supply of affordable housing is declining, and that **more federal assistance is desperately needed** to respond to the nation's housing crisis.

The Stock of Low-Rent Units Is Shrinking

Number of Rental Units (Millions)

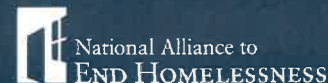


Notes: Rents are adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U Less Shelter. Units that are occupied but do not receive payment are excluded. Contract rents exclude utility costs.
Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

RECOMMENDATION

Support the Alliance's request of \$34.5 billion in funding for TBRA. Rental assistance is a critical tool for helping the lowest-income people afford decent, stable, accessible housing. Vouchers provided through the TBRA account have a proven track record of reducing homelessness and housing poverty. Due to rising rental costs, the program requires additional funding each year just to maintain the number of households served.

FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS



Updated: June 7, 2024

HUD'S HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS: ENSURING FUNDING MEETS THE NEEDS OF AMERICA'S CURRENT HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

	Alliance Recommendation	Administration	House THUD	Senate THUD	Actual
FY 2025	\$4.75 billion	\$4.06 billion	TBD	TBD	TBD

SUMMARY

The principal source of targeted federal funding to fight homelessness is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s **Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG)** account, which funds the **Continuum of Care (CoC)** program and the **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** program. This account, currently funded at \$4.05 billion, supports a nationwide network of state, local, charitable, and faith-based homeless assistance providers — including those who serve youth and survivors of domestic violence — who make sure that people who become homeless will be identified, kept safe, and quickly returned to housing.

The Alliance has urged the Administration and Congressional lawmakers to provide the HAG program with a **\$700 million** increase to \$4.75 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to:

- cover the increased cost of program renewals;
- allow for cost-of-living adjustments for frontline staff; and
- bolster the crisis response system to better address the rise in unsheltered homelessness.

BACKGROUND

HUD awards HAG funds to communities that administer evidence-based programs that provide housing and services at the local level. Specifically, the formula ESG program and the competitive CoC program fund the foundations of homelessness response systems in communities across the nation including urban, suburban, small towns, and rural areas.

RECOMMENDATION

The Alliance urges lawmakers to encourage their colleagues on the the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, particularly the T-HUD Subcommittees, to provide \$4.75 billion for HAG because:

1. Homelessness for the most vulnerable Americans—including older adults and those experiencing chronic homelessness—is getting worse as more people become homeless each year. Increased HAG funding could ensure **many more vulnerable households receive the housing assistance and supportive services** they need to obtain and maintain housing. Just as important as rental assistance is the workforce that provides the services which is threatened by low pay and high caseloads. This increase would also provide the ESG program with significant new resources to address **unsheltered homelessness and the prevention of homelessness**.
2. **Homelessness is increasing at higher rates as the affordable housing crisis worsens.** According to the 2024 GAP report (published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition), the United States has a shortage of 7.3 million rental housing units. HUD's HAG funding serves as the first line of defense to address the immediate crisis of homelessness.

