



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROGRAM AND BUDGET INITIATIVES  
**PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

**In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting \$2.23 billion to fund targeted initiatives and work collaboratively across Federal agencies in the effort to end homelessness.**

On a single night in January 2011, there were over 630,000 sheltered and unsheltered homeless people nationwide. Approximately 1.6 million people experience homelessness between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. HUD continues to focus on the needs of this population as well as the emerging needs of families and veterans through both its targeted homeless programs and its mainstream housing programs using successful methods and interventions. As part of this commitment, HUD has worked to develop a series of policy initiatives to maximize resources and provide the most effective services possible to men, women and children experiencing homelessness.

**OPENING DOORS: FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS**

President Obama has stated that no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home. As part of this commitment, under the leadership of Secretary Donovan, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* (FSP) in 2009, with overarching goals including ending chronic homelessness in five years and setting a path to eradicate all types of homelessness. Throughout this process, HUD has forged new partnerships with Federal agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL), in order to focus on cross-cutting initiatives to capitalize on resources and experience. HUD also intends to utilize best practices developed through current programs like the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH).



To date, homelessness has ended or been prevented for more than one million people through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program, which is awarded to states, cities and counties across the country to keep families and veterans in their homes or help them find other affordable housing after a sudden financial crisis. Moreover, HUD is working to provide housing and supportive service for over 30,000 veterans who would otherwise be homeless were it not for the HUD-VASH Program, in addition to an estimated 10,000 veterans who will be supported by HUD's FY2013 budget request.

As part of the FSP, HUD will tailor existing programs to meet the specific goals set out by this administration, as well as use innovative strategies to tackle unique challenges in eradicating homelessness nationwide. In addition to the decrease in the total number of chronically homeless persons and homeless families and veterans, HUD expects that the implementation of the FSP will result in greater use of mainstream resources and benefits by these populations as a result of high-level coordination between Federal agencies.

**HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

HUD's homeless assistance programs provide Federal support to one of the nation's most vulnerable populations while working to reduce overall homelessness and end chronic homelessness. **In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting a total of \$2.23 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG).**

HUD is requesting that **\$1.94 billion** in HAG funds be distributed through a unique competitive process known as the Continuum of Care (CoC), in which Federal funding is driven by local decision-making processes. This provides locally-driven coordination of housing and service delivery that enables communities to plan for and provide a comprehensive response to homeless individuals and facilities. This planning model is based on the understanding



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that homelessness is not merely a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of unmet needs—physical, economic, and social. It therefore includes coordination with non-profit organizations, State and local government agencies, service providers, private foundations, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and local businesses. In addition, **in Fiscal Year 2013 HUD is requesting that \$286 million in HAG funds be used for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula.** As a key component of the FSP, ESG funds are used for a variety of purposes related to emergency shelter operations, transitional housing, and essential services, as well as Rapid Re-Housing interventions and homelessness prevention. These funds are distributed to approximately 360 State and local government entities annually.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Currently, an estimated one out of every six men and women in our nation’s homeless shelters are veterans, and veterans are 50 percent more likely to fall into homelessness compared to other Americans. HUD is committed to providing affordable housing units to this unique homeless population, and has partnered with the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop targeted approaches to serve the homeless veteran populations. The HUD-VASH program combines tenant-based voucher assistance with case management and clinical services tailored to veterans and their families. Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) awarded HUD-VASH vouchers develop critical partnerships with VA medical centers to help homeless veterans find permanent supportive housing.



**In Fiscal Year 2013 HUD is requesting \$75 million in Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers,** which will support an estimated 10,000 additional veterans nationwide. To date, approximately 38,000 HUD-VASH vouchers have been provided to over 300 public housing agencies nationwide, and another 10,000 vouchers will be awarded in fiscal year 2012. As part of an overarching FSP goal of ending veteran’s homelessness in five years, HUD is working with VA to develop innovative strategies, including the recent streamlining of methodology for counting homeless vets that receive assistance from both the VA and HUD’s Continuum of Care homeless service providers. Now with a more accurate number, both agencies are able to properly allocate funding to various programs that serve homeless vets in order to end homelessness by 2015.