



# Funders Together

## TO END HOMELESSNESS



### Policy Alert

*Because of the evolving nature of public policy, Funders Together to End Homelessness will now provide bi-weekly updates to keep you abreast of current policy developments. These updates will also provide details on actions for philanthropy and how we can influence long-term change.*

#### What's Happening: 2022 Federal Budget Reconciliation Update

On Thursday, the House Financial Services Committee released their allocations for the FY22 [budget reconciliation bill](#), which includes an unprecedented \$330B+ investment in affordable housing. The full committee is expected to pass the bill with a vote on Monday where it will then go to a House floor vote by the end of the month before heading to the Senate. The [draft bill includes the following investments](#) of particular interest to our efforts to prevent and end housing instability:

- **Rental Assistance:** In addition to the \$75B allocated for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, an additional \$15B was allocated for Project-Based Rental Assistance. \$25B of the Housing Choice Voucher Program dollars is set aside for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and victims of human trafficking
- **Public Housing Preservation:** The bill includes \$80B for capital and repair investments in public housing.
- **Housing Trust Fund/HOME:** \$37B is allocated for the national Housing Trust Fund, set aside within the HOME program allocation, in addition to \$35B for the HOME program (\$25B will be allocated based on 2021 formula).

Funders Together is continuing our advocacy by stressing the necessity of [robust housing and homelessness services investments](#). In partnership with the National Coalition for Housing Justice, we are urging advocates to contact their Senators to support these investments and ensure these levels of allocations make it into the final bill. As the bill goes to the Senate, it is imperative that the funds we've advocated for and secured remain in the budget at these levels.

The following program allocations are also included and can be leveraged to advance housing justice and invest in historically marginalized communities and support people experiencing homelessness:

- \$8.5B in Community Development Block Grants
- \$10B for Down Payment Assistance for First-Generation Homebuyers
- \$2B for Tribal Housing
- \$7.5B in Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund
- \$5B for USDA Multifamily Housing Preservation and Development
- \$1.25B for Fair Housing Activities
- \$2.5B in the Section 202 Program (Housing for the Elderly)
- \$1B in Section 811 Program (Housing for Persons with Disabilities)

View the [bill text here](#) and an [analysis of the bill here](#).

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## How Philanthropy Can Take Action

**If you are a public foundation or United Way and can engage in direct lobbying,** call your Senators to voice your support for the investments at these levels and, if you haven't already, [sign on to and share the HoUSed Sign-On Letter](#) urging Congress to enact bold, long-term solutions that will ensure housing that is universal, stable, and affordable.

**If you are a private foundation or unable to partake in direct lobbying activities,** contact your federal policymakers to educate and inform them about what you are seeing in your community and hearing from grantee partners around affordable housing and housing instability.

Remember: Public and private foundations may educate legislators about a broad range of issues without referencing or providing views on specific legislation. Public and private foundations can also encourage grantee partners to contact their Representatives and Senators on behalf of their community.

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## Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Stopping Efforts to Criminalize Homelessness

With our partners through the [National Coalition for Housing Justice](#), we will be releasing a statement in the coming weeks calling on leaders at all levels to stop all punitive responses to homelessness and instead introduce racial justice-oriented solutions. As unsheltered homelessness has increased, leading up to and throughout the pandemic, states and cities are employing harmful tactics to appease housed residents and commercial interests without addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness. For example, [Texas's statewide ban on camping](#) went into effect last week, targeting people experiencing homelessness with a fine of up to \$500 and a Class C misdemeanor charge for noncompliance.

We know that criminalizing people experiencing homelessness perpetuates racial inequities and disparities in our communities. Housing justice is the key to preventing and ending homelessness, especially among communities that have been intentionally marginalized. We encourage you to bring your partners into conversation about the state of over-policing people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and how people experiencing homelessness can and should be positioned as leaders and decision-makers in addressing this crisis. Stay tuned for more on this issue from Funders Together and the National Coalition for Housing Justice.

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## Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together:**
  - [Opportunities to Invest in Housing Justice by Leveraging Federal Resources](#)
  - [Federal Resources, Local Impact: Q&A with National Policy Experts](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
  - [Congress Has Rare Opportunity to Address Housing Affordability and Homelessness Crisis](#)
  - [Housing Vouchers Strengthen Other Recovery Agenda Investments](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:**
  - [Congressional Action on Affordable Housing](#)
- **National Homeless Law Center**
  - [Housing Not Handcuffs 2019: Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
  - [NLIHC Analysis of House Financial Services Infrastructure/Economic Recovery Bill](#)
  - [HoUSed Campaign](#)
  - [End Rental Arrears to Stop Evictions](#)
  - [State and Local Rental Assistance](#)

*Please note: Access to Funders Together webinar and call recordings are only available to Full Members of Funders Together. If you are interested in joining to view these recordings as well as gain access to other Full Member benefits, contact Stephanie Chan, [stephanie@funderstogether.org](mailto:stephanie@funderstogether.org) or visit our [Join Us page](#).*

As always, we are here to answer your questions or provide insights on public policy developments and opportunities. Please reach out to me or [Amanda](#) at any time.

Lauren Bennett

Director of Communications and Policy

[Funders Together to End Homelessness](#)

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