



# Funders Together

## TO END HOMELESSNESS



### Policy Alert

#### What's Happening: FY22 Omnibus Package Passes Both Senate and House

The [FY22 appropriations bill](#), finalized by Congress this week, includes slight increases for federal affordable housing and homeless service programs with an overall total of \$53.7 billion, or \$4 billion above FY21 levels for HUD programs. However, even with this increase, it is still under the President's budget request and both House and Senate proposals.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition reported that advocates estimate the increase in project-based rental assistance may be sufficient to renew all contracts, which is likely the case for other programs as well. One significant increase came in the form of 25,000 new rental assistance vouchers. However, the Coalition noted that "Congress missed a critical opportunity to serve households who are even more precariously housed because of the pandemic" by not including the House Appropriators' proposed expansion of HCV to an additional 125,000 households.

The bill includes the following funding for housing and homeless service programs:

- Choice Neighborhood program: \$350M
- Community Development Block Grants: \$4.84B
- Continuum of Care program: \$2.8B
- Emergency Solutions Grants program: \$290M
- Eviction prevention legal aid assistance: \$20M
- Fair Housing programs: \$85M
- Family Unification Program: \$30M
- HOME Investment Partnership programs: \$1.5B
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS: \$450M
- Native American Housing Block Grant program: \$772M
- Project-Based Rental Assistance: \$13.94B
- Section 202 Housing for the Elderly: \$1.03B
- Section 811 Housing: \$459M
- Tribal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing: \$5M
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: \$3.8M
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing: \$50M
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration program: \$107M

The appropriations bill also [reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#), amending the definition of homelessness as it pertains to domestic violence and improving protections in federally-assisted housing for survivors. The VAWA reauthorization expands the definition of homelessness to include those experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against an individual or a family member in their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized.

Funding was also been designated for HUD to conduct a study to assess the availability and accessibility of housing and services for individuals experiencing homelessness who are survivors of trafficking.

## How Philanthropy Can Take Action

As state and local partners begin planning for federal FY22 funding priorities, it's important to remember that grantees and nonprofits are still navigating the compounding effects of a pandemic that has stretched their personal and professional capacities for two full years.

Philanthropy is well-positioned to support communities in strategizing and convening around funding priorities, but it's also important to remember that the role of convener requires thoughtful compassion. As funding opportunities draw energy and attention, we can also be creating opportunities and space for decompressing, healing, and resting for our grantee and community partners, specifically those who are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

Conversations around funding and program priorities should already be centered on what the community is going to need moving forward, but there should also be space for what the community needs right now. How can you and your teams think more creatively about how to hold space for healing and resting? Our strategizing and partnership-building will be all the stronger for it.

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## Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Recommit.

Federal investments continue to fall short in the face of our nation's housing crisis while more and more of our neighbors are forced into housing instability. This is unacceptable and avoidable. We must [continue to demand the historic investments we need to achieve housing justice](#).

And while Funders Together, our members, and our partners, were hopeful that the Build Back Better Act would provide that historic level of support for our most marginalized and vulnerable communities, we must remember victories like the ones we seek often come piecemeal on the way to a landmark win. Some day – hopefully in the not-too-distant future – we may look back on our advocacy toward Build Back Better as a small but incremental milestone on our path to victory as it put housing on the national agenda.

In the meantime, this is an important moment to reflect on the [role of philanthropy in partnerships](#) with government and recommit to building and fostering relationships with the public sector. While our government partners grapple with the time-limited impact of one administration, philanthropy is well-suited to take the long view. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to hold steady in the struggle for racial justice and in our work to advance racial equity. The advocacy efforts around the Build Back Better Act can represent a milestone in our collective path if we commit to learning, growing, and improving on our small steps forward in the work of housing justice.

Funders Together is calling on our members to reflect on how you are holding accountability to the long fight for justice. In government relationships, grantmaking, messaging and communications: how are you aligned and misaligned with your principles around racial justice? What will it take to come into alignment and to bolster your efforts for the long-term?

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## Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together to End Homelessness:**
  - [Advancing Housing Justice through Policy Engagement](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
  - [Inflation Report Underscores Urgency to Extend Child Tax Credit Expansion](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
  - [Advocates and Key Members of Congress Secure Increased Funding for Housing in Final FY22 Spending Bill](#)
  - [FY22 Budget Chart for Selected HUD and USDA Programs](#)

- **Politico:**

- [Senate give final OK to \\$1.5T government funding bill](#)

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

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[Funders Together to End Homelessness](#)

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