



# Funders Together

## TO END HOMELESSNESS



### Policy Alert

#### What's Happening: President's FY23 Budget Request Analysis

Earlier this week, the White House [released the President's Budget Request](#) for fiscal year 2023. The budget request, which will serve as a starting point for Congressional negotiations in late fall and early winter, includes an increase of \$6.2 billion in funding for HUD and an 11% increase in Homeless Assistance Grants over FY22. The budget also includes a new program to invest an additional \$35 billion in affordable housing and a \$15 billion increase in Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

The request proposes funding for a significant increase of 200,000 Housing Choice Vouchers as well as renewing all existing housing vouchers. If enacted, it would be the most significant expansion of housing vouchers in the program's history.

While the budget would provide substantial federal investments in affordable housing and increase the availability of housing assistance to families with the greatest needs, it does include cuts to the Choice Neighborhood, Native Hawaiian housing, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, and Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs. For full details, see the National Low Income Housing Coalition's [updated budget chart](#).

#### How Philanthropy Can Take Action

Congress is starting its budget process and members will make requests to the respective committees around specific budget asks. **Now is the time for advocates to push their Representatives and Senators to include the highest funding levels possible for housing and homelessness programs in the FY23 spending bill.**

The House deadline for requests to the committees is April 29 and the Senate deadline is May 13. After these deadlines, there is little to no ability to change allocations requests within the budget proposals.

**If you are a public foundation or United Way and can engage in direct lobbying**, call on members of Congress to weigh in directly with committee members and leadership [to support these investments in housing](#) and [sign your organization](#) on to this letter with the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, supporting the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing, homelessness, and community development resources in FY23.

**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. You can also encourage your trustees to advocate for these levels of federal investments in housing and homelessness services. Here's an [overview of priorities necessary to advancing housing justice](#).

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 provide

capacity for grantee partners to contact their Representatives and Senators on behalf of their community.

If you need assistance or talking points, please contact us or review the [HoUsed campaign toolkit](#) with talking points.

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## What's Happening: Federal Action to Protect Transgender People

On March 31st, to commemorate the International Transgender Day of Visibility, the White House [announced a docket of reforms and policies](#) to advance equality, visibility, and protection for transgender people. No new housing-focused policies were announced, though we know that we need immediate action at every level of government to address discrimination and violence against transgender people, as well as the disproportionate [impact of homelessness and housing instability](#) on Black, Brown and Indigenous transgender people.

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## Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Understanding Budgets as Moral Documents

While the Administration has made some progress in integrating racial equity as a policy framework, its actions repeatedly fall short of meeting the moment to truly advance racial equity. The country's continued investments in the militarization of law enforcement, in an inhumane and unjust legal system, and in [unnecessary military expansion](#) are doubly harmful when the country is failing to ensure the basic needs of its residents are met. These systems each have a disproportionate and harmful impact on communities of color, yet funding and support for them keeps growing, even in the face of devastating injustice. In addition, the budget increase for military and law enforcement spending creates a scarcity mindset for the remaining federal resources -- impacting not just housing and homelessness programs, but also intersectional domestic programs including those in education, health, food security, and more.

Any government's budget is a moral document, reflecting who and what a government values and prioritizes. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has dramatically increased in the last two years while sustainable funding for community-based care, services, and supports pales in comparison to the need. Political will has allowed for small increases, incremental change that barely scratch the surface of what's necessary to transform our society to one that is just.

As philanthropy, we must ask how we are meeting this moment: How are we creating the conditions for transformation or building political will? How are we listening to Black, Brown, and Indigenous members of our communities as they point the way forward? We cannot be partners in accountability without ourselves first making the changes necessary to realize a more just society.

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## Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:** [Anna Bailey Twitter thread on the President's Budget](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:** [What the President's Proposed FY23 Budget Means for Homelessness](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:** [Analysis of President Biden's FY 2023 Budget Request](#)
- **The White House:**
  - [President's Budget](#)
  - [Biden-Harris Administration Advances Equality and Visibility for Transgender Americans](#)

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.

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