



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

What's Happening: Two Opportunities for Federal Housing Justice Resources

Last month, the White House [released the President's Budget Request](#) for fiscal year 2023 which proposed a \$6.2 billion increase over current spending levels for the HUD budget. This includes an 11% increase for homeless assistance grants and the expansion of rental vouchers to 200,000 more households. House and Senate committees will now begin working through their own FY23 budgets resolutions.

In addition, negotiations around Build Back Better have been revived and present another opportunity for significant investments in affordable housing through rental assistance, public housing, and the Housing Trust Fund.

Between these two funding opportunities, we are in a moment for substantial federal housing and homelessness services resources to address some of the greatest needs. National advocacy partners are [urging advocates to be persistent and bold](#) in pushing for robust resources for housing and homelessness programs.

For FY23 budget, advocates are asking for Congress to use the annual appropriations process to provide the highest possible funding for affordable housing, including:

- \$32.2 billion for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program to renew all existing contracts and expand housing vouchers to an additional 200,000 households;
- \$5.125 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund to preserve public housing, and \$5.06 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund;
- \$3.6 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness;
- \$100 million for legal assistance to prevent evictions; and
- \$300 million for the competitive tribal housing program, targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

For Build Back Better housing resources, advocates are pushing for:

- \$25 billion to expand housing vouchers to more than 300,000 households;
- \$65 billion to preserve public housing for its 2 million residents; and
- \$15 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund to build, preserve, and operate more than 150,000 units of affordable, accessible homes for households with the lowest incomes.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

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 bills as well as in Build Back Better.

The House deadline for requests to the committees is tomorrow 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.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Stepping Up as Accountability Partners

Earlier this month, the White House hosted a virtual convening on racial equity where more than 90 federal agencies released their [Equity Action Plans](#). These equity plans were developed to be a mechanism to jumpstart equity efforts within each agency by focusing on three program areas.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [highlighted the agency's commitment](#) to include eliminating the racial gap in homeownership, addressing the disproportionate rates of homelessness among underserved communities, and reducing bias in home appraisals through the interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity.

The question for many stakeholders and partners is: What now?

For philanthropy, these equity plans present another opportunity to act as accountability partners in the work to advance housing and racial justice. By leveraging relationships within the administration, philanthropy can engage in discussion with HUD and intersecting agencies to ask for updates on the implementation process, how and when the work will expand to other program areas, and the mechanisms that are in place to ensure this work can live on past this administration.

Funders Together is developing additional resources to help philanthropy understand the opportunities for engagement around these equity action plans and how we can ensure they advance housing justice.

Tell us: what are your thoughts and questions around the opportunities and barriers when it comes to the administration's equity action plans?

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:** [States Should Use Flexible Federal Pandemic Aid to Boost Access to Affordable Housing and Reduce Homelessness](#)
- **Department of Housing and Urban Development:** [Equity Action Plan Summary](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:** [What the President's Proposed FY23 Budget Means for Homelessness](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:** [Targeted Housing Investments Are Vital to Addressing Inflation](#)
- **State of Black America:** [Our Nation's Housing Crisis Is a Threat to Our Democracy](#)

- **The White House:** [Advancing Equity and Racial Justice Through the Federal Government](#)
- **US Interagency Council on Homelessness:** [Equity Action Plan Summary](#)

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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