



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

What's Happening: Biden-Harris Administration Releases FY2024 Proposed Budget

Last week, the White House [released the President's Budget Request for fiscal year 2024](#). The budget request outlines ideas and proposals for addressing some of the Administration's campaign commitments, but will likely be disregarded by the House of Representatives when Congress begins negotiations in the coming weeks. Our partners at the National Low Income Housing Coalition [provided this analysis](#): "While an important marker of the level of investments needed to address the nation's housing crisis, the mandatory spending proposal will not gain the bipartisan support needed for enactment in the current Congress. If enacted, the budget request would provide substantial federal investments in affordable homes and increase the availability of housing assistance to families with the greatest needs."

The proposal provides an increase of \$1.1 billion in HUD funding for a total of \$73.3 billion including a 3% increase in Homeless Assistance Grants over FY23 to total \$3.7B, in addition to \$3 billion in new resources for eviction prevention. The proposed budget includes \$32.7 billion to renew all existing housing vouchers and to expand assistance to an additional 50,000 households through increased funding and another 130,000 households through program reserves. It also expands access to rental assistance by providing \$9 billion to ensure universal coverage to all youth aging out of foster care and \$13 billion to serve extremely low-income veterans. The White House referred to the proposed new resources for homeless veterans and youth as a "historic down payment on the president's goal of providing universal housing vouchers for low-income households."

The proposal included cuts to: HUD-VASH and Tribal VASH programs, Family Unification Program, Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, Community Development Fund, and the Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement Competitive Grants, and smaller cuts to the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity, Housing for the Elderly (section 202), and Housing for Persons with Disabilities (section 811) programs.

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

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 leadership to include robust investments towards housing justice and pass the FY24 budget with increased resources for affordable housing and homeless services. Advocates can also sign-on to the [Campaign for Housing](#)

[and Community Development Funding \(CHCDF\) annual budget letter](#) urging Congress to provide the highest-level possible of investments in affordable housing, homeless services, and community development programs.

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 increased federal investments in housing and homelessness services.

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.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Supporting (and Strengthening) AFFH Through Public Comments and Beyond

This week, Funders Together and Funders for Housing and Opportunity (FHO) released [A Guide for Philanthropy: Supporting Efforts to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\) and Advance Housing Justice](#) to encourage and support funders in weighing in on the Biden Administration's proposed [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Proposed Rule](#). The deadline for public comments is Monday, April 10.

Per recommendations from our national advocacy partners, we encourage you to use the talking points included in the guide as a reference and resource to help refine your comments to be as unique to your organization, communities, or state as possible. If you have questions about the talking points, or would like help in crafting unique messaging to include with your public comment, feel free to reach out to [Amanda Andere](#) or [Lauren Bennett](#).

As we think beyond public comments, our [partners at PolicyLink](#) frame the proposed AFFH rule as an opportunity to advance just housing futures. It can help build an opportunity where communities most affected by disinvestment shape our housing futures, protect and prioritize renters and homeowners at risk of displacement, ensure freedom from housing discrimination, expand opportunities and housing options for those in disinvested neighborhoods, and build a future where all neighborhoods allow communities to thrive.

Philanthropy has a critical role to play in supporting and leading our communities toward housing justice. As conveners and influencers in our communities, we have a responsibility to ensure that communities most impacted by housing instability and homelessness are represented at decision-making tables. While the AFFH rule will be just one of the tools we need to build the housing justice future we want, it is an important opportunity to step further into values and into our role as accountability partners both locally and nationally, demanding equitable and fair housing and contributing to progress toward them daily.

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together:**
 - [AFFH Proposed Rule Action Resources for Philanthropy](#)
 - Funder Call Recording: [AFFH Proposed Rule and Immediate Actions for Philanthropy](#)
 - [AFFH Public Comment Talking Points for Philanthropy](#)
- **Alliance for Housing Justice:**
 - [Understanding AFFH](#)
 - [AFFH Sign-On](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
 - [President Biden's 2024 Budget Moves Us Toward Nation Where Everyone Can Thrive](#)
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition:**
 - [Analysis of President Biden's FY 2024 Budget Request](#)
- **PolicyLink:**
 - [AFFH Public Comment Guide](#)
 - [Our Housing Futures AFFH Proposed Rule webinar recording](#)
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:**
 - [AFFH Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)

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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