



# U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022

**Report to the President**

January 2023

## Background

The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to “coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness.” The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11313. Section 203[c]) directs USICH to create a report of programs to assist people experiencing homelessness that addresses the following:

- (1) Within 90 days after July 22, 1987, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency that is a member of the Council shall prepare and transmit to the Congress and the Council a report that describes
  - (a) each program to assist homeless individuals administered by each agency and the number of homeless individuals served by each program;
  - (b) impediments, including any statutory and regulatory restrictions, to the use by homeless individuals of each such program and to obtaining services or benefits under each such program; and
  - (c) efforts made by such agency to increase the opportunities for homeless individuals to obtain shelter, food, and supportive services.
  
- (2) The Council shall prepare and transmit to the President and the Congress\* an annual report that –
  - a) assess the nature and extent of the problems in relation to homelessness and the needs of homeless individuals;
  - b) provides a comprehensive and detailed description of the activities and accomplishments of the Federal Government in resolving the problems and meeting the needs of assessed pursuant to subparagraph
  - c) describes the accomplishment and activities of the Council, in working with Federal, State, and local agencies and public and private organizations in order to provide assistance to homeless individuals;
  - d) assesses the level of Federal assistance necessary to adequately resolve the problems and meet the needs assessed pursuant to subparagraph (a); and
  - e) specifies any recommendations of the Council for appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative actions to resolve such problems and meet such needs. †

USICH completed Section 1 with submission of the *Report on Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness* in October 2022. The following summary addresses Part 2 of the requirement and is designed to serve as a supplement to the *Report on Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness*.

## State of Homelessness

### Nature and Extent of Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) latest data from the [2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report<sup>1</sup>](#) (AHAR) published in December 2022 reveals ongoing challenges and promising successes in ending homelessness for all Americans. According to the 2022 AHAR:

- On a single night in 2022, roughly 582,500 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States. Six in ten (60%) were staying in sheltered locations—emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing programs—and four in ten (40%) were in unsheltered locations such as on the street, in abandoned buildings, or

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\* The transmittal of this report to Congress was terminated, effective May 15, 2000, by section 3003 of Pub. L. 104–66, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and the 5th item on page 175 of House Document No. 103–7.

in other places not suitable for human habitation.

- Between 2020 and 2022, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness increased by less than one percent (1,996 people).
- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness declined by 11 percent (4,123 fewer people) between 2020 and 2022.
- While homelessness impacts people of all ages, races, ethnicities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, it disproportionately impacts some groups and populations. For example, people who identify as Black made up just 12 percent of the total U.S. population but comprised 37 percent of all people experiencing homelessness and 50 percent of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children.

The last most comprehensive [HUD data from 2020](#)<sup>2</sup> indicate:

- On a single night in 2020, roughly 580,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the U.S.
- For the first time since data collection began, more individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered than sheltered.
- 1,253,000 unique people occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens at some point in the year.
- Approximately 93,000 unaccompanied youth used a shelter program.
- 185,000 people who used shelter programs had chronic patterns of homelessness.
- People identifying as Black or African American accounted for 39% of all people experiencing homelessness and 53% of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children but only represent 12% of the total U.S. population. Together, American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian populations account for 1% of the U.S. population, but 5% of the homeless population and 7% of the unsheltered population.

Various other federal data sources illustrate trends for preventing and ending homelessness:

- According to the latest Department of Education’s data ([Data and Statistics on Homelessness – National Center for Homeless Education](#)<sup>3</sup>) during School Year (SY) 2019-20, public schools identified 1,280,886 students who experienced homelessness, representing 2.5% of all students enrolled in public schools. While student enrollment in public schools remained stable, the number of identified students experiencing homelessness decreased by nearly 8% between SYs 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- According to [HUD’s 2021 Worst Case Housing Needs Report to Congress](#),<sup>4</sup> 7.77 million renter households experienced worst-case needs in 2019. Renter households with very low incomes who do not receive government housing assistance are defined as having worst-case needs for adequate, affordable rental housing if they pay more than one-half of their income for rent, live in severely inadequate conditions, or both. Furthermore, the private market and public rental assistance programs together made available only 62 affordable units per 100 very low-income renters in 2019.

## Needs and Challenges

Communities face many challenges in the work to prevent and end homelessness, including:

- **Lack of Housing Supply:** Housing ultimately ends homelessness, but prior to the pandemic, the U.S. already

lacked [7 million](#)<sup>5</sup> affordable and available homes for renters with the lowest incomes, disproportionately impacting people of color—especially Black/African Americans.

- **Rise of Rent Amid Slow Wage Growth:** Wages continue to fail to keep up with rising rents. According to a 2021 report, in [no state](#)<sup>6</sup> can a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the fair market rent. As a result, 70% of the lowest-wage households routinely spend more than half of their income on rent, placing them at risk of homelessness if any unexpected expenses or emergencies arise. Housing unaffordability and discriminatory employment practices disproportionately impacts people with disabilities LGBTQ+, and people of color, especially Black/African American and Latino/a workers who are more likely to work in low-paying sectors.
- **Inadequate Access to Quality Health Care, Education, and Supportive Services:** Low-barrier, culturally and linguistically competent, and accessible supportive services—including mental and substance use disorder treatment—often are not available or funded at a level to meet the need, especially in rural areas. Without stronger coordination among and for various systems, including the homelessness response and early childhood systems, people seeking these services may face long waits or may not receive them at all, and service providers may only be reimbursed for a fraction of the cost of care. People of color, especially Black/African Americans, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized populations [face greater barriers](#)<sup>7</sup> to receiving the support they need, which leads to severe disparities in health and other wellness outcomes.
- **Limited Alternatives to Unsheltered Homelessness:** The number of people living in tents and vehicles continues to rise, yet current interim housing and shelter options often cannot reach capacity and/or present barriers to people—including those with HIV, a substance use condition, a criminal record, disability or chronic condition, or who identify as LGBTQ+. In many communities, a rise in encampments has resulted in the criminalization of homelessness through encampment clearings, public camping bans, and other policies. These “out of sight, out of mind” policies can lead to lost belongings and identification; trauma and distrust; breakdowns in connection with outreach teams, health care facilities, and housing providers; and overall disruption to the work of ending homelessness.
- **Fatigue Among Providers:** The pandemic has strained the capacity of service providers—many of whom earn wages low enough to qualify them for the programs they help administer. Many are overwhelmed and exhausted from the pressure and trauma associated with supporting not only the people they serve but also themselves and their families during a sustained global pandemic. As a result, many programs experience high rates of staff turnover, which can disrupt continuity of care and limit positive outcomes.

## Accomplishments and Activities of USICH

The following are accomplishments and activities of the Council, in working with Federal, State, and local agencies and public and private organizations to provide assistance to homeless individuals.

### Driving Federal Response to Homelessness

- USICH provided guidance and input to our council member agencies on targeted resources for homelessness programs of nearly \$8 billion in FY 2022 from multiple federal agencies and covering multiple subpopulations and focus areas. USICH also produced a [guide](#)<sup>8</sup> on how communities are implementing American Rescue Plan resources. The agency further provided an [inventory](#)<sup>9</sup> for communities to identify and access federal non-emergency health and social service programs so they can use multiple streams of funding for holistic supportive services that meet the short- and long-term needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- USICH convened four quarterly council meetings in FY 2022 (October 2021 and February, June, and August 2022). USICH also convened two CPG meetings and convened or co-led 28 interagency WG meetings. As

USICH implements the FSP in FY 2023, it expects to regularly convene several standing interagency workgroups and other subgroups and bodies as needed.

## Building a National Partnership at Every Level of Government and Among the Private Sector

- USICH provided guidance and coaching to state leaders in 45 states and territories and community leaders in more than 100 communities across all 50 states.
- USICH convened at least one workshop or presentation in each federal region, ranging from smaller, focused conversations to larger, statewide or regional convenings and listening sessions.

## Providing News, Tools, and Resources for Success

- USICH published 26 newsletters. Subscribers grew by 7,500.
- USICH published and/or disseminated at least 213 tools and publications, including on principles for addressing encampments and on how to maximize American Rescue Plan dollars.
- USICH delivered at least 140 presentations, workshops, and speeches via national, regional, and local virtual conferences, webinars, and conference calls.

## Building Consensus at the Highest Levels

The full council met four times during FY 2022, and through Council Policy Group (CPG) meetings, USICH provided a forum for senior staff from member agencies to coordinate policies and programs, collect data, develop special initiatives, and prepare recommendations for consideration by council members and for council meeting discussions. The CPG convened twice in FY 2022, in October 2021 and March 2022.

## Driving Interagency Action

To drive day-to-day progress, USICH convened a variety of ongoing and ad-hoc interagency workgroups (WGs) comprised of high- and mid-level agency staff from all 19 member agencies.

- **Federal and National Partners COVID-19 Coordination:** USICH convened a biweekly WG with key federal partners, including HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and key national partners, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, to coordinate efforts related to the spread of infectious diseases. This body routinely collaborates on the development of guidance, discusses joint messaging, and otherwise fosters coordination and information-sharing among these partners.
- **Partner Encampment Workgroup:** USICH convened an ad-hoc group of federal and national partners to form a time-limited WG to discuss coordinated approaches to addressing unsheltered homelessness and encampments. Among other outputs, this body helped develop the USICH guidance [7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#).<sup>10</sup>
- **Prevention Working Group:** USICH supported a short-term Homelessness Prevention Working Group to convene federal partners in late 2021 to identify a series of commitments related to homelessness prevention. The strategies included in the prevention pillar of *All In* were derived from this WG.
- **Unsheltered Homelessness Interagency Policy Committee:** Working with the White House Domestic Policy Council, USICH convened an Interagency Policy Committee, through which USICH is leading an interagency WG to develop strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in high-need areas.

- **Solving Veteran Homelessness as One:** USICH has continued to convene this ongoing WG to design and prioritize actions to accelerate progress on ending veteran homelessness, including through developing a set of strategies and measures to operationalize the [HUD/VA Joint Statement on Ending Veteran Homelessness](#).<sup>11</sup>

## Building Common Regional Goals

USICH works with Council agencies to strengthen Federal Regional Interagency Councils on Homelessness (FRICHs) in all 10 federal regions. We provide technical assistance to regional staff from multiple federal agencies—including HUD, HHS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Education (ED), and the Department of Labor (DOL)—to further develop their collaborative structures and unite behind common regional goals. Activities in FY 2022 included:

- Distributed a quarterly update that highlights activities and action taken by FRICHs
- Provided presentations, content development, key resources, and tools from USICH and other federal agencies to FRICHs
- Directed guidance and coaching with regional federal colleagues from 19 council member agencies to identify regional challenges on opportunities to strengthen best practices, including through the implementation of [House America](#)<sup>12</sup>—a federal initiative in which HUD and USICH invited mayors, city and county leaders, tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to utilize the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach.

## Mobilizing Nationwide Actions in Support of a Shared Vision

USICH invested significant staff time in FY 2022 to creating the new Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. USICH undertook a comprehensive input process that included more than 80 listening sessions and an online public comment portal. Through these mechanisms, USICH received more than 1,500 public comments and received feedback from organizations and people who represent nearly 650 communities and every state, including more than 500 people who have experienced homelessness.

## Encouraging Understanding and Action to Address Racial Inequities

Racial disparities in experiences of homelessness are clear in the data, driven by a complex array of inequities within systems and social dynamics—biases and prejudices, overt discrimination, systemic and institutional racism, and many other related and intersectional forces—that impact our responses to homelessness. To develop understanding, promote awareness, and encourage action, USICH:

- Released an [Equity Action Plan](#)<sup>13</sup> on April 14, 2022, in accordance with Executive Order 13985. This plan aims to:
  - Establish racial equity as a core part of the upcoming Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, with corresponding goals and priorities within the plan that incorporates racial equity
  - Engage tribal sovereign nations by developing an advisory group, holding facilitated convenings, reestablishing our interagency working group on Native American homelessness
  - Strengthen internal operations, starting with assessment of the current climate of equity to identify areas where USICH can model the operational behavior we encourage communities and partners to exemplify in advancing racial equity. Further exploring opportunities to develop a Civil Rights Office will enable the agency to improve advanced civil rights and racial equity.
- In response to the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (13985), created an internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Plan.

- Gathered input from more than 500 people with lived experiences of homelessness through the public input process and consulted with experts who have lived experience of homelessness in the development of *All In*.

## Ensuring Consistent Federal Technical Assistance on Ending Homelessness

Communities across the country receive technical assistance from different, and sometimes multiple, federal agencies/programs and national organizations that guide their strategic planning and implementation of best practices. USICH works to ensure that technical assistance is as streamlined and coordinated as possible so that all communities receive the same guidance. In FY 2022, this technical assistance, for example, centered around implementing USICH and federal partner initiatives, such as *House America*, and guidance, such as USICH's [Z Principles for Addressing Encampments](#),<sup>10</sup> which aimed to support communities through humane responses to unsheltered homelessness and alternatives to criminalization.

## Providing Technical Assistance to Inform Local Responses to COVID-19 and Homelessness

In FY 2022, USICH continued to provide extensive technical assistance to communities as they faced ongoing operational impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish this goal of supporting communities, USICH convened and worked with a group of interagency partners from HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HUD, VA, and other agencies and offices. This work included:

- Providing a tool, titled "[Expiring Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness](#),"<sup>14</sup> that identifies federal funding, flexibilities, and waivers that may impact homelessness and are set to expire at various points in FY 2022, including those with expiration dates directly tied to the public health emergency for COVID-19.
- Publishing joint guidance with partners at CDC, HHS, HUD, and VA, titled "[The Omicron Variant of COVID-19: What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know](#),"<sup>15</sup> intended to help communities minimize the spread and impact of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness, who face an increased risk of infection and severe disease compared to the general population.

## Launch of *House America*

*House America*, a joint HUD-USICH initiative, called on state, tribal, and local leaders to partner with HUD and USICH to use American Rescue Plan resources—alongside other federal, tribal, state, and local resources—to set and achieve ambitious goals to rehouse people experiencing homelessness through a Housing First approach, and to add new units of affordable housing into the development pipeline by December 31, 2022. More than 100 communities have set local rehousing and unit creation goals and are on track to meet or exceed those goals.

## State Interagency Councils on Homelessness

USICH has encouraged every state to develop a State Interagency Council on Homelessness to align public resources, build on innovations and best practices across the country, and promote cost-effective strategies to strengthen coordination within state departments. In FY 2022, USICH focused on sharing information related to CARES Act and ARP resources as well as strategies to leverage these resources effectively. USICH hosted a peer-to-peer call with state leaders to coordinate promising practices, challenges, and opportunities.

Specifically, USICH continued to work closely with the state of California as it transitions from the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness and worked with local leaders in Illinois, providing guidance on the structuring of Interagency Councils (ICHs). At the end of FY 2022, an executive order was signed to establish the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness. USICH worked with



other states to provide guidance, coaching, resources, and peer-to-peer conference calls and connections on strengthening state ICHs.

## **Governors, Mayors, and Other Elected Officials**

Political leadership at the state and local level is critical to advancing progress. USICH’s executive director and national initiatives team met regularly with governors, mayors, and other elected officials and local leaders to provide individualized guidance to address the unique needs of their jurisdiction, including governors’ offices in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Utah and mayors’ offices in Anchorage, Alaska; Baltimore, Maryland; Boise, Idaho; Boston, Massachusetts; Columbus, Ohio; Honolulu, Hawaii; Kansas City, Missouri; New York City; Philadelphia; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; Washington D.C.; Austin and Houston, Texas; Berkeley, King City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco, California; Bridgeport and Newark, New Jersey; Mesa, Phoenix, and Tucson, Arizona.

USICH also worked with associations that support the efforts of a broad array of elected officials, such as the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). The USICH Executive Director presented on affordable housing and homelessness at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada and during the USCM Fall Leadership Summit in Miami, Florida.

In FY 2022, USICH continued to facilitate monthly conference calls with the West Coast Alliance of Mayors, which represents mayors’ offices in 17 western cities to share strategies to address common challenges in their efforts to end homelessness. The calls focused on topics such as: COVID-specific non-congregate shelter, leveraging CARES and ARP resources, and responding to encampments and unsheltered homelessness. Additionally, USICH presented and supported monthly conference calls, office hours, and news bulletins as part of *House America*.

## **National Nonprofit Organizations and Associations**

Through outreach to national stakeholders, USICH partners with national organizations that drive and influence public agendas on homelessness, housing, and related issues, such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Racial Equity Working Group, Corporation for Supportive Housing, and National Low Income Housing Coalition. USICH hosted a national stakeholder meeting in FY 2022, which allowed major national non-profit and faith-based organizations to provide input on federal programs and policy development and to identify opportunities for collaboration on important strategic objectives.

## **Private Sector, Faith-Based, and Philanthropic Partners**

The private sector and faith-based and philanthropic organizations dedicated to serving populations at risk of or experiencing homelessness play critical leadership roles, in partnership with public agencies and programs. USICH works with a variety of stakeholders across those sectors, including a partnership with Funders Together to End Homelessness, which represents more than 220 national and local philanthropic organizations. Funders Together is one of the many organizations USICH has consulted to help inform the next iteration of the FSP. Additionally, USICH engages faith-based groups and other national partners via the National Stakeholders Groups, including Catholic Charities, City Gate, and Salvation Army.

## **Community Leaders**

USICH provides a range of targeted community engagement and technical assistance to community leaders, including guidance on coordinating federal funding, following COVID-19 safety protocols, and implementing coordinated entry, Housing First, rapid rehousing, and other best practices for ending homelessness. In FY 2022, USICH provided strategic guidance to stakeholders in all 50 states. USICH also maintained focus on several communities—in California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington—that are facing significant challenges. While the



COVID-19 pandemic restricted USICH’s ability to travel during the first quarter, USICH maintained regular communication through virtual channels, holding hundreds of meetings with state and local leaders. As the opportunity to travel began in April, USICH conducted more than 29 site visits to communities across the country.

## Focus of Communication

In FY 2022, USICH published 26 newsletters and disseminated 213 news items, tools, and resources. USICH’s communications strategy in FY 2022 also specifically focused on helping communities mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, implement the unprecedented funding made available by the CARES and American Rescue Plan Acts, and address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness. To achieve those goals, USICH disseminated guidance from federal agencies and issued its own guidance, including:

- [The Omicron Variant of COVID-19: What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know](#)
- [Getting It Done: The American Rescue Plan Way](#)
- [7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#)
- [Expiring Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness](#)
- [Federal Health and Social Service Programs That Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [The Keys to Strong Relationships Between Public Housing Authorities \(PHAs\) and Continuums of Care \(CoCs\)](#)

## Assessing the Level of Need

Nationally, there are only 37 affordable<sup>1</sup> and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renters. In no state can a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the fair market rent.<sup>2</sup> The actions below build off the strategies included in the [Housing Supply Action Plan](#),<sup>16</sup> which will help close the housing supply gap over the next five years. While some federal housing programs are targeted to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, most are offered more broadly to low-income people. The number of people eligible for federal housing assistance far exceeds the availability of it, and many people in need of such assistance [wait years](#),<sup>17</sup> often falling into or struggling to get out of homelessness in the meantime. To get the greatest impact from all the resources currently available to end homelessness, communities should use each resource for its best purpose while utilizing all the resources together in a coordinated and strategic fashion.

[All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#),<sup>18</sup> released in December 2022, includes a detailed discussion of needs that serves as the basis for specific strategies and actions to address the needs.

## Accomplishments and Activities of the Federal Government

USICH’s October 2022 *Report on Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness* provides a detailed description of program outcomes of the key federal programs that assist people experiencing homelessness. The report addresses recommendations to the council for meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness and provides a general description for each program, including (where available) the number or people served annually and a program summary identifying impediments to serving people experiencing homelessness. Please refer to the report for detailed information.

The table below details programs and agencies specifically addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness

Agency	Program
<b>USDA</b> <b>Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)</b>	USDA/FNS: The Emergency Food Assistance Program
<b>Education</b>	Education for Homeless Children and Youth
<b>HHS</b> <b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</b> <b>Administration for Children and Families (ACF)</b>	HRSA: Health Care for the Homeless
	SAMHSA: Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
	SAMHSA: Mental Health Programs of Regional/National Significance for Homelessness
	SAMHSA: Substance Abuse Treatment Programs of Regional/National Significance
	ACF: Runaway and Homeless Youth
	ACF: Head Start
<b>DHS</b> <b>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</b>	Emergency Food and Shelter Program
	Emergency Food and Shelter - Humanitarian Relief
<b>HUD</b>	Homeless Assistance Grants
	HCV Homeless Vouchers
	New HUD-VA Supportive Housing Vouchers
<b>DOJ</b>	Transitional Housing Assistance Grants to Victims of Sexual Assault
<b>DOL</b>	Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program
<b>VA</b>	Health Care for Homeless Veterans
	Domiciliary Care
	Compensated Work Therapy / Transitional Residence
	HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program Services
	Grant and Per Diem Program
	Justice Outreach Prevention Initiative
	Supportive Services for Veteran Families
	Other VA Programs

## Recommendations for Federal Action

The following strategies for federal action are included in *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, released in December 2022:

- Review policies and regulations associated with the federal programs and initiatives administered by USICH member agencies to and identify policy levers and updates that could alleviate the negative impact of current federal policies and programs on racial disparities.

- Identify mechanisms—through appropriations, legislation, policy, and funding regulations—to provide more flexibility, speed up the approval for, and reduce burdens associated with waivers.
- Review all COVID-19 flexibilities for equity and effectiveness and determine the feasibility of extending or making them permanent, based on input from recipients of federal funding.
- Identify opportunities to implement “categorical eligibility” so that people can qualify for multiple programs at once without duplicative processes.
- Explore ways to allow for “conditional eligibility,” or immediate entry into housing with a grace period for required documentation.
- Identify mechanisms to expand access to all voucher programs administered by HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing by streamlining processes and removing programmatic barriers.
- Explore modernizing regulations and program rules associated with formulas for Administrative Fee and Fair Market Rents, processes required for making changes to admissions preferences, maintaining waitlists, and caps on project-based vouchers.
- Identify and eliminate barriers to obtaining documentation (e.g., birth certificate, state ID, Social Security card) and identify more flexible ways in which documentation can be provided to demonstrate eligibility.
- Undertake a comprehensive, multi-agency effort to address the benefits cliff by examining and revising program rules that disincentivize earning income, increasing savings, and building wealth.

## Conclusion

As the agency that coordinates and catalyzes the federal response to homelessness, USICH is pleased to submit this summary of its work and the efforts of its 19 federal member agencies. Moving forward, USICH looks forward to driving action to ensure that homelessness in America is ended once and for all.

## References

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- <sup>5</sup> “No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable Rental Housing for the Lowest Income Renters.” *National Low Income Housing Coalition*, <https://nlihc.org/gap>.
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- <sup>7</sup> Cogburn CD. *Culture, Race, and Health: Implications for Racial Inequities and Population Health*. Milbank Q.

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- <sup>10</sup> “7 Principles for Addressing Encampments.” *U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness*, June 2022, [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Principles\\_for\\_Addresssing\\_Encampments\\_1.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Principles_for_Addresssing_Encampments_1.pdf).
- <sup>11</sup> “Secretaries of HUD, VA Joint Statement on Ending Veteran Homelessness.” *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development*, 12 Apr. 2021, [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/hud\\_no\\_21\\_059](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/hud_no_21_059).
- <sup>12</sup> “House America.” *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development*, [https://www.hud.gov/house\\_america](https://www.hud.gov/house_america).
- <sup>13</sup> “How USICH Plans to Advance Equity.” *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*, <https://www.usich.gov/equity#:~:text=The%20equity%20action%20plan%20aims,plan%20that%20incorporate%20racial%20equity>.
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