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HCV PROGRAM NEWS

CBPP: Funding Increase for 2025 Needed to Keep Families Housed

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has published a report titled “To Better Meet Record Levels of Need, Keep Families Housed, Congress Must Increase 2025 Funding for Housing Assistance.” The 11-page document discusses the need for Congress to provide adequate funding for rental assistance programs, including the Housing Choice Voucher program. According to the report, as Congress works to finalize the 2025 appropriations bills before the current stopgap funding expires on March 14, it should prioritize providing sufficient funding to prevent a cut in the number of families with vouchers.

The proposed House funding levels could result in nearly 330,000 fewer households — or nearly 750,000 fewer people — receiving housing vouchers, exacerbating homelessness and housing instability. The House bill essentially freezes funding at 2024 levels, creating a severe \$4.3 billion shortfall of what is needed to maintain current levels of assistance, which would force housing agencies to reduce or terminate assistance for many families. On the other hand, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bipartisan bill with a funding increase, but it still falls short—by about \$800 million—of what is needed to maintain current voucher levels due to rising housing costs, which would lead to about 60,000 fewer households receiving assistance.

The report also states that the uncertainty about funding levels from Congress has already prompted some housing agencies to cease issuing vouchers to new households, forcing families to remain on waitlists that are already typically years long. Others have pulled back vouchers that have been issued to families but have not yet been used to rent a home. The lack of sufficient rental assistance disproportionately affects marginalized groups, including people of color, women, people with disabilities, children, and seniors. Additionally, HUD recently released new data showing that the number of people experiencing homelessness was 18 percent higher in January 2024 than the same time in 2023, reaching an all-time high for the second year in a row.

The article calls for Congress to fully fund housing vouchers to maintain current assistance levels and urges the Administration to ensure the timely release of appropriated funds. It also advocates for long-term rental assistance expansion to address ongoing housing insecurity and homelessness. The document includes tables showing the estimated reduction of housing vouchers under the current proposals by state, housing agencies, and demographics.



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