

Advocating for federal funding for programs addressing housing and homelessness programs

The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness joins our national partners as we advocate for appropriate funding to federal programs addressing housing and homelessness programs. Working with our national partners, we monitor the funding levels for programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other federal agencies that address homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program represents the primary source of federal funding for programs serving homeless people. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants fund local, regional, and state homeless assistance programs through the Continuum of Care (CoC) process. A CoC is a geographical administrative unit through which federal homeless assistance funds are distributed. Homeless assistance providers in a specific geographic area work together to apply for federal funding. HUD ranks the applications and provides funding based on the quality of the application, the performance of the local homeless assistance system, the need for homeless assistance, and the local rankings of individual programs. Funding can be used for permanent and supportive housing, transitional housing, and services. Some funding is also distributed to communities through the Emergency Shelter Grants program.

In April 2011, Congress passed legislation finalizing the federal budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants received total funding to \$1.905 billion. Congress has mandated that \$225 million (\$65 million increase more than in FY 2010) of total spending for McKinney-Vento be spent on Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) activities.

In his FY 2012 Budget Proposal, the President proposed approximately \$2.4 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. Details of the funding proposals being discussed by Congress on the FY 2012 appropriation are expected soon.