



**ADVOCACY
IS
ACTIVE**

FY23 Policy & Budget Priority Considerations

State

Budget: Supportive Housing Services

- \$ 5,346,380 million to Supportive MI Housing (Division of Mental Health) \$2,271,380 for 10% cost of living increase for all current homeless and supportive housing grantees to offset increased program related costs and \$3,075,000 to support services to 308 new unit development between 2022-2023.
- \$ 8,824,100 million to Supportive Housing Services (Bureau of Homeless Services) 1,649,010 a 10% cost of living increase for all current homeless and supportive housing grantees to offset increased program related costs and \$7,175,000 to support services to 718 new unit development between 2022 & 2023.
- \$ 338,250 million to Supportive Housing Mental Health Services for a 10% cost of living increase for all current supportive housing grantees to offset increased program related costs.

Budget: American Rescue Plan Act – Re-appropriations Supportive Housing

- \$9M to sustain supportive housing programs created through the \$28 million FY22 APRA Appropriations to IDHS for Supportive Housing
- \$10M Housing is Recovery Pilot Program: This program was established through the FY22 ARPA appropriations, it replicates the bridge subsidies program for persons experiencing mental health issues with frequent episodes of hospitalizations and/or exiting institutions to mitigate recidivism.

ARPA - \$40 Million for Preservation & Development of Supportive Housing

- Preservation & Protection existing supportive housing at risk due to COVID-19 related circumstances.
- New Development – create new units of supportive housing to meet the demand

Interagency Task Force on Homelessness

- Codify the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Community Advisory Council through legislation.

Program/Administrative

- **1115 Medicaid Waiver – Pre-Tenancy & Tenancy Supports**
 - Aging
 - Developmental Disability
 - Others

Federal

- **\$3.6 billion Homeless Assistance Grants**
 - The principal source of federal funding to fight homelessness is the Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) account. This account, currently funded at \$3.2 billion, supports a nationwide network of state, local, charitable, and faith based homeless assistance providers who make sure that people who become homeless will be identified, kept safe, and quickly returned to housing.
 - Despite the growing need and the modest investments in these programs, they have been successful at ending people's homelessness, particularly with respect to families and veterans. But with the on-going affordable housing crisis pushing more Americans into homelessness, the Alliance has urged the Administration and Congressional lawmakers to provide the HAG program with \$3.6 billion in funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.
- **\$32.1 billion Housing Choice Voucher Program**
 - The lack of affordable housing the key driver for the increases in homelessness. The federal government's most important program to help low-income people afford housing is the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (including Section 8, HUD-VASH, and other tenant-based vouchers that are all included in the Appropriations Committee's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, or TBRA, account).
 - The HCV program helps Americans with the lowest incomes afford housing in the private market by paying landlords the difference between what a household can afford to pay for rent (30% of its income) and the rent itself, up to a reasonable amount. In recent years the voucher program has become a leading source of funding for permanent supportive housing for people exiting homelessness, through specialized programs like HUD-VASH, 811 Mainstream

vouchers, and the Emergency Housing Voucher allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as from regular turnover in the program.

- For FY 2023, the Alliance seeks \$32.1 billion for HCV, an amount sufficient to renew the existing vouchers and expand the number of new vouchers for households at risk of losing their housing.

- **Eviction Crisis Act**

- The bipartisan Eviction Crisis Act (S. 2182), introduced by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Rob Portman (R-OH), provides an innovative approach to increasing housing stability by creating a new, national \$3 billion Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF).

Building on the success of the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program, the EAF would be a permanent program to help families stay housed, and help communities and households avoid the significant financial and physical costs of homelessness.

- **ABLE Age Adjustment Act & SSI Savings Penalty Act**

- **Able Age Adjustment Act**

- Currently, only individuals who have a qualifying disability that started before age 26 are eligible to open an account in an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) plan, a savings and investment account for people with disabilities to save for disability-related expenses. If passed, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act would raise the age of eligibility to those who have a qualifying disability before age 46.

- **SSI Savings Penalty Act**

- Currently the program pays less than 400 per month for the average recipient meeting its strict eligibility criteria, which include a requirement that recipients have less than \$2,000 in their bank accounts. This measure would boost the asset limit from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals and peg the limit to inflation.

