

# Applying New COVID-19- Related Funding

to Address the Housing Needs of  
Individuals with Serious Mental  
Illness, Substance Use Disorders,  
and Co-occurring Disorders

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**H**OMELESS &  
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**INTRODUCTION:** This paper highlights newly available federal funds that can be utilized for housing and paired with supportive services funding for individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have a serious mental illness (SMI), a substance use disorder (SUD), or co-occurring disorders (COD). Also noted are several ways for state and local leaders to promote cross-system partnerships that pair housing resources with physical and behavioral healthcare and supportive services—partnerships that are necessary to meet the multidimensional needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. With this information, homeless and behavioral health service providers can engage the appropriate stakeholders and access affordable housing and supportive services that together will optimize the health and wellness of the individuals they serve.

## The Impact of COVID-19 on Housing and Homelessness for People with SMI, SUD, and COD

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant cracks in communities' capacity to serve those with the greatest vulnerabilities: individuals experiencing homelessness, including people with SMI, SUD, and COD; and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). BIPOC make up a larger share of the homeless population than the general population. For example, in 2020, Black Americans represented only 13 percent of the general population but accounted for 40 percent of people experiencing homelessness.<sup>1</sup> Individuals experiencing homelessness suffer from poor health, which is both a leading cause of homelessness and a contributor to the exacerbation of pre-existing conditions. Adding to the problem, the COVID-19 pandemic has impeded access to treatment for health conditions and assistance in finding and achieving stability in affordable supportive housing. COVID-19 has caused multidimensional disruption not only to health care and housing, but also to employment, food security, recreation, and personal support networks, resulting in social isolation. Research on the effects of the pandemic

Affordable and high-quality housing paired with supportive services is vital to addressing the increased public health risks associated with the combination of COVID-19, homelessness, and behavioral health conditions.

1 "Homelessness and Racial Disparities," National Alliance to End Homelessness, October 2020, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/>.



has found increases in anxiety, depression, traumatic stress, and substance use across the United States. Studies and data indicate that persons with pre-existing mental illness may be at greater physical risk in terms of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality due to high rates of smoking, unstable housing, and homelessness.<sup>2</sup> And finally, according to data reported in July 2021 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the pandemic has contributed to a record number of Americans dying from drug overdoses, jumping nearly 30 percent in 2020.<sup>3</sup>

Affordable and high-quality housing paired with supportive services is vital to addressing the increased public health risks associated with the combination of COVID-19, homelessness, and behavioral health conditions. The United States Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized the importance of housing paired with supportive services through the endorsement of the permanent supportive housing model as well as its promotion of guidelines for operating recovery housing for those seeking abstinence from substance use. Access to this array of supportive housing, guided by participant choice, is particularly important in reducing risks of COVID-19 infection and spread while also providing a safe place to live where people can recuperate if they become infected.

## Key Acronyms

**ARPA:** American Rescue Plan Act

**CARES:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

**CDBG—RHP:** Community Development Block Grant—Recovery Housing Program

**EARH:** Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing

**EHV:** Emergency Housing Voucher

**ERA:** Emergency Rental Assistance Program

**ESG-CV:** Emergency Solutions Grants—CARES Act

**HOME-ARP:** HOME Investment Partnerships Program—ARP

## New Federal Housing Resources

The 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act; and the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have provided new sources of federal funds that can be utilized by people experiencing homelessness with SMI, SUD, and COD. Table 1 summarizes six key programs that received funding through these pieces of legislation and is followed by a more detailed description of each program, including eligible uses of the funding, target populations, and other important information.

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2 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Disaster Technical Assistance Supplemental Research Bulletin: A Preliminary Look at the Mental Health and substance Use-Related Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021, <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/mental-health-substance-use-effects-covid-pandemic-srb.pdf>.

3 National Center for Health Statistics, "Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Up 30% in 2020," July 14, 2021, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2021/20210714.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20210714.htm).



Table 1: Federal Programs Offering Housing-Related Assistance to People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness

Program Description	HOME-ARP	EHV	ERA	EARH	CDBG-RHP	ESG-CV
Long-term rental assistance	☑	☑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Short-term rental assistance	N/A	N/A	☑	☑	N/A	☑
Rental housing production	☑	N/A	N/A	N/A	☑	N/A
Rental rehabilitation	☑	N/A	N/A	N/A	☑	N/A
Program serves people experiencing homelessness	☑	☑	☑	N/A	☑	☑
Program serves people at risk of homelessness	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

## HOME Investment Partnerships Program – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

### SOURCE OF HOME-ARP FUNDING

To reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country, ARPA provided \$5 billion to assist individuals and households who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing them with housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter. These grant funds are administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). HOME funds have been made available annually through block grant allocation since 1990. HOME-ARP is a significant one-time increase in that allocation specifically intended to serve people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

### STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE HOME-ARP FUNDS

HOME is a federal block grant distributed to an estimated 651 participating jurisdictions, composed of states and certain localities.



## HOME-ARP

**Name:** HOME Investment Partnerships Program- American Rescue Plan

**Administrator:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Mechanism:** Block grant allocation

**Time Frame:** September 30, 2030



## ALLOWABLE USE OF HOME-ARP FUNDS

A participating jurisdiction may use HOME funds to provide incentives to develop and support affordable housing (through rent or ownership) through acquisition (including assistance to home buyers), new construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of non-luxury housing with suitable amenities. This might include but is not limited to real property acquisition, site improvements, conversion, demolition, and other expenses, including financing costs and relocation expenses for any displaced persons, families, businesses, or organizations. Another eligible use is tenant-based rental assistance, including security deposits. The payment of reasonable administrative and planning costs and operating expenses of community housing development organizations is also allowable.

## TARGET HOME-ARP POPULATIONS

HOME-ARP targets four specific populations:

- People experiencing homelessness
- People at risk of homelessness
- People fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the household's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability

Providers should review [HUD's guidance](#) that explains these definitions in greater detail. Many people with SMI, SUD, or COD will be eligible for programs developed with these funds.

Note that any individual or family who meets the criteria for the four populations listed above is eligible to receive assistance or services funded through HOME-ARP without meeting additional HOME eligibility requirements such as income criteria.

## HOME-ARP TIME FRAME

HOME-ARP funds can only be spent until September 30, 2030. Many states/localities will not allocate the HOME-ARP funds until the spring of 2022 at the earliest after they have secured community input through a consultation process in which community organizations can participate.

## HOW HOME-ARP CAN HELP

HOME-ARP funds can be used in many different ways to support people with SMI, SUD, or COD to live in the community. HOME-ARP can be used to produce new affordable housing units, to lower the costs of housing through rental assistance, to develop non-congregate emergency shelters, and to provide supportive services. To ensure that these funds are used to address the priority needs of these populations in your community, providers, advocates, and people with SMI, SUD, or COD and their families can provide input through testimony at outreach events or submit information directly to the participating jurisdiction. Contact your state or local participating jurisdiction to find out about deadlines for such input. SMI, SUD, and COD service providers may also be eligible to apply to administer a HOME-ARP-funded program to the target populations. You can find information about your [state/local HOME and HOME-ARP funds](#) on the HUD Exchange website.



## ADDITIONAL HOME-ARP INFORMATION

- [HOME Investment Partnerships Program](#)
- [HOME Overview](#)

## Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program

### SOURCE OF EHV FUNDING

The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is available through ARPA. Through EHV, HUD is providing an estimated 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to assist individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or who were recently experiencing homelessness or have a high risk of housing instability.

### STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE EHV FUNDS

HUD allocated EHV funds to PHAs based on a formula allocation. HUD's allocation formula is designed to direct emergency vouchers to PHAs operating in areas where EHV-eligible populations have the greatest need while also considering PHA capacity and the requirement to ensure geographic diversity, including rural areas.

### ALLOWABLE USE OF EHV FUNDS

EHVs are tenant-based rental assistance provided under the same statute as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. In addition to providing rental assistance for eligible households, the EHV program provides the following:

- ongoing administrative fees as well as special placement incentive fees;
- services fees for housing search assistance;
- security deposit, utility deposit, rental application, and holding fees;
- funding for owner-related uses such as owner outreach and recruitment; and
- other fees, such as moving expenses, tenant-readiness services, and essential household items.

### TARGET EHV POPULATIONS

Eligibility for EHVs is limited to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or recently experiencing homelessness and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the household's homelessness or housing instability. Providers should review [HUD's guidance](#) that



## EHV

- Name:** Emergency Housing Voucher Program
- Administrator:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Mechanism:** Housing choice vouchers
- Time Frame:** September 30, 2023



explains these definitions in greater detail. Many people with SMI, SUD, or COD will be eligible for the EHV program. It is important to note that HUD provided PHAs with many waivers to the traditional housing choice voucher program to ensure that people with criminal records or a history of poor tenancies would have access to this resource. These waivers can benefit people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have SMI, SUD, or COD and often have these barriers to housing.

## EHV TIME FRAME

ARPA required that after September 30, 2023, a PHA may not reissue any previously leased EHV, regardless of when the assistance for the formerly assisted family ends or ended.

## HOW EHV CAN HELP

Many people with SMI, SUD, or COD rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or on low-wage jobs that do not provide enough income to afford an apartment in any part of the United States. The EHV program provides rental assistance that will pay the difference between what a person with SMI, SUD, or COD can afford and the market cost of the apartment. The HUD website can tell you [whether your state or local PHA was awarded EHV](#)s and give you the [contact information for each PHA](#).

## ADDITIONAL EHV PROGRAM INFORMATION

- [HUD EHV page](#)
- [EHV webinar series](#)

## Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

### SOURCE OF ERA FUNDING

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) was created in December 2020 to assist households unable to pay their rent or utilities due to the pandemic. The initial appropriation of \$25 billion (ERA1) was provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. Congress expanded the program with \$21.55 billion (ERA2) under ARPA. ERA1 and ERA2 are allocated through the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

### STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE ERA FUNDS

ERA1 payments are made directly to states (including Washington, DC); U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa); local governments with more than 200,000 residents; the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and Indian tribes (defined to include Alaska Native corporations) or the tribally designated housing entity of an Indian tribe, as applicable (collectively the “eligible grantees”).



## ERA

- Name:** Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Administrator:** U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Mechanism:** Direct state payments
- Time Frame:** September 30, 2022, (ERA1) and September 30, 2025 (ERA2)





ERA2 payments are made directly to states (including Washington, DC); U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa); and local governments with more than 200,000 residents.

## ALLOWABLE USE OF ERA FUNDS

At least 90 percent of both ERA1 and ERA2 must be used for direct financial assistance to pay expenses related to housing, such as rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and utilities and home energy arrears. The remaining funds are available for housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed.

ERA2 sets aside \$2.5 billion for eligible grantees in areas with a high need for ERA2 assistance, based on the number of very low-income renter households paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent or living in substandard or overcrowded conditions; rental market costs; and change in employment rates since February 2020.

## TARGET ERA POPULATIONS

### Target Population for ERA1

- One or more individuals within the household have qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- The household's income is at or **below 80 percent of the area's median income.**

### Target Population for ERA2

- One or more individuals within the household have qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship during or due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- The household's income is at or **below 50 percent of the area's median income.**

Many people with SMI, SUD, or COD are unstably housed because their incomes are low, housing is expensive, and employment during the pandemic has been unreliable. Each state or local ERA grantee is allowed to define who is at risk of homelessness or housing instability. Treasury guidance indicates risk indicators may range from a past due utility payment, a rent notice, or an eviction notice due to unsafe or unhealthy living conditions (which may include overcrowding), or any other evidence of risk, as determined by the state or local administering agency. Providers should learn how their jurisdiction defines eligibility for these funds and then reach out to program participants and case workers to identify eligible households. While a few agencies have expended funds before their expiration date, others still have funding available. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website can help you [find a rental assistance program in your locale](#).



## ERA TIME FRAME

ERA1 funds generally expire on September 30, 2022. ERA2 funds generally expire on September 30, 2025. Note that the Treasury has the right to reallocate funds from slow-spending jurisdictions to those that have fully expended their funds. It has already availed itself of this option for ERA1.

## HOW ERA CAN HELP

Like the EHV program, many people with SMI, SUD, or COD rely on SSI and/or on low-wage jobs that do not provide enough income to afford an apartment in any part of the United States. The ERA funds can be used to pay for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy arrears, and other expenses related to housing and some case management costs.

## ADDITIONAL ERA PROGRAM INFORMATION

- [U.S. Treasury ERA Program](#)
- [National Low Income Housing Coalition ERA by State](#)

## Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing (EARH)

### SOURCE OF EARH FUNDING

ARPA provided \$100 million to be used as rental assistance for rent-burdened tenants in rural housing developments. Funds for the Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing Program (EARH) are allocated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Housing Service.

### STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE EARH FUNDS

USDA's Rural Development staff will provide rental assistance to eligible USDA Rural Development properties and units with current tenants that are rent-overburdened. People who are rent overburdened are defined as paying more than 30 percent of their income for rent. Tenants must also not be currently receiving or scheduled to receive in the future, any federal housing assistance that would duplicate assistance; this includes the Department of Treasury's ERA future rent payments. Priority will be given to tenants currently paying more than 50 percent of their income toward rent.

### ALLOWABLE USE OF EARH FUNDS

Rental assistance for residents of rural rental properties to cover unpaid rent for unassisted tenants in Rural Housing Service multifamily housing developments.



## EARH

- Name:** Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing
- Administrator:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service
- Mechanism:** Rental assistance to Rural Development properties
- Time Frame:** September 30, 2022



## TARGET EARH POPULATIONS

Tenants of Rural Development housing that are rent-overburdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income for rent.

## EARH TIME FRAME

The EARH funds obligated on behalf of the selected tenant will expire automatically upon total disbursement or credit of rental assistance to the borrower's account, unless earlier suspended, transferred or terminated according to the Rental Assistance Agreement, or up to 12 months, whichever comes first. If funding is insufficient for the full 12 months, then additional funding may be available. Renewals after September 30, 2022 are subject to availability of appropriations. Funds will remain available until September 30, 2022.

## HOW EARH CAN HELP

As described above, these funds are automatically allocated to rural housing tenants who are rent-burdened. Rural Development staff will identify these tenants using data submitted by owners and managers. While their intention is to work closely with owners and managers to ensure that all tenants have been identified, providers may want to make sure that case workers identify their program participants who live in these properties to ensure they have not been overlooked. USDA can provide a list of [rural housing programs in your area](#).

## ADDITIONAL EARH PROGRAM INFORMATION

- [USDA Guidance Letter on EARH](#)
- [USDA Rural Development COVID Response](#)

## Community Development Block Grant—Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-RHP)

### SOURCE OF CDBG-RHP FUNDING

This program was authorized under the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment ([SUPPORT](#)) for Patients and Communities Act, which aims to address the nation's opioid overdose epidemic. A combined \$50 million has been awarded through the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to assist 28 states with the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths and the highest unemployment rates via the Recovery Housing Program (RHP).

### STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE CDBG-RHP FUNDS

Eligible grantees are states and the District of Columbia. For the fiscal year 2020 pilot program, the only eligible grantees



### CDBG-RHP

- Name:** Community Development Block Grant—Recovery Housing Program
- Administrator:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Mechanism:** Payments to eligible states and Washington, DC
- Time Frame:** September 2027



were states and Washington, DC, with an age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths above the national overdose mortality rate according to the CDC. HUD selected 25 grantees in March 2020. The program was funded again in federal fiscal year 2021 to include 3 additional states. Find out whether your state received funds under CDBG-RHP in [2020](#) or in [2021](#). The HUD Exchange can provide you with [your state's RHP point of contact](#).

## ALLOWABLE USE OF CDBG-RHP FUNDS

Eligible RHP activities include the following:

- public facilities and improvements;
- acquisition and disposition of real property;
- payment of lease, rent, and utilities;
- rehabilitation, reconstruction, and construction of single-family, multifamily, and public housing;
- clearance and demolition;
- relocation;
- administration; and
- technical assistance.

## TARGET CDBG-RHP POPULATIONS

RHP programs must support activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons (with 50 to 80 percent of area median income) in recovery from SUDs as defined by HUD. On the HUD Exchange, you can find more information on [calculating low and moderate income](#) based on household size and geographic locale.

## CDBG-RHP TIME FRAME

The assistance is limited, per individual, to a period of not more than 2 years or until the individual secures permanent housing, whichever is earlier. RHP funds must be fully spent by September 2027.

## HOW CDBG-RHP CAN HELP

RHP funds are targeted towards housing for individuals in recovery from SUDs, including those who may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Recovery housing is operated as a sober community living environment and includes supportive services that promote ongoing recovery and peer mentorship.

## ADDITIONAL CDBG-RHP INFORMATION

- [HUD RHP](#)
- [HUD RHP Webinar Series](#)



# Emergency Solutions Grant—CARES Act (ESG-CV)

## SOURCE OF ESG-CV FUNDING

The CARES Act channeled \$4 billion through HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus.” The ESG program is generally funded annually by Congress. This one-time increase in funds to address COVID-19 is distinguished by the acronym ESG-CV, CV standing for COVID-19.

## STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES THAT RECEIVE ESG-CV FUNDS

ESG-CV funds were allocated in two parts. HUD used the usual annual ESG formula to allocate funding to states and localities for the first allocation. HUD developed a new formula for the second allocation consistent with CARES Act requirements.

## ALLOWABLE USE OF ESG-CV FUNDS

ESG-CV funds can be used to fund street outreach, emergency shelter (including temporary shelter), rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), and administrative costs.

## TARGET ESG-CV POPULATIONS

ESG-CV funds are intended for programs that prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to COVID-19. The beneficiaries of these programs are individuals and families experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, depending on the program component.

## ESG-CV TIME FRAME

ESG-CV funds are one-time funds allocated by formula to communities through the CARES Act. All ESG-CV funds must be expended by September 30, 2022. Note that HUD will be assessing recipients to determine whether they have expended 80 percent of ESG-CV funds by March 30, 2022.

## HOW ESG-CV CAN HELP

In addition to the traditional uses of ESG funds, under the CARES Act, HUD provided a range of waivers to allow jurisdictions additional leeway on spending. For example, HUD guidance allows jurisdictions to put up temporary shelters without meeting regular standards and requirements and to provide landlord incentives up to the value of 3 months’ rent. HUD allows each grantee to determine how its ESG-CV funds can best address the COVID-related needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in their



## ESG-CV

**Name:** Emergency Solutions Grant—CARES Act

**Administrator:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Mechanism:** Formula grant program to cities, counties, territories, and states

**Time Frame:** September 30, 2022



community. Therefore, what is funded will differ from community to community, although it is likely that many of the funded programs will benefit people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have SMI, SUD, or COD. Find out [whether your locale has an ESG or ESG-CV program](#) and your local contact person on the HUD Exchange.

## ADDITIONAL ESG-CV INFORMATION

- [HUD ESG-CV](#)
- [HUD ESG Program](#)
- [CoC & ESG Virtual Binder](#)

## Cross-System Partnerships to Pair Housing with Supportive Services

Housing is a significant social determinant of health, and no single system can address the various challenges associated with providing individuals who have behavioral health conditions and are experiencing homelessness with access to quality affordable housing and supportive services. In the COVID-19 pandemic, holistically meeting the housing and health care needs of individuals experiencing and at risk of homelessness requires even greater focus on aligning resources between systems tasked with administering federal, state, and local funds. The newly available HUD-funded COVID-19 relief resources highlighted above must be paired with other federal, state, and local resources to optimize the health and wellness of this population. In August 2021, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) published [\*Making the Most of the American Rescue Plan: A Guide to the Funding That Impacts People Experiencing Homelessness\*](#). This resource highlights HUD, SAMHSA, Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funds that may be available to cover the array of housing and supportive services required to help people experiencing homelessness access stable, affordable housing and achieve successful tenancy.

To maximize and leverage housing and supportive service funds, homeless service providers are encouraged to engage with the range of state and local partners responsible for administering housing, health, and behavioral healthcare funding. These partners typically include, but are not limited to:

- State housing finance agency
- Local housing authority
- Local HUD Continuum of Care
- State and local agencies administering affordable housing and/or homelessness programs
- Supportive housing providers
- State Medicaid agency
- Managed care entities
- State and local behavioral health authorities
- Area agencies on aging



- State agencies that oversee programs and services for people with physical disabilities
- Centers for independent living
- Local health and behavioral healthcare providers

Community partnerships that have successfully worked to bring together a variety of the above listed partners are highlighted in the slide deck for the webinar “[Coordinating HHS Housing-Related Supports and Services with HUD Housing Assistance for People Experiencing Homelessness](#).” This webinar was cosponsored by HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A [video recording](#) of this presentation is also available.

Successful partnerships with these systems may already exist to address the housing and supportive service needs of people in your community who are enrolled with a homeless provider organization. Where cross-system partnerships do not yet exist, the following key components can be applied to building them:

- Build a clear understanding of the language and jargon used by each partner as well as the target populations they serve, their goals, and their intended outcomes.
- Share detailed information about each partner’s governing policies and operational practices.
- Ensure regular and routine communications throughout the partnership.
- Commit staffing and financial resources to support the work of the partnership.
- Secure leadership buy-in and support for the partnership to bring the work to fruition.

## Conclusion

The federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more housing and supportive services funding than ever before. The need for these resources is also higher than ever before documented. Rates of un- and under-treated SMI, SUD, and COD, evictions, and racial disparities in health and housing can be found daily in news headlines and published studies. Now more than ever, collaboration and cooperation across systems must be employed to maximize the impact of these funds to produce the greatest impact.



## Learn More about the Homeless and Housing Resource Center

Providing high-quality, no-cost training for health and housing professionals in evidence-based practices that contributes to housing stability, recovery, and an end to homelessness.

### Contact Us:

- [hhrctraining.org](http://hhrctraining.org)
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