

Housing Choice Vouchers

RESULTS requests Congress increase funding to fully renew all Housing Choice Vouchers and add 250,000 new vouchers in FY27.

Housing affordability and homelessness is a crisis in the U.S. **Half of all renters are rent-burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities. Over a quarter spend more than half of their income on housing.** Families tend to spend their funds on rent before other expenses, and often housing is the single largest expense in a household budget. So rising rent costs puts food, health care, and other basic needs out of reach or push people into homelessness. [40 to 60 percent](#) of those experiencing homelessness have jobs but simply cannot afford to rent a place to live.

Congress has an opportunity to protect and expand funding for programs that promote access to housing. Failing to do so will only deepen hardship and drive Americans further into poverty.

Making housing more affordable

Housing choice vouchers (HCVs) are a critical tool to support struggling Americans. They're designed to help families working in low-wage jobs, elderly people, veterans, and disabled people afford housing. Recipients have their rent partially covered by a subsidy paid directly to the landlord. By reimbursing the landlord for the difference between rent and what a household can afford, it helps address the full spectrum of housing costs. The program also includes incentives for landlords, security deposit support, and more.

The HCV program is HUD's largest rental assistance program, and serves the lowest income people. 75 percent of vouchers are targeted to recipients with extremely low incomes (less than 30 percent of the area median income or federal poverty line, whichever is higher).

Rent costs have [dramatically outpaced household incomes](#). Between 2001 and 2022, the median earnings of renters have risen by just 2 percent, while rents are up 21 percent (adjusted for inflation). A full-time worker making minimum wage [cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment](#) in any U.S. state. [Almost one-quarter of the 45.64 million renter households](#) have extremely low incomes.

HCVs bridge the gap between what people earn and how rent costs have skyrocketed. **Vouchers currently reach over 2.4 million households. But that is only one in four families that qualify. The majority of low-income households are stuck on waiting**

lists for months or years because funding has not increased with need. More funding is desperately needed to make housing more affordable and prevent homelessness.

Ambitious funding lifts Americans out of poverty

Because the cost of rent increases from year to year, flat funding acts as a cut to rental assistance programs. **Without increased funding, HCVs will be lost. Households that rely on a voucher will be at risk of housing instability, eviction, and homelessness.** And when a household no longer needs their voucher, it will not be able to be reissued.

The majority of eligible families are already unable to access needed vouchers. Increasing the amount of households covered would change hundreds of thousands of lives. It would enable more Americans to afford needed childcare, groceries, and other bills.

The HCV program [has proven impacts](#). Research shows it is highly effective at reducing homelessness and overcrowding, and that vouchers help lift the most marginalized and lowest-income groups out of poverty. HCVs also [improve health outcomes and children's well-being](#). They can enable families to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods, which makes children more likely to attend college and earn more as adults.

HCVs must be protected and expanded as rental costs continue to rise. In FY27, Congress must ensure all vouchers currently in use are fully funded, and provide funding to increase the number of vouchers available.

RESULTS' request and funding history

Members of Congress can show their support by submitting a formal appropriations request to THUD subcommittee of Appropriations leadership. Please contact cnicovich@results.org for more information.

Account	FY24 Enacted	FY25 Enacted	FY26 House	FY26 Senate	FY26 Enacted	RESULTS FY27 Request
HCV Renewals	\$28.49 billion	\$32.15 billion	\$32.15 billion	\$33.97 billion	\$34.96 billion	Fully renew all current vouchers and add 250,000 new vouchers