

Federal Funding for Homeless Assistance Programs, Including for Youth

July 2009

Answering the question about how much the federal government spends on services to homeless persons is not as simple as summing the total expenditures for homeless assistance programs. Homeless programs do not fit neatly into one federal agency; instead, multiple federal agencies contribute federal funds to an array of programs.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), and the Department of Labor (DOL) all contribute various funds to homeless assistance programs and housing programs accessible by homeless youth populations. These agencies administer programs that are dedicated to homeless assistance programs. Some of these programs are dedicated to all homeless persons, including single adults, families with children, and unaccompanied homeless youth.

This issue brief focused on how much is spent on dedicated homeless assistance programs.

FY 2009 appropriations to federal agencies for homeless assistance programs:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HUD)	\$1,667	million
Supportive Housing Program (SHP)		
Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program		
Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Assistance for Single-Occupancy Dwellings (SRO)		
Emergency Shelter Grants Program		
Samaritan Initiative (HUD)	\$50	million
HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$1,654	million
FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (DHS)	\$200	million
The Health Care for the Homeless Program (HHS)	\$190	million
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (HHS)	\$59.7	million
SAMHSA Homelessness Prevention (HHS)	\$32.25	million
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (HHS)	\$115	million
Education for Homeless Children and Youth (ED)	\$60	million
Transitional Housing Assistance for Child Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking or Sexual Assault Program (DOJ)	\$18	million
Homeless Veteran's Reintegration Program (DOL) (VA)	\$26.3	million

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (VA)	\$7.5	million
Guaranteed Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans Program (VA)	\$.75	million
HUD VA Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) (VA) ¹	\$75	million

Total:	\$4.175 billion²
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FY 2009 appropriations to federal programs dedicated to homeless youth assistance:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs (HHS)	\$115	million
Family Unification Program (foster youth) (HUD)	\$20	million
McKinney Education for Homeless Children (DOE)	\$60	million

Total:	\$195 million
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CONCLUSION:

Of the \$4.175 billion spent annually on homelessness assistance, HUD receives \$3.391 billion (81%), HHS receives \$396.95 million (9%), VA receives \$109.5 million (3%), and all other federal agencies combined receive \$278 million (7%).

Less than 1 percent (\$195 million) is targeted to unaccompanied homeless youth services.

For more information, please contact Richard Hooks Wayman at rhookswayman@naeh.org or LaKesha Pope at lpope@naeh.org or call the National Alliance to End Homelessness at (202) 638-1526.

¹ www.nchv.org/news_article.cfm?id=506

² Figures represent appropriation levels for FY 2009. This total does not include federal appropriations for affordable housing, which may be accessible by some homeless persons. Additionally, there is a program entitled the Rural Homeless Grants and Safe Havens for Homeless Individuals that has not been funded since FY 1994.