

# ENDING HOMELESSNESS ACT OF 2021

Legislation to create the first ever entitlement to housing assistance was introduced by House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA). [The Ending Homelessness Act of 2021](#), would fund hundreds of thousands of new Housing Choice Vouchers over the next several years and make access to these vouchers automatic for income-qualifying households.

The Ending Homelessness Act of 2021 would be transformational for our country. Here are the programmatic and funding highlights:

- Provides funding for hundreds of thousands of new Housing Choice Vouchers over the next several years and make access to these vouchers automatic for income-qualifying households.
- Funds the creation of 410,000 new units of housing for people experiencing homelessness and effectively end widespread homelessness and housing instability.
- Lifts 9 million people out of poverty, reducing child poverty by over a third, and decreasing racial disparities in poverty rates among Black and White households.  
(Columbia University, U.S. House committee of Financial Services Fact Sheet: The Ending Homelessness Act of 2021)
- Authorizes HUD to allocate 500,000 vouchers in fiscal year 2022, followed by 1 million vouchers in each calendar year from 2023 through 2025. Beginning in fiscal year 2026, households meeting certain income thresholds will be entitled to receive a housing choice voucher.
- Prohibits landlords from discriminating against voucher holders by creating protections from discrimination based on the source of income or rental subsidy.
- Allows an unlimited number of the vouchers to be project-based and would require public housing agencies administering the vouchers to use small area Fair Market Rents to determine the value of the vouchers.
- Provides investments in the National Housing Trust Fund to address the underlying affordable housing shortage, which is at a crisis point in some communities and contributes to increases in homelessness.
- Aligns health care and housing strategies, which the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that housing is health care.
- Provides \$120 million to states to improve their outreach programs and technical assistance systems.
- Includes critical resources to homeless assistance systems to right-size and shift operations so that people living on the street can be rehoused through delivery of outreach and service coordination, coupled with housing that is affordable because of the availability of vouchers or other permanent subsidies.

(Ann Oliva, "Why Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers Is Essential to Ending Homelessness," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2021, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/why-expanding-housing-choice-vouchers-is-essential-to-ending-homelessness>)



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Far too many people have faced dire risks to their health and safety due to homelessness or housing insecurity. More than 580,000 people are currently experiencing homelessness on any given night in our country. To make matters worse, for the first time since HUD began conducting a point-in-time count in 2005, unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness now outnumber those who were sheltered, with the key driver being persons with chronic patterns of homelessness.

Without a stable home, children cannot thrive. Without a stable home, seniors are forced to choose between a roof over their heads and medicine. Without a stable home, many people lack the opportunity to lead a fulfilled life. This bill would equip communities with the resources and strategies to prevent and end homelessness, which will make space for all to live out their American dream.

## Cosponsors:

Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5], Rep. Torres, Ritchie [D-NY-15], Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12], Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7], Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9], Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3], Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5], Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7], Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13], Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14], Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4], Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29], Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5], Rep. Auchincloss, Jake [D-MA-4], Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33], Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13], Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8], Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9], Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3], Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13], Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large], Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16], Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4], Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3], Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2], Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9], Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15], Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5], Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32], Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9], Rep. Strickland, Marilyn [D-WA-10], Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17], Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9], Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27], Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1], Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18], Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1], Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4], Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9], Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3], Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1], Del. San Nicolas, Michael F. Q. [D-GU-At Large], Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10], Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6], Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17], Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3], Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49], Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10], Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1], Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5], Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13], Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14], Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12], Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5], Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4], Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18], Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7], Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28], Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31], Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2], Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29], Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2], Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11], Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8], Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37], Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5], Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47], Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7], Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18], Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1], Rep. Stevens, Haley M. [D-MI-11]

## About National Coalition for the Homeless

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected.

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