

Federal Legislation Update

BUDGET & FUNDING-RELATED ITEMS - Updates

Debt ceiling & Proposed Federal Budget Cuts – No New Update – UPDATE: Pre NLIHC, U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on the Budget Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) released a [list](#) of potential federal spending cuts, totaling almost \$1.3 trillion. The list was released the day after President Biden delivered his State of the Union address, in which the President repeatedly pledged to fight against any Republican attempt to make dramatic spending cuts a condition for raising the debt ceiling.

➔ **President Biden’s FY 24 Budget – New** President Biden unveiled a topline summary of his FY 24 budget request on Thursday, 3/9. The budget makes important investments in a range of areas, including in children, supports for workers, housing affordability, education, and core government functions. The President’s budget priorities, which sets the blueprint for the FY 24 appropriations and budget process. The President’s budget request calls for increased funding for affordable housing using two approaches:

Regular Appropriations process proposal: Through the regular appropriations process, the president’s budget calls for:

- Funding HUD programs at \$73.3 billion, or approximately \$1.1 billion – or 1.6% – more than the FY23-enacted level.
- \$32.7 billion to renew all existing housing vouchers and to expand assistance to an additional 50,000 households through increased funding and another 130,000 households through program reserves, among other things.

Mandatory Spending Proposal: If enacted the mandatory spending proposal would provide substantial federal investments in affordable homes and increase the availability of housing assistance to families with the greatest needs. The president’s request calls for significant investments to address the housing needs of extremely low-income households. It would, among other things, expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and project-based rental assistance (\$7.5 billion). It would also:

- Provide \$3 billion in new resources for eviction prevention.
- Expand access to rental assistance by providing \$9 billion to ensure universal coverage to all youth aging out of foster care and \$13 billion to serve extremely low-income veterans.
- Address the capital needs of the most distressed public housing properties nationwide (\$7.5 billion).
- Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and project-based rental assistance (\$7.5 billion).

➔ **Senate Appropriations Committee Begins work on FY 24 budget process – New** – The Senate Committee on Appropriations, led by Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME), held its first full committee meeting on 3/2 to begin planning a path towards a fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget agreement.

Anticipated Budget Resolution & FY 24 Budget – No New Update – Per CBPP, House Republicans are expected to release an annual budget resolution that calls for large health care cuts, and Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) marketplace coverage are likely to be prime targets. House Republican leaders are calling for cutting the deficit and making the Trump tax cuts permanent, while saying they will shield certain areas of the budget (Medicare, Social Security, and military spending) from cuts. To do all these things at once, it is highly likely they will propose cuts in health programs that provide coverage to millions of people. And per NLIHC, there are reports suggesting that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has committed to slashing federal spending by capping FY 24 appropriations at FY 22 levels.

➔ **Senate & House Dear Colleague Letters Re. FY 24 funding for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants – New** – Bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letters are circulating in the Senate and House calling for \$3.8 billion in the FY 24 budget for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program, which includes the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). Senator King has signed on to the Senate letter (which is addressed to Senator Collins as the Senate Appropriations T-HUD Ranking Member), and Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden have both signed on to the House letter.

Biden calls for ending Veteran Homelessness in State of the Union Address – No New Update – President Biden delivered the State of the Union address before a joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on February 7. President Biden called for increased investments in quality and affordable housing and additional resources to end veteran homelessness.

Biden Administration Releases Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights – No New Update – On 1/25, the Administration announced new actions to protect renters and promote rental affordability, as well as a [Blueprint](#) for a Renters Bill of Rights. Among the new actions the White House announced are:

- The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) will launch a public process to examine proposed renter protections and anti-rent gouging measures for new federally-backed mortgages.
- The administration will hold quarterly meetings with renters and advocates to continue the conversation on renter protections, and will launch a Resident-Centered Housing Challenge, a call to action to housing providers and other stakeholders to commit to renter protections.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) will collect information to identify unfair practices that prevent tenants from accessing or staying in housing, informing each agency’s enforcement actions. This is the first time the FTC has acted on renter protections.
- The CFPB will issue guidance and coordinate with the FTC on enforcement to ensure accurate credit reporting.

- HUD will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to implement the 30-day-notice requirement enacted by Congress through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

President Biden’s National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health – No new update – On 9/27 the Biden Administration announced its [plan to end hunger](#) in the US by 2030. Under the Plan, SNAP eligibility would be expanded, children would get better access to free meals, and summer benefits would be extended to more school-aged children. These changes would require congressional approval.

BILLS – Updates

➔ **Farm Bill & SNAP Reauthorization – New** – Per CBPP: As Congress works through federal budget proposals and prepares [to reauthorize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) in the pending farm bill](#), some prominent proposals from House Republicans would harm SNAP participants by taking food away from people who can’t show every month that they meet or are exempt from new work requirements. One bill, from House Agriculture Committee member Dusty Johnson and more than 20 other House Republicans, [would dramatically expand SNAP’s already harsh work requirements](#), putting more than 10 million people — including millions of children — in states nationwide at risk of losing at least some of their food benefits. That includes about 6 million people who would potentially be newly subject to the time limit and at risk of losing SNAP, and about [4 million children who live in families that could have their SNAP benefits reduced](#), harming the entire household.

➔ **S 24 / HR 516 Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act – New** – Introduced by Senator Feinstein in the Senate and Congressman Lieu in the House, this bill would authorize a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families. The program would include five-year implementation grants to assist such entities in carrying out activities and paying capital building costs associated with the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families.

➔ **S 680 DASH Act – New** – Reintroduced by Senator Wyden on 3/7, the [DASH Act](#) would make a generational investment to house all people experiencing homelessness, tackle the housing affordability crisis, and expand homeownership opportunities for young people by creating a new down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers. The DASH Act would make stable, safe and decent housing available for all by:

- Housing everyone experiencing homelessness within five years, and prioritizing children and families for placement, by issuing them a Housing Choice Voucher, because young children are heavily impacted by housing instability, and because housing is a chief determinant of health;
- Expanding health, child care, financial and nutrition services for families and individuals to stay on a path to unassisted housing stability, because the climb out of housing poverty is nearly impossible to complete alone;
- Greatly increasing the production of deeply affordable housing for families exiting homelessness and for low-income households by investing in effective, efficient existing programs and reforming the tax code to strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, as well as establish a Renter’s Tax Credit and Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC);
- Investing in homeownership in underserved communities and for low income Americans with new tax credits and down payment assistance, including a down payment tax credit for first-time homebuyers; and
- Incentivizing environmentally-friendly development strategies and land use policies.
- Permanent authorization of appropriations for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants.

End to Medicaid “Continuous Coverage” Requirement – No New Update – Per NLIHC, Medicaid’s “continuous coverage” requirement, which prevents states from disenrolling anyone from Medicaid even if their income or household size has changed, will end on March 31. This change could threaten healthcare access for people with low incomes and people experiencing homelessness.

HR 773 Homelessness and Behavioral Health Care Coordination Act– No New Update – On 2/2 Rep. Madeleine Dean reintroduced HR 773, the Homelessness and Behavioral Health Care Coordination Act, co-sponsored by Rep. Sylvia Garcia. This bill would help people experiencing homelessness and behavioral health issues, including substance use disorder, access critical supportive services by authorizing a grant program within HUD to help state and local governments, tribal entities, public housing agencies, and Continuums of Care better coordinate services for behavioral health, including substance use disorder and homelessness.

S 255 Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023 – No New Update – On 2/3 Senators Collins and Sinema reintroduced the Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act of 2023, which would make asylum seekers eligible to receive work authorizations starting 30 days after filing an asylum application. Senator King is an original co-sponsor. On 3/1, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree reintroduced the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act in the House.

HR 9587 Tenants’ Right to organize Act – No new update – On 12/19 Rep. Andy Levin introduced the Tenant’s Right to Organize Act. Per NLIHC, the bill would “protect the organizing rights of tenants with Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) and tenants living in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties. Currently, only public housing tenants have a legally recognized right to organize. In extending the right to organize to HCV and LIHTC tenants, the bill recognizes that all tenants have the right to decent, safe, stable, and sanitary housing.”

RULES/Other Federal Items of Note

Congressional Caucus on Homelessness – New – Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), Cori Bush (D-MO), and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) [announced](#) the reestablishment of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness on 2/28. The caucus will provide a dedicated forum for members of Congress to work toward the common goal of ending homelessness in the U.S.

HUD Releases Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022: Overview of Applicability to HUD Programs – No New Update – On 2/4 HUD published a [notice in the Federal Register](#) providing interim guidance to HUD’s covered housing providers on implementing VAWA 2022. The notice includes a 60-day notice-and-comment period so that the public can comment. The deadline for comments is March 6, 2023. VAWA’s housing protections for survivors include but are not limited to:

- Prohibition Against Denial of Admission and Eviction: Survivors cannot be denied or evicted from CoC- or ESG-assisted rental assistance projects solely due to their status as survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This includes reasons related to the violence that they have experienced, such as bad rental or credit history and criminal history.
- Lease Addendum: Units receiving CoC or ESG rental assistance must have leases or rental agreements that incorporate VAWA protections including prohibition of denial or eviction, lease bifurcation, and emergency transfers.
- Change to Category 4 McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition: VAWA 2022 changes the Category 4 definition of homelessness to the following: Any individual or family who
 - (i) is experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual’s or family’s current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
 - (ii) Has no other safe residence; and
 - (iii) Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.
- Changes to VAWA’s Definition of “Domestic Violence”: VAWA 2022 expands the definition of “domestic violence” to include “technological abuse” and “economic abuse” as forms of domestic violence

State Update: The First regular Session of the 131st Legislature convened on Wednesday, 12/7/22, and per statute will adjourn on 6/21/23. Cloture occurred at 4pm on 12/30. **Please see the Bill Tracking document for specific bills.**