

McKinney-Vento Funding: Senate Talking Points

September 2011

FY 2012 "Ask"	President's FY 2012 Request	House FY 2012 Bill	FY 2011 Level	FY 2010 Level
\$2.4 billion	\$2.372 billion	\$1.901 billion	\$1.901 billion	\$1.865 billion

Talking Points

Use the talking points below that seem most relevant to your community or program.

- We were disappointed to see that the House's draft FY 2012 legislation did not increase funding for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program. Flat funding is insufficient to meet the growing needs of homeless and at-risk people in this country and to fully implement the HEARTH Act. I hope you'll work with your colleagues on the Senate HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure that the Senate recommends increased funding for this program.
- **Homelessness is Solvable.** According to HUD data, between 2005 and 2009, McKinney-funded programs contributed to a nearly 16 percent drop in total homelessness and a one-third drop in chronic homelessness nationally. Between 2009 and 2010, amidst the recession, homelessness only rose about 1 percent nationally – a testament to communities' commitment to implementing proven solutions to the problem. *Discuss local declines in homelessness. If recent data shows an increase in homelessness, discuss the progress that had been made prior to the recession.*
- **Need.** However, with the recession, we have seen more people at risk of homelessness. *Discuss the need your community is seeing for increased federal homelessness resources due to the lingering effects of the recession and cuts in state and local budgets.*
- **Bipartisan Support.** We must continue efforts over the last decade by congresses and administrations from both parties to make preventing and ending homelessness a top priority. *Discuss the local bipartisan commitment to ending homelessness.*
- **These Programs Work.** HUD's McKinney-Vento programs have strong support because they are repeatedly proven effective at preventing and ending homelessness for families, veterans, individuals, youth, and children. *Explain the success of a local McKinney-funded program. Share program outcomes and the impact it has had on homelessness in your community.*
- The 2009 reauthorization bill, the HEARTH Act, increased the focus of McKinney-Vento programs even further on proven models.
 - **Permanent Supportive Housing.** *Discuss the role of McKinney-funded permanent supportive housing (PSH) in reducing chronic homelessness in your community. Explain the cost-effectiveness of PSH.*
 - **Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention.** The HEARTH Act expanded the low-cost, efficient models of rapid re-housing and emergency prevention through the Emergency Solutions block grant. *Discuss the success of local HPRP initiatives (with data if possible) and the need to replace it with a more permanent source. Share the average cost of an HPRP intervention.*
- **Community Impact.** *Discuss what, specifically, your community could use additional McKinney-Vento funding to do. Describe a program that could be created or an existing program that could continue.*
- **I hope we can count on you to work with your colleagues on the HUD Appropriations Committee to provide \$2.4 billion for HUD's McKinney-Vento programs in the Senate's FY 2012 T-HUD appropriations bill.**