

**HIGHLIGHTS OF**  
**“COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TO END HOMELESSNESS ACT”**  
May 2007

The Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007 (CPEHA) would reauthorize and amend the housing titles of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The legislation aims to realign the incentives behind the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s homeless assistance programs to accomplish the goals of preventing and ending homelessness. The bill would make HUD’s homeless assistance more flexible, performance-based, and accountable.

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**INCREASING FLEXIBILITY**

- **Consolidate Competitive Grant Programs:** The bill consolidates HUD’s three main competitive homelessness programs (Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy) into one—the Community Homeless Assistance Program. The consolidation would reduce the administrative burden on communities caused by different program requirements. It would allow funding to be used for an array of eligible activities—maximizing flexibility, creativity, and local-decision making.
- **Provide Flexibility Tailored to Rural Communities:** The bill would create a more flexible set of requirements for rural communities by modifying HUD’s long-dormant Rural Homelessness Grant Program. Under the new requirements, a rural community could use funds for homelessness prevention and housing stabilization, in addition to transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services. The application process for these funds would be more streamlined and consistent with the capacities of rural homelessness programs.
- **Prevention Program:** Communities could apply for the Community Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Program to serve people who have moved frequently for economic reasons, are doubled up, are about to be evicted, live in severely overcrowded housing, or otherwise live in an unstable situation that puts them at risk of homelessness. The program could fund short to medium-term housing assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, and supportive services. The program would be authorized for up to \$250 million in Fiscal Year 2008.
- **Streamline Match Requirements:** Several different match levels would be consolidated into a uniform 25 percent match for all activities. In-kind activities could count toward the match only when documented by a memorandum of understanding.
- **Include Families in Chronic Homelessness:** The definition of chronic homelessness would be modified to include families with children where the family meets all the other requirements of the definition (homeless in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter for one year continuously or for four times in the past three years and having a head of household with a disabling condition).

## IMPROVING PERFORMANCE

- **Performance-Based Funding Criteria:** Funding would be based on demonstrated need, past performance, plans to improve performance, leveraging, and other factors.
- **Incentives for Proven Strategies:** HUD would be required to provide incentives for communities to use proven strategies to end homelessness. These strategies would include permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people, rapid rehousing programs for homeless families, and other research-based strategies that HUD, after public comment, determines are effective.
- **National Funding Priority for Permanent Housing:** Thirty percent of total funds available nationally would be allocated for permanent housing for individuals with a disabling condition or families headed by a person with a disabling condition. At least 10 percent of funds would be for permanent housing for families with children.
- **Flexibility Incentive For High-Performing Communities:** Communities that demonstrate results—reducing the number of people who become homeless, the length of time people are homeless, and recidivism back into homelessness—would be allowed to use their homeless assistance funding more flexibly and to serve groups that are at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Permanent Housing Renewals:** Leasing, rental assistance, and operating costs of permanent housing programs would be renewed for one year at a time through the Section 8 housing voucher account, provided that the applicant demonstrates need and compliance with appropriate standards.

## ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY

- **More Responsibility for Communities:** Collaborative Applicants, similar to existing Continuums of Care, would be established. The Collaborative Applicants would have greater responsibility for overseeing homeless assistance programs and would be eligible for up to 3 percent of total funding for administrative costs. Collaborative Applicants could also become Unified Funding Agencies, which would give them responsibility for receiving homeless assistance funding from HUD and distributing it to project sponsors. Collaborative Applicants that are also Unified Funding Agencies could receive up to 6 percent of total funding for administrative costs.
- **Timeliness of Awards and Expenditures:**
  - NOFA must be released within three months of appropriations enactment.
  - Funding awards must be announced within four months of application due date.
  - Project sponsors must meet requirements for obligation within nine months of award announcement (15 months for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation).
  - Funds must be obligated within 45 days of project sponsor meeting requirements.
  - Funds must be expended in a timely fashion.
- **\$1.8 billion Authorization for Fiscal Year 2008.**