



Fact Sheet

Secretary Fudge Launches *House America*: An All-Hands-On-Deck Effort to Address the Nation's Homelessness Crisis

House America is a federal initiative, led by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. As Secretary of HUD and Chair of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Secretary Fudge invites mayors, county leaders, Tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to use the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach.

The Need

House America is the federal government's direct response to the crisis of homelessness, which was rising even before the COVID-19 pandemic. When most Americans were told to stay safe from COVID-19 by staying home, there were more than 580,000 Americans who could not do so because they had no home. People experiencing homelessness have had to endure the pandemic in crowded settings where social distancing is impossible, or outside without access to hygiene facilities and other basic needs. No one should have to experience homelessness, let alone suffer a global pandemic without the safety of a home.

The Opportunity

Through the American Rescue Plan, communities now have historic resources—70,000 emergency housing vouchers, \$5 billion in HOME grants, \$350 billion in State and Local Recovery Funds through the Department of the Treasury, and significant investments to preserve and protect housing on tribal lands - to help more Americans obtain the safety of a stable home. Communities also have resources through the CARES Act, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and other state, tribal, and local resources to re-house people experiencing homelessness and create additional dedicated housing units to address homelessness. *House America* provides communities with the focus, resolve, and technical know-how needed to deploy these resources to maximize impact.

Goals

Recognizing the need to respond with urgency to our nation's homelessness crisis, Secretary Fudge is calling on state, tribal, and local leaders to partner with HUD to use American Rescue Plan resources, alongside other federal, tribal, state, and local resources to re-house households experiencing homelessness through a Housing First approach, and to add new units of affordable

housing into the development pipeline by December 31, 2022.

Tribal, state and local leaders are asked to set and achieve two specific, numeric goals:

1) Re-Housing – The number of households experiencing homelessness to be placed into stable housing.

2) Housing Creation – The number of new units of affordable or supportive housing serving people experiencing homelessness to be added to the development pipeline.

The Partnership

Mayors, city and county leaders, governors, and tribal nation leaders join the initiative by issuing a proclamation or other public communication, setting their goals, building their team, and managing to the achievement of their goals.

HUD, USICH, and other federal agencies will support state, tribal, and local leaders through tools, technical assistance, direct regular communication, data support, and peer-to-peer learning.

Collectively, we will troubleshoot challenges, track our progress, and recognize our achievement in housing our most vulnerable neighbors.