

Trump's Budget Proposal and Housing

The President's 2018 proposed budget cuts deeply into housing programs, including a \$6.2 billion decrease for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).¹ As part of the budget change tenant rent contributions will increase from 30% to 35% with exceptions for those who experience "hardship." The budget also calls for the elimination of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; an organization that coordinates with federal agencies to prevent and end homelessness. Additionally, the budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which is a Department of Treasury program that helps entice developers and investors to build housing and businesses in low-income neighborhoods. Five HUD programs would be eliminated under the Trumps proposal:

Community Development Block Grant Program

Funds programs that assist low-income people with housing issues, including the elimination of urban blight. Some local communities use these funds to support the Meals on Wheels program.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Provides block grants to state and local governments to create affordable housing solutions for low-income households.

Choice Neighborhoods

Funds programs to replace distressed public housing and promote investment for neighborhood improvement.

Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program

Funds nonprofit organizations that build new housing for low-income families through sweat equity and volunteer labor.

Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing

Works with nonprofit groups to fund community development and affordable housing initiatives aimed at low-income families.

Additionally, under HUD, the Native American Housing Block Grant would be cut by more than 14%.

Impact of Cuts

Program	Impact of Cuts
Community Development Block Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,200 communities receive funding• 95% of funds go to low-income communities• Possible impact on Meals on Wheels* <p>*More information on the impact of Meals on Wheels below.</p>
HOME Investment Partnership	In 24 years, the program has:

¹ FY 2018 Congressional Justification. Retrieved from: https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/cfo/reports/fy18_CJ
Retrieved May 31, 2017.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped build 1.2 million homes Provided rental assistance to 270, 000 families Generated 1.5 million jobs Generated \$94 billion in local income² <p>67% of households served by HOME are elderly or families.</p>
Choice Neighborhoods	From 2010-2014 the grant program awarded \$350 million and leveraged more than \$2.6 billion. ³
SHOP Program	FY 2016: \$10 million of grants distributed. Since 1996 the program has served 28,000 households. Top grant recipients include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat for Humanity Housing Assistance Council
Section 4	FY 2016: \$58 million of funds distributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise Community Partners Local Initiatives Support Corporations Habitat for Humanity

How Does Housing Impact Health?

Research has shown that clinical medical care accounts for just 20% of health outcomes. Whereas health behaviors, socioeconomic factors and the physical environment account for the remaining 80% of health outcomes.⁴ Housing is an important piece within socioeconomic factors and the physical environment. There are three main pathways that housing effects health: affordable housing, high-quality housing and safe neighborhoods.



Housing: ‘The Ripple Effect’

With pediatric asthma on the rise, providers are finding that clinical medicine alone is not enough to combat environmental issues and asthma triggers such as pollution, mold and pest infestation. We know that asthma has a huge impact on school attendance. In 2008, asthma accounted for 14.4 million lost school days nationwide.⁵ Further, we also know that chronic absenteeism leads to lower educational attainment and this, in turn has significant impact on future health status and socioeconomic status.⁶

Poor Housing → Asthma → Missed School → Quality of Life

² Mickelson, S. (2015). The HOME Investment Partnerships Program’s Impact on America’s Families and Communities. Retrieved from: <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/resources/home-investment-partnerships-programs-impact-americas-families-and-communities-13358#sthash.7MVtpUTb.dpuf>. Retrieved June 1, 2017.

³ Choice Neighborhoods 2015 Grantee Report. (2015). Retrieved from Choice Neighborhoods 2015 Grantee Report

⁴ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2015

⁵ American Lung Association, 2012

⁶ Theis, K.M. (1999). Identifying the educational implications of chronic illness in school children. *The Journal of School Health*, 69 (10).

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a national organization that supports more than 5,000 community based senior nutrition programs across the country. The program delivers nutritious meals and safety checks to 2.4 million seniors. Recently, Meals on Wheels has been under the spotlight when news sources suggested that Trump's budget plan would cut the program.⁷

Meals on Wheels receives funding through a mix of federal funds, state funds, local funds and donations. As outlined above the Trump proposal would eliminate the Community Development Block Grant funding. Some states and cities have used the block grant funding to help fund Meals on Wheels. Because localities allocate these funds, there is no data tally of which cities and states are using the Community Development Block Grants to fund Meals on Wheels, or how much is going to the program.

The biggest source of federal funding for Meals on Wheels programs comes from another source—The Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, which is run by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Meals on Wheels programs across the country rely on the HHS program for 35% of their funding and the budget cuts the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program by \$3 million.

Research has shown that home-delivered meals help senior citizens live independently in their homes, both thanks to the food itself and the social contact with the volunteers who deliver the meals.⁸ Additionally, that the programs are also aligned with the federal cost-containment policy to rebalance long-term care away from nursing homes to home. Therefore, if Meals on Wheels loses funding they will have to look for more private investments or cut back on services.

⁷ McLaughlin, Elliot. March, 2016, CNN News Retrieved from: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/16/politics/meals-on-wheels-trump-budget-blueprint/>

⁸ Huichen Zhu, Ruopeng An. (2014). Impact of home-delivered meal programs on diet and nutrition among older adults. *Nutrition and Health*. Vol 22, Issue 2, pp. 89 – 103