

Program Overview

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is the only agency at the federal level with the sole responsibility of ending homelessness. It works across 19 federal agencies and departments and with partners in both the public and private sectors to improve the outcomes of federal spending on homelessness.

USICH cuts through federal bureaucracy and competing priorities to achieve these improved outcomes for homeless people. USICH played a key role, for example, in working with HUD and VA to drive the significant reductions in veteran homelessness that have been achieved. Another example is USICH's work to combine HUD-funded housing with Medicaid-funded services in permanent supportive housing, accelerating progress on ending chronic homelessness.

At the local level, USICH's Regional Coordinators help stakeholders use federal resources from different agencies in order to efficiently implement best practice strategies that meet locally determined needs. This allows communities and states to leverage housing, health, education, and labor funding more strategically and effectively. USICH also works to ensure that information about federal programs is clear and easily accessible.

USICH has helped drive national decreases in homelessness and should continue. As Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, was quoted explaining, "The investment of a few million dollars to coordinate \$5 billion in targeted spending and billions more from mainstream programs across 19 federal agencies has worked. Despite strong headwinds in the form of increasing rents and stagnant incomes for poor people, homelessness has gone down. The Alliance strongly supports the continuation of USICH until the problem of homelessness in our nation is solved."

Current Status

USICH is on track to sunset, or discontinue, in fall 2018 without legislation to prevent this. It is currently funded at \$3.6 million. The Administration's Budget Proposal would allow USICH to sunset and provide \$570 thousand in fiscal year (FY) 2018 to complete administrative close-out activities.

Recommendation

Senators should co-sponsor [S. 743, introduced](#) by Senators Collins and Reed, which would eliminate USICH's sunset date. Congress should also fund USICH at its current \$3.6 billion level in FY 2018 and include appropriations language to extend the fall 2018 sunset date if S.743 has not passed.