



SCAG HOUSING POLICY FORUM SERIES



S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A A S S O C I A T I O N O F G O V E R N M E N T S

H.R. 4496: The Ending Homelessness Act of 2021	
Authors	Representatives Maxine Waters, Emanuel Cleaver, and Ritchie Torres
What's it About?	The Ending Homelessness Act of 2021 would ensure universal rental assistance for every eligible family. The bill also provides funding for housing affordable to lower-income people, bans source of income discrimination, and addresses other issues that can help to end homelessness.
What's the Status?	<p>Introduced in the House on July 16, 2021, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on the Judiciary.</p> <p>While the status is not entirely clear, the Reconciliation Bill under discussion in Congress at one time included \$90 billion in permanent rental assistance, \$80 billion for public housing, and \$37 billion for the National Housing Trust.</p>
What Does it Do?	<p>The bill takes on homelessness with aggressive measures including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing the Housing Choice Voucher program into an entitlement program that ensures that all families who qualify can receive assistance. New funding for vouchers would be phased in over eight years until all eligible low-income households are served. 2. \$10.5 billion in funding for new affordable housing construction and preservation, including \$5 billion to the National Housing Trust Fund and \$5 billion in grant funding to build 85,000 new permanent supportive homes. \$500 million is also included to provide supportive services and case management. 3. Bans source of income discrimination, preventing landlords from discriminating against tenants with vouchers or other rental assistance. Also bans discrimination based on veteran status.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Permanently authorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act to ensure continued funding of homeless assistance grants administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 5. Permanently authorizes the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordinate the federal response to homelessness. 6. \$20 million for states and local governments to help integrate health care and housing. <p>When introduced, the bill pledged a total of \$13.3 billion for homeless programs. It is expected to lift 9 million people out of poverty, create 410,000 new affordable homes, and end widespread homelessness.</p>
Why is it Important?	<p>Currently, only one in four households who qualify for housing voucher assistance receives one. Waiting lists for vouchers are often years long, and when people get access to a voucher they often find it difficult to find a landlord willing to rent to them. In the meantime, many become housing insecure, pay too much for housing, or fall into homelessness.</p> <p>Homelessness continues to be a challenge throughout the country. Housing is a necessary response, providing the affordability and stability needed to help people get back on their feet, receive the services they need, and stay safe and healthy. Yet it is now a limited commodity. This bill seeks to change that situation.</p>
More Information	<p>Bill: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4496/text</p>