

# DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## Office of Public and Indian Housing

### Self-Sufficiency Programs

#### SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Enacted/ Requested	Carry over	Supplemental/ Rescission	Total Resources	Obligations	Net Outlays
2022 Appropriation	159,000	143,114	-	302,114	135,337	97,833
2023 Appropriation	175,000	168,906	-	343,906	155,000	115,000
2024 President's Budget	175,000	187,000	-	362,000	189,000	233,000
Change from 2023	-	18,094	-	18,094	34,000	118,000

a/ 2023 carryover includes \$2.1 million of recaptured prior year unpaid obligations.

#### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Self-Sufficiency Programs promote economic opportunity for HUD-assisted residents by helping families grow their earned income and savings, increasing their financial well-being overall. This allows families to benefit from supportive services that are essential to helping them achieve their full potential. These efforts are facilitated through the Family Self-Sufficiency program (FSS), the Jobs Plus Initiative (Jobs Plus) program, the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program (ROSS) and the proposed budget-neutral Resident Health Equity Innovation (RHEI) demonstration program. This suite of self-sufficiency programs focuses on the employment, financial stability, health and economic empowerment of HUD-assisted residents. These programs also support aging in place and living independently for seniors and residents with disabilities. They contribute to the overall economic health of the communities served.

These programs are especially vital to extremely and very low-income families of color. In 2019, over 75 percent of FSS participants were non-white, which mirrors the overall population of those living in HUD-assisted housing.

Additionally, developments eligible for the Jobs Plus program are often located in communities of color. For example, the largest Jobs Plus grant ever awarded was given to Nickerson Gardens in Watts, California, a development that is over 99 percent African American and Latino. Additionally, the ROSS program has the unique ability to fund service coordinators for Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)-assisted units. In recent years, over 30 tribal entities have been awarded grants under this program. Participation in these programs generally mirrors the population of those receiving housing assistance in any given place.

#### BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2024 President's Budget requests \$175 million for Self-Sufficiency Programs, which is equal to the 2023 enacted amount. Of this, \$125 million is for the FSS program, \$15 million is for Jobs Plus, and \$35 million is for ROSS. With funding at the requested level, FSS will be able to fund approximately 1,450 FSS coordinators to support at least 74,000 families in public housing, voucher housing, and Multifamily housing. Jobs Plus funding will allow HUD to fund up to 9 new grants, and ROSS will fund approximately 150 ROSS coordinators to support over 55,000 households in public housing and NAHASDA-assisted units. Additionally, the budget includes the new budget-neutral RHEI program, which will encourage PHAs to partner with local qualified health centers using their

current Public Housing Fund resources to focus on improving access to health resources for HUD-assisted residents.

## JUSTIFICATION

The three Self-Sufficiency Program goals promote economic stability through self-sufficiency and financial stability. The RHEI demonstration program will support resident connections to local health services.

### Family Self-Sufficiency

The Family Self-Sufficiency program provides funds for FSS coordinators' salaries. These funds leverage an array of services provided by other national, State, and local programs for training, education, financial empowerment, and other supportive services that expand employment opportunities for the purpose of increasing economic self-sufficiency.

The requested funding level will provide one-year renewal funding for the salaries of approximately 1,400 renewal (from 2022) and anticipated 50 new (from 2023) FSS Program Coordinators. In total, this would provide funding for approximately 1,450 coordinators, who would maintain 2023 service levels for more than 74,000 families. This funding level is critical to support renewals and provide service coordination through each existing participant's five-year Contract of Participation.

FSS grants are issued for one year and are renewable in subsequent years. Grants fund the coordinator's salary, while supportive services are provided by community partners. FSS coordinators connect participants with supportive services, with the aim of helping participants achieve their employment goals, increase their earnings, and accumulate assets.

The overarching goals of the FSS program include:

- Increased educational and employment attainment leading to increased earnings;
- Engagement in financial empowerment activities leading to debt reduction, improvement in credit scores, and increased savings; and
- Decreased or eliminated the need for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) assistance and rental assistance.

The success of the FSS program in promoting the economic security and self-sufficiency of Public Housing and HCV participants is demonstrated by local communities achieving the following outcomes for 2021 (data for 2022 will not be available until the end of March 2023, and this data excludes participant outcomes in the initial 39 Moving to Work agencies):

- Over 56,942 households actively participated in the program; 4,657 families (as compared to 4,763 families in calendar year 2020) successfully completed their FSS contracts and graduated; 100 percent of graduating families did not require temporary cash assistance (TANF/welfare); and 25 percent of graduates had escrow savings at graduation. Those with escrow had approximately \$9,007, and 57 percent of participants earned escrow while in the program. Many participants who accumulated escrow chose to use some or all of their escrow while in the program toward reaching their self-sufficiency goals;
- 1,048 FSS program graduates (27 percent of graduates) no longer needed rental assistance within one year of leaving the FSS program;
- 451 FSS program graduates (11 percent of graduates) ultimately purchased homes; and
- The FSS program expanded to approximately 130 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) properties via Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) or unfunded programs.

The Congress re-authorized the FSS program in Section 306 of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law No: 115-174) in 2018. HUD published the Final Rule implementing this new statute on May 17, 2022. All of the more than 900 existing FSS grantees submitted revised FSS Action Plans, which were reviewed and approved by field staff to support continued operations of existing programs under the new Final Rule. In 2022, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that included eligibility for PBRA owners for the first time. HUD renewed funding for 682 PHAs and awarded 32 PHAs and 38 PBRA owners FSS grants for the first time. The response to the NOFO was outstanding and, while HUD was able to fund 70 applications, due to prioritization of renewal applications HUD did not award funding to over 150 eligible applicants.

In order to study the effectiveness of the FSS program, HUD commissioned a national impact evaluation of FSS by MDRC. The timeframe of the evaluation was designed to cover the full five years of a standard FSS contract of participation with an additional two years of follow-up. The five-year report is likely to be published in late 2023 and the final seven-year report is likely to be published in late 2023. Findings for the first 36 months indicated a higher uptake of services in the FSS group. Participants were more engaged in financial empowerment programs and shifted from part-time to full-time work, resulting in more stable employment. The study does not indicate a statistically significant change in earned income for FSS participants compared to the control group.<sup>1</sup>

The program anticipates implementing a performance measurement system in the summer of 2023 that provides an analysis of each Public Housing Agency's FSS program by examining three factors: earnings performance, graduation rate, and participation rate. The scores combine to determine a "performance score." No new reporting is required to implement the performance score; HUD will analyze data already collected through the Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC). HUD will use the performance score to prioritize monitoring and oversight of FSS programs, targeting the lowest performers for the first reviews. If the Congress removes the prohibition on using the performance measurement system in funding decisions, as requested in the 2024 Budget, HUD will use it to prioritize additional funding to higher-performing grantees – especially when considering the expansion of existing programs.

**Equity:** The FSS program advances equity in the rental assistance portfolio by utilizing HUD-assisted housing as a platform to improve the lives of residents. People of color are overrepresented in HUD-assisted housing and the majority of FSS participants are Black, Latino, and Asian. FSS provides a critical link between HUD-assisted residents and community partners, which enhances the quality of life of residents with childcare, transportation, basic adult education, job training, employment counseling, substance/alcohol abuse treatment, financial empowerment, asset-building skills, and homeownership counseling.

**Key Assumptions for FSS:** The FSS key assumptions are based on the estimated number of renewal grantees eligible for 2023 funding. Salaries for this program are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data. The program assumes an average position is \$90,000-\$100,000, based on 2022 BLS data and grantee funding requests. New positions are required to serve a minimum of 25 participants each and up to 74 participants. The program assumes an average of 50 participants per position.

**Stakeholders for FSS:** Each FSS grantee is required to form a Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) comprised of local partnerships. The PCC serves as a key element of implementation. Partnerships through the PCC strengthen program planning and implementation and streamline

---

<sup>1</sup> HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Program Evaluation Report. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/FSS-Midpoint-2021.html>

access to services for participants. HUD also coordinates with other Federal agencies in providing technical assistance and resources to grantees to build capacity and improve program outcomes.

**Operational Improvements for FSS:** FSS is taking an evidence-based approach to program improvement. Recent program evaluations for FSS have highlighted challenges related to data reporting and collection, program efficacy, staff turnover at PHAs, and lack of defined program standards. Along with the publication of the FSS Final Rule to implement the statutory re-authorization of the program, HUD has increased guidance and technical assistance resources on best practices, including the publication of a revised and updated Guidebook,<sup>2</sup> multiple webinars on implementation of the Final Rule, an updated online training to be published in the first quarter of 2023, monthly live “office hours” for FSS practitioners, the creation of fact sheets and “myth-busters,” continued remote and live training at local, regional and national conferences by request, and the implementation of a new monitoring protocol to review every FSS program at least once every five years for the first time in program history.

### **Jobs Plus Initiative**

The Jobs Plus Initiative provides an evidence- and place-based strategy for increasing the employment opportunities and earnings of HUD-assisted residents. It accomplishes this through a three-pronged program of employment services, rent-based work incentives, and community support for work. Jobs Plus awards 4.5-year grants to PHAs to address poverty among residents by incentivizing and enabling employment through a financial rent incentive (earned income disregard) for working residents and a set of services designed to support work including employer linkages, job placement and counseling, educational advancement, and financial counseling. Residents in Job Plus developments can evaluate educational, training, and work opportunities in their community to determine a pathway toward long-term economic security.

Through Jobs Plus, residents can address barriers that may prevent them from seeking and retaining employment. The Budget requests \$15 million for Jobs Plus, which would fund up to nine grants. The Jobs Plus model depends on a “saturation” strategy, supporting entire developments and promoting work throughout the community, rather than assisting individual households. This facet of Jobs Plus is particularly important in communities of color that have historically lacked access to resources and information related to work opportunities. Saturation ensures that everyone in the development has equitable access to work readiness resources.

Since the inception of Jobs Plus, PHA residents have been able to stabilize families through increased income, asset building, barrier reduction, and wrap-around support. The following are key accomplishments of Jobs Plus from 2014 to 2022:

- Over 89 percent of participants that completed the initial assessment received post-assessment services or support;
- 6,600 participants achieved part-time and/or full-time job placements;
- Over 1,800 individuals were continuously employed for at least 180 days after placement; and
- Residents saved approximately \$31 million in rent payments through the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard.

HUD commissioned two studies of the Federal implementation, one focusing on the implementation of Jobs Plus and one focusing on the impact of the program. The interim implementation report found that the nine grantees in the first cohort of the HUD replication implemented all three core

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FSS-Program-Guidebook.pdf>

elements of the model more quickly and fully than the original demonstration and the SIF replication sites. The final implementation study report (released December 2019) described how PHAs implement this ambitious program, the challenges sites faced and how they could be addressed.<sup>3</sup>

The impact study report is expected to be published in Spring 2023.<sup>4</sup> The study includes important lessons for program implementation and provides direction for future research. However, the report finds that there were no measurable additional increases in employment or earnings for residents, as compared to other sites that did not receive Jobs Plus program funding. The study found positive impacts for the Jobs Plus sites and their families, including case management, barrier removal, service provision, increased earnings, and employment outcomes. It should be noted that this study occurred at the outset of the program when the program implementation strategies and documents were still in development. Findings from this and other reports have informed the later implementation of the program. HUD continues to incorporate program improvements that will further advance families' ability to achieve quality employment and income growth.

One of the main components of Jobs Plus is the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard (JPEID). If participants in Jobs Plus experience an increase in earned income, that amount will not be counted toward their rent calculation thanks to the JPEID, allowing them to save more and/or use these funds to support other housing stability needs. The current program structure requires that this difference in rent be covered by the Jobs Plus grant—so, if a program is successful in having participants earn more income, their grant may become too small to continue to support all elements of the program model. The Budget contains language in the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Public Housing Fund, and Project-Based Rental Assistance accounts that shift the cost of the disregard to those “source” accounts, allowing the Jobs Plus grants to focus on funding services. Also, shifting the disregard to the source accounts will significantly minimize the administrative burden for both grantees and HUD.

**Equity:** Jobs Plus advances equity by bringing a comprehensive workforce service model to underserved public housing communities. As noted, people of color are overrepresented in HUD-assisted housing. Through its model, Jobs Plus supports and empowers public housing residents in advancing their employment outcomes, increasing their earnings, sustaining career ladder employment at a living wage, and overall improving their lives. Its services address barriers that may prevent residents from seeking and retaining employment.

These services, along with the unique rent incentive and community supports for work, are critical in supporting self-sufficiency and addressing unemployment and poverty among public housing residents. According to program focus groups, during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jobs Plus program and its resources were essential in helping multiple sites maintain or regain employment levels despite the increase in local unemployment.

**Key Assumptions for Jobs Plus:** Jobs Plus assumptions are based on an average grant size of \$2.4 million. Funds are awarded according to the number of non-elderly households in the targeted development. Grantees must have at least 100 non-elderly households to qualify for funding (prior to 2022, developments had to have at least 200 non-elderly households), with at least 40 percent of non-elderly households reporting no earned income.

---

<sup>3</sup> HUD's Jobs Plus Pilot Program for Public Housing Residents: Ongoing Implementation Experiences. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/JobsPlusReport.html>

<sup>4</sup> More information on evaluation findings can be found at <https://www.mdrc.org/project/jobs-plus-community-revitalization-initiative-public-housing-families#overview>

**Stakeholders for Jobs Plus:** Jobs Plus grantees are required to build local partnerships as a key element of implementation. These partnerships will strengthen program planning and implementation and streamline access to services for participants. HUD also coordinates with other Federal agencies to provide technical assistance and resources to grantees to build capacity and improve program outcomes. In addition, HUD has partnered with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create Communities of Practice, which provide advanced training in evidence-based financial empowerment techniques to Jobs Plus-funded staff who in turn bring these training resources to the residents they serve.

**Operational Improvements for Jobs Plus:** As PHAs continue to reposition public housing units to meet the needs of residents via RAD or other available mechanisms, it has become increasingly important for the Jobs Plus program to be available beyond the traditional public housing program. Currently, that is not the case, and a legislative proposal has been proposed to facilitate an expansion of supportive services programs to Project-Based Vouchers and/or Multifamily housing assistance platforms. Additionally, a legislative proposal has been proposed to allow the Jobs Plus financial rent incentive to be paid from the rental assistance source accounts rather than the Jobs Plus grant. This will reduce the administrative burden and streamline grant implementation.

### **Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS)**

The ROSS Service Coordinator program provides funding to hire and maintain Service Coordinators, who assess the needs of residents of public or Indian housing and coordinate available resources in the community to meet those needs.

The ROSS program provides tailored services and programs specific to digital inclusion, education, employment, financial literacy, reentry, and health and wellness for the elderly or residents with disabilities and/or those struggling with substance use. The ROSS program expects to continue to see positive outcomes such as a reduction in the number of elderly and disabled participants who need assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL), which creates significant cost savings to other Federal and State programs by allowing residents to age in place and avoiding more costly forms of care. Other positive outcomes we expect to continue to see include increases in educational attainment and overall maintenance of employment.

The ROSS program leverages public and private resources for supportive services and resident empowerment activities. The Budget requests \$35 million to fund 150 existing ROSS service coordinators who provide vital services to over 55,000 public housing and NAHASDA-assisted residents (impact data is based on information from 2021 grantees, which will be renewed in 2024). ROSS is designed to assist not just work-able families but also elderly or disabled residents. In 2022, ROSS introduced U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) data as a standard for evaluating eligible salaries, added digital inclusion as a focus area of need in the NOFO, increased salary maximums, and allowed the use of grant funding for direct services. In addition to funding PHAs, ROSS has the unique ability to provide grant funding to Tribes, non-profits, and Residents' Associations.

Key findings and accomplishments for the ROSS program from 2017 through June 2021:

- More than three-quarters (79 percent) of all participants received at least one service after the initial assessment. Of those who received services, most participants (73 percent) received two or more services;
- ROSS Service Coordinators provided case management services to 86 percent of elders and people with disabilities and to 70 percent of work-able adults, including comprehensive needs assessments and links to other services;

- 98 percent of elderly participants and people with disabilities gained or maintained access to health care; and
- 6,266 participants (7 percent) attained a degree, and an additional 1,797 (2 percent) increased their level of education.

Equity: This program advances equity by serving several underserved communities, including Tribes, elderly residents, and residents with disabilities. Furthermore, it empowers residents by funding Resident Associations as grantees. With each focus area of need (including digital inclusion, health and wellness, and education), the program promotes equity by enabling Service Coordinators to help residents bridge the gap between existing needs and resources/community partners who can help. For example, grantees who select digital inclusion as their area of need can connect residents with access to computers and computer training, thereby bridging the digital divide.

Key Assumptions for ROSS: The ROSS key assumptions are based on the number of renewal grantees eligible for 2024 ROSS funding. This funding level will support an estimated 150 renewal positions awarded to 146 grantees.

The Administration's Budget is a key component of the grant, providing funding to operate the program locally and, with HUD's prior approval, to cover services and other costs that help remove barriers to self-sufficiency.

Stakeholders for ROSS: ROSS grantees are required to build local partnerships as a key element of program implementation. These partnerships strengthen program delivery by streamlining access to services for residents. HUD complements this requirement by providing ongoing technical assistance resources to grantees to build their capacity and program outcomes. In addition, HUD has partnered with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create Communities of Practice, which provides advanced training in evidence-based financial empowerment techniques to ROSS Service Coordinators who in turn bring these training resources to the residents they serve.

Operational Improvements for ROSS: In its 2022 NOFO, ROSS introduced BLS data as the standard for determining eligible salary maximums. In doing so, the ROSS Program allowed itself to anticipate requested funding levels with more accuracy, made funding more transparent and standardized across grantees, and standardized operations across SSPs, given that the FSS Program also bases its eligible salaries on BLS data.

As PHAs continue to reposition public housing units to meet the needs of residents through Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) or other available mechanisms, it has become increasingly important for ROSS to allow for RAD-converted properties to renew their grant awards. The 2023 appropriation included a provision that enabled 2020 ROSS grantees to renew their ROSS grant when they transition to PBV or PBRA through RAD. Similarly, the 2024 budget requests a similar proposal to ensure renewal eligibility for 2021 ROSS grantees who may have a RAD conversion. The ROSS Program takes an evidence-based approach to program improvement. A recent program evaluation for ROSS highlighted the challenges related to data reporting and collection, program efficacy, staff turnover at PHAs, and lack of defined program standards. As a result, the ROSS program implemented new data elements, a new reporting system, and ongoing technical assistance to help grantees understand their reporting requirements. This technical assistance includes one-on-one training to provide grantees with hands-on assistance with interpreting and reporting their data. Other program improvements for ROSS include the delivery of webinars and guides, to help grantees build capacity and improve their performance.

## **Resident Health Equity Innovation (RHEI) Demonstration**

Stable and affordable housing is a key social determinant of health. Marginalized groups, including low-income populations, communities of color, and members of the LGBTQI+ community, have been disproportionately exposed to a combination of health risks while lacking access to healthcare resources. Through RHEI, PHAs who volunteer for the demonstration will be permitted to use Public Housing Operating Funds, including operating reserves, to hire, retain, or coordinate with community health workers to connect residents to preventative care, health and wellness, and mental health resources provided by community partners and other Federal Agencies.

Health inequities often stem from structural racism and the historical disenfranchisement and discrimination of marginalized groups, including low-income populations, communities of color, and members of the LGBTQI+ community. Historically, they lack access to health resources, particularly preventative care, health and wellness, and mental health. Taken together, health inequities negatively impact life achievements, including educational and employment outcomes, resulting in a large loss of opportunity for marginalized groups who are overwhelmingly assisted by PHAs every year. PHAs are uniquely positioned to facilitate place-based, culturally appropriate community health interventions that improve residents' access to vital public health resources and services. Additionally, community health workers tend to be community based and will provide employment opportunities to public housing residents and increase the healthcare career pipeline for PIH-assisted residents.

This program could be especially impactful for public housing residents who are elderly and/or living with disabilities in the Public Housing program, 55 percent of families are elderly and/or disabled. As seniors age, their risk of having chronic diseases or functional limitations increases. Whether elderly or non-elderly, persons with disabilities often require special accommodations and support services to live independently. According to studies by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)<sup>5</sup>, on every measure of health, assisted tenants were worse off than other low-income renters, including self-reported fair or poor health (36 percent), two or more emergency room visits in the past year (23 percent), overweight or obese (71 percent), difficulty with activities of daily living (57 percent), self-reported disability (61 percent), high blood pressure (38 percent), heart disease (20 percent), and diabetes (18 percent). Rates of health problems among assisted children are higher relative to other children; 21 percent of children have an asthma condition which is double the rate for children in the general population. Parents report five percent of kids in assisted housing as having poor health, also double the general population.

Housing-related challenges can trigger significant mental health distress. Training and technical assistance resources will be used to support HUD's Department-wide effort to reduce the impacts of housing-related challenges on mental and emotional well-being and improve the experience of the Department's customers. HUD will coordinate validated, evidence-based training for front-line housing professionals on the signs and symptoms of emotional distress and mental health challenges. This training will help housing professionals connect customers who are experiencing emotional distress with appropriate local resources.

**Key Assumptions:** Having dedicated health navigators that can build partnerships with the health sector and trust among residents helps PHAs achieve greater health equity, as we learned with the Community Health Worker Place-Based Approach to Health (CHW-PATH). HUD began the three-year pilot CHW-PATH, funded by HHS's Office of Minority of Health, through their Interagency

---

<sup>5</sup> A Health Picture of HUD-Assisted Adults, 2006–2012: HUD Administrative Data Linked with the National Health Interview Survey. A Health Picture of HUD-Assisted Adults, 2006–2012 (<https://www.huduser.gov/PORTAL/publications/Health-Picture-of-HUD.html>)



SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Health Equity Collaborative (IHEC). The program was developed and is executed in partnership with HHS and the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI), in consultation with the National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH). Having operated throughout the pandemic, CHW PATH has demonstrated the benefit of having dedicated health navigators that can build partnerships with the health sector and trust among residents to achieve greater health equity.

**Stakeholders for RHEI:** As part of RHEI, PHAs that choose to use Public Housing Operating Funds to support the RHEI initiative would be encouraged to build local partnerships with health entities as a key element of implementation. Partners may include but are not limited to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community-based mental health providers, addiction and recovery providers, health promotion and education nonprofits, local health departments, aging and disability resource centers, and community hospitals. HUD will also coordinate with other Federal Agencies and partners, including the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide technical assistance and resources to PHAs to build capacity and improve program outcomes.

**SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY PROGRAM**

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Activity	2022 Budget Authority	2021 Carry over Into 2022	2022 Total Resources	2022 Obligations	2023 Appropriation	2022 Carry over Into 2023	2023 Total Resources	2024 President's Budget
Family Self-Sufficiency Program	109,000	105,602	214,602	101,128	125,000	115,602	240,602	125,000
Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS)	35,000	35,792	70,792	34,209	35,000	36,583	71,583	35,000
Jobs Plus Initiative	15,000	1,720	16,720		15,000	16,721	31,721	15,000
Resident Health Equity Innovation (RHEI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,000</b>	<b>143,114</b>	<b>302,114</b>	<b>135,337</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>168,906</b>	<b>343,906</b>	<b>175,000</b>

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Appropriations Language Changes**

The 2024 President's Budget includes the following:

- **Jobs Plus Expansion beyond Public Housing:** HUD requests account language authorizing the expansion of Jobs Plus eligibility to fund place-based communities within not only Public Housing, but also Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) developments and Project Based Voucher (PBV) developments.
- **Jobs Plus Reduction of Grant Cost Burden:** HUD requests a provision to allow the Jobs Plus financial and rent incentive to be paid from the housing assistance source accounts rather than the Jobs Plus grant. Corresponding language is included in the TBRA, PBRA, and Public Housing Fund accounts.

## Legislative Proposals

The 2024 Budget supports the following legislative proposals and will seek changes through the authorization process:

- **Eligibility of RAD Converted Properties for ROSS Program:** HUD requests statutory authorization to allow ROSS funding to be provided to residents that live in a property that has undergone a RAD conversion to PBRA or PBV. The current statute allows ROSS grantees to provide services to residents of public and Indian housing only. As a result, former grantees are either no longer eligible for funding or are eligible for fewer ROSS Service Coordinator positions despite the need for service funding at the same level. There is no budgetary impact for this proposal. This request was enacted in the 2023 budget and HUD is now requesting authorizing language in 2024.
- **Jobs Plus Expansion beyond Public Housing:** This proposal would expand eligibility for the Jobs Plus program to PBV and PBRA properties. Jobs Plus is currently only available to public housing residents; however, residents of PBV and PBRA have largely the same needs and challenges. The program has a demonstrated impact on employment outcomes. HUD requests language authorizing the expansion of Jobs Plus eligibility to fund place-based communities within Public Housing, Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) developments, and Project Based Voucher (PBV) developments. It would also ensure that Jobs Plus funding awarded to public housing properties prior to conversion to PBV/PBRA may continue to operate fully, as appropriate. This request was included in the 2023 President's Budget but was not enacted.
- **Universal Escrow Account:** HUD requests language authorizing the Secretary to carry out a demonstration to examine the effectiveness of creating an escrow account for families modeled after the Family Self-Sufficiency escrow account. This account would allow for families to be automatically enrolled in the program that places the incremental rent increase due to an increase in earned income, into a savings account. To facilitate this demonstration, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, sections 3, 6, 8, and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) and regulations in connection with these statutory provisions. This demonstration of no more than 3,000 families should be made available to PHAs administering a public housing program under section nine and/or project-based and/or tenant-based assistance program under section eight of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. The Secretary will monitor and evaluate the effect of the policy change on financial outcomes for participating families within seven years of the implementation of the demonstration.

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The 2024 President's Budget includes proposed changes in the appropriations language listed below. New language is italicized, and language proposed for deletion is bracketed.

For activities and assistance related to Self-Sufficiency Programs, to remain available until September 30, [2026] *2027*, \$175,000,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading— (1) \$125,000,000 shall be available for the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u), to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency;

(2) \$35,000,000 shall be available for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program to provide for supportive services, service coordinators, and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z–6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts made available under this paragraph may be used to renew Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program grants to allow the public housing agency, or a new owner, to continue to serve (or restart service to) residents of a project with assistance converted from public housing to project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or assistance under section 8(o)(13) of such Act under the heading "Rental Assistance Demonstration" in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437f note); and

(3) \$15,000,000 shall be available for a Jobs-Plus Initiative, modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided*, That funding provided under this paragraph shall be available for competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, *or owners or sponsors of multifamily properties receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8 that, in partnership with* local workforce investment boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3122), and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents, *or tenants residing in units assisted under a project-based section 8 contract (including section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937)*, obtain employment and increase earnings, *or both*: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a, 1437d), as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus Initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, *That the costs of any rent incentives as authorized pursuant to such waivers or alternative requirements shall not be charged against the competitive grant amounts made available under this paragraph. (Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2023.)*