The Office of Housing is charged with encouraging improvements in housing standards and conditions nationwide. Through its Federal Housing Administration (FHA) duties, the Office of Housing extends credit insurance to cover private credit transactions in support of sustainable homeownership for first-time and low-to-moderate income homebuyers; construction, rehabilitation, refinancing, repair and purchase of multifamily rental housing projects; and access to quality healthcare through the financing of hospitals and residential care facilities. In addition, under the Office of Housing’s rental assistance programs, including Project-Based Rental Assistance, the Office is responsible for supporting safe and affordable rental dwellings for low-income households.

The 2021 President Budget requests $411.9 million for the Office of Housing, $27.9 million more than the 2020 enacted level. The Budget reflects total funding (carryover and new authority) of $419.5 million, $21.7 million above 2020 total funding.

**Personnel Services (PS)**

The Budget reflects total funding (carryover and new authority) of $380.6 million for Office of Housing PS, $9.8 million above 2020 total funding. This funding will support 2,390 full-time equivalents (FTEs), two FTEs below 2020.
The funding will essentially maintain in 2021 the staffing increases planned for 2020 to help refine and implement reforms in the HUD Housing Finance Reform plan and reduce taxpayer exposure to credit losses.

PS funding will also support an increase in awards spending above 2020 levels of no less than 1 percentage point of non-SES/SL/ST salary spending in 2021.

Non-Personnel Services (NPS)

The Budget reflects total funding (carryover and new authority) of $7.9 million for Office of Housing NPS, $186 thousand below 2020 total funding. This funding level will essentially maintain 2020 current services for travel, contracted services, and training in support of the Office of Housing personnel and the administration of Housing's programs.

Working Capital Fund (WCF)

The Budget reflects total funding (carryover and new authority) of $30.9 million for the Office of Housing's contribution to the WCF, $19.7 million above 2020 total funding. This funding will support Housing's use of shared services, including two new WCF business lines: IT Devices and Records Management Services.

KEY OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

The 2021 Budget proposes three key initiatives within the Salaries and Expense budget under the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-FHA Commissioner: creation of a new Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Manufactured Housing; restructuring the Mortgagee Review Board; and other smaller-scale organizational restructuring.

Office of Manufactured Housing Programs (OMHP): OMHP's mission is to protect the quality, durability, safety, and affordability of manufactured homes. While manufactured housing serves all sectors of the population, its continued availability and affordability is especially critical for young families, individuals with moderate or low incomes, and the elderly households with fixed incomes. Per the Manufactured Housing Institute's “2018 Manufactured Housing Facts Industry Overview”, in 2017 and 2018 manufactured housing accounted for 10 percent of all new single family home starts in America, and manufactured homes sold for an average new home sales price of $70,600, making it an affordable option for first-time homebuyers. According to data published by the Manufactured Housing Institute, 84 percent of households earn less than $50,000 annually.

Mortgagee Review Board (MRB): MRB is responsible for taking administrative actions against FHA-approved lenders that are not compliant with FHA lending standards. Because MRB has sanctioning authority over lenders who do business with Office of Multifamily Housing Programs, Single Family Housing and the Office of Health Care Programs, MRB would be more appropriately located within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-FHA Commissioner.

Accordingly, within the Office of Housing-FHA Commissioner, plans are underway for changes in execution and program administration within these two offices via a restructure. The plan will reflect staffing and organizational changes to the programs; moving from component offices to at least one Deputy Assistant Secretary level office, with both reporting to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing – FHA Commissioner. In addition, the office of Housing – FHA Commissioner will look to streamline and consolidate functional roles in at least one of its overhead offices to achieve FTE cost savings.
The Office of Housing Organizational Restructure will continue to seek effective use of FTE resources to manage critical Housing Programs. Going into 2021, the overall restructure will include a review across all Housing Program Offices, determination of requirements that provide maximum benefit to communities across the nation and the reduction of overlapping responsibilities.