



Legislation

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HUD Perspective: Consolidation Legislation

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CoC Forum, Denver, Colorado, September 19-20, 2006
Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Homeless Programs Consolidation

- Background
- Why is legislation needed?
- Administration's proposal
- What does this mean for CoCs and providers?

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Background

- Continuums of Care have proven their effectiveness
 - Strategizing to break the cycle of homelessness
 - Assessing housing inventory and needs
 - Planning and establishing local priorities
 - Selecting HUD programs and components to meet priorities
 - Focusing on performance

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Why is Legislation Needed?

- To codify the Continuum of Care in statute
- To increase local decision-making and provide greater local control over funds
- To improve provisions in the current law to allow communities to help solve homelessness

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Administration's Proposal

- Homeless Assistance Consolidation Act of 2006 (HR 5041)
 - Consolidate HUD's existing 3 competitive programs into a single competitive program
 - ESG Program would continue to operate separately as a formula program
- Similar to Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act (S 1801)

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Administration's Proposal

- Replace SHP, SPC and SRO with a single flexible program
 - Single menu of eligible activities
 - Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction, Operating, Rental Assistance, Leasing, Supportive Services, Administration, TA
 - Prevention as new eligible activity (up to 10%)
 - Planning and administrative support (up to 10%)
 - Single, 25% match requirement

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Administration's Proposal

- Each CoC establish a board
 - Formalize existing process
 - All stakeholders to be represented
 - Public/Private = 65%/35%

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Administration's Proposal

- Differences between HR 5041 & S 1801
 - HR 5041:
 - More focus on chronic homelessness
 - Permanent housing for disabled persons only
 - Wide variety of eligible supportive services
 - Applicant is a CoC board; requirements for membership
 - Transitional housing renewals
 - S 1801:
 - Permanent housing for non-disabled persons
 - Reduction in eligible supportive services after 3 years
 - Applicant can be government entity
 - No transitional housing renewals

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What does this mean for CoCs and providers?

- CoCs have greater responsibility
 - Financial administration
 - Program oversight
- More local decisions
- More flexibility in using HUD funds
- More resources to help solve homelessness
 - Potential for increased appropriation
 - Streamlined HUD review of applications and expedited release of funding
 - Funds for prevention
 - Planning and administrative support for CoCs

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