

In the following excerpt from the 2001 Senate Report on the HUD Appropriations Act, at page 53, Congress further directed the revitalized Council to assess how mainstream programs can prevent homelessness.

The committee also recognizes that homelessness cannot be ended by homeless assistance providers alone—it requires the involvement of a range of federal programs. Accordingly it has included \$500,000 for the staffing of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. It instructs the Council specifically to require HUD, HHS, Labor, and VA to quantify the number of their program participants who become homeless, to address ways in which mainstream programs can prevent homelessness among those they serve, and to describe specifically how they provide assistance to people who are homeless * * *

Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy/Consolidated Plan

Every jurisdiction that receives funding from certain HUD programs (HOME, Community Development Block Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, Emergency Shelter Grants) must submit a comprehensive housing strategy that includes a section dealing with homeless needs. Every jurisdiction is required to:

describe the nature and extent of homelessness, including rural homelessness, within the jurisdiction, providing an estimate of the special needs of various categories of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, including tabular presentation of such information; and a description of the jurisdiction's strategy for (A) helping low-income families avoid becoming homeless; (B) addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons (including a brief inventory of facilities and services that meet such needs within that jurisdiction); and (C) helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. (Section 105(a)(2), Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U. S. C. 12701 *et seq.*)

The implementing regulations and administrative directions detail how the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the territories, and over 1000 metropolitan cities and urban counties present narratives and data tables on homeless needs, current services, and the plans to address and prevent homelessness.

HUD'S McKinney-Vento Act Program Requirements

The McKinney-Vento Act contains a consistent philosophy and an accompanying set of statutory mandates concerning the framework for assessing homeless needs and addressing them with appropriate services. The

McKinney-Vento Act also recognizes the importance of ensuring confidentiality in recordkeeping and public disclosure of information concerning homeless persons seeking domestic violence shelter and services. In addition, all of HUD's McKinney-Vento Act assistance must be consistent with the local jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program

Each governmental and nonprofit recipient of Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds is required to certify to HUD that it will undertake certain responsibilities regarding the provision of services, including that:

* * * * *

(3) It will assist homeless individuals in obtaining—

(A) Appropriate supportive services, including permanent housing, medical and mental health treatment, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living; and

(B) Other federal, state, local, and private assistance available for such individuals;

* * * * *

(5) It will develop and implement procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under this subtitle and that the address or location of any family violence shelter project assisted under this subtitle will, except with written authorization of the person or persons responsible for the operation of such shelter, not be made public;

(6) activities undertaken by the recipient with assistance under this subtitle are consistent with any housing strategy submitted by the grantee in accordance with Section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (Sections 415(c)(3), (5) and (6), McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act).

Supportive Housing Program

The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funds transitional and permanent supportive housing and supportive services only projects that require grant recipients to collect specific information from clients concerning their qualification for services, their service needs, and progress toward assisting clients to independent living. HUD requires projects to report on the number and characteristics of clients served and their outcomes.

The statute provides that—

(a) IN GENERAL—To the extent practicable, each project shall provide

supportive services for residents of the project and homeless persons using the project, which may be designed by the recipient or participants.

(b) REQUIREMENTS—Supportive services provided in connection with a project shall address the special needs of individuals (such as homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families with children) intended to be served by a project (Section 425 (a) and (b), McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act).

The McKinney-Vento Act requires every project in the Supportive Housing Program to conduct an on-going assessment of client needs for services and their availability for the client. This information is necessary to assess the progress of the project in moving clients to independent living and to report to HUD. In addition, special protections on confidentiality of recordkeeping involving persons provided domestic violence services are specified.

Section 426 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides that—

(c) REQUIRED AGREEMENTS—The Secretary may not provide assistance for any project under this subtitle unless the applicant agrees—

(1) To operate the proposed project in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle;

(2) To conduct an ongoing assessment of the supportive services required by homeless individuals served by the project and the availability of such services to such individuals;

(3) To provide such residential supervision as the Secretary determines is necessary to facilitate the adequate provision of supportive services to the residents and users of the project;

(4) To monitor and report to the Secretary on the progress of the project;

(5) To develop and implement procedures to ensure (A) the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services through any project assisted through this subtitle, and (B) that the address or location of any family violence shelter project assisted under this subtitle will not be made public, except with written authorization of the person or persons responsible for the operation of such project;

* * * * *

(7) To comply with such other terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish to carry out this subtitle in an effective and efficient manner.

Shelter Plus Care Program

The Shelter Plus Care (SPC) Program funds tenant-, sponsor-, and project-