

Department of Housing and Urban Development 60 Duplicative Programs

In FY 2010, the Department of Housing and Urban Development received \$46 billion, a 13.3 percent increase from last year's non-emergency discretionary level.

Brownfields Economic Development Initiative

The **Brownfields Economic Development** Initiative, funded at \$17 million in FY 2010, is a grant program that provides funding to cities for economic development of buildings in industrial districts. The program is duplicative of numerous federal programs providing billions of dollars to states and cities for economic development.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** program, which is funded at \$4.45 billion for FY 2010, provides grants to fund the development of "suitable living environment" for urban communities.
- In addition to duplication within HUD, **the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Development**, funded at over \$1 billion annually, also duplicates in its entirety the Brownfield's program, as its mission is to redevelop areas with the nation's worst hazardous waste sites to safe and productive uses.¹

The President's FY 2010 budget proposed the termination of this program, stating, "While these are very important objectives, the program is very small, and local governments have access to other public and private funds. ...By terminating this program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is also able to reduce the administrative workload associated with managing a small and duplicative program."²

Homelessness Programs

HUD homelessness program provides grants to local communities to combat homelessness, funded at nearly \$2 billion annually. HUD administers four primary homeless programs:

- The Supportive Housing Program;
- The Shelter Plus Care Program;
- The Single Room Occupancy Program; and
- The Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

HUD's efforts not only duplicate their own programs, but also duplicate the efforts and programs of other federal departments programs that aim toward eradicating homelessness, several of which are listed below.

¹ <http://epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/index.html>

² <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2010/assets/trs.pdf>

The **Department of Health and Human Services** administers four programs that aim toward providing assistance for homelessness housing. They include:

- Basic Center Program (FY 09 \$48.6 million),
- Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (FY 09 \$41 million),
- Street Outreach Program (FY 09 \$16 million), and
- Title V Property Program, which provides surplus federal property to homeless groups.³

The **Department of Veterans Affairs** conducts eight programs that aim toward providing assistance for homelessness housing. They include:

- Homeless Provider Grants (FY 09 \$130 million in FY 09),
- Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing programs (FY 09 \$54 million),
- CHALENG, Supported Housing,
- Drop-In Centers,
- Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence
- Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers, and
- VA Excess Property for Homeless Veterans Initiative.⁴

There is a government-wide initiative to combat homelessness, called the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, funded at \$2.45 million a year.

Community Development Programs

The entitlement grants provided by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** program, which is funded at \$4.45 billion for FY 2010, provides grants to fund the development of "suitable living environment" for urban communities. Grantees may fund activities that meet community development needs related to the health or welfare of the community. These include repairing streets, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, museums, libraries, and theaters. This program duplicates several other federal efforts and programs intended to encourage and support community development.

- The **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, which was funded at \$283 million in FY 2010, is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, whose mission is "to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas."⁵
- The **Economic Development Administration** at the Department of Commerce was funded at \$252 million in FY 2010. The EDA's mission is "to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness,

³ <http://www.hhs.gov/homeless/grants/index.html#TargetedHomelessAssistancePrograms>

⁴ <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=2>

⁵ <http://www.imls.gov/about/about.shtm>

preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.” EDA targets its investment assistance on attracting private capital investment and creating higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in those communities and regions that are suffering from economic distress.⁶

- The **Department of Health and Human Services** administers three programs that aim toward community development. They include the community economic development program (\$36 million in FY 09)⁷, the Social Services Block Grant (\$1.7 billion in FY 09)⁸, and the Community Services Block Grant (\$700 million in FY 09)⁹.

Housing/Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides tens of billions of dollars to subsidize housing for low-income and disabled persons. The two primary programs are **tenant based rental assistance** (\$18.1 billion in FY 2010), and the **project based rental assistance** (\$8.5 billion in FY 2010). Both the capital fund and operating fund are used to maintain these programs. There are numerous programs, both within HUD and in other Federal agencies that duplicate the HUD housing efforts.

In addition, according to the Government Accountability Office, there are “a total of 23 federal housing programs that target or have special features for the elderly. Specifically, one HUD and one USDA program target the elderly exclusively, while three HUD programs target the elderly and disabled. The remaining 18 programs serve a variety of household types but have special features for elderly households, such as income adjustments that reduce their rents.”¹⁰

Each of the following programs in HUD duplicates the underlying housing programs by targeting a certain type of group. Each group targeted is already eligible for the primary housing programs mentioned above.

- Native American Housing Block Grants - \$700 million
- Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants - \$13 million
- Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program - \$7 million
- Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Program - \$1 million
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS - \$335 million
- Housing for Persons with Disabilities - \$300 million
- Housing for the Elderly- \$825 million
- HUD’s Rural Innovation Fund - \$25 million
- HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program

There are also programs outside of HUD that conduct housing assistance programs.

⁶ <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/EDA%20Brochure%20UPDATED%2012%2002%2009.pdf>

⁷ http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ced/fact_sheet.html

⁸ <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/about/factsheets.htm>

⁹ <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csb/aboutus/factsheets.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05174.pdf>

- Department of Veterans Housing Benefit Program - \$165 million
- Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service - \$13 billion
- USDA's Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones - \$41 million
- USDA's Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program - \$43 million