

# **Grant Programs to Help Municipalities Address Homelessness**

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## **Issue**

Identify state and federal grant programs available to help municipalities address homelessness.

## **Summary**

With the help of the Office of Fiscal Analysis and the Department of Housing (DOH), we identified several state and federal grant programs available to help municipalities address homelessness. Many of the programs provide grants to fund capital projects that generally benefit low-income people or increase affordable housing. Others provide grants to fund services or facilities directly related to the needs of homeless people. Tables 1 and 2 below identify the state and federal programs, respectively.

While the identified programs have provided grants in recent years, this does not necessarily guarantee future grant availability. Grant availability is typically determined based on various factors, including funding availability, whether through appropriations or bonding, and local need.

## **State Programs**

Table 1 lists state grant programs available to municipalities to address homelessness. It includes the program's name and purpose, the grant type and eligibility, and the lead agency. It also includes hyperlinks to available program websites.

In terms of eligibility, the table's scope is limited to municipalities; it does not include the other types of eligible entities. For example, under the Affordable Housing Program (known as FLEX), in addition to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, local housing authorities, and for-profit developers may be eligible for grants.

**Table 1: State Grant Programs That Address Homelessness**

<i><b>Program Name</b></i>	<i><b>Grant Type and Eligibility</b></i>	<i><b>Purpose</b></i>	<i><b>Lead Agency</b></i>
Affordable Housing Program (FLEX)  ( <a href="#">CGS § 8-37pp</a> and <a href="#">Conn. Agencies Regs., §§ 8-119jj16 to 8-119jj-29</a> )	Competitive grants open to all municipalities	Provide quality and affordable housing, promote and support homeownership and mixed income developments, and assist in the revitalization of urban and rural centers, including through improvements to shelter-type facilities, housing project rehabilitation, and affordable housing rehabilitation and construction	<a href="#">DOH</a>
Housing Homeless Services  ( <a href="#">CGS § 8-359a</a> )	Competitive grants open to all municipalities	Develop and maintain programs for homeless individuals, including for emergency shelter services, transitional housing services, homeless diversion, coordinated access, and rapid rehousing services	DOH
Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)  ( <a href="#">CGS § 4-66g</a> )	Competitive grants open to municipalities that are ineligible for Urban Act Program bonds (see below)	Fund eligible economic development, community conservation, and quality-of-life capital projects related to, among other things, (1) social services, such as domestic violence or emergency homeless shelters and food distribution facilities; (2) housing; or (3) economic development	<a href="#">Office of Policy and Management (OPM)</a> manages the program; various state agencies administer the grants
Transitional Housing and Support Services  ( <a href="#">CGS § 8-357</a> )	Open to municipalities acting as a municipal developer	Develop housing and services for individuals and families who (1) have received emergency shelter services or shelter services for domestic violence victims and (2) need transitional housing and support services, for between six to 24 months	DOH

**Table 1 (continued)**

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Grant Type and Eligibility</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Lead Agency</i>
Urban Act Program  ( <a href="#">CGS § 4-66c</a> and <a href="#">Conn. Agencies Regs., § 4-66c-1</a> )	Open to state-designated distressed municipalities, public investment communities, and urban centers under the state's Plan of Conservation and Development*	Fund eligible economic development, community conservation, and quality-of-life capital projects related to, among other things, (1) social services, such as domestic violence or emergency homeless shelters and food distribution facilities; (2) housing; or (3) economic development	OPM manages the program; various state agencies administer the grants

\* Municipalities that do not meet one of the eligibility criteria may receive funds (1) if the State Bond Commission determines that the project in question will help meet specified urban revitalization goals under [CGS § 4-66b](#) or (2) for transit-oriented development projects.

## Federal Programs

Table 2 lists federal grant programs available to municipalities to address homelessness. It includes the program's name and purpose, the grant type and eligibility, and the lead agency. It also includes hyperlinks to available program websites. Like Table 1, the table's scope is limited to municipalities and does not include the other types of eligible entities.

**Table 2: Federal Grant Programs That Address Homelessness**

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Grant Type and Eligibility</i>	<i>Program Purpose</i>	<i>Lead Agency</i>
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 5301 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 570</a> )	Formula grants open to entitled cities (i.e., principal cities of metropolitan statistical areas and other cities with population of at least 50,000)  (For municipalities with populations of fewer than 50,000, see Small Cities CDBG Program below)	Provide funding and technical support for eligible projects that achieve local community and economic development objectives, and that meet one of the following national objectives: 1. benefit low and moderate-income people, 2. eliminate slum and blight, or 3. address an urgent community development need.  Concerning homelessness, grantees may use CDBG funds to acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or install public facilities. "Public facilities" include community facilities and facilities for individuals with special needs, such as homeless shelters, group homes, or halfway houses.	<a href="#">HUD</a>

**Table 2 (continued)**

<i><b>Program Name</b></i>	<i><b>Grant Type and Eligibility</b></i>	<i><b>Program Purpose</b></i>	<i><b>Lead Agency</b></i>
Continuum of Care Program  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 11381 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 578</a> )	Competitive grants open to municipalities designated by the local Continuum of Care to apply for assistance	Assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness in moving to transitional and permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability, by funding projects related to the following: 1. permanent housing, including permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities and rapid rehousing; 2. transitional housing; 3. supportive services; 4. Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS); or 5. homelessness prevention	<a href="#">HUD</a>
Emergency Solutions Grant Program  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 11371 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 576</a> )	Formula grants open to municipalities with populations of at least 50,000 residents	Provide funding for street outreach, emergency shelters, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and data collection (e.g., HMIS)	<a href="#">HUD</a>
HOME Investments Partnerships Program  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 12741 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 92</a> )	Formula grants that consider housing supply, poverty, and fiscal distress, among other factors  Generally open to municipalities that qualify under the formula	Strengthen public-private partnerships and expand the supply of affordable housing, especially for low- and very low-income families	Funded by <a href="#">HUD</a> and administered by <a href="#">DOH</a>
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 12901 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 574</a> )	For formula grants, open to metropolitan statistical areas with more than 500,000 residents and at least 2,000 HIV/AIDS cases  For competitive grants, open to all municipalities with priority given by congressional authority to the renewal of expiring permanent supportive housing project grants	Provide housing assistance and related support services for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS and their families	<a href="#">HUD</a>

**Table 2 (continued)**

<i><b>Program Name</b></i>	<i><b>Grant Type and Eligibility</b></i>	<i><b>Program Purpose</b></i>	<i><b>Lead Agency</b></i>
Small Cities CDBG Program  ( <a href="#">42 USC § 5301 et seq.</a> & <a href="#">24 CFR Part 570</a> )	Competitive grants open to municipalities with populations of fewer than 50,000 residents	<p>Provide funding and technical support for eligible projects that achieve local community and economic development objectives, and that meet one of the following national objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. benefit low and moderate-income people,</li> <li>2. eliminate slum and blight, or</li> <li>3. address an urgent community development need.</li> </ol> <p>Concerning homelessness, grantees may use CDBG funds to acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or install public facilities. "Public facilities" include community facilities and facilities for individuals with special needs, such as homeless shelters, group homes, or halfway houses.</p>	Funded by <a href="#">HUD</a> and administered locally by <a href="#">DOH</a>

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