



## **Some Basics About Older Adults and Homelessness**

### **What Is Different About Older Adult Homelessness?**

The experience of homelessness looks different for older adults than other demographics. University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative researchers have documented that older adults experiencing homelessness are much more likely than their peers to have poor physical and mental health, develop age-related health conditions, experience violent victimization and report feelings of humiliation. Other unique aspects of aging homelessness include fixed incomes; disruptions in family caregiving; loss of spouse or partner; and an increase in functional difficulties, such as decreased mobility and challenges dressing, bathing and toileting.

Without effective interventions tailored to an aging population, homelessness among older adults is on track to triple between 2017–2030. Becoming unhoused disrupts aging in place and is associated with the loss of a critical economic asset (the home), increased functional limitations and health decline. Additionally, the experience of homelessness can disrupt employment and receipt of Social Security, public benefits and home and community-based services.

### **Where Can I Learn More?**

Further resources and information can be found on USAging's website at [www.usaging.org/housing](http://www.usaging.org/housing); this QR code will also take you directly to the Doors to Housing for Older Adults page on USAging's website!



The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County offers online trainings to help improve services for clients at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Access them at <https://suburbancook.org/training>.

## Crosswalk of the Structures of the Homeless Response System and Aging Network

System Aspect	Homeless Response System	Aging Network
Federal agency that oversees the system	<a href="#">HUD</a>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</a> (HHS) Administration for Children, Families and Communities
Administrative body that coordinates services across a city, county, or multi-county region	<a href="#">CoCs</a> <a href="#">CoC Directory</a> ( <a href="http://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/contacts/">www.hudexchange.info/grantees/contacts/</a> ) The CoC lead is typically a nonprofit or governmental organization.	<a href="#">AAAs</a> <a href="#">Find Your Local AAA</a> <a href="#">Title VI Native American Aging Program</a> <a href="#">Title VI Directory</a> AAAs and Title VI Native American Aging Programs are typically nonprofit or governmental organizations.
Intake System	<a href="#">Coordinated Entry System</a>	<a href="#">AAAs</a>
Key Federal Law(s)	<a href="#">McKinney-Vento Act of 1987</a> <a href="#">HEARTH Act of 2009</a>	<a href="#">Older Americans Act</a> (OAA)
Funding Flow	CoC lead agencies apply for HUD grants for the entire local system and distribute the grant money based on locally determined criteria. Systems and individual organizations often supplement this money with private donations.  Not all homeless response organizations apply for HUD funding.	State Units on Aging (SUAs) receive grants pursuant to the OAA, and SUAs then disburse the funds to AAAs.  Other HHS funds support <a href="#">Title VI Native American Aging Programs</a> serving Native American, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian populations.

Source: Unpublished material from the National Alliance to End Homelessness

## Overview of Key Federal Funding Sources for Homelessness

Legislation that Established Funding	Funding Program Name	Overview of Program
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing, HEARTH, Act of 2009	CoC Program	Provides funding for local and regional organizations to plan, implement and operate projects to help people at risk of or experiencing homelessness maintain or transition to permanent housing
	Emergency Solutions Grants	Provides funding for emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, prevention and support services
Housing and Community Development Act of 1974	Housing Choice Vouchers (sometimes referred to as "Section 8")	Provides vouchers to help individuals and families with low incomes to afford rental housing on the private market
Tax Reform Act of 1986	Low-Income Housing Tax Credits	<p>Provides incentives to housing developers to build and/or rehabilitate affordable rental housing</p> <p>Many of these developments set aside a certain number of units for households with low incomes, including people who previously experienced homelessness.</p>

*Source: Unpublished material from the National Alliance to End Homelessness*