



Despite national and local advocacy efforts, the 2012 HUD budget that was signed into law contains deep cuts to some of the programs most vital to creating supportive and affordable housing, including a 38% cut to HOME, the country's largest affordable housing funding stream. Also seriously cut were Community Development Block Grant, HUD 811 (Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities) and HUD 202 (Supportive Housing for Seniors).

The legislation flat-funds McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants at \$1.901 billion; HUD has indicated that this amount will sustain existing McKinney and Emergency Solutions Grant programs, but is insufficient to create any new supportive housing.

The HOME cuts will mean a \$63 million loss in funding for New York State. In New York City, HOME funds represent 80-90% of the City's supportive housing development capital.

Some bright spots: The legislation provides \$75 million in funding for HUD - VA Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers within the (slightly increased) \$18.91 billion Section 8 Tenant-Based rental assistance budget. Also, the final legislation removed language that would have defunded recently federalized public housing units, which would have hurt public housing in New York City, Albany, Glens Falls, Plattsburgh and Rome.

Last-minute advocacy efforts by the Network included a House "Dear Colleague" letter supporting funding increases for McKinney-Vento. Five New York Representatives signed on: Carolyn Maloney, Carolyn McCarthy, Gregory Meeks, Louise Slaughter and Ed Towns. The letter failed to sway the appropriations conference committee.