



---

**U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
**– CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS –**  
**THE HEROES ACT**  
**SUPPORTS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

---

- On any given night in 2019, over half a million people in the United States faced homelessness. This included more than 50,000 families with children.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the close proximity of beds in emergency shelters can accelerate the spread of COVID-19, which is particularly concerning considering people experiencing homelessness are disproportionately likely to have underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.
- Experts at the University of Pennsylvania, University of California Los Angeles, and Boston University estimate that *a total of \$15.5 billion* is needed to ensure that homeless service providers are able to provide emergency housing for people experiencing homelessness in a manner that follows ongoing social distancing guidelines.<sup>2</sup>
- The CARES Act provided \$4 billion for homeless assistance, leaving \$11.5 billion of the need unmet.

**The Heroes Act comprehensively addresses the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness by providing:**

- **\$11.5 billion in funding through the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program**, which is an existing HUD homeless assistance program that provides flexible funding that will allow states and localities to quickly respond to the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including through the provision of temporary hotel and motel vouchers.
- **\$1 billion in new Housing Choice Vouchers**, which will be targeted to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and survivors of domestic violence to help ensure that progress in reducing homelessness is maintained during and after the pandemic.

###

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*.

<sup>2</sup> Boston University, the University of Pennsylvania and University of California Los Angeles, *Estimated Emergency and Observational/Quarantine Bed Need for the US Homeless Population Related to COVID-19 Exposure by County; Projected Hospitalizations, Intensive Care Units and Mortality*. March 25, 2020.