



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness **February 2008**

Recommendation

Congress should appropriate at least \$75 million for the PATH program.

Congress should also consider revising the small state minimum for the PATH program. Several states have received no increase in funding over the last several years, even as the PATH program has grown. Congress should remedy this by increasing the minimum from \$300,000 to \$600,000.

In FY 2008, Congress appropriated \$53.3 million for the PATH program. The Administration requested \$59.6 million for FY 2009.

Background

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program allocates funds by formula to states to serve homeless people with serious mental illness. Eligible services include outreach, screening and diagnosis, habilitation and rehabilitation, community mental health services, substance abuse treatment, case management, residential supervision, and housing. PATH supported programs served over 82,000 people in fiscal year 2005. Of those for whom a diagnosis was reported, approximately 27 percent had schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and 44 percent had affective disorders such as depression. Also, 57 percent had co-occurring substance use disorders.

Funding for the PATH program falls far short of the amount necessary to enable states to ensure access to mental health services for people experiencing homelessness. Under the PATH formula grant, approximately 30 states share in the program's annual appropriations increases. The remaining states and territories receive the minimum grant of \$300,000 for states and \$50,000 for territories. These amounts have not been raised since the program was authorized in 1991.

To account for inflation, Congress has considered raising the minimum allocation to \$600,000 for states and \$100,000 for territories. If the authorizing committees do not have sufficient time to address this issue, the appropriations committees could make the amendment through appropriations bill language, working in conjunction with authorizers.