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# THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WASHINGTON, DC

## Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial Census-derived Statistics

### Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program (Project-based)

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objective: Provide rental assistance to very low income individuals and families, enabling them to live in affordable decent, safe and sanitary housing.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [14.195](#)

Legal basis: [42 USC Chapter 8](#) (Low-income Housing)

Applicant eligibility: Public housing agencies (PHAs)

Beneficiary eligibility: Families whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, with adjustments by family size

Type of assistance: Direct payments to housing owners. A PHA enters into an assistance contract with the owner for specified units and a specified term.

Allocation of vouchers: Based on determination of housing needs, annually adjusted for inflation. PHAs can use up to 20 percent of annual voucher allocation for project-based vouchers. The remainder are used as housing choice vouchers under 14.871.

Determination of housing assistance payments: Generally, the difference between the contract rent and 30 percent of the family's adjusted income

Primary Census-derived data sources: American Community Survey (Census) and Renewal Funding Inflation Factors (HUD) for allocation of vouchers; Median Family Income (HUD) for household eligibility; Fair Market Rent and Annual Adjustment Factors (HUD) to set and adjust contract rents.

Relation to accuracy of local Decennial Census: Positive

A local Decennial Census miscount would increase the likelihood of less accurate estimates of local area housing needs, median income, and market-appropriate contract rents by size of unit.

**Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program (Project-based)  
Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015**

United States	\$9,238,092,008		
Alabama	\$101,312,400	Montana	\$19,218,551
Alaska	\$8,421,352	Nebraska	\$27,819,412
Arizona	\$55,722,792	Nevada	\$21,623,654
Arkansas	\$59,593,688	New Hampshire	\$48,994,971
California	\$981,354,224	New Jersey	\$486,109,219
Colorado	\$106,299,097	New Mexico	\$30,028,385
Connecticut	\$219,845,261	New York	\$1,265,756,712
Delaware	\$33,255,445	North Carolina	\$148,057,234
District of Columbia	\$127,602,875	North Dakota	\$10,648,622
Florida	\$303,572,466	Ohio	\$459,769,266
Georgia	\$197,103,835	Oklahoma	\$70,877,567
Hawaii	\$29,562,853	Oregon	\$55,959,613
Idaho	\$21,350,185	Pennsylvania	\$371,741,214
Illinois	\$528,163,084	Rhode Island	\$138,890,398
Indiana	\$182,941,758	South Carolina	\$123,622,766
Iowa	\$56,461,735	South Dakota	\$17,414,851
Kansas	\$55,801,183	Tennessee	\$166,486,051
Kentucky	\$124,945,396	Texas	\$330,585,412
Louisiana	\$93,348,272	Utah	\$25,039,984
Maine	\$64,808,208	Vermont	\$27,754,627
Maryland	\$202,307,420	Virginia	\$202,616,225
Massachusetts	\$664,456,535	Washington	\$93,906,920
Michigan	\$263,237,746	West Virginia	\$57,086,119
Minnesota	\$154,342,214	Wisconsin	\$146,116,730
Mississippi	\$106,615,134	Wyoming	\$11,655,333
Missouri	\$137,887,014		

Source: USASpending.gov

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