

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2025

The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20420

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

Secretary Collins and Secretary Turner,

We are deeply concerned about the creation of a new program titled Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment (BRAVE)¹ in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget proposal. According to President Trump's FY 2026 Budget Request, BRAVE seemingly requires the reallocation of all resources from the Housing and Urban Development VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program – a total of \$1.1 billion² in discretionary resources. The proposed reallocation of more than \$1 billion is part of a broader budget proposal, which also includes a 50 percent reduction in HUD's budget for FY 2026.

HUD-VASH is a program operated jointly by HUD and VA. It combines rental assistance with case management and supportive services in order to “help homeless veterans and their families obtain permanent housing and access the health care, mental health treatment, and other supports necessary to help them improve their quality of life and maintain housing over time”.³ HUD-VASH has served more than 175,000 veterans since 2008.⁴

The reallocation of federal funding from HUD-VASH to BRAVE threatens to destabilize a proven housing assistance program and puts more than 112,000⁵ VASH vouchers dedicated to veterans at risk. Reallocating resources from HUD-VASH in order to establish a vague and ill-defined program is reckless and irresponsible. HUD-VASH is a long-standing housing assistance

¹U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *FY 2026 Budget Submission*
<https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2026-Volume-1-Supplemental-Information-Appendices.pdf#page=15>

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *FY 2026 Budget Submission*
<https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2026-Volume-1-Supplemental-Information-Appendices.pdf#page=15>

³CRS, *Veterans and Homelessness*, https://www.crs.gov/Reports/RL34024?source=search#_Toc132284861

⁴U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *VA Homeless Programs*
<https://www.va.gov/homeless/housing.asphttps://archives.hud.gov/news/2024/pr24-202.cfm#:~:text=Since%20the%20program's%20inception%2C%20HUD%2DVASH%20has%20assisted,homelessness%20by%20more%20than%2050%25%20since%202010.>

⁵ HUD, *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Congressional Justifications 2026*.

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program which has been vital to our nation's most vulnerable veterans for decades.⁶ And despite the significance of reallocating funding from HUD-VASH to BRAVE, the VA FY 2026 budget request devotes only 10 lines to describing the new BRAVE initiative. It provides no discernible administrative or organizational structure, distribution system, or performance guardrails.

The apparent transfer of funding from HUD-VASH to BRAVE comes at the same time the Trump Administration has proposed a 51 percent⁷ reduction in HUD's budget. The FY 2026 budget proposal does not address how the across-the-board cuts will impact veterans whose housing depends on HUD rental assistance, including the estimated hundreds of thousands of veterans who rely on HUD rental assistance programs other than HUD-VASH.⁸ There is no clear plan to ensure veterans' housing stability if HUD-VASH or other housing assistance programs are abruptly defunded. Absent answers to these questions, Congress cannot responsibly authorize such a significant reallocation of resources.

We are deeply concerned about the failure to clearly describe how critical programs maintained by VA and HUD will continue to operate and ensure veterans across the country have safe and reliable housing. We urge your departments to jointly clarify the scope and coordination of any proposed transition of HUD-VASH programming and funding from HUD to VA, as well as explain how HUD intends to ensure all housing programs remain viable in the face of a 50 percent funding cut, in order to ensure resources are used effectively and the needs of veterans are met. If VA and HUD cannot demonstrate effective coordination and ensure veterans will not lose the housing they rely on, the FY 2026 budget proposal will not be administratively viable. Without transparency from the Administration it is nearly impossible to assess the effectiveness of current initiatives or ensure that Congress is allocating funding appropriately.

To that end, we request detailed responses to the following questions no later than December 12, 2025:

1. What will be the organizational structure of the BRAVE program? What will its leadership and administrative structure be, and through what agency or interagency will it operate?
2. What will happen to the existing institutional structures operated by HUD-VASH? How will HUD-VASH staffing, service delivery, and housing agency partnerships be preserved?
3. What mechanisms will be in place to avoid gaps in housing assistance for veterans currently supported by HUD-VASH?

⁶Congressional Research Service, *Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): FY2026 Budget Request Fact Sheet*, https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R48567/R48567.3.pdf

⁷U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *VA Homeless Programs*. <https://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>

⁸National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing*. https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/AG-2024/4-7_Veterans-Affairs-Supportive-Housing.pdf

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4. How many veterans are housed by or receive other forms of HUD assistance? Please provide a detailed breakdown of veterans served by each HUD program. Please also provide a detailed explanation of how these veterans will continue to access housing assistance if the BRAVE program and HUD budget cuts are implemented.
5. How will VA's legislative proposal ensure all HUD-VASH beneficiaries are seamlessly transitioned into BRAVE, without housing loss or interruption in their care? What accountability measures will be put in place to ensure BRAVE funds are used effectively and transparently?
6. What mechanisms will be incorporated into VA's legislative proposal for congressional oversight of BRAVE's rollout and performance, if it proceeds? How will Congress be informed of and involved in the phase-out of HUD-VASH?

Veterans' housing stability must never be subject to uncertainty due to reckless planning, indifference, or ill-advised experimentation. Our veterans have made extraordinary sacrifices in defense of our country. In return, we have a moral and civic obligation to provide them with consistent, reliable access to safe housing and essential support services. Pursuing a programmatic transition that could put veteran housing at risk would be a profound failure of leadership and governance.

Our budgets should reflect our commitments to veterans, while upholding accountability and service continuity. We urge you to treat this matter with the urgency and transparency our veterans deserve.

Sincerely,



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



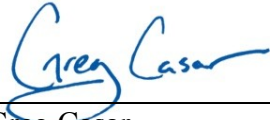
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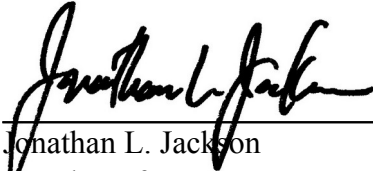
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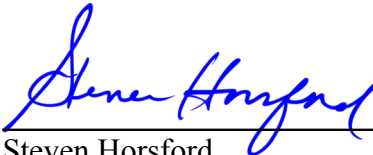
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