

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of Policy Development and Research

Research and Technology

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Enacted/ Requested	Carryover	Supplemental/ Rescission	Total Resources	Obligations	Net Outlays
2022 Appropriation	145,400	47,718	-	193,118	116,004	52,127
2023 Appropriation	145,400	83,267	-	228,667	200,667	128,000
2024 President's Budget	155,000	29,000	-	184,000	98,000	130,000
Change from 2023	9,600	(54,267)	-	(44,667)	(102,667)	2,000

a/ 2022 obligations include \$6 million in adjustments to expired accounts.

b/ 2023 Carryover amount includes TA funding for a two-year NOFO.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Research and Technology (R&T) account, administered by the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), provides fundamental evidence to support the mission of the Department through policy analysis, research, surveys, and program evaluations, as authorized in Title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, as amended. R&T funds research and evaluation, data infrastructure development, information management, and technical assistance. PD&R's work enables the Secretary, the Congress, and principal staff at HUD and other agencies to make informed decisions on budget and legislative proposals and to strengthen housing and community development policy. In addition to sustaining Core R&T data collection and research dissemination, the requested level reflects new priority research identified in HUD's Fiscal Year 2022 – 2026 Learning Agenda. Technical Assistance provided through the R&T account helps improve implementation of most of HUD's existing programs, as well as launching new programs and program expansions so HUD's partners and customers have the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems needed to successfully implement HUD programs and be effective stewards of Federal funding. The 2024 Budget provides increased support for agency-wide technical assistance (TA) as this account is the only source of TA resources for many HUD programs. R&T also supports HUD's eviction protection efforts through grants, research, and TA.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2024 President's Budget requests \$155 million for the Research and Technology Fund, which is \$9.6 million more than the 2023 enacted level. This includes:

- \$70 million for Core R&T to support the American Housing Survey and other national surveys, knowledge management, data acquisition, research dissemination, housing technology and innovation, housing finance research, research partnerships, and university-based research centers;
- \$25 million for Research, Evaluations, and Demonstrations to support experimental demonstrations of innovative policies and programs, evaluations of current programs, and other policy-focused research;
- \$50 million for Technical Assistance to ensure that HUD program partners and practitioners have access to research-informed and evidence-based guidance and best practices to improve accountability, efficiency, and outcomes for all of HUD's programs and customers; and

- \$10 million for the Eviction Protection Program which funds grants to organizations that provide legal assistance to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction.

This program aligns to all of the goals and strategic objectives in the HUD 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

JUSTIFICATION

Investments in Research and Technology play a critical role in supporting HUD's mission by providing the data, research, and TA needed to ensure that HUD's housing and community development programs are effective and innovative. The requested funding level for R&T provides support for three critical functions (Core R&T, Research, Evaluations, and Demonstrations, and Technical Assistance) that support innovation and evidence-based policymaking at HUD and improve outcomes for HUD's program partners. It also continues funding the Eviction Protection Program which is critical to helping low-income Americans facing eviction stay housed.

Core Research and Technology

Core R&T requires the largest share of R&T resources, with a request of \$70 million for 2024. Core R&T comprises three components: Housing Data Infrastructure; Knowledge Management, Dissemination, and Outreach; and Technical Expertise and Innovation. The funding request for 2024 allows PD&R to continue to support research partnerships, housing technology research, critical surveys, knowledge management activities, housing finance research, data purchases, and innovation events. Core R&T makes significant contributions to Presidential priorities. It produces reliable data to document the needs of underserved communities and inform policy, advances equity in research through collaborations with Minority Serving Institutions, and invests in housing technology innovations to support greater durability, resilience, energy efficiency, accessibility, and affordability in housing.

Housing Data Infrastructure: The largest component of Core R&T funding supports the surveys that constitute the backbone of the Nation's housing data infrastructure. Reliable and well-structured housing survey datasets inform policymakers about homeowner and rental units, HUD-assisted and unassisted populations, and the nature of affordable housing problems. These data sources are widely used within the private sector and are essential for an efficient housing market—which in the fourth quarter of 2022 totaled \$3.1 trillion of housing and utilities consumption, and \$1 trillion of residential fixed investment, together accounting for 15.8 percent of gross domestic product. The largest of these data sources is the American Housing Survey (AHS). Information from the biennial AHS covers the nation's housing stock, housing finance, and characteristics of markets, neighborhoods, and occupants, and supports national, regional, and metropolitan area estimates. Other surveys funded under Core R&T provide important data necessary to monitor housing needs, housing finance topics, and local housing market conditions. These surveys include the Survey of Construction (SOC), the Survey of Market Absorption of Apartments (SOMA), the Manufactured Homes Survey (MHS), and the Rental Housing Finance Survey (RHFS).

Housing Data Infrastructure also includes the acquisition of private sector data, and other data such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and U.S. Postal Service vacancy data, that are used in PD&R research and for numerous policy-relevant purposes. To make this research and data analysis possible, PD&R utilizes several important information technology systems funded by the IT account. The Policy Analysis and Research Information System (PARIS), the Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS), as well as the Geocode Service Center (GSC) system provide shared services for cross-agency missions requiring spatially enabled data. In addition, PD&R's Office of the Chief Data Officer (OCDO) is strengthening HUD's data governance, enhancing privacy protections, and generating open data. PD&R is also engaged in numerous partnerships with Federal Agencies to

link and analyze complementary administrative data—activities that greatly enhance the value of these public investments.

The Budget supports the collection of new data to obtain timely information about the experiences of low-income renters and beneficiaries of HUD programs to inform policymaking in close to real time. This information will allow HUD to better understand how the individuals and families that HUD serves experience program and policy changes or larger economic forces, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This new data will be collected by creating a paid panel survey of individuals using HUD's programs and parallel panels of intermediaries or providers of HUD services.

HUD's survey activities are overseen by HUD's Statistical Official, who is also PD&R's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs. PD&R's staff expertise leverages the housing data assets by facilitating linkage with administrative data and external surveys and by conducting analysis to provide key program parameters, such as income limits and fair market rents, and to inform key policy initiatives.

Knowledge Management, Dissemination, and Outreach: The second largest component of Core R&T supports knowledge management, a multidisciplinary effort to ensure that knowledge is created, organized, and shared effectively to advance HUD's mission. This component supports dissemination of research to inform evidence-based policy and ensure equitable access to knowledge, and convenes stakeholders for shared learning opportunities. Key beneficiaries of knowledge management activities include HUD program staff, HUD grantees, researchers and policy analysts, and policy makers at the local, State, national, and international. Along with formal research reports and the Cityscape journal, several shorter-format periodicals such as U.S. Housing Market Conditions, The Edge, and Evidence Matters make data and research freely accessible to broad audiences. The Comprehensive Housing Market Analyses produced by PD&R economists provide in-depth looks at economic, demographic, and housing inventory trends of specific housing markets to guide builders, lenders, and others. PD&R makes available more than 10,000 research reports, articles, books, and data sources, and during 2022, users downloaded an average of 630 thousand files per month from the HUDUSER.gov research portal. In addition to providing new research and data,

PD&R will continue to scan historical reports and research from its library and make them available for download on HUDUSER.gov.

Technical Expertise and Innovation: Core R&T also supports housing technology and innovation research and dissemination of information on new technologies; housing finance research, including analysis that reduces risk to the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund and supports housing finance reform discussion; and the Research Partnerships program that complements HUD's direct research efforts by providing matching funds for external researchers who present unique research opportunities.

Through the Research Partnerships program and Centers of Excellence grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), HUD is advancing equity in funding for housing research. Research Partnerships support projects on topics that address the Department's Learning Agenda and draw on novel research approaches, including big data analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Centers for Excellence grants encourage research on topics that address issues or challenges that impact housing, community and economic development, and the built environment in and for underserved communities.

Also, within Core R&T are funds for innovation activities such as the Innovative Housing Showcase on the National Mall. Stakeholders for these efforts include HUD program offices, Federal Agencies, State and local policy makers, researchers and practitioners, and the housing industry.

Research, Evaluation, and Demonstrations

Funding Research, Evaluation, and Demonstrations (R&D) at \$25 million will allow PD&R to continue multi-year evaluations of programs and initiatives that advance Departmental priorities, as well as conduct new evaluations, demonstrations, and policy-focused research that respond to Congressional directives, address Departmental priorities, and advance strategic evidence-building priorities.

PD&R's discretionary research and evaluation is guided by HUD's Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Learning Agenda, which PD&R developed through extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders to identify the highest priority needs for research and data to inform evidence-based policymaking. PD&R revisits the Learning Agenda each year to ensure that the Department's research priorities reflect new legislation, changes in market or environmental conditions, and emerging research.

The R&D funding will allow HUD to support new and ongoing research, evaluations, and demonstrations. HUD will work with the Congress to identify the specific new projects to be supported by the 2024 Budget. One of HUD's top priorities is to apply and expand innovative approaches to identify trends in housing discrimination by implementing lessons learned from previous research and following up on current solicitations for new identification methods. Other priorities include research on approaches to increase the supply of affordable housing, including through land and zoning reforms, assessing the effectiveness of policies and programs to improve housing quality and address housing needs in rural and tribal areas, and research that supports HUD's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and natural disasters on assisted populations and the housing stock.¹ If the Congress supports the Department's proposal for a pilot program that allows PHAs in the most challenging markets to use Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) funding to assist tenants with security deposits, utility deposits, and utility arrears, PD&R will evaluate the effect of the pilot on HCV leasing success, funds utilization, and families served.

Technical Assistance

Funding the Technical Assistance (TA) program at \$50 million provides resources to meet the critical needs of HUD customers identified by program offices as well as support for cross-cutting priorities.

TA resources provided through this account are the only source of TA funds for most programs at HUD. Every program area at HUD has identified a critical need for TA funds to provide more in-depth implementation support to grantees, including support to:

- Build internal capacity around affordable housing planning and development to increase housing supply, including meeting goals for affordable developments in high opportunity areas, energy efficiency, and climate resiliency in housing supply.
- Develop program designs and operational policies and procedures to expand offerings related to HIV response strategies.
- Support effective training and technical assistance to entities whose primary purpose and expertise is assisting survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence or providing culturally specific services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the 2022 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

¹ PD&R anticipates that up to \$5 million of the requested R&D funding will be dedicated to climate-related research.

- Provide support for stable tenancy and mortgage support and promote financial health of individual program participants.
- Improve grantee understanding of how to combine Federal, State, and local funding sources to maximize achievement of program goals, reduce barriers to access, and streamline requirements in program implementation.
- Effectively integrate Federal cross-cutting requirements such as Environmental Review, Uniform Relocation Act, and the new Section 3 requirements into programs and projects.
- Provide support for grantees implementing the forthcoming Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing final rule.²
- Expand resources to support integration and implementation of Limited English Proficiency outreach and language access, cultural sensitivity and racial equity awareness, and the Equal Access Rule.

In addition to meeting these critical needs, this TA funding will support congressionally directed spending for Community Project Funding and the Thriving Communities program, as well as ongoing development of the HUD Exchange website (a central platform for grantees to access resources).

HUD will continue awarding TA funds on a competitive basis through a two-year Community Compass Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) because of the balance it offers between stability, flexibility, and administrative burden. HUD may also award a portion of these funds through a separate NOFO for Distressed Cities TA to continue to support TA to units of general local government experiencing long-term economic hardship, whose residents have been underserved due to limited local capacity.

Eviction Protection Program

Funding the [Eviction Protection Grant Program](#) at \$10 million will allow PD&R to continue to fund legal assistance to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction. This competitive grant program was first funded in 2021. There are currently 21 grantees in 19 States. HUD is currently developing a new NOFO to award 2023 enacted funding to additional grantees. As in 2021, HUD expects the number of highly qualified, eligible applicants to far exceed available funding. There is a strong research base demonstrating the effectiveness of legal assistance in preventing eviction and mitigating its most negative impacts. While most landlords are represented during eviction proceedings, most tenants are not. In addition, there is strong evidence that landlords pursue eviction inequitably. This asymmetry leaves tenants more vulnerable to landlords who exploit the scarcity of legal assistance by pursuing extra-legal evictions, filing fraudulent or less justified evictions, raising claim amounts, and expediting evictions without providing proper time for tenants to vacate the property. It also prevents tenants from engaging in informed mediation or accessing proper legal defenses. Finally, legal assistance is an important component of broader eviction diversion and remediation programming that helps struggling tenants access stabilizing resources. HUD's experience with the program thus far suggests that grantees have been able to provide a robust range of much-needed legal services to underserved populations, including in rural areas. Early data suggests 2 in 3 tenants served by the program have extremely low incomes. In addition, the majority of tenants served are people of color and nearly half are from Black households. With funding for Emergency Rental Assistance running out and evictions once again on the rise, the already high demand for legal assistance and other eviction mitigation services is likely to increase

² See Proposed Rule: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/09/2023-00625/affirmatively-furthering-fair-housing>.

in the coming year. In 2022, HUD initiated an [evaluation](#) of the Eviction Protection Grant Program to comprehensively analyze implementation successes and challenges, characteristics of grantees and other stakeholders, the types of client services provided, how grantees work with other social service providers, and program outcomes.³ The final report is expected in fall 2024.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY PROGRAM

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Activity	2022 Budget Authority	2021 Carryover Into 2022	2022 Total Resources	2022 Obligations	2023 Appropriation	2022 Carryover Into 2023	2023 Total Resources	2024 President's Budget
Core R&T	66,800	8,581	75,381	56,049	71,000	25,402	96,402	70,000
Technical Assistance	41,000	26,100	67,100	26,100	44,400	41,000	85,400	50,000
Research, Evaluations and Demonstrations	17,600	13,037	30,637	13,855	10,000	16,865	26,865	25,000
Eviction Protection Grants	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	10,000
Total	145,400	47,718	193,118	116,004	145,400	83,267	228,667	155,000

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appropriations Language Changes

The 2024 President's Budget includes the following:

- **Funding Research at International Organizations:** This proposal expands PD&R's ability to partner with international organizations by allowing contractual agreements with and/or grants for international organizations for housing and economic development-related research projects.
- **No Research Match Requirement for International Organizations:** This proposal facilitates partnering with international organizations in support of PD&R's research by excluding international organizations from match requirements.
- **Reduce Research Match Requirement:** This proposal will increase opportunities for highly qualified applicants by decreasing the cooperative agreements match requirement from 50 percent to 25 percent, increasing the number of applicants.

General Provisions

The 2024 President's Budget re-proposes the following general provision that was enacted in the 2023 appropriations bill:

- **Unobligated Research Funds:** This provision gives HUD the ability to re-obligate research funds left unexpended at the conclusion of an agreement. (Sec. 219)

³ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/ongoing/Evaluation-Eviction-Protection.html>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The 2024 President's Budget includes proposed changes in the appropriations language listed below. New language is italicized, and language proposed for deletion is bracketed.

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C.1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, [\$125,400,000]*\$145,000,000*, to remain available until September 30, [2024] *2025: Provided, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, the Secretary may enter into agreements with international organizations for housing and economic development-related research projects: Provided further, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities, [or] colleges or universities, or international organizations for research projects: Provided further, That with respect to the preceding proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements, with the exception of international organizations, shall contribute at least a [50] 25 percent match toward the cost of the project: Provided further, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the preceding two provisos, the Secretary shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545(a)(4)(C)) with respect to documentation of award decisions: [Provided further, That prior to obligation of technical assistance funding, the Secretary shall submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how the Secretary will allocate funding for this activity at least 30 days prior to obligation: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program:] *Provided further, That an additional [\$20,000,000]*\$10,000,000*, to remain available until September 30, [2025] 2026, shall be for competitive grants to nonprofit or governmental entities to provide legal assistance (including assistance related to pretrial activities, trial activities, post-trial activities and alternative dispute resolution) at no cost to eligible low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction: Provided further, That in awarding grants under the preceding proviso, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants that include a marketing strategy for residents of areas with high rates of eviction, have experience providing no-cost legal assistance to low-income individuals, including those with limited English proficiency or disabilities, and have sufficient capacity to administer such assistance[:Provided further, That the Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the proportion of eligible tenants living in rural areas who will receive legal assistance with grant funds made available under this heading is not less than the overall proportion of eligible tenants who live in rural areas].**