

# HOMELESSNESS FUNDING IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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## Continuity of Federal Homelessness Assistance and Regional System Stability

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Chief Administrative Officers Committee  
February 4, 2026

# Risk to Continuity of CoC Funded Housing and Services

- Practical continuity risks for programs with fixed 2026 expiration dates.
- Likely local impacts if renewals are delayed.
- Overview of COG Board Action
- Key considerations for CAOs



# Federal Funding Process Disruption Creates Timing Risk

## CONTEXT

The CoC program is built on a predictable annual renewal cycle that supports continuous operations for housing and services.

- In November–December 2025, HUD issued and then withdrew the FY2025 CoC NOFO, disrupting the expected renewal timeline.
- A federal court issued a preliminary injunction that blocks implementation of the FY2025 NOFO and directs HUD to process eligible FY2025 renewals under the FY24–25 rules, but does not require HUD to obligate funds or issue awards.
- HUD reopened the FY24–25 CoC NOFO from January 9 to February 9, 2026, and has indicated it anticipates selecting awards by late March 2026, subject to the court order.
- Local grant terms expire on fixed dates. Delays at the federal level can create a gap even when funding is ultimately available.

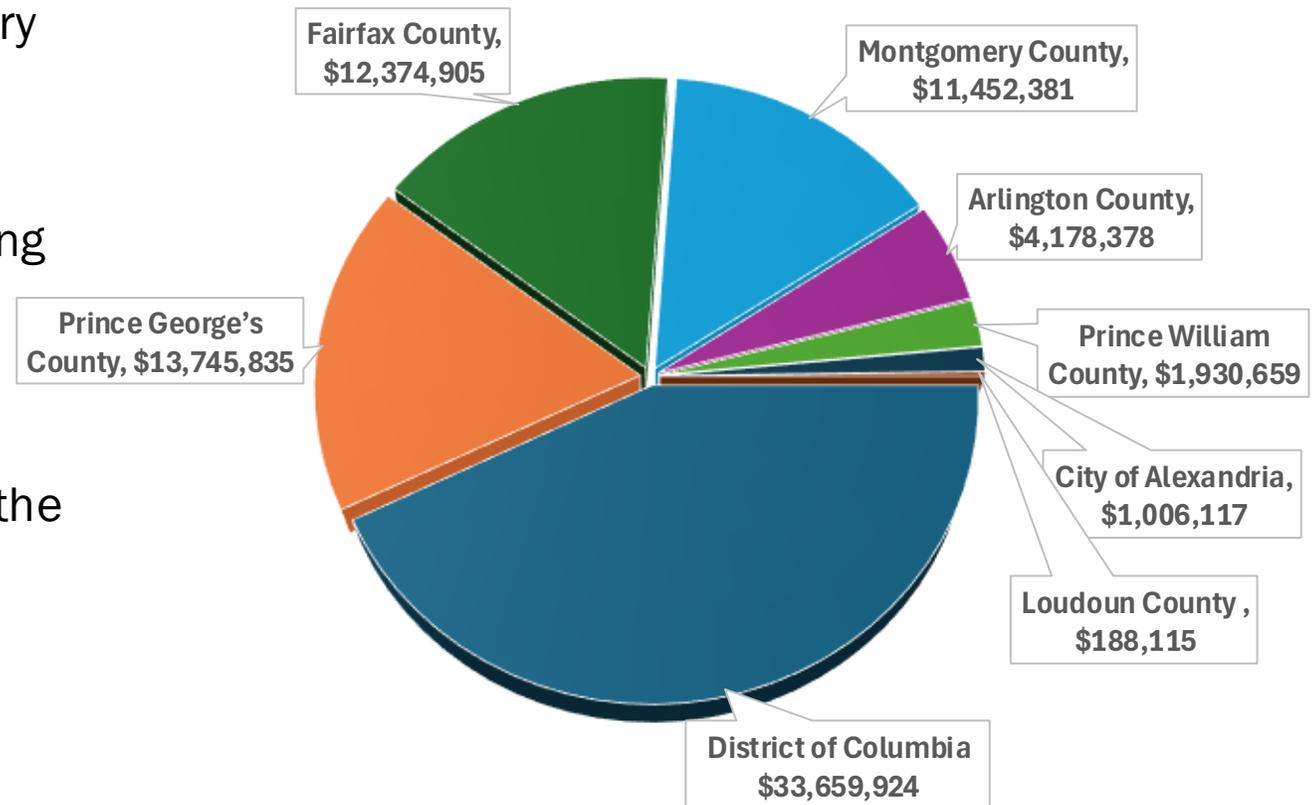
## RISK TO REGIONAL SYSTEM OF CARE

- **Disrupted or discontinued housing and services, provider cash-flow strain, and preventable instability for households and homeless services system health and efficacy.**

# Magnitude of Risk: National Exposure and Regional Scale

- National estimates suggest roughly one-third of CoC grants expire between January and June 2026.
- Metropolitan Washington received approximately **\$77.4 million** in CoC funding in FY2024.
- Even with award selection, timing of obligated funds and executed grant agreements remains uncertain, which is the driver of potential gaps
- Even short funding gaps would affect leases, staffing, and housing stability.

**FY2024 HUD CoC Total Awards**



# Context: How Many People Are Experiencing Homelessness in our Region?

People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2021-2025*							
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change in Number of Persons 2021 - 2025	Percent Change 2021 - 2025
City of Alexandria	106	120	152	187	166	60	57%
Arlington County	171	182	213	243	271	100	58%
District of Columbia	5,111	4,410	4,922	5,616	5,138	27	1%
Fairfax County	1,222	1,191	1,310	1,278	1,322	100	8%
Loudoun County	80	99	220	303	252	172	215%
Montgomery County	577	581	894	1,144	1,510	933	162%
Prince George's County	537	571	659	658	608	71	13%
Prince William County	282	241	326	345	392	110	39%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>9,774</b>	<b>9,659</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>19%</b>

Source: COG \* Totals for 2021-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

# What a Funding Gap Means on the Ground

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- Contract expirations;
- Funding gaps for providers, impacting their ability to provide rental assistance and to pay staff salaries;
- Decrease in the total number of housing placements available to households seeking to exit homelessness;
- Increase in length of shelter stays, fewer open beds;
- Increase in unsheltered homelessness.



# January COG Board Action Report Out

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## Action

- Adopted the resolution and authorize transmittal of letters to HUD and Congress.
- Urged HUD to take prompt, time-limited steps to prevent interruptions to existing CoC-funded housing and services during the FY2025 process.
- Urged Congress to take immediate, time-limited action, including appropriations or other legislative vehicles, to direct and support HUD in maintaining continuity of existing CoC-funded housing and services.

## Purpose

- Prevent avoidable disruption to housing stability, provider operations, and regional system performance while the FY2025 CoC funding process is completed.

# What CAOs Should Know and What We are Tracking

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- Provider cash-flow strain that affects rent payments, payroll, and service continuity.
- Housing stability risk for currently housed households if lease and service funding is delayed.
- Cost shifting to local systems including general funds, shelter operations, emergency response, and hospitals.
- Near-term watchpoints: Feb. 9 NOFO close, late-March target for award selection, and any signals on obligation and grant execution timing. Court decision anticipated by June.
- Longer-term watchpoint (FY2026+): potential shifts in federal priorities and “best practice” expectations that could change eligible activities, performance standards, and the operating model for CoC-funded systems.



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