Projected Impact of the Sequestration on Homeless and Housing Services for FY 2013

- $2 billion cuts from housing assistance and community-development programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- The funding for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) could fall to $190 million which is 34% below the amount provided in 2012. This program helps support emergency shelters and temporary financial and other types of assistance for at-risk people to avert homelessness or enable them to move from shelters into permanent housing.

- Cut the number of low-income families using the Housing Choice Vouchers to afford housing by roughly 140,000

- Only one out of four eligible households will receive a housing voucher or some other type of federal rental assistance, and there are long waiting lists for assistance in nearly every community around the Country

- Reduce funding for Housing Choice Voucher program by $938 million in calendar year 2013:
  a. Housing Agencies’ funding will be cut by 6% and cannot maintain services at present levels
  b. Families on waiting lists cannot access housing vouchers
  c. Agencies are withdrawing vouchers from families that have recently received them

This is in addition to the $3.7 billion which was cut from HUD’s 2012 budget!
Statistic from the Nation Magazine regarding poverty in the United States (May 10, 2013)

- US poverty (less than $17,916 for a family of three): 46.2 million people, 15.1 percent.
- Deep poverty (less than $11,510 for a family of four): 20.4 million people, 1 in 15 Americans, including more than 15 million women and children.
- People who would have been in poverty if not for Social Security, 2011: 67.6 million (program kept 21.4 million people out of poverty).
- People in the US experiencing poverty by age 65: Roughly half.
- Gender gap, 2011: Women 34 percent more likely to be poor than men.
- Gender gap, 2010: Women 29 percent more likely to be poor than men.
- Twice the poverty level (less than $46,042 for a family of four): 106 million people, more than 1 in 3 Americans.
- Jobs in the US paying less than $34,000 a year: 50 percent.
- Jobs in the US paying below the poverty line for a family of four, less than $23,000 annually: 25 percent.
- Percentage of individuals and family members in poverty who either worked or lived with a working family member, 2011: 57 percent.
- Low-income families that were working in 2011: More than 70 percent.
- Families receiving cash assistance, 1996: 68 for every 100 families living in poverty.
- Families receiving cash assistance, 2010: 27 for every 100 families living in poverty.
- Impact of public policy, 2010: without government assistance, poverty would have been twice as high—nearly 30 percent of population.
- Percentage of entitlement benefits going to elderly, disabled, or working households: over 90 percent.
- Food stamp recipients with no other cash income: 6.5 million people.
- Number of homeless children in US public schools: 1,065,794.
- Mothers who are homeless as a direct result of domestic violence: 1 in 4.
- Homeless mothers who will experience domestic violence at some point: over 90 percent.
- Federal funding for low-income housing assistance programs, 2012: less than $50 billion.

http://www.thenation.com/blog/174273/week-poverty-12-things-you-can-do-fight-poverty-now#