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## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs

### Request for Appropriations in FY10:

- Support \$2.2 billion for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants

### Request for Authorizing Legislation:

Enact H.R. 1877 and S. 808, identical bills introduced in April. These bills would:

- Consolidate most HUD McKinney-Vento housing programs into one competitive program with a broad set of eligible activities, including homelessness prevention, permanent or transitional housing and supportive services.
- Make the current Continuum of Care (CoC) process, the mechanism for local control over HUD homeless assistance grant funding, into federal law.
- Allow the required 25% state or local match for all housing and supportive services spending to be met either with cash or with in-kind contributions.

### Issue Summary:

Legislation to reauthorize and amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was introduced in both the House and the Senate on April 2. H.R. 1877 and S. 808, both titled the "Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009," were introduced in the House by Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI) and in the Senate by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI). The bills are identical and are very similar to legislation that passed the House overwhelmingly in October of 2008.

The House bill has six cosponsors in the House: Representatives Judy Biggert (R-IL); Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); Andre Carson (D-IN); Geoff Davis (R-KY); Barney Frank (D-MA); and Maxine Waters (D-CA). Cosponsors of the Senate companion bill are Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Kit Bond (R-MO), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Richard Durbin (D-IL), John Kerry (D-MA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Charles Schumer (D-NY), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

The bills would emphasize homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. The bills would also consolidate the separate McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs (the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy) into a single Continuum of Care Program and would codify the Continuum of Care planning process. Additionally, the legislation allows for the 25% state or local match for all housing and supportive services to be met either with cash or with an in-kind contribution.

The definition of homelessness is expanded in bills to include several criteria for unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children, as well as individuals fleeing from abuse. The bill would also establish specific criteria for programs in rural states that respond to the unique nature of rural homelessness, in addition to implementing a nationwide goal ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days.