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HOUSING VOUCHERS FUNDED IN WEST VIRGINIA UNDER PENDING PROPOSALS

Due largely to the flaws in the formula for distributing “Section 8” housing voucher funding, the share of vouchers in use in West Virginia has fallen over the past few years, from 95 percent in 2004 to a projected 90 percent in 2006. In other words, **695 vouchers have already been cut** in West Virginia over the past two years.

For 2007, Congress will have to choose among three funding approaches that have been put forward. Each provides the same new funding for the program nationally in 2007, but uses a different method for distributing the money among the 2,400 state and local housing agencies. Here is the impact that each of the three formulas would have on West Virginia.

- Under the formula in the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (or SEVRA), a bill passed by the House Financial Services Committee on June 14, 2006, ***all vouchers in use in West Virginia in 2006 would be funded***. Moreover, agencies in West Virginia would receive enough funding to restore many of the vouchers that have been cut in recent years. Overall, **94 percent of West Virginia’s currently authorized vouchers would be funded** under the SEVRA formula.
- The formula in the Senate appropriations bill would also renew funding for all vouchers in use in West Virginia in 2006. However, it would not provide agencies in West Virginia with enough funding to restore a substantial share of the vouchers that have been cut in recent years. Overall, **92 percent of West Virginia’s currently authorized vouchers would be funded** under the Senate appropriations formula.
- Under the formula in the House appropriations bill, 11 housing agencies in West Virginia would be forced to cut assistance to 217 low-income families in 2007. **92 percent of West Virginia’s currently authorized vouchers** would be funded under the House appropriations formula.

For a description of the pending proposals for distribution of renewal funding to state and local agencies and an analysis of their national impact, see "Fixing the Housing Voucher Formula: A No-Cost Way to Strengthen the Section 8 Program," <http://www.cbpp.org/11-1-06hous.htm>. The paper's Technical Appendix explains the sources and methods for the data in this table.

Agency Estimates

Housing Agency	HUD Code	Authorized Vouchers as of Jan. 2006	Vouchers in Use in 2006 (Estimated)	Authorized Vouchers Funded in 2007			Vouchers in Use That Would Be Cut Under House Appropriations Bill
				SEVRA	Senate Appropriations Bill	House Appropriations Bill	
Beckley HA*	WV015	364	364	364	364	364	0
Benwood HA	WV014	57	57	57	57	52	5
Bluefield HA	WV018	361	285	285	291	344	0
Boone County RHA	WV042	497	482	497	491	494	0
Buckhannon HA	WV013	82	78	82	79	82	0
Charleston Housing	WV001	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,603	1,568	35
Clarksburg HA	WV027	244	242	244	244	232	10
Fairmont HA	WV009	825	781	825	797	819	0
Grant County HA	WV034	46	38	46	39	37	1
Greenbrier County HA	WV046	345	326	345	332	314	12
Harrison County HA	WV043	337	308	337	314	318	0
Huntington West Virginia HA	WV004	1,331	1,116	1,331	1,138	1,172	0
Jackson County HA	WV035	915	550	550	561	599	0
Kanawha County RHA	WV036	1,263	1,178	1,263	1,201	1,119	60
Keyser HA	WV010	202	165	165	168	202	0
Martinsburg HA	WV006	285	252	252	257	272	0
Mingo County HA	WV037	1,431	1,126	1,126	1,148	1,235	0
Morgantown HA	WV002	210	210	210	210	202	8

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				SEVRA	Senate Appropriations Bill	House Appropriations Bill	
Parkersburg Housing	WV005	1,317	1,288	1,317	1,313	1,270	18
Point Pleasant HA	WV017	125	123	125	125	108	15
Raleigh County HA	WV039	1,300	1,281	1,300	1,300	1,270	11
Randolph County HA	WV045	598	598	598	598	556	42
Weirton HA	WV016	535	442	442	450	515	0
Wheeling HA*	WV003	421	394	421	402	399	0
Total		14,694	13,286	13,785	13,484	13,542	217

*Agency received new "tenant protection" vouchers from HUD in 2005 to replace demolished public housing units or privately-owned units that no longer receive project-based federal housing assistance. Incomplete information was available to estimate the additional funding due these agencies in 2007 to renew these vouchers under each of the approaches. As a result, estimates for these agencies may be too low, and under the House approach may be too low or too high.

**Agency took over administration of additional vouchers from another agency in 2005 or early 2006. Our estimates may not fully account for the effect of the consolidation on the agency's likely funding in 2007.