

# Using Emergency Housing Vouchers to Address Homelessness

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# What are Emergency Housing Vouchers?

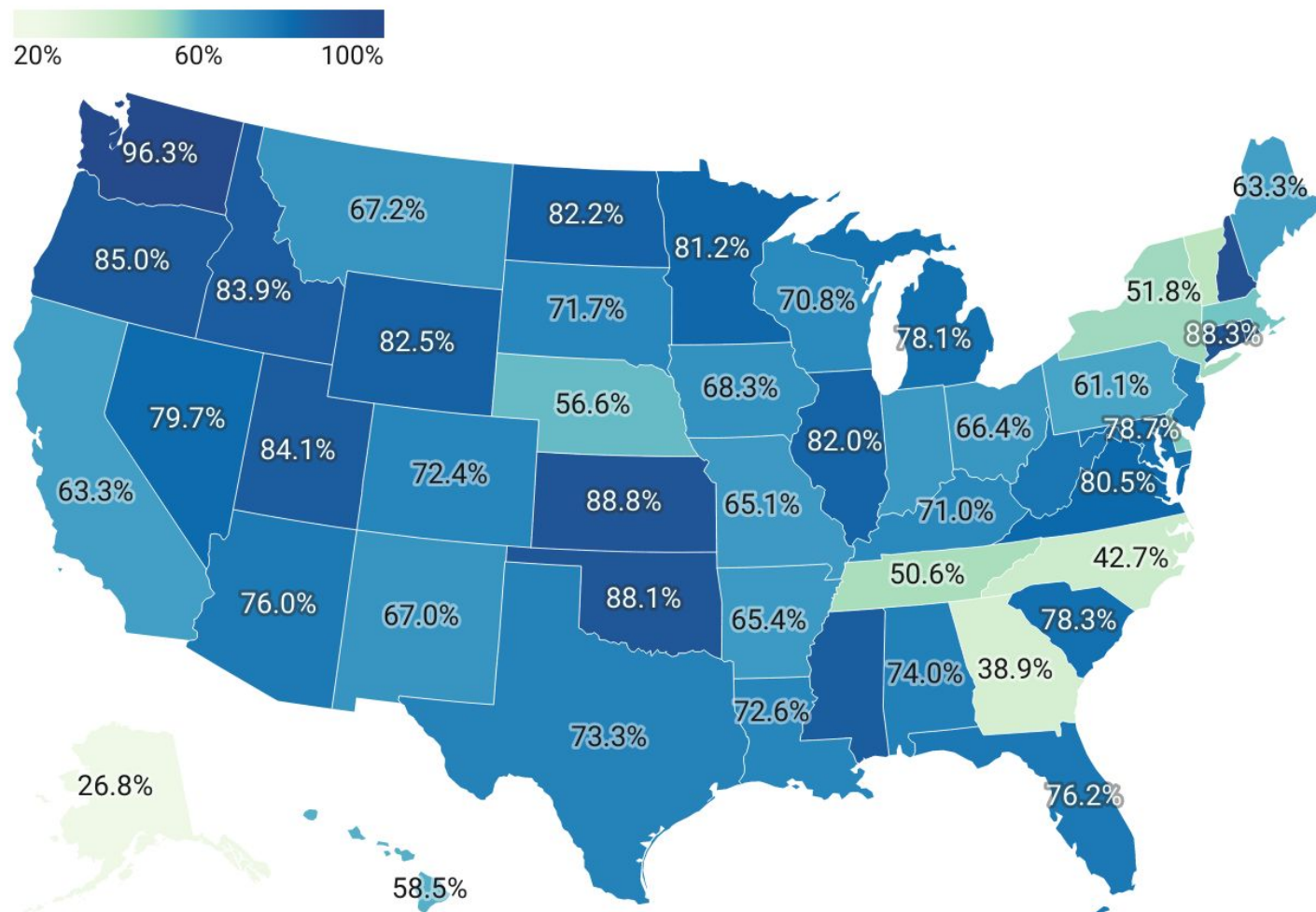
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In response to Covid-19,  
**70,000 EHV**s were deployed  
to subsidize housing for  
people **experiencing or at  
imminent risk of  
homelessness.**



Participants receive a **housing subsidy** that they can use in  
the **private rental market**, which covers rent and utility  
expenses beyond 30 percent of their adjusted monthly  
incomes.

# EHV Lease-Up Rates Vary



Created with Datawrapper

Data as of February 2023

# Challenges and Opportunities

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Identifying recipients

Locating units

Recruiting landlords

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*“Our local homelessness system didn’t have the capacity to prepare the necessary referral documentation, and this expectation was an unfunded mandate.”*

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*“You can't issue vouchers  
when there's no  
apartments and expect  
magic to happen.”*

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*“Who’s willing to rent to our population? We have got to stop pretending that our folks can just go shop for a unit and then pick one up.”*

# Looking Forward

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**It is critical to expand the stock of housing available to voucher-holders**

Lessons for Housing Choice Voucher program:

- Flexible services fees
- Higher eligible rents
- Local systems partnership and capacity building



# Thanks!

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See more details in our full  
commentary at  
[turnercenter.berkeley.edu](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu)

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