

HUD Makes \$193 Million Available to Address Youth Homelessness

Funding will support communities in developing housing focused solutions to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Washington, D.C. - The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making \$193 million in funding available to communities nationwide to prevent and address youth homelessness.

"Every American should grow up in a safe and loving home. HUD is pleased to announce this funding opportunity as we focus on partnering with communities to provide stability, resources, and healing to vulnerable youth. The Trump administration is committed to supporting youth with housing resources to help them reunite with family or gain independence to pursue the American Dream," said Secretary Turner.

This funding will be uti-

lized for developing and implementing projects to increase the efficiency of youth homelessness response systems as well as creating Transitional Housing and Supportive Services projects focused on providing housing with wraparound services to help youth become self-sufficient. Combining these two funding opportunities into one Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) emphasizes the comprehensive approach that is needed to dramatically reduce youth homelessness.

The Trump administration has demonstrated extraordinary collaboration to uplift America's youth. First Lady Melania Trump recently announced 10 Achievements Transforming Outcomes for Foster Youth since the signing of the Executive Order on Fostering the Future for American Children

and Families. This Spring, Secretary Turner hosted roundtable conversations to hear from youth in Denver, Pittsburgh, and San Antonio about their experience with HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program and how HUD can better coordinate with our partners across America to prevent homelessness among foster youth transitioning to adulthood. Today's announcement continues to build on HUD's ongoing commitment to help vulnerable youth lead successful lives.

This funding opportunity is open to state and local governments; Federally-recognized Native American Tribal governments and Native American Tribal Organizations; and non-profit organizations. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications for this funding opportunity are due on August 10, 2026.

of dollars in its assets that have been frozen abroad, and the lifting of U.S. and international sanctions.

These issues will be difficult to resolve, and it's not clear what happens if agreement is not reached during the 60 days of negotiations.

Trump told The New York Times that if no deal was reached, he could relaunch attacks on Iran or make the U.S. "the guardian of the Middle East" in return for 20% of the region's revenues.

Signing set for Friday Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who played a key mediating role in the negotiations, said an official signing ceremony will take place on Friday in Switzerland. Trump said the same in a second Truth Social post Sunday evening.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, quoted by Iranian state media in a post on Telegram, said Iran sees this deal as a victory.

Iran has effectively controlled the Strait of Hormuz since shortly after the war began on Feb. 28, virtually shutting down the vital passage for around 20% of the world's oil. The U.S. blockaded Iranian ports in response.

The U.S. says Iran has laid mines in the strait. Trump said Sunday the strait will be opened for mine removal after the deal is signed on Friday.

Iran made an end to fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon a condition for a deal with the U.S.

However, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Monday the country would keep troops in southern Lebanon indefinitely.

Israel and Hezbollah have continued to fight daily despite an official ceasefire. On Sunday, Hezbollah fired drones into northern Israel, according to the Israeli military.

Israel responded with a deadly airstrike on a Hezbollah stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Trump criticized the Israeli action.

"This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened, particularly on a special day when we are so close to a peace deal with Iran," Trump wrote on Truth Social, hours before he announced the agreement with Iran.

Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak often by phone, but they've been at odds on several occasions recently, and Israel was not directly involved in the negotiations with Iran.

Israeli officials have said previously that they would support an agreement, but they had many reservations about the terms that were being discussed.

Leaders in the Middle East and Europe praised the deal.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, who helped mediate the deal alongside Pakistan, praised the breakthrough. He thanked Pakistan, urging "positive and constructive" negotiations ahead.

Peggy's Ponderings

He's a CEO, a grocery man, sits on grocery retail boards, a cattle farmer, a rancher, a gardener, a Daddy, a Pawpaw, a husband, a good man. He wears many hats all year long but at this time of the year, we honor the daddy.

Father's Day was first proposed in 1909 by Sonora Dodd. After listening to a Mother's Day sermon, she thought that the fathers should also enjoy their own memorable day.

We all think about our own Daddies on this day, and I recall my small dynamite of a Daddy, Earl. He was a small man, by man's standards today. He was about 5 feet 9 inches and maybe weighed 150 pounds. But for what he lacked in stature, he made up for in personality. I always remember the comical things he did like walking

through our screened door, forgetting about the screen. Or the day he went fishing with my brother, he loved to fish, and on this particular time were fishing the Youth Center Lake. He was a little late that morning getting his

boat into the water and as my brother sat a few feet away he said daddy stood up in the middle of his boat and began to "speak in tongues". He hollered to my brother and said, "Mary Lois put turnip greens in my whip cream bowl that has my catalpa worms. I got to go get my bait." The memory of His shenanigans always puts me in a good mood.

My daughter lives just across the road from us out here on the ranch and this year will be a difficult holiday for our family. They lost their daddy about four months ago and she is trying to be both parents to her two older boys and our little



Peggy Sims

*US/Iran

(Continued from page 1.) despite a ceasefire. The Israel-Hezbollah fighting in Lebanon should stop. And Iran and the U.S. will lift their dueling blockades of the Strait of Hormuz that have prevented oil from leaving the Gulf, driving up prices across the world.

"Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Trump said in his post.

However, the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Iran did not resolve several critical issues that must still be worked out in another round of negotiations.

The text of the deal was not immediately released but has been widely described by U.S. and Iranian officials and in media reports.

The agreement extends the current U.S.-Iran ceasefire for 60 days. The goal in upcoming talks will be a permanent end to the war.

The fate of Iran's nuclear program will be negotiated but remains unresolved for now. Trump made no mention of the nuclear issue in his initial posts, though this is the main reason he cited for launching the war in February.

In an interview with The New York Times, Trump said Iran would be permitted low-level nuclear enrichment. In the past, he has repeatedly called for the dismantling of Iran's entire nuclear program.

Also, Iran wants billions

The Fraud Fight

By: Treasurer David McRae

Taxpayers today lose as much as \$521 billion to fraud every single year. For too many, that's not just a number. It's a road left in decay - a Social Security check never received - a childcare facility stolen from the community.

For decades, that fraud went unchecked as health-

European leaders from the U.K., France, Germany and Italy also welcomed the deal, calling for swift implementation. They also called for the urgent reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and reaffirmed support for Lebanon's sovereignty and stability.

French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking in a video on Instagram as G7 leaders prepare to meet in Evian, said talks would focus on the long-term reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the wider diplomatic opportunity created by the agreement.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called the deal a "critical step," with his spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric saying he hopes parties will build on the momentum and "redouble their efforts towards a final resolution of the conflict."

care, nutrition, and housing assistance programs were quickly drained by criminals. The pandemic exacerbated the abuse. Federal bureaucrats pumped more than a trillion dollars into the economy with little oversight.

Billions were claimed in illegitimate unemployment benefits. Billions more went to fraudulent loans - the proceeds of which were never recovered. In fact, the GAO Inspector General estimates that between 11 and 15 percent of the benefits paid during the pandemic were fraudulent.

This was further exacerbated by the Biden administration, who seemed to think that the litmus test for success was sending money out the door rather than figuring out if it did anything.

The Trump administration, however, turned the page and has inspired actions within every government agency, including the State Treasury.

The effort started with the Department of Government Efficiency. In a matter of months, the agency uncovered waste that was equivalent to \$1,335.40 per taxpayer. That's not an insignificant chunk of change!

Of course, the effort continued from there. Despite

Emmie Jo. The first holidays are always the hardest. This will be her second time to blaze this unknown trail as she lost her first husband when their baby was twelve days old. Is she experienced enough to handle it gracefully this time, NO. But she will because she has the will of the daddy who lives in this house, and she will hold fast.

As I pondered on this week's article, I struggled because there is not a lot of frivolity in this, but I tell you these things to entreat you, if you still have your Daddy this side of Glory, go to see him or call him and just say, "thank you and I love you." As we age, we do seem to need those words of assurance. And ---

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ALL YOU DADDIES!!

I've been making crunchy cornbread to go with our fresh garden vegetables.

1 cup self-rising cornmeal, ½ cup self-rising flour, ¼ cup of sugar, ½ stick of butter, ¾ cup of buttermilk. Place your cast iron skillet in your 400* oven as you mix flour, cornmeal, sugar, and buttermilk to a smooth consistency. Pour melted butter into mix and pour all into skillet. Cook 400* for 20 minutes. So good

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the opposition of Congressman Bennie Thompson and his cohort of Democrat politicians, the other three members of Mississippi's congressional delegation passed an unprecedented crack-down on waste, fraud, and abuse. Through their legislative efforts, there are more safeguards, more checks, and more accountability.

Now, Vice President J.D. Vance is taking up the mantle. Under President Trump's direction, the Vice President and his assigned task force is leading a "full-scale war on fraud." The task force has so far helped charge dozens of fraudsters who sought to rip off homeowners and hospice recipients. They have found fraud in the healthcare system, in the student work visa program, and at daycare facilities. And there's still more to uncover.

Here at the State Treasury, we are taking steps to make sure unclaimed money is protected from illegal immigrants. We were the first in the nation, in fact, to institute a citizenship verification system as part of the unclaimed money process. In doing so, we're putting Mississippians first and bringing the fight against fraud home.

The reality is that there will always be people looking to game the system. But when government turns a blind eye, fraud flourishes. But when leaders demand accountability, taxpayers win - every single time.