

August 21, 2025

Taxpayer Trade Offs: D.C. Occupation V.S. Public Housing

As of this writing, there are more than 2,000 National Guard troops deployed in D.C., [costing over a million dollars per day](#). In all but two states, the daily cost of the D.C. troop deployment is greater than the daily cost of operating public housing for all unhoused people in the state. In most cases, the disparity is many times greater. For example, the daily expense of deploying troops to D.C. is *4.3 times* greater than the daily cost of operating public housing for D.C.'s entire unhoused population.

State	Number of unhoused people ¹	Daily cost of operating public housing (per unit) ²	Daily cost of operating public housing for all unhoused ³	The number of times greater spending on the D.C. occupation than the daily cost would be of operating public housing for all unhoused in the state ⁴
Alabama	4,601	\$24.16	\$111,180	10.0
Alaska	2,686	\$35.77	\$96,078	11.5
Arizona	14,737	\$20.15	\$297,001	3.7
Arkansas	2,783	\$17.52	\$48,767	22.7
California	187,084	\$25.81	\$4,828,305	0.2
Colorado	18,715	\$21.83	\$408,551	2.7
Connecticut	3,410	\$31.10	\$106,056	10.4
Delaware	1,358	\$33.60	\$45,629	24.3
District of Columbia	5,616	\$45.44	\$255,166	4.3
Florida	31,362	\$23.54	\$738,253	1.5

¹ Data sourced from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, December 2024. Available at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

² Data sourced from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Assisted Housing: National and Local database. The daily cost is based on 2024 state-level summaries of public housing expenditures ("Average HUD Expenditure per month (\$\$)"). Available at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/asshsg.html#2009-2019_data

³ We multiplied the HUD cost of operating each public housing unit by the total number of unhoused people in the state. This may slightly overinflate the cost of housing all currently unhoused people, as the total number of unhoused may include families who would live together in one unit.

⁴ These comparisons assume the cost of the D.C. deployment is at least [\\$1,108,230](#) per day. They are a conservative reflection of the disproportionate spending, considering the cost of operating public housing for all unhoused people may actually be lower than the estimates stated here (see footnote 3).

Georgia	12,290	\$19.20	\$235,968	4.7
Hawaii	11,637	\$20.28	\$236,056	4.7
Idaho	2,750	\$10.68	\$29,384	37.7
Illinois	25,832	\$32.68	\$844,176	1.3
Indiana	6,285	\$24.56	\$154,353	7.2
Iowa	2,631	\$13.18	\$34,686	32.0
Kansas	2,793	\$16.34	\$45,637	24.3
Kentucky	5,231	\$20.05	\$104,907	10.6
Louisiana	3,469	\$21.86	\$75,843	14.6
Maine	2,702	\$29.36	\$79,328	14.0
Maryland	6,069	\$37.78	\$229,259	4.8
Massachusetts	29,360	\$29.36	\$861,977	1.3
Michigan	9,739	\$21.73	\$211,643	5.2
Minnesota	9,201	\$17.88	\$164,559	6.7
Mississippi	1,041	\$20.32	\$21,151	52.4
Missouri	7,312	\$18.41	\$134,621	8.2
Montana	2,008	\$19.07	\$38,290	28.9
Nebraska	2,720	\$15.65	\$42,566	26.0
Nevada	10,106	\$20.25	\$204,667	5.4
New Hampshire	2,245	\$17.95	\$40,299	27.5
New Jersey	12,762	\$28.90	\$368,804	3.0
New Mexico	4,631	\$17.49	\$80,998	13.7
New York	158,019	\$41.82	\$6,608,225	0.2
North Carolina	11,626	\$22.52	\$261,824	4.2
North Dakota	865	\$18.51	\$16,011	69.2
Ohio	11,759	\$28.47	\$334,793	3.3
Oklahoma	5,467	\$20.84	\$113,953	9.7
Oregon	22,875	\$29.92	\$684,370	1.6
Pennsylvania	14,088	\$32.81	\$462,241	2.4
Rhode Island	2,442	\$25.05	\$61,177	18.1
South Carolina	4,593	\$23.44	\$107,665	10.3
South Dakota	1,338	\$15.29	\$20,455	54.2
Tennessee	8,280	\$20.38	\$168,776	6.6
Texas	27,987	\$21.24	\$594,398	1.9

Utah	3,869	\$15.29	\$59,148	18.7
Vermont	3,458	\$18.74	\$64,802	17.1
Virginia	7,141	\$32.52	\$232,190	4.8
Washington	31,554	\$27.35	\$863,110	1.3
West Virginia	1,779	\$16.73	\$29,770	37.2
Wisconsin	5,049	\$14.73	\$74,366	14.9
Wyoming	501	\$19.46	\$9,751	113.7