

Union Calendar No. 554

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5735

[Report No. 115–719]

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2018

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

JUNE 8, 2018

Additional sponsors: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. HANDEL, and Mr. TURNER

JUNE 8, 2018

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Transitional Housing
 5 for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Pro-
 6 gram Act” or the “THRIVE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO STUDY THE IMPACT**
 8 **OF USING RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR SUP-**
 9 **PORTIVE AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR**
 10 **INDIVIDUALS RECOVERING FROM OPIOID**
 11 **USE DISORDERS OR OTHER SUBSTANCE USE**
 12 **DISORDERS.**

13 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
 14 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the
 15 end the following new paragraph:

16 “(21) RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION PRO-
 17 GRAM FOR SUPPORTIVE AND TRANSITIONAL HOUS-
 18 ING FOR INDIVIDUALS RECOVERING FROM OPIOID
 19 USE DISORDERS OR OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DIS-
 20 ORDERS.—

21 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
 22 shall establish a demonstration program under
 23 which the Secretary shall set aside, allocate,
 24 and distribute directly to eligible entities, from
 25 amounts made available for rental assistance

under this subsection, the amounts specified in subparagraph (B) for an eligible entity to provide a voucher for such assistance to a covered individual through a supportive and transitional housing program that provides treatment for opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders (as applicable), job skills training, and such assistance for a period of 12 to 24 months.

“(B) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in this subparagraph is, for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, the amount necessary to provide the lesser of—

“(i) 0.5 percent of the total number of vouchers allocated under this subsection during the fiscal year ending immediately before the date of the enactment of this paragraph; or

“(ii) 10,000 vouchers.

~~“(C) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—~~

~~An eligible entity shall provide an evidence-~~

~~“(C) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—~~

~~And eligible entity shall—~~

~~“(i) provide an evidence-based treatment program and a job skills training~~

1 program for individuals recovering from an
2 opioid use disorder or other substance use
3 disorder, as applicable, that meet stand-
4 ards established by the Secretary; and

5 “(ii) *demonstrate prior experience ad-*
6 *ministering rental assistance vouchers, dem-*
7 *onstrate prior experience administering*
8 *transitional housing programs under the*
9 *McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, or dem-*
10 *onstrate a partnership with a public hous-*
11 *ing agency or a housing program of a*
12 *State, unit of local government, or Indian*
13 *tribe (as such term is defined in section 4*
14 *of the Native American Housing and Self-*
15 *Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.*
16 *4103)) that ensures effective administration*
17 *of rental assistance vouchers.*

18 “(D) APPLICATION.—To receive a rental
19 assistance voucher under this paragraph, an eli-
20 gible entity shall submit an application to the
21 Secretary that shall include—

22 “(i) a description of the terms of
23 treatment program, job skills training, and
24 rental assistance to be provided to a cov-
25 ered individual, and assurances that such

1 description shall be communicated to cov-
2 ered individuals that receive vouchers pur-
3 suant to the demonstration program estab-
4 lished under this paragraph; and

5 “(ii) a transitional plan that begins on
6 the date on which a covered individual
7 completes the treatment program of the el-
8 igible entity that includes information on
9 additional treatment, job skills training,
10 and housing resources and services avail-
11 able to such covered individual.

12 “(E) SELECTION.—In selecting eligible en-
13 tities to receive rental assistance vouchers
14 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

15 “(i) ensure that such eligible enti-
16 ties—

17 “(I) are diverse;

18 “(II) represent an appropriate
19 balance of eligible entities located in
20 urban and rural areas; and

21 “(III) provide supportive and
22 transitional housing programs in di-
23 verse geographic regions with high
24 rates of mortality due to opioid use
25 disorders or other substance use dis-

orders, as applicable, based on data of
the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention; and

“(ii) consider—

“(I) the success of each recipient
eligible entity at helping individuals
complete the treatment program of
the eligible entity and refrain from
opioid or other substance usage, as
applicable;

“(II) the type of job skills train-
ing program provided by the eligible
entity;

“(III) the percentage of partici-
pants in the job skills training pro-
gram that gain and maintain employ-
ment;

“(IV) the percentage of partici-
pants in the treatment program of the
eligible entity that—

“(aa) do not relapse into
opioid or other substance usage,
as applicable; and

“(bb) do not receive Federal
assistance for treatment of an

1 opioid use disorder or other sub-
2 stance use disorder, as applica-
3 ble, after completion of the pro-
4 gram.

5 “(F) TRANSFER OF VOUCHER.—Upon ter-
6 mination of the provision of rental assistance
7 through a voucher to a covered individual, the
8 eligible entity that initially offered such voucher
9 may use such voucher to provide rental assist-
10 ance to another covered individual.

11 “(G) DURATION.—The Secretary shall not
12 make rental assistance available under this
13 paragraph after the expiration of the 5-year pe-
14 riod beginning on the date of the enactment of
15 this paragraph.

16 “(H) REPORTS.—

17 “(i) BY THE ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An
18 eligible entity that receives a rental assist-
19 ance voucher under this paragraph shall
20 submit to the Secretary—

21 “(I) annually, the transitional
22 plan described in subparagraph
23 (D)(ii) and information on each cov-
24 ered individual’s housing upon termi-
25 nation of the provision of rental as-

1 sistance through a voucher to such
2 covered individual in a manner that
3 protects the privacy of such covered
4 individual; and

5 “(II) not later than 4 years after
6 the date of the enactment of this
7 paragraph, a plan describing the
8 treatment and housing options for any
9 covered individual assisted by such
10 voucher who will not have completed
11 the program before the day that is 5
12 years after such date of enactment.

13 “(ii) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
14 retary shall submit to Congress a report
15 that analyzes the impact of rental assist-
16 ance provided under this paragraph—

17 “(I) not later than 2 years after
18 the date of the enactment of this
19 paragraph; and

20 “(II) not later than 4 years after
21 the date of the enactment of this
22 paragraph, that includes recommenda-
23 tions for the continuation or expan-
24 sion of the program established under

1 this paragraph and improving the
2 process for providing such assistance.

3 “(I) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘el-
5 igible entity’ means a nonprofit organiza-
6 tion that meets the criteria described
7 under subparagraph (C).

8 “(ii) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The
9 term ‘covered individual’ means an indi-
10 vidual recovering from an opioid use dis-
11 order or other substance use disorder.”.

12 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION**
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Effective the day that is 5 years after the date of
15 the enactment of this Act, paragraph (21) of section 8(o)
16 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
17 1437f(o)), as added by this Act, is repealed.

18 **SEC. 4. RETURN OF VOUCHERS.**

19 An eligible entity that provided vouchers for rental
20 assistance under paragraph (21) of section 8(o) of the
21 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)),
22 as added by this Act, shall return any such vouchers to
23 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on the
24 day that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act.

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