

## 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1122

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 8, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. DUFFY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

- 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 "Housing Choice Vouch-
- 5 er Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019".

1	SEC. 2. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMON-
2	STRATION.
3	(a) Authority.—The Secretary of Housing and
4	Urban Development (in this section referred to as the
5	"Secretary") may carry out a mobility demonstration pro-
6	gram to enable public housing agencies to administer
7	housing choice voucher assistance under section 8(o) of
8	the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
9	1437f(o)) in a manner designed to encourage families re-
10	ceiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty
11	areas and expand access to opportunity areas.
12	(b) Selection of PHAs.—
13	(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall es-
14	tablish requirements for public housing agencies to
15	participate in the demonstration program under this
16	section, which shall provide that the following public
17	housing agencies may participate:
18	(A) Public housing agencies that to-
19	gether—
20	(i) serve areas with high concentra-
21	tions of holders of rental assistance vouch-
22	ers under section 8(o) of the United States
23	Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o))
24	in poor, low-opportunity neighborhoods
2.5	and

1	(ii) have an adequate number of mod-
2	erately priced rental units in higher-oppor-
3	tunity areas.
4	(B) Planned consortia or partial consortia
5	of public housing agencies that—
6	(i) include at least one agency with a
7	high-performing Family Self-Sufficiency
8	(FSS) program; and
9	(ii) will enable participating families
10	to continue in such program if they relo-
11	cate to the jurisdiction served by any other
12	agency of the consortium.
13	(C) Planned consortia or partial consortia
14	of public housing agencies that—
15	(i) serve jurisdictions within a single
16	region;
17	(ii) include one or more small agen-
18	cies; and
19	(iii) will consolidate mobility focused
20	operations.
21	(D) Such other public housing agencies as
22	the Secretary considers appropriate.
23	(2) Selection Criteria.—The Secretary shall
24	establish competitive selection criteria for public
25	housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to

- participate in the demonstration program under this
  section.
- 3 (3) RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—The
  4 Secretary may require participating agencies to use
  5 a randomized selection process to select among the
  6 families eligible to receive mobility assistance under
  7 the demonstration program.
- 8 (c) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—The Sec-9 retary shall require each public housing agency applying 10 to participate in the demonstration program under this 11 section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan (in 12 this section referred to as a "Plan"), which shall—
  - (1) identify the public housing agencies that will participate under the Plan and the number of vouchers each participating agency will make available out of their existing programs in connection with the demonstration;
    - (2) identify any community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities that will participate under the Plan and describe the commitments for such participation made by each such entity;
- 23 (3) identify any waivers or alternative require-24 ments requested for the execution of the Plan;

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- 1 (4) identify any specific actions that the public 2 housing agencies and other entities will undertake to 3 accomplish the goals of the demonstration, which 4 shall include a comprehensive approach to enable a 5 successful transition to opportunity areas and may 6 include counseling and continued support for fami-7 lies;
  - (5) specify the criteria that the public housing agencies would use to identify opportunity areas under the plan;
  - (6) provide for establishment of priority and preferences for participating families, including a preference for families with young children, as such term is defined by the Secretary, based on regional housing needs and priorities; and
  - (7) comply with any other requirements established by the Secretary.
  - (d) Funding for Mobility-Related Services.—
  - (1) USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Public housing agencies participating in the demonstration program under this section may use administrative fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), their administrative fee reserves, and funding from private entities to provide mobility-related services in connection

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- with the demonstration program, including services such as counseling, portability coordination, landlord outreach, security deposits, and administrative activities associated with establishing and operating regional mobility programs.
  - (2) USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—
    Public housing agencies participating in the demonstration under this section may use housing assistance payments funds under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for security deposits if necessary to enable families to lease units with vouchers in designated opportunity areas.
  - (e) Waivers; Alternative Requirements.—
  - (1) WAIVERS.—To allow for public housing agencies to implement and administer their Regional Housing Mobility Plans, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for the following provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937:
- 21 (A) Sections 8(o)(7)(A) and 8(o)(13)(E)(i) 22 (relating to the term of a lease and mobility re-23 quirements).
- 24 (B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (relating to the public housing plan for an agency).

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- 1 (C) Section 8(r)(2) (relating to the responsibility of a public housing agency to administer ported assistance).
- 4 (2) Alternative requirements.—The Sec-5 retary shall provide additional authority for public 6 housing agencies in a selected region to form a con-7 sortium that has a single housing choice voucher 8 funding contract, or to enter into a partial consor-9 tium to operate all or portions of the Regional Hous-10 ing Mobility Plan, including agencies participating in 11 the Moving To Work Demonstration program.
  - (3) Effective date.—Any waiver or alternative requirements pursuant to this subsection shall not take effect before the expiration of the 10-day period beginning upon publication of notice of such waiver or alternative requirement in the Federal Register.
- 18 (f) Implementation.—The Secretary may imple-19 ment the demonstration, including its terms, procedures, 20 requirements, and conditions, by notice.
- 21 (g) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years after im-22 plementation of the regional housing mobility programs 23 under the demonstration program under this section, the 24 Secretary shall submit to the Congress and publish in the 25 Federal Register a report evaluating the effectiveness of

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- 1 the strategies pursued under the demonstration, subject
- 2 to the availability of funding to conduct the evaluation.
- 3 Through official websites and other methods, the Sec-
- 4 retary shall disseminate interim findings as they become
- 5 available, and shall, if promising strategies are identified,
- 6 notify the Congress of the amount of funds that would
- 7 be required to expand the testing of these strategies in
- 8 additional types of public housing agencies and housing
- 9 markets.

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