

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To make improvements to the Emergency Solutions Grants and Continuum
of Care programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, and Mr. CRAPO) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To make improvements to the Emergency Solutions Grants
and Continuum of Care programs, 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 “Reducing Homeless-
5 ness Through Program Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
2 and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

3 (B) the Committee on Financial Services
4 of the House of Representatives.

5 (2) AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.—The term
6 “at risk of homelessness” has the meaning given the
7 term in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Home-
8 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).

9 (3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
10 means the Department of Housing and Urban De-
11 velopment.

12 (4) HOMELESS.—The term “homeless” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 103 of the
14 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
15 U.S.C. 11302).

16 (5) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term
17 “public housing agency” has the meaning given the
18 term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing
19 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

20 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”, except
21 as otherwise provided, means the Secretary of Hous-
22 ing and Urban Development.

1 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR THE EMERGENCY SO-**
2 **LUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM.**

3 Section 418 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
4 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11378) is amended by striking “7.5
5 percent” and inserting “10 percent”.

6 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the
9 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 11381 et seq.) is amended—

11 (1) in section 402(g) (42 U.S.C. 11360a(g))—

12 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
13 paragraph (3); and

14 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
15 following:

16 “(2) TIME LIMIT ON DESIGNATION.—The Sec-
17 retary—

18 “(A) shall accept applications for designa-
19 tion as a unified funding agency annually or bi-
20 ennially, which designation shall be effective for
21 not more than 2 years; and

22 “(B) may, on an annual or biennial basis,
23 renew any designation under subparagraph
24 (A).”;

25 (2) in section 422 (42 U.S.C. 11382)—

26 (A) in subsection (b)—

1 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
4 graph (2), the Secretary”; and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) 2-YEAR NOTIFICATION.—Subject to the
8 availability of appropriations, the Secretary may
9 issue a notification of funding availability for grants
10 awarded under this subtitle that provides funding
11 for 2 successive fiscal years, which shall—

12 “(A) award funds for the second year of
13 projects, including adjustments under sub-
14 section (f), unless the project is underper-
15 forming, as determined by the collaborative ap-
16 plicant, and the collaborative applicant applies
17 to replace the project with a new project; and

18 “(B) include—

19 “(i) the method for applying for and
20 awarding projects to replace underper-
21 forming projects in year 2;

22 “(ii) the method for applying for and
23 awarding renewals of expiring grants for
24 projects that were not eligible for renewal
25 in the first fiscal year;

1 “(iii) the method for allocating any
2 amounts in the second fiscal year that are
3 in excess of the amount needed to fund the
4 second fiscal year of all grants awarded in
5 the first fiscal year;

6 “(iv) the method of applying for and
7 awarding grants, which are 1-year transi-
8 tion grants awarded by the Secretary to
9 project sponsors for activities under this
10 subtitle to transition from 1 eligible activ-
11 ity to another eligible activity if the recipi-
12 ent—

13 “(I) has the consent of the con-
14 tinuum of care; and

15 “(II) meets standards determined
16 by the Secretary;

17 “(C) announce by notice the award of sec-
18 ond fiscal year funding and awards for new and
19 renewal projects; and

20 “(D) identify the process by which the Sec-
21 retary may approve replacement of a collabo-
22 rative applicant that is not a unified funding
23 agency to receive the award in the second fiscal
24 year.”;

25 (B) in subsection (c)(2)—

1 (i) by striking “(A) IN GENERAL.—
2 Except as provided in subparagraph (B),
3 the Secretary” and inserting “The Sec-
4 retary”; and

5 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and
6 (C) in subsection (e), by striking “1 year”
7 and inserting “2 years”;

8 (3) in section 423(a) (42 U.S.C. 11383)—

9 (A) in paragraph (4), in the third sen-
10 tence—

11 (i) by striking “, at the discretion of
12 the applicant and the project sponsor,”;
13 and

14 (ii) by inserting “not more than” be-
15 fore “15 years”;

16 (B) in paragraph (7), in the matter pre-
17 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “pay-
18 ment of not more than 6 months of arrears for
19 rent and utility expenses,” after “moving
20 costs,”; and

21 (C) in paragraph (10), by striking “3 per-
22 cent” and inserting “the greater of \$70,000 or
23 5 percent”;

24 (4) in section 425 (42 U.S.C. 11385), by add-
25 ing at the end the following:

1 “(f) ADJUSTMENT OF COSTS.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and on a
3 biennial basis thereafter, the Comptroller General of the
4 United States—

5 “(1) shall study the hiring, retention, and com-
6 pensation levels of the workforce providing the serv-
7 ices described in subsection (c), including executive
8 directors, case managers, and front line staff, and
9 examine whether low compensation is undermining
10 program effectiveness;

11 “(2) shall submit to the appropriate congres-
12 sional committees a report on any findings, and to
13 the Secretary any recommendations, as the Comp-
14 troller General considers appropriate regarding fund-
15 ing levels for the cost of the supportive services and
16 the staffing to provide the services described in sub-
17 section (c); and

18 “(3) in carrying out the study under paragraph
19 (1), may reference the Consumer Price Index or
20 other similar surveys.”;

21 (5) in section 426 (42 U.S.C. 11386), by add-
22 ing at the end the following:

23 “(h) INSPECTIONS.—When complying with inspection
24 requirements for a housing unit provided to a homeless

1 individual or family using assistance under this subtitle,
2 the Secretary may allow a grantee to—

3 “(1) conduct a pre-inspection not more than 60
4 days before leasing the unit;

5 “(2) conduct a remote or video inspection of the
6 unit; and

7 “(3) allow the unit to be leased prior to comple-
8 tion of an inspection if the unit passed an alter-
9 native Federal inspection within the preceding 12-
10 month period, so long as the unit is inspected not
11 later than 15 days after the start of the lease.”; and

12 (6) in section 430 (42 U.S.C. 11386d), by add-
13 ing at the end the following:

14 “(d) COSTS PAID BY PROGRAM INCOME.—With re-
15 spect to grant amounts awarded under this subtitle, costs
16 paid by the program income of a grant recipient may
17 count toward the contributions required under subsection
18 (a) if the costs—

19 “(1) are eligible expenses under this subtitle;

20 “(2) meet standards determined by the Sec-
21 retary; and

22 “(3) supplement activities carried out by the re-
23 cipient under this subtitle.”.

24 (b) OTHER MODIFICATIONS.—

25 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

1 (A) the terms “collaborative applicant”
2 and “eligible entity” have the meanings given
3 those terms in section 401 of the McKinney-
4 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5 11360); and

6 (B) the terms “Indian tribe” and “tribally
7 designated housing entity” have the meanings
8 given those terms in section 4 of the Native
9 American Housing Assistance and Self-Deter-
10 mination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

11 (2) NONAPPLICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
12 LAWS.—With respect to the funds made available for
13 the Continuum of Care program authorized under
14 subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Home-
15 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under
16 the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants” in the
17 Department of Housing and Urban Development
18 Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260)
19 and under section 231 of the Department of Hous-
20 ing and Urban Development Appropriations Act,
21 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a), title VI of the Civil
22 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and
23 title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.
24 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to applications by or
25 awards for projects to be carried out—

1 (A) on or off reservation or trust lands for
2 awards made to Indian tribes or tribally des-
3 ignated housing entities; or

4 (B) on reservation or trust lands for
5 awards made to eligible entities.

6 (3) CERTIFICATION.—With respect to funds
7 made available for the Continuum of Care program
8 authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKin-
9 ney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 11381 et seq.) under the heading “Homeless Assist-
11 ance Grants” under section 231 of the Department
12 of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations
13 Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a)—

14 (A) applications for projects to be carried
15 out on reservations or trust land shall contain
16 a certification of consistency with an approved
17 Indian housing plan developed under section
18 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance
19 and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112),
20 notwithstanding section 106 of the Cranston-
21 Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42
22 U.S.C. 12706) and section 403 of the McKin-
23 ney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
24 11361);

1 (B) Indian tribes and tribally designated
2 housing entities that are recipients of awards
3 for projects on reservations or trust land shall
4 certify that they are following an approved
5 housing plan developed under section 102 of the
6 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-
7 Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112); and

8 (C) a collaborative applicant for a Con-
9 tinuum of Care whose geographic area includes
10 only reservation and trust land is not required
11 to meet the requirement in section 402(f)(2) of
12 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f)(2)).

14 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
17 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(C) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding sub-
21 paragraph (A)—

22 “(i) a public housing agency may ac-
23 cept a third party income calculation and
24 verification of family income for purposes
25 of this subsection if—

12

1 “(I) the calculation and
2 verification was completed for deter-
3 mination of income eligibility for a
4 Federal program or service during the
5 preceding 12-month period; and

6 “(II) there has been no change in
7 income or family composition since
8 the calculation and verification under
9 clause (i); and

10 “(ii) when using prior year income
11 under section 3(a)(7)(B), a public housing
12 agency shall use the income of the family
13 as determined by the agency or owner for
14 the prior calendar year or another 12-
15 month period ending during the preceding
16 12 months, taking into consideration any
17 redetermination of income between the
18 start of such prior calendar year or other
19 12-month period and the date of the an-
20 nual review.”;

21 (2) in paragraph (8)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

23 (i) in the clause heading, by striking
24 “FOR INTERIM PERIOD”;

25 (ii) in the first sentence—

1 (I) by striking “before” and in-
2 serting “without performing”; and

3 (II) by striking “has been com-
4 pleted” and all that follows through
5 “subparagraph (B)”; and

6 (iii) in the second sentence, by strik-
7 ing “subparagraph (D)” and inserting
8 “subparagraphs (D) and (F)”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the
10 end the following: “This subparagraph shall not
11 apply with respect to a dwelling unit for which
12 the public housing agency relied on an alter-
13 native inspection method under subparagraph
14 (E) as the initial inspection.”; and

15 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

16 (i) in clause (i)—

17 (I) by inserting “(I)” after “(i)”;
18

19 (II) in subclause (I), as so des-
20 ignated, by striking “and” at the end;
21 and

22 (III) by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(II) the public housing agency (or
25 other entity pursuant to paragraph (11))
conducted the inspection during the pre-

1 ceding 12-month period when the unit was
2 occupied by a previous tenant assisted
3 under this subsection or was vacant; or

4 “(III) the public housing agency—

5 “(aa) conducted a pre-inspection
6 not more than 60 days before leasing
7 a unit;

8 “(bb) conducted a remote or
9 video inspection of a unit; or

10 “(cc) allowed a unit to be leased
11 prior to completion of an inspection if
12 the unit passed alternative inspection
13 within the preceding 12-month period,
14 so long as the unit is inspected not
15 later than 15 days after the start of
16 the lease; and”;

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(23) USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS
19 FOR DEPOSITS AND HOLDING FEES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A public housing
21 agency may use current and prior year available
22 housing assistance for tenant-based rental as-
23 sistance under this subsection for—

24 “(i) standard security deposits for
25 rent, utilities, and any other deposits al-

1 lowed by the Secretary that are necessary
2 to lease a dwelling unit under this sub-
3 section; and

4 “(ii) fees to hold an available dwelling
5 unit under this subsection during the in-
6 spection and approval process.

7 “(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
8 amount a public housing agency may provide to
9 or on behalf of a family under clause (i) or (ii)
10 of subparagraph (A) is the equivalent of 1
11 month’s rent of the selected unit for each of the
12 purposes under those clauses.

13 “(C) ALLOCATION BASELINE.—Any funds
14 used for the purposes described in subpara-
15 graph (A) shall be part of the allocation base-
16 line for tenant-based contract renewals.

17 “(D) CAP.—The Secretary shall establish a
18 cap to limit the percentage of funds made avail-
19 able under a housing assistance payment con-
20 tract that a public housing agency may use for
21 the purposes described in subparagraph (A).”.

22 **SEC. 6. TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.**

23 (a) E-SNAPS SYSTEM.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
25 appropriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for fiscal

1 year 2025, in addition to amounts otherwise avail-
2 able, to remain available until expended, for infor-
3 mation technology upgrades to the E-Snaps system
4 used to support the program application and awards
5 process under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-
6 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et
7 seq.).

8 (2) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.—In the develop-
9 ment process of upgrading the E-Snaps system de-
10 scribed in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

11 (A) focus on the needs of users of the E-
12 Snaps system, meaning grant recipients and
13 other relevant stakeholders, and take into con-
14 sideration, to the extent practicable—

15 (i) the guidelines outlined in the U.S.
16 Web Design Standards maintained by the
17 General Services Administration and the
18 Digital Services Playbook and TechFAR
19 Handbook for Procuring Digital Services
20 Using Agile Processes; and

21 (ii) the relevant successor documents
22 or recommendations of such guidelines;

23 (B) use modern, relevant privacy- and se-
24 curity-enhancing technology; and

1 (C) plan for the ongoing operations and
2 maintenance of the system and product to en-
3 sure its ongoing capability.

4 (3) NONAPPLICATION OF THE PAPERWORK RE-
5 Duction ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title
6 44, United States Code, shall not apply to any as-
7 pect of the development process described in para-
8 graph (2).

9 (b) EXPANSION OF WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR
10 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.—Section 7(f) of
11 the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 3535(f)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
14 the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(2) WORKING CAPITAL FUND INFORMATION
18 TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authorized serv-
20 ices of the working capital fund established
21 under paragraph (1) (in this paragraph referred
22 to as the ‘Fund’) shall include the activities de-
23 scribed in this paragraph for information tech-
24 nology, which shall be managed by the Chief In-
25 formation Officer of the Department under the

1 overall Fund management of the Office of the
2 Chief Financial Officer.

3 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—The Fund shall be
4 used for recurring and nonrecurring expenses
5 relating to information technology needs of the
6 Department, including services, products, up-
7 grades, modernization, and maintenance needs
8 and projects, for the purposes of meaningfully
9 improving digital service and program delivery
10 and customer experience.

11 “(C) TRANSFERS AND DEPOSITS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall
13 include unobligated balances of expired dis-
14 cretionary funds appropriated in fiscal year
15 2025 or any succeeding fiscal year from
16 the general fund of the Treasury to the
17 Department of Housing and Urban Devel-
18 opment, which may be transferred, not
19 later than the end of the fifth fiscal year
20 after the last fiscal year for which such
21 funds are available for the purposes for
22 which they were appropriated, into the
23 Fund for use under this paragraph.

24 “(ii) SALARIES AND EXPENSES.—Of
25 the amounts made available for salaries

1 and expenses in a fiscal year, excluding
2 amounts made available under the heading
3 ‘Office of Inspector General’, a total of up
4 to \$10,000,000 may be transferred to the
5 Fund for use under this paragraph.

6 “(iii) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts trans-
7 ferred to or deposited in the Fund under
8 this subparagraph shall be available until
9 expended, in addition to such other funds
10 as may be available for the activities de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (B), subject to ap-
12 proval by the Office of Management and
13 Budget.”.

14 **SEC. 7. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTH**
15 **CARE SYSTEMS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**

16 (a) REPORT BY NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES,
17 ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing
20 and Urban Development shall seek to enter into an agree-
21 ment with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineer-
22 ing, and Medicine to conduct and submit to the appro-
23 priate congressional committees an evidence-based, non-
24 partisan analysis that—

1 (1) reviews the research on linkages between
2 health care and homelessness and analyzes the effect
3 of greater coordination and partnerships between
4 health care organizations, mental health and sub-
5 stance use disorder and substance use disorder serv-
6 ice providers, and housing service providers, includ-
7 ing possible cost-savings of providing greater access
8 to health services, recovery housing, or housing-re-
9 lated supportive services for individuals experiencing
10 chronic homelessness and other types of homeless-
11 ness; and

12 (2) includes policy and program recommenda-
13 tions for improving access to health care and hous-
14 ing, health care and housing outcomes, possible cost-
15 savings and efficiencies, and best practices.

16 (b) DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the
18 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
19 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
20 end the following:

21 **“SEC. 409. DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.**

22 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

23 **“(1) COVERED RECIPIENT.—**The term ‘covered
24 recipient’ means a recipient of assistance under this
25 title.

1 “(2) HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION.—The term
2 ‘healthcare organization’ means a provider of phys-
3 ical or behavioral healthcare, including—

4 “(A) a hospital;

5 “(B) a community health center;

6 “(C) a provider of substance use or mental
7 health services; and

8 “(D) a provider of public health services
9 and initiatives, which may include area agencies
10 on aging.

11 “(3) HOUSING PROVIDER.—The term ‘housing
12 provider’ means an entity, including a grant recipi-
13 ent under subtitle B or C of this title, a public hous-
14 ing agency (as defined in section 3 of the United
15 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a)), or
16 a federally funded organization or a nonprofit orga-
17 nization, providing housing services, including rapid
18 re-housing, transitional housing, housing choice
19 vouchers, and housing-related supportive services to
20 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

21 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may establish
22 demonstration projects or partnerships that involve col-
23 laboration between housing providers and healthcare orga-
24 nizations to provide housing-related supportive services,
25 such as housing navigation, placement, financing, and

1 casework, or improve access to health services for home-
2 less individuals or those at risk of homelessness, includ-
3 ing—

4 “(1) assistance in coordinating data systems
5 with the Health Insurance Portability and Account-
6 ability Act (Public Law 104–191); and

7 “(2) projects or partnerships that are aimed at
8 serving individuals—

9 “(A) who are homeless, chronically home-
10 less, or at risk of homelessness; and

11 “(B) with—

12 “(i) a high-use of emergency services
13 or emergency departments;

14 “(ii) chronic disabilities, including
15 physical health or mental health condi-
16 tions;

17 “(iii) substance use disorders;

18 “(iv) serious mental illness; or

19 “(v) other severe service needs.

20 “(c) REPORT.—

21 “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘ap-
23 propriate congressional committees’ means—

24 “(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
25 and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

1 “(B) the Committee on Financial Services
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every
5 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
6 appropriate congressional committees a report on
7 each demonstration project or partnership estab-
8 lished under this section.”.

9 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
10 MENT.—The table of contents in section 101(b) of
11 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
12 U.S.C. 11301 note) is amended by inserting after
13 the item relating to section 408 the following:

“Sec. 409. Demonstration authority.”.

14 **SEC. 8. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS.**

15 (a) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the
17 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
18 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 410. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS.**

21 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
22 Department of Housing and Urban Development (in this
23 section referred to as the ‘Department’) the Advisory
24 Committee on Homelessness (in this section referred to
25 as the ‘Committee’).

1 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall con-
3 sist of not less than 10 and not more than 15 mem-
4 bers jointly appointed by the Secretary and the Ex-
5 ecutive Director of the United States Interagency
6 Council on Homelessness (in this section referred to
7 as the ‘Executive Director’) from among the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(A) Individuals who have experienced or
10 are currently experiencing homelessness.

11 “(B) A representative of or advocate for
12 people experiencing homelessness.

13 “(C) A community-based provider of serv-
14 ices for people experiencing homelessness.

15 “(D) A provider of or expert in affordable
16 housing or permanent housing services.

17 “(E) A provider of or expert in health care
18 for people experiencing homelessness.

19 “(F) A provider of mental health, sub-
20 stance use disorder, or wraparound services.

21 “(G) A provider of job training and em-
22 ployment assistance programs or services.

23 “(H) A representative of a federally-recog-
24 nized Indian tribe who has experience in Tribal
25 housing and homelessness services.

25

1 “(I) An individual representing local gov-
2 ernment or local law enforcement.

3 “(J) Such other organization, group, or
4 stakeholder as the Secretary and Executive Di-
5 rector consider appropriate.

6 “(2) EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Committee
7 shall include, as ex officio members—

8 “(A) the Secretary, or a representative
9 thereof, and the Executive Director, or a rep-
10 resentative thereof;

11 “(B) the Secretaries, or representatives
12 thereof, of—

13 “(i) Health and Human Services;

14 “(ii) Agriculture;

15 “(iii) Education;

16 “(iv) Veterans Affairs;

17 “(C) the Assistant Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services for Mental Health and Sub-
19 stance Use, or a representative thereof;

20 “(D) the Director of the Bureau of Indian
21 Affairs, or a representative thereof; and

22 “(E) such other ex officio members as the
23 Secretary and the Executive Director consider
24 appropriate.

25 “(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and
2 Executive Director shall determine the terms of
3 service of the members of the Committee, ex-
4 cept that—

5 “(i) a term of service may not exceed
6 4 years; and

7 “(ii) the Secretary may reappoint any
8 member for additional terms of service.

9 “(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Com-
10 mittee—

11 “(i) shall not affect the powers of the
12 Committee; and

13 “(ii) shall be filled in the same man-
14 ner as the original appointment.

15 “(c) MEETINGS.—

16 “(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 6
17 months after the date on which all members of the
18 Committee have been appointed, the Committee shall
19 hold the first meeting of the Committee.

20 “(2) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet
21 at the call of the Chairperson.

22 “(3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
23 the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a less-
24 er number of members may hold hearings.

1 “(d) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
2 Committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chair-
3 person from among the members of the Committee.

4 “(e) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary and the Exec-
5 utive Director shall implement strategies and activities as-
6 sociated with best practices of incorporating advisory
7 groups of people with lived experience, this may include—

8 “(1) orientation and training for Committee
9 members on the work of the Secretary, the United
10 States Interagency Council on Homelessness, and
11 relevant agencies;

12 “(2) training and professional development on
13 best practices for effective engagement with the lived
14 experience advisory group for involved staff for the
15 Department; and

16 “(3) strategies to reduce barriers to participa-
17 tion for individuals with lived experience of home-
18 lessness.

19 “(f) DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

20 “(1) ADVICE TO SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE
21 DIRECTOR.—

22 “(A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary and
23 the Executive Director shall consult with and
24 seek the advice of the Committee on a regular

1 basis with respect to policy, programs, and ini-
2 tiatives related to homelessness.

3 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—In providing advice to
4 the Secretary and Executive Director under this
5 subsection, the Committee, drawing from their
6 own independent judgement, shall—

7 “(i) assemble and review information
8 relating to the needs, experiences, and ex-
9 pertise of people experiencing homeless-
10 ness;

11 “(ii) provide an on-going assessment
12 of the effectiveness of the policies, pro-
13 grams, and services of the Department in
14 assisting people experiencing homelessness
15 and creating interim, transitional, and per-
16 manent housing opportunities;

17 “(iii) provide on-going advice on the
18 most appropriate, effective, and dignified
19 means of assisting all populations of people
20 experiencing homelessness; and

21 “(iv) provide on-going insights for de-
22 partments, policies, and programs across
23 the Federal Government that serve people
24 experiencing homelessness.

1 “(2) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Committee
2 shall—

3 “(A) primarily review the continuum of
4 homelessness and homelessness prevention serv-
5 ices provided by the Department and assess
6 new policies, programs, and procedures related
7 to homelessness resources, supportive services,
8 and prevention, including—

9 “(i) identifying recommendations to
10 address programmatic gaps and barriers to
11 effectively serving the full demographic and
12 geographic spectrum of people experiencing
13 homelessness and at risk of homelessness;

14 “(ii) uplifting best practices, innova-
15 tive solutions, efficiencies, and local policy
16 initiatives for consideration by the Depart-
17 ment, as well as identifying successes with-
18 in the policies and programs of the Depart-
19 ment; and

20 “(iii) identifying opportunities for in-
21 creased liaison by the Department with
22 nongovernmental organizations, State and
23 local governments, and individual groups
24 providing services to homeless populations;

1 “(B) advise agency partners within the
2 United States Interagency Council on Home-
3 lessness to strengthen coordination of all serv-
4 ices involved in addressing needs of people experi-
5 encing homeless, including by—

6 “(i) identifying recommendations to
7 strengthen the accessibility and efficacy of
8 Federal programs and policies that serve
9 people experiencing homelessness; and

10 “(ii) identifying areas for increased
11 streamlining, flexibilities, efficiency, and
12 synchronization under existing laws and
13 policies to promote effective coordination of
14 Federal agencies with State and local
15 agencies addressing homelessness; and

16 “(C) perform such other functions as the
17 Secretary, the Executive Director, and Com-
18 mittee members may direct.

19 “(g) POWERS OF COMMITTEE.—

20 “(1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold
21 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
22 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
23 the Committee considers advisable to carry out this
24 section.

1 “(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGEN-
2 CIES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may
4 secure directly from a Federal department or
5 agency such information as the Committee con-
6 siderers necessary to carry out this section.

7 “(B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On re-
8 quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the
9 head of the department or agency shall furnish
10 the information to the Committee.

11 “(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may
12 use the United States mails in the same manner and
13 under the same conditions as other departments and
14 agencies of the Federal Government.

15 “(4) DONATIONS.—The Committee may accept,
16 use, and dispose of donations of services or property.

17 “(h) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

18 “(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member
19 of the Committee who is not paid by their employer
20 while attending and participating in activities of the
21 Committee may receive compensation at a rate es-
22 tablished by the Secretary and Executive Director
23 and in accordance with guidance of the Department
24 on best practices for compensating people with ex-

1 pertise based on their lived experience of homeless-
2 ness.

3 “(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
4 Committee who is not paid by their employer while
5 attending and participating in activities of the Com-
6 mittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
7 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
8 employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter
9 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from
10 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
11 formance of services for the Committee.

12 “(3) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
14 detail a staff member of the Department of
15 Housing and Urban Development to serve as
16 executive director of the Committee and such
17 other additional personnel as may be necessary
18 to enable the Committee to perform its duties,
19 except that the appointment of an executive di-
20 rector shall be subject to confirmation by the
21 Committee.

22 “(B) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
23 EES.—A Federal Government employee may be
24 detailed to the Committee without reimburse-

1 ment, and such detail shall be without interrup-
2 tion or loss of civil service status or privilege.

3 “(4) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND
4 INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the
5 Committee may procure temporary and intermittent
6 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
7 States Code, at rates for individuals that do not ex-
8 ceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic
9 pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule
10 under section 5316 of that title.

11 “(i) REPORTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months
13 after the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report
14 is released each year, the Committee shall submit to
15 the Secretary and the Executive Director a brief re-
16 port on select programs and activities of the Depart-
17 ment and United States Interagency Council on
18 Homelessness that relate to homelessness, which
19 may include—

20 “(A) an assessment of the experiences and
21 needs of people experiencing homelessness;

22 “(B) a brief review of successes and areas
23 to strengthen within programs and activities of
24 the Department and United States Interagency
25 Council on Homelessness;

1 “(C) a review of the activities of the Com-
2 mittee; and

3 “(D) such recommendations (including rec-
4 ommendations for administrative and legislative
5 action) as the Committee considers appropriate.

6 “(2) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later
7 than 90 days after the receipt of a report under
8 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit to the
9 Committee Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of
10 the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services
11 of the House of Representatives a copy of the report,
12 together with any comments and recommendations
13 concerning the report that the Secretary considers
14 appropriate.

15 “(3) ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDA-
16 TIONS.—The Committee may submit to the Sec-
17 retary and the Executive Director such other reports
18 and recommendations as the Committee considers
19 appropriate.

20 “(j) TERMINATION.—Section 1013 of title 5, United
21 States Code, shall not apply to the Committee.

22 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated for the Committee
24 \$150,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030 to

1 carry out this section, to remain available until ex-
2 pended.”.

3 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
4 MENT.—The table of contents in section 101(b) of
5 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
6 U.S.C. 11301 note), as amended by this Act, is
7 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
8 tion 409 the following:

“Sec. 410. Advisory Committee on Homelessness.”.

9 (b) GRANTEES AND MEMBER AGENCIES.—The Sec-
10 retary and the United States Interagency Council on
11 Homelessness shall support its grantees and Federal mem-
12 ber agencies in incorporating individuals with lived experi-
13 ence of homelessness within their homelessness programs,
14 relevant committees, and workgroups, including by—

15 (1) examining opportunities to incentivize
16 meaningfully including the expertise of individuals
17 with lived and ongoing experiences of homelessness
18 in grants, policies, and programs that impact indi-
19 viduals at risk of or experiencing homelessness, as
20 well as opportunities to compensate people with lived
21 experience for their contributions; and

22 (2) addressing barriers such as Federal pro-
23 gram eligibility and caps on earned income to ensure
24 individuals with lived experience of homelessness are
25 compensated for their participation in planning ac-

1 tivities and input processes without risking any ben-
2 efits or assistance that they receive from the Federal
3 Government, which may include the provision of
4 waivers, subject to a process determined by the Sec-
5 retary, regarding eligibility for Federal housing as-
6 sistance programs to individuals who would other-
7 wise be eligible for those programs if not for the
8 compensation provided for their consultation serv-
9 ices.

10 **SEC. 9. STREAMLINING COORDINATED ENTRY.**

11 (a) AUDIT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not
12 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
13 the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

14 (1) conduct a multi-community evaluation of
15 the operations of coordinated assessment systems by
16 the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle C of
17 title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) program to examine
19 the efficiency, accuracy, and outcomes of those oper-
20 ations; and

21 (2) submit to the appropriate congressional
22 committees on any findings and to the Secretary on
23 any recommendations, as the Comptroller General
24 considers appropriate, for a more effective and effi-
25 cient coordinated entry process.

1 (b) ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

3 (1) evaluate the coordinated assessment proc-
4 esses under the Continuum of Care Program under
5 subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Home-
6 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.), which
7 shall include—

8 (A) a request for information from contin-
9 uums of care about coordinated entry tools,
10 processes, barriers, documentation barriers, and
11 necessary guidance;

12 (B) incorporating findings from relevant
13 reports and demonstrations of the Department
14 of Housing and Urban Development including
15 relevant reports such as the report described in
16 subsection (a); and

17 (C) consulting with organizations with ex-
18 pertise in providing health care to people expe-
19 riencing homelessness on best practices in as-
20 sessment tools for prioritizing resources and
21 characterizing chronic homelessness and people
22 experiencing homelessness with high-service
23 needs;

24 (2) issue an updated notice, which shall include
25 guidance—

1 (A) on effective assessment processes that
2 remove barriers, streamline access, minimize
3 bias, allow for coordination with public housing
4 agencies, include trauma-informed data collec-
5 tion practices, improve accuracy, address needs
6 for underserved groups, and successfully divert
7 individuals from homelessness;

8 (B) that includes all key populations and
9 subpopulations, including consideration for age,
10 family status, health status, or other
11 vulnerabilities, access points, prioritization, pro-
12 grams, and the programs and systems serving
13 individuals experiencing homelessness and that
14 allow for local flexibility and tailoring based on
15 the needs and resources within the specific com-
16 munity; and

17 (3) establish a timely, periodic procedure to re-
18 quest feedback on coordinated assessment and up-
19 date the guidance, which may include conducting a
20 request for information not less frequently than once
21 every 5 years.

22 **SEC. 10. STREAMLINING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRE-**
23 **MENTS.**

24 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 18 months after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General

1 of the United States shall submit to the Secretary and
2 the appropriate congressional committees a report that as-
3 sesses—

4 (1) the documentation requirements (beyond
5 photo identification) for determining eligibility and
6 resource prioritization for homelessness assistance
7 programs of the Department;

8 (2) the influence of those documentation re-
9 quirements on housing access and resource access;
10 and

11 (3) recommendations for reducing documenta-
12 tion barriers to homelessness assistance programs of
13 the Department and evaluating the opportunity to
14 incorporate the use of State-issued, existing forms of
15 digital identification that States have provided all of
16 their residents and are not specific to people experi-
17 encing homelessness.

18 (b) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall—

19 (1) evaluate the assessment required under sub-
20 section (a);

21 (2) publish a request for information from con-
22 tinuums of care and public housing agencies about
23 the matters described in paragraphs (1), (2), and
24 (3) of subsection (a); and

1 (3) submit to the appropriate congressional
2 committees ongoing reports on the impact of waivers
3 provided in August 2023, and any similar, subse-
4 quent waivers, to modify admissions to the housing
5 choice voucher program under section 8(o) of the
6 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
7 1437f(o)) and expedite assistance to homeless indi-
8 viduals.

9 **SEC. 11. IMPROVING TARGETED DATA COLLECTION, FUND-**
10 **ING, AND COORDINATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

12 (1) issue not less than 1 request for informa-
13 tion on—

14 (A) improving data collection, including
15 through the use of the Homeless Management
16 Information System or other data systems,

17 (B) coordination and use of data between
18 housing and homelessness providers and phys-
19 ical, mental, and behavioral health organiza-
20 tions, substance use treatment providers, the
21 Department of Veterans Affairs, and the crimi-
22 nal justice system for purposes of programs in-
23 volved with providing services for people experi-
24 encing or at risk of homelessness; and

1 (C) the potential use and value of using ar-
2 tificial intelligence models for the purpose of
3 improving program effectiveness and assessing
4 the effectiveness of interventions for people ex-
5 perienicing or at risk of homelessness;

6 (2) consider providing incentives to improve
7 data collection, enhance the use of the Homeless
8 Management Information System, implement com-
9 munity information exchanges, and strengthen the
10 coordination of data from physical, mental, and be-
11 havioral health organizations and the criminal jus-
12 tice system with housing and homelessness pro-
13 viders, in order to target resources for housing, out-
14 reach, homelessness prevention, and housing-related
15 supportive services for homeless individuals, chron-
16 ically homeless individuals, or those at risk of home-
17 lessness with significant criminal justice system or
18 law enforcement interaction;

19 (3) coordinate with the Secretary of the Depart-
20 ment of Veterans Affairs on data sharing to improve
21 coordination between data for vouchers provided
22 under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing
23 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the Homeless
24 Management Information System, and any other ap-

1 plicable homeless program supported by the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs; and

3 (4) issue guidance to establish best practices
4 and mechanisms to enable Homeless Management
5 Information System data to be made available in a
6 usable format for academic researchers using artifi-
7 cial intelligence models without including personally-
8 identifying information and with appropriate risk-
9 mitigation strategies in place, with the aim of im-
10 proving the understanding and effectiveness of inter-
11 ventions for people experiencing or at risk of home-
12 lessness.

13 (b) DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
14 may use unobligated funding to pilot demonstration
15 projects or partnerships between the entities described in
16 subsection (a)(2) for purposes of improving access to
17 housing and support services necessary for gainful and
18 permanent employment, which may include flexibility and
19 waivers related to—

20 (1) program requirements under subtitles B
21 and C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq., 11381 et seq.);

23 (2) flexibility to serve individuals exiting an in-
24 stitution where they have resided for 120 days or
25 less and who resided in an emergency shelter or

1 place not meant for human habitation immediately
2 before entering that institution;

3 (3) flexibility to serve individuals exiting an in-
4 stitution where they have resided and who otherwise
5 lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime resi-
6 dence; or

7 (4) flexibility to serve individuals exiting the
8 criminal justice system.

9 (c) USICH REPORT.—Following a reasonable time
10 after the conclusion of a demonstration project or partner-
11 ship described in subsection (b), the United States Inter-
12 agency Council on Homelessness shall issue a publicly
13 available report summarizing those efforts and recom-
14 mending best practices.

15 (d) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary, in coordination with
16 the Attorney General, shall issue guidance on best prac-
17 tices for improving targeted data collection, funding, and
18 coordination relating to behavioral health and criminal
19 justice system interaction with housing assistance and
20 homelessness programs for the purpose of diverting people
21 who are exiting institutions from entering homelessness.

1 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON**
2 **HOMELESSNESS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the McKinney-Vento
4 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in section 204(a) (42 U.S.C. 11314(a))—

7 (A) by striking “The Council” and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2) TESTIMONY.—The Executive Director of
12 the Council shall annually testify before the Com-
13 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of
14 the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services
15 of the House of Representatives on the coordinated
16 response to homelessness by the Federal Govern-
17 ment.”;

18 (2) in section 208 (42 U.S.C. 11318), by strik-
19 ing “to carry out this title \$3,000,000 for fiscal year
20 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
21 years 2011” and inserting “such sums as may be
22 necessary to carry out this title until the date that
23 is 7 years after the date of enactment of the [Re-
24 ducing Homelessness Through Program Reform
25 Act]”;

1 (3) by striking section 209 (42 U.S.C. 11319);

2 and

3 (4) by redesignating section 210 (42 U.S.C.

4 11320) as section 209.

5 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

6 The table of contents in section 101(b) of the McKinney-

7 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 note)

8 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 209

9 and 210 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 209. Encouragement of State involvement.”.

10 **SEC. 13. EVALUATION.**

11 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment

12 of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation and

13 submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and

14 make publicly available, a report on grant allocation

15 amounts, matching requirements, and funding under the

16 Emergency Solutions Grants program and the Continuum

17 of Care program under subtitles B and C, respectively,

18 of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

19 Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq., 11381 et seq.), which shall

20 include surveys of the field, unmet need (on a relative and

21 absolute basis), and local program availability compared

22 to community needs in small States, small communities,

23 and Tribal and rural communities, as it relates to program

24 funding levels.

1 SEC. 14. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

2 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
3 Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Sec-
4 retary to provide flexibility under housing laws in effect
5 as of the date of enactment of this Act. The flexibilities
6 and waivers authorized under this Act and the amend-
7 ments made by this Act shall not replace or result in the
8 termination of other flexibilities and waivers that the Sec-
9 retary is authorized to exercise.