

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4854

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend section 477 of the Social Security Act to improve coordination with Federal housing assistance programs for youth who have experienced foster care.

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 “Foster Youth Housing
5 Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FOSTER**
7 **YOUTH.**

8 Section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 677) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

2 (A) by striking “and preventive” and in-
3 serting “preventive”; and

4 (B) by inserting “, and access to housing
5 for youth age 18 or older” before the semicolon;

6 (2) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “current
7 and” before “former”;

8 (3) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “, in-
9 cluding by collaborating with public housing agencies
10 that administer Federal housing programs serving
11 foster youth under section 8(x)(2)(B) of the United
12 States Housing Act of 1937 and receive funding to
13 partner with public child welfare agencies to serve
14 youth who have experienced foster care” before the
15 period;

16 (4) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking “not
17 more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the
18 State from its allotment under subsection (c) for a
19 fiscal year” and inserting “an average of not more
20 than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State
21 from its allotment under subsection (c) for the 5 fis-
22 cal years covered by the application submitted by the
23 State pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection”;

24 (5) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
25 following:

1 “(6) HOUSING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may use
3 amounts from its allotment under subsection (c)
4 to provide supportive services to assist eligible
5 youth who experienced foster care to obtain or
6 retain suitable housing.

7 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—

8 “(i) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this sub-
9 section, the term ‘eligible youth’ means an
10 individual who receives assistance provided
11 under section 8(x) of the United States
12 Housing Act of 1937.

13 “(ii) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The
14 term ‘supportive services’ may include—

15 “(I) basic life skills information
16 and counseling on financial literacy,
17 use of credit, and money management;

18 “(II) counseling on rental lease
19 contracts and assistance with rental
20 insurance; and

21 “(III) assistance with security
22 deposits, utility connection fees, mov-
23 ing costs, and other fees associated
24 with establishing tenancy.

1 “(C) EXCEPTION.—Expenditures in ac-
 2 cordance with this paragraph shall not be con-
 3 sidered expenditures for room and board for
 4 purposes of subsection (b)(3)(B).

5 “(D) ALIGNING AGE ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
 6 withstanding subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), a State
 7 may use funds from its allotment under sub-
 8 section (c) to provide supportive services to eli-
 9 gible youth who have not attained 26 years of
 10 age for the purpose of supporting continued ac-
 11 cess to housing.”; and

12 (6) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “access to
 13 housing,” before “and personal”.

14 **SEC. 3. JOINT AGENCY GUIDANCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
 16 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
 17 Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban
 18 Development, shall develop and issue joint guidance to
 19 State public child welfare agencies and public housing au-
 20 thorities to improve alignment and coordination of housing
 21 supportive services provided under section 477 of the So-
 22 cial Security Act and housing assistance provided under
 23 section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

24 (b) CONTENTS.—The joint guidance shall include the
 25 following:

1 (1) Clarification and alignment of Federal poli-
2 cies to improve access to housing for youth who have
3 experienced foster care, including youth who are in
4 independent living arrangements while in extended
5 foster care.

6 (2) Guidance on State use of funds provided
7 under section 477 of the Social Security Act for sup-
8 portive services (as defined in subsection (d)(6) of
9 such section) to improve access to housing programs
10 administered by the Department of Housing and
11 Urban Development.

12 (3) Best practices for building partnerships be-
13 tween public child welfare agencies and public hous-
14 ing authorities, including ways to improve access to
15 the supportive services.

16 (4) Additional information the Secretaries deem
17 necessary to effectively coordinate Federal programs
18 serving current and former foster youth.

19 (c) PRODUCTION.—The Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services shall designate an official of the Depart-
21 ment of Health and Human Services to lead development
22 of the joint guidance in collaboration with the Department
23 of Housing and Urban Development.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this
 3 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in con-
 4 sultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
 5 opment shall submit to the Committee on Ways and
 6 Means and the Committee on Financial Services of the
 7 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance
 8 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
 9 fairs of the Senate a report that sets forth—

10 (1) aggregate data on the number of eligible
 11 youth who have experienced foster care who are re-
 12 ceiving Federal housing assistance;

13 (2) a description of the outcomes for the youth,
 14 including the extent to which youth are able to ac-
 15 cess stable housing and rates of homelessness;

16 (3) the findings from any evaluations of State
 17 programs conducted pursuant to section 477(g)(1)
 18 of the Social Security Act; and

19 (4) statutory recommendations for improving
 20 coordination between public child welfare agencies
 21 and Federal housing programs.

22 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
 24 take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of
 25 the enactment of this Act.