

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 936

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SHOWS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BONIOR, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WEINER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. FROST, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. KING, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MURTHA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. COYNE, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FRANK, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. PHELPS, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. QUINN, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WU, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CAPUANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; definitions.
- Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.
- Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 5. Annual meeting requirement for Interagency Council on Homeless.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of homeless programs.
- Sec. 7. Changes in veterans equitable resource allocation methodology.
- Sec. 8. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 9. Grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 10. Coordination of outreach services for veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Sec. 11. Treatment trials in integrated mental health services delivery.
- Sec. 12. Dental care.
- Sec. 13. Programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 14. Various authorities.
- Sec. 15. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.
- Sec. 16. Transitional assistance grants pilot program.
- Sec. 17. Assistance for grant applications.
- Sec. 18. Home loan program for manufactured housing.
- Sec. 19. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.
- Sec. 20. Use of real property.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On the field of battle, the members of the Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-

1 bound to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Na-
2 tion is honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.

3 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs report
4 known as the Community Homeless Assessment,
5 Local Education, and Networking Groups for Vet-
6 erans (CHALENG) assessment, issued in May
7 2000, reports that during 1999 there were an esti-
8 mated 344,983 homeless veterans, an increase of 34
9 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 home-
10 less veterans.

11 (3) Male veterans are more likely to be home-
12 less than their nonveteran peers. Although veterans
13 constitute only 13 percent of the general male popu-
14 lation, 23 percent of the homeless male population
15 are veterans.

16 (4) Homelessness among veterans is persistent
17 despite unprecedented economic growth and job cre-
18 ation and general prosperity.

19 (5) While there are many effective programs
20 that assist homeless veterans to again become pro-
21 ductive and self-sufficient members of society, cur-
22 rent resources provided to such programs and other
23 activities that assist homeless veterans are inad-
24 equate to provide all needed essential services, as-
25 sistance, and support to homeless veterans.

1 (6) If current programs to assist homeless vet-
2 erans are fully maintained but not expanded, vet-
3 erans will experience as many as a billion nights of
4 homelessness during the next decade.

5 (7) The CHALENG assessment referred to in
6 paragraph (2) reports—

7 (A) that Department of Veterans Affairs
8 and community providers were responsible for
9 establishing almost 500 beds for homeless vet-
10 erans during 2000, including emergency, transi-
11 tional, and permanent beds; and

12 (B) that there is a need for about 45,724
13 additional beds to meet current needs of home-
14 less veterans.

15 (8) As of February 28, 2001, the Congressional
16 Budget Office forecasts a Federal budget surplus of
17 \$313,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and budget
18 surpluses totaling more than \$5,610,000,000,000
19 over the next 10 years.

20 (9) At least \$750,000,000 will be required to
21 establish the 45,724 additional new beds now needed
22 by homeless veterans, according to an informal De-
23 partment of Veterans Affairs cost estimate.

24 (10) Even if the Department of Veterans Af-
25 fairs and its partners created 2,000 additional beds

1 per year for homeless veterans (roughly quadrupling
2 the number of such beds they currently plan to open
3 annually), it would still take more than two decades
4 to provide the necessary additional beds to meet the
5 current needs of homeless veterans.

6 (11) Nearly four decades ago, the Nation estab-
7 lished a goal of sending a man to the moon and re-
8 turning him safely to earth within a decade and ac-
9 complished that goal, and the Nation can do no less
10 to end homelessness among the Nation's veterans.

11 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

12 (1) The term “homeless veteran” means a vet-
13 eran who—

14 (A) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
15 nighttime residence; or

16 (B) has a primary nighttime residence that
17 is—

18 (i) a supervised publicly or privately
19 operated shelter designed to provide tem-
20 porary living accommodations (including
21 welfare hotels, congregate shelters, grant
22 per diem shelters and transitional housing
23 for the mentally ill);

1 (ii) an institution that provides a tem-
2 porary residence for individuals intended to
3 be institutionalized; or

4 (iii) a public or private place not de-
5 signed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular
6 sleeping accommodation for human beings.

7 (2) The term “grant and per diem provider”
8 means an entity in receipt of a grant under section
9 3 or 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
10 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721
11 note).

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG**
13 **VETERANS.**

14 (a) NATIONAL GOAL.—Congress hereby declares it to
15 be a national goal to end homelessness among veterans
16 within a decade.

17 (b) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.—Con-
18 gress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of
19 Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental
20 organizations, private and public sector entities, including
21 community-based organizations, and individuals to work
22 cooperatively to end homelessness among veterans within
23 a decade.

1 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 38, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new section:

5 **“§ 546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans**

6 “(a)(1) There is established in the Department the
7 Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in
8 this section referred to as the ‘Committee’).

9 “(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than
10 15 members appointed by the Secretary from among the
11 following:

12 “(A) Veterans service organizations.

13 “(B) Advocates of homeless veterans and other
14 homeless individuals.

15 “(C) Community-based providers of services to
16 homeless individuals.

17 “(D) Previously homeless veterans.

18 “(E) State veterans affairs officials.

19 “(F) Experts in the treatment of individuals
20 with mental illness.

21 “(G) Experts in the treatment of substance use
22 disorders.

23 “(H) Experts in the development of permanent
24 housing alternatives for lower income populations.

25 “(I) Experts in vocational rehabilitation.

1 “(J) Such other organizations or groups as the
2 Secretary considers appropriate.

3 “(3) The Committee shall include, as ex officio
4 members—

5 “(A) the Secretary of Labor (or a representa-
6 tive of the Secretary selected after consultation with
7 the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Em-
8 ployment);

9 “(B) the Secretary of Defense (or a representa-
10 tive of the Secretary);

11 “(C) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
12 ices (or a representative of the Secretary); and

13 “(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
14 velopment (or a representative of the Secretary).

15 “(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of serv-
16 ice and pay and allowances of the members of the Com-
17 mittee, except that a term of service may not exceed three
18 years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for addi-
19 tional terms of service.

20 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, con-
21 sult with and seek the advice of the Committee with re-
22 spect to the provision by the Department of benefits and
23 services to homeless veterans.

24 “(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under
25 this subsection, the Committee shall—

1 “(i) assemble and review information relating to
2 the needs of homeless veterans;

3 “(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the ef-
4 fectiveness of the policies, organizational structures,
5 and services of the Department in assisting homeless
6 veterans; and

7 “(iii) provide on-going advice on the most ap-
8 propriate means of providing assistance to homeless
9 veterans.

10 “(3) The Committee shall—

11 “(A) review the continuum of services provided
12 by the Department directly or by contract in order
13 to define cross-cutting issues and to improve coordi-
14 nation of all services with the Department that are
15 involved in addressing the special needs of homeless
16 veterans;

17 “(B) identify (through the annual assessments
18 under section 1774 of this title and other available
19 resources) gaps in programs of the Department in
20 serving homeless veterans, including identification of
21 geographic areas with unmet needs, and provide rec-
22 ommendations to address those program gaps;

23 “(C) identify gaps in existing information sys-
24 tems on homeless veterans, both within and outside

1 of the Department, and provide recommendations
2 about redressing problems in data collection;

3 “(D) identify barriers under existing laws and
4 policies to effective coordination by the Department
5 with other Federal agencies and with State and local
6 agencies addressing homeless populations;

7 “(E) identify opportunities for increased liaison
8 by the Department with nongovernmental organiza-
9 tions and individual groups addressing homeless
10 populations;

11 “(F) with appropriate officials of the Depart-
12 ment designated by the Secretary, participate with
13 the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title
14 II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
15 (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

16 “(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for
17 specialized programs for homeless veterans provided
18 or funded by the Department;

19 “(H) recommend appropriate placement options
20 for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty,
21 or severe mental illness, may not be appropriate can-
22 didates for vocational rehabilitation or independent
23 living; and

24 “(I) perform such other functions as the Sec-
25 retary may direct.

1 “(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the
2 Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the
3 programs and activities of the Department that relate to
4 homeless veterans. Each such report shall include—

5 “(A) an assessment of the needs of homeless
6 veterans;

7 “(B) a review of the programs and activities of
8 the Department designed to meet such needs;

9 “(C) a review of the activities of the Committee;
10 and

11 “(D) such recommendations (including rec-
12 ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-
13 tion) as the Committee considers appropriate.

14 “(2) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a
15 report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit
16 to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
17 House of Representatives a copy of the report, together
18 with any comments and recommendations concerning the
19 report that the Secretary considers appropriate.

20 “(3) The Committee may also submit to the Sec-
21 retary such other reports and recommendations as the
22 Committee considers appropriate.

23 “(4) The Secretary shall submit with each annual re-
24 port submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 529
25 of this title a summary of all reports and recommendations

1 of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the pre-
 2 vious annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant
 3 to that section.

4 “(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pro-
 5 visions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
 6 App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under
 7 this section.

8 “(2) Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the
 9 Committee.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
 12 at the end the following new item:

“546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.”.

13 **SEC. 5. MEETINGS OF INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOME-**
 14 **LESS.**

15 Section 202(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
 16 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amended to read as
 17 follows:

18 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call
 19 of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not
 20 less often than annually.”.

21 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS.**

22 (a) EVALUATION CENTERS.—The Secretary of Vet-
 23 erans Affairs shall support the continuation within the De-
 24 partment of Veterans Affairs of at least one center for
 25 evaluation to monitor the structure, process, and outcome

1 of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that
2 address homeless veterans.

3 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE.—The Sec-
4 retary shall submit to Congress an annual report on pro-
5 grams of the Department of Veterans Affairs addressing
6 health care needs of homeless veterans. The Secretary
7 shall include in each such report the following:

8 (1) Information about expenditures, costs, and
9 workload under the Department of Veterans Affairs
10 program known as the Health Care for Homeless
11 Veterans program (HCHV).

12 (2) Information about the veterans contacted
13 through that program.

14 (3) Information about processes under that pro-
15 gram.

16 (4) Information about program treatment out-
17 comes under that program.

18 (5) Information about supported housing pro-
19 grams.

20 (6) Information about the Department's grant
21 and per diem provider program.

22 (7) Other information the Secretary considers
23 relevant in assessing the program.

24 (c) ANNUAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT.—Section
25 1774(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “annual” in paragraph (1)
2 after “to make an”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(6) The Secretary shall review each annual assess-
6 ment under this subsection and shall consolidate the find-
7 ings and conclusions of those assessments into an annual
8 report to be submitted to Congress.”.

9 **SEC. 7. CHANGES IN VETERANS EQUITABLE RESOURCE AL-**
10 **LOCATION METHODOLOGY.**

11 (a) **ALLOCATION CATEGORIES.**—The Secretary of
12 Veterans Affairs shall assign veterans receiving the fol-
13 lowing services to the resource allocation category des-
14 ignated as “complex care” within the Veterans Equitable
15 Resource Allocation system:

16 (1) Care provided to veterans enrolled in the
17 Department of Veterans Affairs program for Mental
18 Health Intensive Community Case Management.

19 (2) Continuous care in homeless chronically
20 mentally ill veterans programs.

21 (3) Continuous care within specialized pro-
22 grams provided to veterans who have been diagnosed
23 with both serious chronic mental illness and sub-
24 stance use disorders.

1 (4) Continuous therapy combined with sheltered
 2 housing provided to veterans in specialized treat-
 3 ment for substance use disorders.

4 (5) Specialized therapies provided to veterans
 5 with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), includ-
 6 ing the following:

7 (A) Specialized outpatient PTSD pro-
 8 grams.

9 (B) PTSD clinical teams.

10 (C) Women veterans stress disorder treat-
 11 ment teams.

12 (D) Substance abuse disorder PTSD
 13 teams.

14 (b) TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOR NEW PROGRAMS
 15 FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—The Secretary shall ensure
 16 that funds for any new program for homeless veterans car-
 17 ried out through a Department health care facility are des-
 18 ignated for the first three years of operation of that pro-
 19 gram as a special purpose program for which funds are
 20 not allocated through the Veterans Equitable Resource Al-
 21 location system.

22 **SEC. 8. PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING SERVICES**
 23 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

24 (a) INCREASE IN RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—
 25 Section 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Serv-

1 ice Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
 2 amended by striking “at such rates” and all that follows
 3 through “homeless veterans—” and inserting the fol-
 4 lowing: “at the same rates as the rates authorized for
 5 State homes for domiciliary care provided under section
 6 1741 of title 38, United States Code, for services fur-
 7 nished to homeless veterans—”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 9 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
 10 fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of
 11 this Act.

12 **SEC. 9. GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH**
 13 **SPECIAL NEEDS.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
 15 Affairs shall carry out a program to make grants to health
 16 care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and
 17 to grant and per diem providers in order to encourage de-
 18 velopment by those facilities and providers of programs
 19 targeted at meeting special needs within the population
 20 of homeless veterans.

21 (b) SPECIAL NEEDS.—For purposes of this section,
 22 homeless veterans with special needs include homeless vet-
 23 erans who—

24 (1) are women;

25 (2) are 50 years of age or older;

- 1 (3) are substance abusers;
- 2 (4) are persons with post-traumatic stress dis-
- 3 order;
- 4 (5) are terminally ill;
- 5 (6) are chronically mentally ill; or
- 6 (7) have care of minor dependents or other
- 7 family members.

8 (c) STUDY OF OUTCOME EFFECTIVENESS.—The Sec-

9 retary shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the

10 grant program in meeting the needs of homeless veterans.

11 As part of the study, the Secretary shall compare the re-

12 sults of programs carried out in the grant program under

13 this section in terms of veterans' satisfaction, health sta-

14 tus, reduction in addiction severity, housing, and encour-

15 agement of productive activity with results for similar vet-

16 erans in programs of the Department or of grant and per

17 diem providers that are designed to meet the general needs

18 of homeless veterans.

19 (d) FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated to the

20 Department of Veterans Affairs for “Medical Care” for

21 each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the amount

22 of \$5,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of the

23 program under this section. Grants under this section to

24 a health care facility of the Department or a grant and

1 per diem provider shall be treated in the manner provided
2 in section 7(b).

3 **SEC. 10. COORDINATION OF OUTREACH SERVICES FOR**
4 **VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

5 (a) OUTREACH PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health,
7 shall provide for appropriate officials of the Mental Health
8 Service and the Readjustment Counseling Service of the
9 Veterans Health Administration to initiate a coordinated
10 plan for joint outreach to veterans at risk of homelessness,
11 including particularly veterans who are being discharged
12 from institutions (including discharges from inpatient psy-
13 chiatric care, substance abuse treatment programs, and
14 penal institutions).

15 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The outreach plan
16 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) Strategies to identify and collaborate with
18 external entities used by veterans who have not tra-
19 ditionally used Department of Veterans Affairs serv-
20 ices to further outreach efforts.

21 (2) Strategies to ensure that mentoring pro-
22 grams, recovery support groups, and other appro-
23 priate support networks are optimally available to
24 veterans.

1 (3) Appropriate programs or referrals to family
2 support programs.

3 (4) Means to increase access to case manage-
4 ment services.

5 (5) Plans for making additional employment
6 services accessible to veterans.

7 (6) Appropriate referral sources for mental
8 health and substance abuse services.

9 (c) COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS.—The plan shall
10 identify strategies for the Department to enter into formal
11 cooperative relationships with entities outside the Depart-
12 ment of Veterans Affairs to facilitate making services and
13 resources optimally available to veterans.

14 (d) REVIEW OF PLAN.—The Secretary shall submit
15 the plan under subsection (a) to the Advisory Committee
16 on Homeless Veterans for its review and consultation.

17 (e) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than two
18 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
20 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
21 the Secretary's plan under subsection (a), including goals
22 and timelines for implementation of the plan for particular
23 facilities and service networks.

24 (f) OUTREACH PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Vet-
25 erans Affairs shall carry out an outreach program to pro-

1 vide information to homeless veterans and veterans at risk
2 of homelessness. The program shall include at a
3 minimum—

4 (A) provision of information about benefits
5 available to eligible veterans from the Department;
6 and

7 (B) contact information for local Department
8 facilities, including medical facilities, regional offices,
9 and veterans centers.

10 (2) In developing and carrying out the program under
11 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-
12 ticable, consult with appropriate public and private organi-
13 zations, including the Bureau of Prisons, State social serv-
14 ice agencies, the Department of Defense, and mental
15 health, veterans, and homeless advocates—

16 (A) for assistance in identifying and contacting
17 veterans who are homeless or at risk of homeless-
18 ness;

19 (B) to coordinate appropriate outreach activi-
20 ties with those organizations; and

21 (C) to coordinate services provided to veterans
22 with services provided by those organizations.

1 **SEC. 11. TREATMENT TRIALS IN INTEGRATED MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs shall carry out two treatment trials in integrated
5 mental health services delivery. Each such trial shall be
6 carried out at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical
7 center selected by the Secretary for such purpose. The
8 trials shall each be carried out over the same one-year pe-
9 riod.

10 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
11 term “integrated mental health services delivery” means
12 a coordinated and standardized approach to evaluation for
13 enrollment, treatment, and followup with patients who
14 have both mental health disorders (to include substance
15 use disorders) and medical conditions between mental
16 health and primary health care professionals.

17 (c) SITE SELECTION CRITERIA.—In reviewing appli-
18 cations from Department medical centers for selection as
19 a site for a treatment trial under this section, the Sec-
20 retary shall consider models that use the following:

21 (1) Standardized criteria for admission and en-
22 rollment as participant or control;

23 (2) Focus on prevention and symptom reduc-
24 tion.

25 (3) Development of a comprehensive, integrated
26 treatment plan.

1 (4) Patient assignment to team or teams.

2 (5) Management of polypharmacy.

3 (6) Use of evidence-based treatment protocols.

4 (7) Case management between visits.

5 (8) Referral and coordination of appropriate
6 Department or community-based services (including
7 housing if necessary).

8 (9) Ability to maintain and provide outcomes
9 for comparison purposes on veterans with similar di-
10 agnoses and characteristics who are not included in
11 the trial, but who are receiving traditional consult-
12 ative services in the same facility.

13 (d) COSTS.—The Secretary may use up to
14 \$2,000,000 from funds available to the Secretary for Med-
15 ical Care for costs for each of the treatment trials. Funds
16 identified by the Secretary for the trials shall remain avail-
17 able until expended.

18 (e) TREATMENT MODELS TO BE TESTED.—The two
19 treatment trials shall each use one of the following models:

20 (1) Mental health primary care teams.

21 (2) Patient assignment to a mental health pri-
22 mary care team that is linked with the patient's
23 medical primary care team.

24 (f) STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary shall
25 compare treatment outcomes of the different treatment

1 trials for chronically mentally ill veterans who are provided
2 treatment through integrated mental health programs
3 with treatment outcomes, including such outcomes as vet-
4 erans' satisfaction, health status, treatment compliance,
5 patient functionality, reduction in addiction severity as
6 well as service utilization and treatment costs with results
7 for similar chronically mentally ill veterans provided treat-
8 ment through traditionally consultative relationships.

9 (g) RESULTS.—Not later than 30 months after selec-
10 tion of the two centers under this section, each selected
11 center shall complete measures of treatment outcomes
12 under subsection (f), as well as measures for matched con-
13 trols.

14 (h) MANDATORY AUDIT OF RESULTS.—The Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Inspector General shall
16 review medical records of participants and controls for
17 both trials to ensure that results are accurate.

18 (i) REPORT AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS.—Not
19 later than two years after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
21 setting forth the results of that comparison and such rec-
22 ommendations as the Secretary may have. Based upon the
23 Secretary's conclusions, the Secretary shall disseminate
24 the best practices for treatment of mentally ill veterans

1 in such manner as the Secretary determines appropriate
2 on a nationwide basis.

3 **SEC. 12. DENTAL CARE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
5 1712(a)(1)(H) of title 38, United States Code, outpatient
6 dental services and treatment of a dental condition or dis-
7 ability of a veteran described in subsection (b) shall be
8 considered to be medically necessary if—

9 (1) the dental services and treatment are nec-
10 essary for the veteran to successfully gain or regain
11 employment;

12 (2) the dental services and treatment are nec-
13 essary to alleviate pain; or

14 (3) the dental services and treatment are nec-
15 essary for treatment of moderate, severe, or severe
16 and complicated gingival and periodontal pathology.

17 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—Subsection (a) applies to
18 a veteran who is—

19 (1) enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of
20 title 38, United States Code; and

21 (2) who is receiving care (directly or by con-
22 tract) in any of the following settings:

23 (A) A domiciliary under section 1710 of
24 such title.

1 (B) A therapeutic residence under section
2 1772 of such title.

3 (C) Community residential care coordi-
4 nated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 under section 1730 of such title.

6 (D) A setting for which the Secretary pro-
7 vides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

8 (E) Any program described in section 7 of
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 13. PROGRAMMATIC EXPANSIONS.**

11 (a) ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—The
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop standards to
13 ensure that mental health services are available to vet-
14 erans in a manner similar to the manner in which primary
15 care is available to veterans who require services by ensur-
16 ing that each primary care health care facility of the De-
17 partment has a mental health treatment capacity.

18 (b) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Effective October 1,
19 2001, section 12 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
20 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 12. FUNDING.**

23 “(a) AMOUNTS FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PRO-
24 GRAMS.—From amounts appropriated for “Medical Care”
25 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall expend not less

1 than \$55,000,000 (as adjusted from time to time under
2 subsection (b)) to carry out the transitional housing grant
3 and per diem provider programs under sections 3 and 4
4 of this Act.

5 “(b) PERIODIC INCREASES.—The amount in effect
6 under subsection (a) shall be increased for any fiscal year
7 by the overall percentage increase in the Medical Care ac-
8 count for that fiscal year from the preceding fiscal year.”.

9 (c) COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES PRO-
10 GRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall provide for the establish-
11 ment of centers for the provision of comprehensive services
12 to homeless veterans under section 2(b) of the Homeless
13 Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992
14 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) in at least each of the 20 largest
15 metropolitan statistical areas.

16 (2) Section 2(b) of the Homeless Veterans Com-
17 prehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721
18 note) is amended by striking “no more than eight dem-
19 onstration”.

20 (d) OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY.—The Sec-
21 retary shall ensure that opioid substitution therapy is
22 available at each Department of Veterans Affairs medical
23 center.

24 (e) PROGRAM EXPIRATION EXTENSION.—Sections
25 1771(b) and 1773(d) of title 38, United States Code, are

1 amended by striking “December 31, 2001” and inserting
2 “December 31, 2006”.

3 **SEC. 14. VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.**

4 (a) EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs may authorize homeless veterans receiv-
6 ing care through vocational rehabilitation programs to
7 participate in the compensated work therapy program.

8 (b) SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR VETERANS PARTICI-
9 PATING IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPIES.—The Sec-
10 retary may authorize homeless veterans in the com-
11 pensated work therapy program to be provided housing
12 through the therapeutic residence program under section
13 1772 of title 38, United States Code, or through grant
14 and per diem providers.

15 (c) STAFFING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
16 ensure that there is assigned at each Veterans Benefits
17 Administration regional office at least one employee as-
18 signed specifically to oversee and coordinate homeless vet-
19 erans programs in that region, including the housing pro-
20 gram for veterans supported by the Department of Hous-
21 ing and Urban Development, housing programs supported
22 by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the homeless vet-
23 erans reintegration program of the Department of Labor,
24 the assessments required by section 1774 of title 38,
25 United States Code, the Comprehensive Homeless Pro-

1 gram, and such other duties relating to homeless veterans
2 as may be assigned. In any such regional office with at
3 least 140 employees, there shall be at least one full-time
4 employee assigned to such functions.

5 (d) COORDINATION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—

6 (1) Section 4103A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8 graph:

9 “(11) Coordination of services provided to vet-
10 erans with training assistance provided to veterans
11 by entities receiving financial assistance under sec-
12 tion 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
13 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

14 (2) Section 4104(b) of such title is amended—

15 (A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
16 (11);

17 (B) by striking the period at the end of para-
18 graph (12) and inserting “; and”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(13) coordinate services provided to veterans
22 with training assistance for veterans provided by en-
23 tities receiving financial assistance under section 738
24 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
25 U.S.C. 11448).”.

1 **SEC. 15. LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM**
2 **PROVIDERS.**

3 (a) NEW GRANTS.—Section 3(b)(5) of the Homeless
4 Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992
5 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “, but fire
6 and safety” and all that follows through “in carrying out
7 the grant” and inserting “and the fire and safety require-
8 ments applicable under the Life Safety Code of the Na-
9 tional Fire Protection Association”.

10 (b) PREVIOUS GRANTEES.—Section 4 of such Act is
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(e) LIFE SAFETY CODE.—(1) Except as provided in
14 paragraph (2), a per diem payment (or in-kind assistance
15 in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under
16 this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the
17 grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements ap-
18 plicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire
19 Protection Association.

20 “(2) During the five-year period beginning on the
21 date of the enactment of the Heather French Henry
22 Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall
23 not apply to an entity that received a grant under section
24 3 before that date if the entity meets fire and safety re-
25 quirements established by the Secretary.

1 “(3) From amounts available for purposes of this sec-
2 tion pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall
3 be used only for grants to assist entities covered by para-
4 graph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National
5 Fire Protection Association.”.

6 **SEC. 16. TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS PILOT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
9 of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot pro-
10 gram of transitional assistance grants to eligible homeless
11 veterans. The pilot program shall be established at not less
12 than three nor more than six regional offices of the De-
13 partment of Veterans Affairs and shall include at least
14 one regional office located in a large urban area and at
15 least one regional office serving primarily rural veterans.
16 The maximum number of veterans who may participate
17 in the pilot program is 600.

18 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is eligible for
19 a transitional assistance grant under this section if the
20 veteran is physically present in the geographic area of a
21 regional office which is participating in the pilot program
22 and the veteran—

23 (1) is a veteran of a period of war or, if not a
24 veteran of a period of war, meets the minimum serv-

1 ice requirements specified in section 5303A of title
2 38, United States Code;

3 (2) is being released, or within the preceding 60
4 days was released, from an institution, including a
5 hospital, a penal institution, a homeless shelter, or
6 a facility of a grant and per diem provider;

7 (3) is a homeless veteran or was a homeless vet-
8 eran before institutionalization; and

9 (4) had less than marginal income for the pre-
10 ceding three months.

11 (c) DURATION OF GRANT ASSISTANCE.—An eligible
12 veteran may be provided a transitional assistance grant
13 under this section for no more than three months.

14 (d) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON GRANT ASSIST-
15 ANCE.—(1) A veteran who receives transitional assistance
16 under this section and who while in receipt of such assist-
17 ance has a claim pending with the Secretary for service-
18 connected disability compensation or nonservice-connected
19 pension shall, notwithstanding subsection (c), continue to
20 be provided transitional assistance under this section after
21 the period prescribed in subsection (c) until the earlier of
22 (A) the date on which a decision on the claim is made
23 by the regional office, or (B) the end of the six-month
24 period beginning on the date of expiration of eligibility
25 under subsection (c).

1 (2) An extension of transitional assistance under
2 paragraph (1) shall be terminated if, as determined by the
3 Secretary, the veteran, without good cause, fails to cooper-
4 ate in establishing the pending claim or if the gross
5 monthly income of the veteran for a month exceeds twice
6 the amount of transitional assistance benefits payable to
7 the veteran for that month. The effective date of such a
8 termination shall be the last day of the month following
9 the month in which the extension under paragraph (1) is
10 terminated under the preceding sentence.

11 (3) Claims of veterans receiving benefits under this
12 subsection shall receive expedited consideration by the re-
13 gional office.

14 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—(1) The monthly amount
15 of a grant provided under this section to an eligible vet-
16 eran shall be the amount of monthly pension that would
17 be payable to that veteran under chapter 15 of title 38,
18 United States Code, if the veteran had a permanent and
19 total nonservice-connected disability.

20 (2) Once eligibility for a grant under this section has
21 been established, the amount of the grant shall be deter-
22 mined without regard to the veteran's income, other than
23 as provided in subsection (d)(2).

24 (f) COORDINATION WITH OTHER BENEFITS.—If ret-
25 roactive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs

1 are payable to a veteran with respect to a month for which
2 the veteran received a transitional assistance grant under
3 this section, the amount of such retroactive benefit pay-
4 able for such month shall be reduced (but not below zero)
5 by the amount of the grant under this section paid for
6 that month. No reduction may be made by the Secretary
7 of Veterans Affairs from an amount otherwise due a vet-
8 eran for any other month to offset an amount paid under
9 this section for a previous month.

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

11 (1) The term “veteran” means a person who
12 served in the active military, naval, or air service (as
13 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States
14 Code) and who was discharged or released from any
15 such period of service under conditions other than
16 dishonorable.

17 (2) The term “marginal income”, with respect
18 to a veteran, means income below the poverty stand-
19 ard (as determined by the Bureau of the Census) for
20 a family of the size of the veteran’s family.

21 **SEC. 17. ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

22 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall carry out a program to make technical assist-
24 ance grants to nonprofit community-based groups with ex-
25 perience in providing assistance to homeless veterans in

1 order to assist such groups in applying for grants relating
 2 to addressing problems of homeless veterans.

3 (b) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
 4 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the amount
 5 of \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005
 6 to carry out the program under this section.

7 **SEC. 18. HOME LOAN PROGRAM FOR MANUFACTURED**
 8 **HOUSING.**

9 Section 3712(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 10 is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “With respect to a veteran who, as determined by the Sec-
 12 retary, is homeless, the Secretary may waive any otherwise
 13 applicable requirement under this chapter that a purchase
 14 of a manufactured home include ownership or purchase
 15 of a lot by the veteran to which the home is to be perma-
 16 nently affixed.”.

17 **SEC. 19. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRA-**
 18 **TION PROGRAM.**

19 Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 20 is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
 21 inserting the following:

22 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

23 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

24 “(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

25 “(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

1 “(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

2 **SEC. 20. USE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

3 Section 8122(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended by inserting before the period at the end the fol-
5 lowing: “and is not suitable for use for the provision of
6 services to homeless veterans by the Department or by an-
7 other entity under an enhanced-use lease of such property
8 under section 8162 of this title”.

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