

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4057

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2004

Mr. RENZI (for himself, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. NEY, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. REYNOLDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services, 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 “Samaritan Initiative
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. SAMARITAN INITIATIVE.**

7 Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 11136 et seq.) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following new subtitle:

10 **“Subtitle H—Samaritan Initiative**

11 **“SEC. 495. PURPOSE.**

12 “The purpose of the Samaritan Initiative is to au-
13 thorize competitive grants for coordinated comprehensive
14 housing, treatment, and support services to chronically
15 homeless persons to accomplish the following objectives:

16 “(1) To reduce the prevalence of chronic home-
17 lessness.

18 “(2) To support promising strategies to move
19 chronically homeless persons in urban and rural
20 communities from the streets to safe, permanent
21 housing.

22 “(3) To provide for integrated systems of serv-
23 ices to improve the effectiveness of programs serving
24 chronically homeless persons.

1 “(4) To promote self-sufficiency and recovery
2 among chronically homeless persons.

3 “(5) To encourage programs serving chronically
4 homeless persons to promote access to Federal,
5 State, and local non-homeless specific programs of
6 assistance for which such persons are eligible.

7 **“SEC. 495A. GRANT AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATION.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The participating Federal agen-
9 cies shall enter into an agreement among the agencies to
10 make and administer competitive grants to eligible enti-
11 ties, including faith-based and community-based organiza-
12 tions, in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle for
13 the purpose of providing treatment and support services
14 that are coordinated with housing for chronically homeless
15 persons.

16 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The agreement authorized
18 under subsection (a) shall designate the Secretary of
19 Housing and Urban Development as the admin-
20 istering Secretary.

21 “(2) DELEGATIONS.—No provision of this sub-
22 title shall be construed as limiting the ability of the
23 participating Federal agencies to delegate, assign, or
24 share administrative responsibilities as the partici-

1 pating Federal agencies may determine to be nec-
2 essary or appropriate.

3 “(c) COORDINATION AMONG PARTICIPATING FED-
4 ERAL AGENCIES.—The administering Secretary shall co-
5 ordinate with other participating Federal agencies to im-
6 plement and administer the grant program established
7 under this subtitle.

8 “(d) INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONI-
9 TORING TEAM.—The participating Federal agencies shall
10 establish an interagency implementation and monitoring
11 team to review and conduct oversight of program grantees
12 under this subtitle. Each participating Federal agency
13 shall appoint appropriate designees to serve on the imple-
14 mentation and monitoring team.

15 “(e) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant
17 program under this subtitle, the interagency imple-
18 mentation and monitoring team shall establish uni-
19 form or coordinated requirements, standards, proce-
20 dures, and timetables to the maximum extent fea-
21 sible and appropriate.

22 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—The general principle set
23 forth in paragraph (1) shall be implemented by the
24 interagency implementation and monitoring team
25 with respect to—

1 “(A) application procedures and grant re-
2 quirements, including those providing for—

3 “(i) a single consolidated application
4 form; and

5 “(ii) a single timetable, location, and
6 procedure for filing of a consolidated appli-
7 cation;

8 “(B) criteria for award of grants;

9 “(C) a coordinated process for review and
10 approval or denial of the consolidated applica-
11 tion;

12 “(D) establishment of performance stand-
13 ards and measures of performance outcomes,
14 including—

15 “(i) the requirement that the Sec-
16 retary of Housing and Urban Development
17 attempt to quantify the reduction in chron-
18 ic homelessness; and

19 “(ii) the requirement that, where ap-
20 plicable, the grantees utilize a Homeless
21 Management Information System;

22 “(E) oversight, including monitoring, au-
23 dits, and evaluations of grantees, and require-
24 ments for annual reports by grantees; and

“(F) other factors that the interagency implementation and monitoring team determines are necessary or appropriate.

“(3) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) Subject to paragraph (1), the interagency implementation and monitoring team shall establish such performance standards, performance measures, and annual reporting requirements and make such performance reviews and audits as may be necessary or appropriate for the following purposes:

“(i) To determine whether a grantee has carried out its activities in a timely manner and in accordance with applicable requirements of this subtitle.

“(ii) To assess the effectiveness of a grantee in accomplishing the objectives of this subtitle.

“(iii) Other such purposes as the interagency implementation and monitoring team may deem significant with respect to the performance assessment of a grantee.

“(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide program monitoring and evaluation

1 services and staff to participating Federal agen-
2 cies. In such cases, participating Federal agen-
3 cies may reimburse such Secretary, as appro-
4 priate.

5 “(f) PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE
6 TO GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this sub-
8 title shall establish and operate a system of assist-
9 ance to chronically homeless persons that identifies
10 such persons and provides to such persons access to
11 affordable permanent housing that is coordinated
12 with appropriate treatment and support.

13 “(2) REQUIRED GRANTEE ACTIVITIES.—A
14 grantee under this subtitle shall carry out, directly
15 or through arrangements with a network of other
16 entities, the following:

17 “(A) HOUSING ACTIVITIES.—Eligible ac-
18 tivities specified in section 495B(a) that ensure
19 the placement of chronically homeless persons
20 in safe, affordable, permanent housing.

21 “(B) TREATMENT AND SUPPORT ACTIVI-
22 TIES.—Eligible activities specified in section
23 495C(a) to address the multiple physical health,
24 mental health, and substance abuse treatment
25 needs of chronically homeless persons who are

1 eligible for or residents in housing under section
2 495B(a).

3 “(C) SERVICE COORDINATION.—Activities,
4 including those coordinated with local planning
5 bodies, that promote the access of eligible
6 chronically homeless persons to a range of serv-
7 ices that contribute to self-sufficiency, recovery,
8 employment, stability in housing, and access to
9 health care.

10 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—Administrative
11 and planning activities, including the develop-
12 ment and implementation of comprehensive
13 plans for housing and services at the grantee
14 level with costs not to exceed 6 percent of total
15 costs of carrying out the program under this
16 subtitle.

17 “(E) OTHER SERVICES.—Such services
18 and activities as the participating Federal agen-
19 cies may find necessary and appropriate.

20 “(3) CRITERIA FOR GRANT AWARD.—The cri-
21 teria for the award of grants under this subtitle
22 shall include the following:

23 “(A) The extent to which the applicant
24 demonstrates an understanding of the unique
25 characteristics of chronically homeless persons.

1 “(B) The adequacy of the applicant’s ap-
2 proach in addressing the needs of the chron-
3 ically homeless.

4 “(C) The capacity of the applicant to carry
5 out and sustain required activities.

6 “(D) Where services are to be provided
7 through a network of entities, the adequacy of
8 the qualifications of such entities and the stated
9 willingness of such entities to collaborate and
10 participate in carrying out proposed activities.

11 “(E) The extent to which the applicant has
12 been involved in Federal, State, or local non-
13 homeless specific programs of assistance that
14 could provide additional assistance to eligible
15 chronically homeless persons.

16 “(F) The commitment and the dem-
17 onstrated ability of the applicant to enumerate
18 the reduction in the number of chronically
19 homeless persons.

20 “(G) Such additional criteria as the par-
21 ticipating Federal agencies may deem signifi-
22 cant or necessary with respect to the applicant’s
23 potential success in carrying out the purpose of
24 this subtitle.

1 “(4) INITIAL TERM OF GRANT.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, each grant shall
3 be for an initial term of 3 years.

4 “(5) GRANT RENEWAL.—The participating
5 Federal agencies may award on a competitive basis
6 a renewal grant under this subtitle for additional 3-
7 year terms, subject to the grantee’s continued quali-
8 fication for the grant as determined by the partici-
9 pating Federal agencies. The amount of a renewal
10 grant under this paragraph may be up to 50 percent
11 of the cost of the program.

12 “(6) FEDERAL MATCHING.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this
14 subtitle shall be available to pay the Federal
15 share of the costs incurred by the grantee for
16 activities under this subtitle.

17 “(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—For purposes of
18 subparagraph (A), the Federal share shall be
19 75 percent of the cost of the program for the
20 first year of the grant, 75 percent for the sec-
21 ond year, and 50 percent for each succeeding
22 year, including each year of a renewal grant
23 term under paragraph (5).

1 “(C) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-
2 Federal share of costs incurred by the grantee
3 may be in cash or in-kind, as appropriate.

4 “(7) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The partici-
5 pating Federal agencies shall ensure that consider-
6 ation is given to geographic distribution (such as
7 urban and rural areas) in the awarding of grants
8 under subsection (a).

9 “(8) DISCLOSURE.—Section 12(a) of the De-
10 partment of Housing and Urban Development Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 3537a(a)) shall not apply to this subtitle.

12 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 “(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to
14 carry out this subtitle \$70,000,000 for fiscal year
15 2005, of which—

16 “(A) \$50,000,000 is authorized to be ap-
17 propriated to the Department of Housing and
18 Urban Development;

19 “(B) \$10,000,000 is authorized to be ap-
20 propriated to the Department of Health and
21 Human Services; and

22 “(C) Up to \$10,000,000 is authorized
23 from the amounts to be appropriated to the De-
24 partment of Veterans Affairs for treatment of

1 homeless veterans under Medical Care to carry
2 out section 495D.

3 “(2) There are authorized to be appropriated
4 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
5 years 2006, 2007, and 2008.

6 “(h) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE FUNDS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying
8 out the program under this subtitle, in accordance
9 with the agreement under subsection (a), the partici-
10 pating Federal agencies are authorized to transfer to
11 the administering Secretary funds appropriated for
12 use under this subtitle, and the administering Sec-
13 retary may receive such funds.

14 “(2) CONSTRUCTION.—In the event that, not-
15 withstanding subsection (g), funds are not appro-
16 priated for use in accordance with this subtitle to
17 one or more participating Federal agencies in any
18 fiscal year, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to
19 require a participating Federal agency that has been
20 provided with budget authority pursuant to sub-
21 section (g) in a fiscal year to use such budget au-
22 thority to fund grants for activities that are not in
23 accordance with the primary mission of such partici-
24 pating Federal agency.

1 “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—In ad-
 2 dition to funds otherwise provided for agency administra-
 3 tive costs, up to 2 percent of amounts appropriated for
 4 the activities under this subtitle may be used by the par-
 5 ticipating Federal agencies for administrative costs, in-
 6 cluding to—

7 “(1) provide technical assistance to applicants
 8 and grantees; and

9 “(2) provide support and assistance in selecting
 10 and assessing projects to carry out the purpose of
 11 this subtitle, including any preparation necessary for
 12 such selection and assessment.

13 **“SEC. 495B. HOUSING ACTIVITIES.**

14 “(a) ELIGIBLE HOUSING ACTIVITIES.—Subject to
 15 the provisions of section 495A, a grant under this subtitle
 16 shall be used for activities in support of permanent hous-
 17 ing for chronically homeless persons, including the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(1) PROVISION OF HOUSING.—

20 “(A) ACQUISITION.—The acquisition of oc-
 21 cupancy-ready real property.

22 “(B) REHABILITATION.—The minor reha-
 23 bilitation of real property for housing.

24 “(C) OPERATING COSTS.—The costs of op-
 25 erating a housing project, including salaries and

1 benefits, maintenance, insurance, utilities, re-
2 placement reserve accounts, and furnishings.

3 “(D) LEASING.—Leasing of an existing
4 structure or structures, or portions thereof to
5 provide housing.

6 “(E) HOUSING COUNSELING.—The costs
7 of counseling and advice services with respect to
8 property maintenance, financial management,
9 and other such matters as may be appropriate
10 to assist chronically homeless persons in obtain-
11 ing housing.

12 “(2) RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—Project-based or
13 tenant-based rental assistance for chronically home-
14 less persons, which assistance shall be provided to
15 the extent practicable in the manner provided under
16 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937
17 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

18 “(3) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Such other activities
19 as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
20 ment determines to be appropriate.

21 “(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING AC-
22 TIVITIES.—

23 “(1) REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING REAL PROP-
24 PERTY.—

1 “(A) USE RESTRICTION.—Each grantee
2 under this subtitle shall ensure that permanent
3 housing projects for chronically homeless per-
4 sons that are acquired or rehabilitated with
5 grant amounts under this subtitle are used for
6 such persons for not less than 10 years.

7 “(B) HOUSING QUALITY.—Each grantee
8 under this subtitle shall ensure that housing as-
9 sisted with grant amounts provided under this
10 subtitle is decent, safe, and sanitary and com-
11 plies with all applicable State and local housing
12 codes, building codes, and licensing require-
13 ments in the jurisdiction in which the housing
14 is located.

15 “(C) PREVENTION OF UNDUE BENEFIT.—
16 Subject to the provisions of section 495A(e),
17 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
18 ment may prescribe such terms and conditions
19 as such Secretary considers necessary to pre-
20 vent grantees from unduly benefiting from the
21 sale or other disposition of projects, other than
22 a sale or other disposition resulting in the use
23 of a project for the direct benefit of chronically
24 homeless persons.

1 “(2) HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
2 SYSTEM.—Each grantee shall be required to provide
3 such information to the appropriate administrator of
4 the local homeless management information system,
5 as is necessary for the implementation and operation
6 of homeless management information systems.

7 **“SEC. 495C. TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

8 “Subject to the provision of section 495A, a grant
9 under this subtitle shall be used to provide treatment and
10 support services, which may include the following:

11 “(1) PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES.—Primary
12 health services, including the following:

13 “(A) PHYSICIAN AND OTHER SERVICES.—
14 Health services related to family medicine, in-
15 ternal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gyne-
16 cology that are furnished by physicians and
17 where appropriate, physicians’ assistants, nurse
18 practitioners, and nurse midwives.

19 “(B) DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES.—Diagnostic
20 laboratory and radiological services.

21 “(C) PREVENTIVE SERVICES.—Preventive
22 health services.

23 “(D) EMERGENCY SERVICES.—Emergency
24 medical services.

1 “(E) ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL SERV-
2 ICES.—Access to pharmaceutical services.

3 “(2) ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE SERVICES.—
4 Services or activities designed to prevent, deter, re-
5 duce, or eliminate substance abuse or addictive be-
6 haviors, including a comprehensive range of personal
7 and family counseling methods, early interventions,
8 methadone treatment for opiate abusers, or detoxi-
9 fication for alcohol and other drug abusers, and
10 treatment services such as intake and assessment,
11 behavioral therapy and counseling, clinical and case
12 management, pharmacotherapies, and self-help and
13 peer support activities.

14 “(3) MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERV-
15 ICES.—Mental health and counseling services, in-
16 cluding services and activities that apply therapeutic
17 processes to personal, family, or situational problems
18 in order to bring about a positive resolution of the
19 problem or improved individual functioning or cir-
20 cumstances, including crisis interventions, individual
21 supportive therapy, and prescription of psychotropic
22 medications or explanations about the use and man-
23 agement of medications.

24 “(4) OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT.—Outreach
25 services including extending services or help to

1 homeless persons to develop a relationship of trust
2 and engage such persons into appropriate service
3 programs.

4 “(5) INFORMATION AND REFERRAL.—Services
5 or activities designed to provide information about
6 services and assistance provided through public and
7 private programs, including Federal, State and local
8 non-homeless targeted programs that provide or fi-
9 nancially support the provision of medical, social,
10 educational, or other related services, and a brief as-
11 sessment of client needs to facilitate appropriate re-
12 ferrals.

13 “(6) CASE MANAGEMENT.—Case management
14 services and activities, including the arrangement,
15 coordination, monitoring, and delivery of services to
16 meet the needs of individuals who are homeless, in-
17 cluding individual service plan development, coun-
18 seling, monitoring, securing and coordinating serv-
19 ices.

20 “(7) OTHER SERVICES.—Such other services as
21 the Secretary of Health and Human Services deter-
22 mines appropriate.

1 **“SEC. 495D. VETERANS’ BENEFITS.**

2 “Subject to the provisions of section 495A, the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to provide eligible
4 veterans with case management services.

5 **“SEC. 495E. AUTHORITY OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO**
6 **PARTICIPATE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

7 “Federal agencies, in addition to the Secretaries of
8 Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human
9 Services, and Veterans Affairs, may participate under the
10 provisions of this subtitle to the extent funds are appro-
11 priated to each agency for purposes of participating under
12 the provisions of this subtitle.

13 **“SEC. 495F. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “For purposes of this subtitle, the following defini-
15 tions shall apply—

16 “(1) ADMINISTERING SECRETARY.—The term
17 ‘administering Secretary’ shall mean the Secretary
18 designated as responsible for administration of the
19 grant program under this subtitle by the agreement
20 authorized in section 495A(a).

21 “(2) CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSON.—The
22 term ‘chronically homeless person’ means an unac-
23 companied disabled individual who has been sleeping
24 in one or more places not meant for human habi-
25 tation or in one or more emergency homeless shel-

1 ters for over one year or who has had four or more
2 periods of homelessness over three years.

3 “(3) DISABLED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘dis-
4 abled individual’ means an individual whose ability
5 to work or perform one or more activities of daily
6 living is limited due to—

7 “(A) a diagnosable substance use disorder,
8 serious mental illness, developmental disability,
9 or chronic physical illness or disability; or

10 “(B) the co-occurrence of two or more of
11 these conditions.

12 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
13 tity’ means a State, unit of general local govern-
14 ment, public housing agency, local workforce invest-
15 ment board and private nonprofit organization, in-
16 cluding a faith-based or community-based organiza-
17 tion.

18 “(5) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term ‘eligible
19 veteran’ means a person who served in the active
20 military, naval, or air service, and who was dis-
21 charged or released under conditions other than dis-
22 honorable.

23 “(6) HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
24 SYSTEM.—The term ‘Homeless Management Infor-
25 mation System’ shall mean a computerized data col-

1 lection application maintained by an eligible entity,
2 that—

3 “(A) enumerates the homeless population
4 within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and
5 the number of homeless individuals that re-
6 ceived services from the eligible entity; and

7 “(B) captures information on the charac-
8 teristics and service needs of homeless individ-
9 uals.

10 “(7) INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION AND
11 MONITORING TEAM.—The term ‘interagency imple-
12 mentation and monitoring team’ shall mean a group
13 of representatives appointed by each participating
14 Federal agency, which shall coordinate among each
15 other in implementing the provisions of this subtitle
16 in accordance with subsection 495A(d) and which
17 shall coordinate the review and oversight of program
18 grantees under this subtitle.

19 “(8) PARTICIPATING FEDERAL AGENCY.—The
20 term ‘participating Federal agency’ shall mean the
21 Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development,
22 Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs,
23 or any other Federal agency that may receive appro-
24 priations for purposes of participating under the
25 provisions of this subtitle.

1 “(9) PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—

2 The term ‘private nonprofit organization’ means a
3 private organization—

4 “(A) no part of the net earnings of which
5 inures to benefits of any member, founder, con-
6 tributor, or individual;

7 “(B) that has a voluntary board; and

8 “(C) that has an accounting system or a
9 designated fiscal agent in accordance with re-
10 quirements established by the participating
11 Federal agencies.

12 “(10) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term
13 ‘public housing agency’ has the same meaning as in
14 section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of
15 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6)).

16 “(11) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any
17 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
18 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
19 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mar-
20 iana Islands, or any agency or instrumentality there-
21 of that is established pursuant to legislation and
22 designated by the chief executive officer to act on
23 behalf of the State with regard to provisions of this
24 subtitle.

1 “(12) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERN-
2 MENT.—The term ‘unit of general local government’
3 means—

4 “(A) a city, town, township, county, parish,
5 village, or other general purpose political sub-
6 division of a State; and

7 “(B) any agency or instrumentality thereof
8 that is established pursuant to legislation and
9 designated by the chief executive officer to act
10 on behalf of the jurisdiction with regard to pro-
11 visions of this subtitle.”.

○