

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2378

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, 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. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE**
4 **SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN**
5 **FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

6 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
7 “Services to Prevent Veterans Homelessness Act”.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facili-
 2 tate the provision of supportive services for very low-in-
 3 come veteran families in permanent housing.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20
 6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
 7 ing at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 2044. Financial assistance for supportive services**
 9 **for very low-income veteran families re-**
 10 **siding in permanent housing**

11 “(a) DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 (1) The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eli-
 13 gible entities approved under this section to provide and
 14 coordinate the provision of the supportive services for very
 15 low-income veteran families residing in permanent hous-
 16 ing.

17 “(2)(A) Financial assistance under this section shall
 18 consist of payments for each such family for which an ap-
 19 proved eligible entity provides or coordinates the provision
 20 of supportive services.

21 “(B) The Secretary shall establish a formula for de-
 22 termining the rate of payments provided to a very low-
 23 income veteran family receiving supportive services under
 24 this section. The rate shall be adjusted not less than once
 25 annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. In calcu-

1 lating the payment formula under this subparagraph, the
2 Secretary may consider geographic cost of living variances,
3 family size, and the cost of services provided.

4 “(3) In providing financial assistance under para-
5 graph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to an entity
6 that provides or coordinates the provision of supportive
7 services for very low-income veteran families who are
8 transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

9 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent
10 practicable, financial assistance under this subsection is
11 equitably distributed across geographic regions, including
12 rural communities and tribal lands.

13 “(5) Each entity receiving financial assistance under
14 this section to provide supportive services to a very low-
15 income veteran family shall notify the family that such
16 services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by the
17 Department.

18 “(6) The Secretary may require an entity receiving
19 financial assistance under this section to submit a report
20 to the Secretary describing the supportive services pro-
21 vided with such financial assistance.

22 “(b) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—
23 (1) An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under
24 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application
25 in such form, in such manner, and containing such com-

1 mitments and information as the Secretary determines to
2 be necessary.

3 “(2) An application submitted under paragraph (1)
4 shall contain—

5 “(A) a description of the supportive services
6 proposed to be provided by the eligible entity;

7 “(B) a description of the types of very low-in-
8 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
9 services;

10 “(C) an estimate of the number of very low-in-
11 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
12 services;

13 “(D) evidence of the experience of the eligible
14 entity in providing supportive services to very low-in-
15 come veteran families; and

16 “(E) a description of the managerial capacity of
17 the eligible entity to—

18 “(i) coordinate the provision of supportive
19 services with the provision of permanent hous-
20 ing, by the eligible entity or by other organiza-
21 tions;

22 “(ii) continuously assess the needs of very
23 low-income veteran families for supportive serv-
24 ices;

1 “(iii) coordinate the provision of supportive
2 services with the services of the Department;

3 “(iv) tailor supportive services to the needs
4 of very low-income veteran families; and

5 “(v) continuously seek new sources of as-
6 sistance to ensure the long-term provision of
7 supportive services to very low-income veteran
8 families.

9 “(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the se-
10 lection of eligible entities to receive financial assistance
11 under this section.

12 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
13 shall provide training and technical assistance eligible en-
14 tities that receive financial assistance under this section
15 with respect to the planning, development, and provision
16 of supportive services to very low-income veteran families
17 occupying permanent housing.

18 “(2) The Secretary may provide the training de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or con-
20 tracts with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

21 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated, for each fiscal year,
23 \$25,000,000, to carry out this section, of which not more
24 than \$750,000 may be used to provide technical assistance
25 under subsection (c).

1 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

2 “(1) The term ‘very low-income veteran family’
3 means a veteran family whose income does not ex-
4 ceed 50 percent of the median income for the area,
5 as determined by the Secretary in accordance with
6 this paragraph, except that—

7 “(A) the Secretary shall make appropriate
8 adjustments to the income requirement under
9 subparagraph (A) based on family size; and

10 “(B) the Secretary may establish an in-
11 come ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of
12 the median income for an area if the Secretary
13 determines that such variations are necessary
14 because the area has unusually high or low con-
15 struction costs, fair market rents (as deter-
16 mined under section 8 of the United States
17 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)), or
18 family incomes.

19 “(2) The term ‘veteran family’ includes a vet-
20 eran who is a single person and a family in which
21 the head of household or the spouse of the head of
22 household is a veteran.

23 “(3) The term ‘consumer cooperative’ has the
24 meaning given such term in section 202 of the
25 Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

1 “(4) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

2 “(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

3 “(B) a consumer cooperative.

4 “(5) The term ‘homeless’ has the meaning
5 given the term in section 103 of the McKinney-
6 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

7 “(6) The term ‘permanent housing’ means com-
8 munity-based housing without a designated length of
9 stay.

10 “(7) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’
11 means—

12 “(A) any incorporated private institution
13 or foundation—

14 “(i) no part of the net earnings of
15 which inures to the benefit of any member,
16 founder, contributor, or individual;

17 “(ii) which has a governing board that
18 is responsible for the operation of the sup-
19 portive services provided under this sec-
20 tion; and

21 “(iii) which is approved by the Sec-
22 retary as to financial responsibility;

23 “(B) a for-profit limited partnership, the
24 sole general partner of which is an organization

1 meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii),
2 and (iii) of subparagraph (A);

3 “(C) a corporation wholly owned and con-
4 trolled by an organization meeting the require-
5 ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
6 graph (A); and

7 “(D) a tribally designated housing entity
8 (as defined in section 4 of the Native American
9 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
10 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

11 “(8) The term ‘supportive services’ means the
12 following:

13 “(A) Services provided by an eligible entity
14 or subcontractors that address the needs of very
15 low-income veteran families occupying perma-
16 nent housing, including—

17 “(i) outreach services;

18 “(ii) health care services, including di-
19 agnosis, treatment, and counseling for
20 mental health and substance abuse dis-
21 orders and for post-traumatic stress dis-
22 order, if such services are not readily avail-
23 able through the Department of Veterans
24 Affairs medical center serving the geo-

1 graphic area in which the veteran family is
2 housed;
3 “(iii) habilitation and rehabilitation
4 services;
5 “(iv) case management services;
6 “(v) daily living services;
7 “(vi) personal financial planning;
8 “(vii) transportation services;
9 “(viii) vocational counseling;
10 “(ix) employment and training;
11 “(x) educational services;
12 “(xi) assistance in obtaining veterans
13 benefits and other public benefits, includ-
14 ing health care provided by the Depart-
15 ment;
16 “(xii) assistance in obtaining income
17 support;
18 “(xiii) assistance in obtaining health
19 insurance;
20 “(xiv) fiduciary and representative
21 payee services;
22 “(xv) legal services to assist the vet-
23 eran family with reconsiderations or ap-
24 peals of veterans and public benefit claim
25 denials and to resolve outstanding war-

1 rants that interfere with the family's abil-
2 ity to obtain or retain housing or sup-
3 portive services;

4 “(xvi) child care;

5 “(xvii) housing counseling;

6 “(xviii) other services necessary for
7 maintaining independent living; and

8 “(xix) coordination of services de-
9 scribed in this paragraph.

10 “(B) Services provided by an eligible entity
11 or subcontractors, including services described
12 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
13 (A), that are delivered to very low-income vet-
14 eran families who are homeless and who are
15 scheduled to become residents of permanent
16 housing within 90 days of the date on which the
17 service is provided pending the location or de-
18 velopment of housing suitable for permanent
19 housing.

20 “(C) Services provided by an eligible entity
21 or subcontractors, including services described
22 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
23 (A), for very low-income veteran families who
24 have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing
25 after a period of tenancy in permanent housing,

1 that are provided, for a period of 90 days be-
2 ginning on the date on which such a family
3 exits permanent housing or until such a family
4 commences receipt of other housing services
5 adequate to meet the needs of the family, but
6 only to the extent that services under this para-
7 graph are designed to support such a family in
8 the choice to transition into housing that is re-
9 sponsive to the individual needs and preferences
10 of the family.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tion at the beginning of such chapter is amended by
13 inserting after the item relating to section 2043 the
14 following new item:

“2044. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran
families in permanent housing.”.

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