

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4161

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to carry out a pilot program to prevent at-risk veterans and veteran families from falling into homelessness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to carry out a pilot program to prevent at-risk veterans and veteran families from falling into homelessness, 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 “Veterans Homelessness
5 Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE HOUS-**
2 **ING FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMI-**
3 **LIES.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

5 (1) to expand the supply of permanent housing
6 for very low-income veteran families; and

7 (2) to provide supportive services through such
8 housing to support the needs of such veteran fami-
9 lies.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing
12 and Urban Development shall establish a pilot pro-
13 gram to provide assistance to private nonprofit orga-
14 nizations and consumer cooperatives to expand the
15 supply of supportive housing for very low-income
16 veteran families

17 (2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—The
18 Secretary shall, to the extent amounts are made
19 available for assistance under this section and the
20 Secretary receives approvable applications for such
21 assistance, provide assistance to private nonprofit
22 organizations and consumer cooperatives to carry
23 out the pilot program established under paragraph
24 (1).

25 (3) NATURE OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance
26 provided under this subsection—

(A) shall be available for use to plan for and finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or moderate or substantial rehabilitation of a structure or a portion of a structure to be used as supportive housing for very low-income veteran families in accordance with this section; and

(B) may also cover the cost of real property acquisition, site improvement, conversion, demolition, relocation, and other expenses that the Secretary determines are necessary to expand the supply of supportive housing for very low-income veteran families.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In meeting the requirement of this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(c) FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under this section shall be made available in the following forms:

(1) Assistance may be provided as a grant for costs of planning a project to be used as supportive housing for very low-income veteran families.

(2) Assistance may be provided as a capital advance under this paragraph for a project, such advance shall—

(A) bear no interest;

1 (B) not be required to be repaid so long as
2 the housing remains available for occupancy by
3 very low-income veteran families in accordance
4 with this section; and

5 (C) be in an amount calculated in accord-
6 ance with the development cost limitation estab-
7 lished pursuant to subsection (i).

8 (3) Assistance may be provided as project rent-
9 al assistance, under an annual contract that—

10 (A) obligates the Secretary to make
11 monthly payments to cover any part of the
12 costs attributed to units occupied (or, as ap-
13 proved by the Secretary, held for occupancy) by
14 very low-income veteran families that is not met
15 from project income;

16 (B) provides for the project not more than
17 the sum of the initial annual project rentals for
18 all units so occupied and any initial utility al-
19 lowances for such units, as approved by the
20 Secretary;

21 (C) any contract amounts not used by a
22 project in any year shall remain available to the
23 project until the expiration of the contract; and

24 (D) provides that the Secretary shall, to
25 the extent appropriations for such purpose are

1 made available, adjust the annual contract
2 amount if the sum of the project income and
3 the amount of assistance payments available
4 under this paragraph are inadequate to provide
5 for reasonable project costs.

6 (d) TENANT RENT CONTRIBUTION.—A very low-in-
7 come veteran family shall pay as rent for a dwelling unit
8 assisted under this section the highest of the following
9 amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar:

10 (1) 30 percent of the veteran family's adjusted
11 monthly income.

12 (2) 10 percent of the veteran family's monthly
13 income.

14 (3) If the veteran family is receiving payments
15 for welfare assistance from a public agency and a
16 part of such payments, adjusted in accordance with
17 the veteran family's actual housing costs, is specifi-
18 cally designated by such agency to meet the veteran
19 family's housing costs, the portion of such payments
20 which is so designated.

21 (e) TERM OF COMMITMENT.—

22 (1) USE LIMITATIONS.—All units in housing as-
23 sisted under this section shall be made available for
24 occupancy by very low-income veteran families for
25 not less than 15 years.

1 (2) CONTRACT TERMS.—

2 (A) INITIAL TERM.—The initial term of a
3 contract entered into under subsection (c)(2)
4 shall be 60 months.

5 (B) EXTENSION.—The Secretary shall, to
6 the extent approved in appropriation Acts, ex-
7 tend any expiring contract for a term of not
8 less than 12 months.

9 (C) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY TO MAKE
10 EARLY COMMITMENTS.—In order to facilitate
11 the orderly extension of expiring contracts, the
12 Secretary may make commitments to extend ex-
13 piring contracts during the year prior to the
14 date of expiration.

15 (f) APPLICATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available
17 under this section shall be allocated by the Secretary
18 among approvable applications submitted by private
19 nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives.

20 (2) CONTENT OF APPLICATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Applications for assist-
22 ance under this section shall be submitted by an
23 applicant in such form and in accordance with
24 such procedures as the Secretary shall estab-
25 lish.

1 (B) REQUIRED CONTENT.—Applications
2 for assistance under this section shall contain—

3 (i) a description of the proposed hous-
4 ing;

5 (ii) a description of the assistance the
6 applicant seeks under this section;

7 (iii) a description of—

8 (I) the supportive services to be
9 provided to the persons occupying
10 such housing;

11 (II) the manner in which such
12 services will be provided to such per-
13 sons, including, in the case of frail el-
14 derly persons (as such term is defined
15 in section 202 of the Housing Act of
16 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q)), evidence of
17 such residential supervision as the
18 Secretary determines is necessary to
19 facilitate the adequate provision of
20 such services; and

21 (III) the public or private sources
22 of assistance that can reasonably be
23 expected to fund or provide such serv-
24 ices;

1 (iv) a certification from the public of-
2 ficial responsible for submitting a housing
3 strategy for the jurisdiction to be served in
4 accordance with section 105 of the Cran-
5 ston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 12705) that the proposed
7 project is consistent with the approved
8 housing strategy; and

9 (v) such other information or certifi-
10 cations that the Secretary determines to be
11 necessary or appropriate to achieve the
12 purposes of this section.

13 (3) REJECTION.—The Secretary shall not reject
14 any application for assistance under this section on
15 technical grounds without giving notice of that rejec-
16 tion and the basis therefore to the applicant.

17 (g) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish selection criteria for assistance under this section,
19 which shall include criteria—

20 (1) based upon—

21 (A) the ability of the applicant to develop
22 and operate the proposed housing;

23 (B) the need for supportive housing for
24 very low-income veteran families in the area to
25 be served;

1 (C) the extent to which the proposed size
2 and unit mix of the housing will enable the ap-
3 plicant to manage and operate the housing effi-
4 ciently and ensure that the provision of sup-
5 portive services will be accomplished in an eco-
6 nomical fashion;

7 (D) the extent to which the proposed de-
8 sign of the housing will meet the physical needs
9 of very low-income veteran families;

10 (E) the extent to which the applicant has
11 demonstrated that the supportive services iden-
12 tified pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(B)(iii) will
13 be provided on a consistent, long-term basis;

14 (F) the extent to which the proposed de-
15 sign of the housing will accommodate the provi-
16 sion of supportive services that are expected to
17 be needed, either initially or over the useful life
18 of the housing, by the very low-income veterans
19 the housing is intended to serve; and

20 (G) such other factors as the Secretary de-
21 termines to be appropriate to ensure that funds
22 made available under this section are used ef-
23 fectively; and

1 (2) appropriate to consider the need for sup-
2 portive housing for very low-income veteran families
3 in nonmetropolitan areas and by Indian tribes.

4 (h) PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO VET-
5 ERAN FAMILIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordi-
7 nate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to en-
8 sure that any housing assistance provided to vet-
9 erans or veteran families includes a range of services
10 tailored to the needs of the very low-income veteran
11 families occupying such housing, which may include
12 services for—

13 (A) outreach;

14 (B) health (including counseling, mental
15 health, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress
16 disorder, and traumatic brain injury) diagnosis
17 and treatment;

18 (C) habilitation and rehabilitation;

19 (D) case management;

20 (E) daily living;

21 (F) personal financial planning;

22 (G) transportation;

23 (H) vocation;

24 (I) employment and training;

25 (J) education;

- 1 (K) assistance in obtaining veterans bene-
- 2 fits and public benefits;
- 3 (L) assistance in obtaining income support;
- 4 (M) assistance in obtaining health insur-
- 5 ance;
- 6 (N) fiduciary and representative payee;
- 7 (O) legal aid;
- 8 (P) child care;
- 9 (Q) housing counseling;
- 10 (R) service coordination; and
- 11 (S) other services necessary for maintain-
- 12 ing independent living.

13 (2) LOCAL COORDINATION OF SERVICES.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-
15 sure that owners of housing assisted under this
16 section have the managerial capacity to—

- 17 (i) assess on an ongoing basis the
- 18 service needs of residents;
- 19 (ii) coordinate the provision of sup-
- 20 portive services and tailor such services to
- 21 the individual needs of residents; and
- 22 (iii) seek on a continuous basis new
- 23 sources of assistance to ensure the long-
- 24 term provision of supportive services.

1 (B) CLASSIFICATION OF COSTS.—Any cost
2 associated with this subsection shall be an eligi-
3 ble cost under subsection (c)(3).

4 (i) DEVELOPMENT COST LIMITATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall periodi-
6 cally establish development cost limitations by mar-
7 ket area for various types and sizes of supportive
8 housing for very low-income veteran families by pub-
9 lishing a notice of the cost limitations in the Federal
10 Register.

11 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The cost limitations es-
12 tablished under paragraph (1) shall reflect—

13 (A) the cost of construction, reconstruc-
14 tion, or moderate or substantial rehabilitation
15 of supportive housing for very low-income vet-
16 eran families that meets applicable State and
17 local housing and building codes;

18 (B) the cost of movables necessary to the
19 basic operation of the housing, as determined
20 by the Secretary;

21 (C) the cost of special design features nec-
22 essary to make the housing accessible to very
23 low-income veteran families;

1 (D) the cost of congregate space necessary
2 to accommodate the provision of supportive
3 services to veteran families;

4 (E) if the housing is newly constructed, the
5 cost of meeting the energy efficiency standards
6 promulgated by the Secretary in accordance
7 with section 109 of the Cranston-Gonzalez Na-
8 tional Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
9 12709); and

10 (F) the cost of land, including necessary
11 site improvement.

12 (3) USE OF DATA.—In establishing development
13 cost limitations for a given market area under this
14 subsection, the Secretary shall use data that reflect
15 currently prevailing costs of construction, recon-
16 struction, or moderate or substantial rehabilitation,
17 and land acquisition in the area.

18 (4) CONGREGATE SPACE.—For purposes of
19 paragraph (1), a congregate space shall include
20 space for cafeterias or dining halls, community
21 rooms or buildings, workshops, child care, adult day
22 health facilities or other outpatient health facilities,
23 or other essential service facilities.

24 (5) COMMERCIAL FACILITIES.—Neither this
25 section nor any other provision of law may be con-

1 strued as prohibiting or preventing the location and
 2 operation, in a project assisted under this section, of
 3 commercial facilities for the benefit of residents of
 4 the project and the community in which the project
 5 is located, except that assistance made available
 6 under this section may not be used to subsidize any
 7 such commercial facility.

8 (6) ACQUISITION.—In the case of existing hous-
 9 ing and related facilities to be acquired, the cost lim-
 10 itations shall include—

11 (A) the cost of acquiring such housing;

12 (B) the cost of rehabilitation, alteration,
 13 conversion, or improvement, including the mod-
 14 erate or substantial rehabilitation thereof; and

15 (C) the cost of the land on which the hous-
 16 ing and related facilities are located.

17 (7) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary
 18 shall adjust the cost limitation not less than annu-
 19 ally to reflect changes in the general level of con-
 20 struction, reconstruction, and moderate and substan-
 21 tial rehabilitation costs.

22 (8) INCENTIVES FOR SAVINGS.—

23 (A) SPECIAL HOUSING ACCOUNT.—

24 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 25 use the development cost limitations estab-

lished under paragraph (1) or (6) to calculate the amount of financing to be made available to individual owners.

(ii) ACTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL COSTS LESS THAN FINANCING.—Owners which incur actual development costs that are less than the amount of financing shall be entitled to retain 50 percent of the savings in a special housing account.

(iii) BONUS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY.—The percentage established under clause (ii) shall be increased to 75 percent for owners which add energy efficiency features which—

(I) exceed the energy efficiency standards promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with section 109 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12709);

(II) substantially reduce the life-cycle cost of the housing; and

(III) reduce gross rent requirements.

1 (B) USES.—The special housing account
2 established under subparagraph (A) may be
3 used—

4 (i) to provide services to residents of
5 the housing or funds set aside for replace-
6 ment reserves; or

7 (ii) for such other purposes as deter-
8 mined by the Secretary.

9 (9) DESIGN FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary shall,
10 to the extent practicable, give owners the flexibility
11 to design housing appropriate to their location and
12 proposed resident population within broadly defined
13 parameters.

14 (10) USE OF FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.—
15 An owner shall be permitted voluntarily to provide
16 funds from sources other than this section for amen-
17 ities and other features of appropriate design and
18 construction suitable for supportive housing under
19 this section if the cost of such amenities is—

20 (A) not financed with the advance; and

21 (B) is not taken into account in deter-
22 mining the amount of Federal assistance or of
23 the rent contribution of tenants.

24 (j) TENANT SELECTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An owner shall adopt writ-
2 ten tenant selection procedures that are—

3 (A) satisfactory to the Secretary and which
4 are—

5 (i) consistent with the purpose of im-
6 proving housing opportunities for very low-
7 income veteran families; and

8 (ii) reasonably related to program eli-
9 gibility and an applicant's ability to per-
10 form the obligations of the lease; and

11 (B) compliant with subtitle C of title VI of
12 the Housing and Community Development Act
13 of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13601 et seq.) and any reg-
14 ulations issued under such subtitle.

15 (2) NOTIFICATION OF REJECTION.—Owners
16 shall promptly notify in writing any rejected appli-
17 cant of the grounds for any rejection.

18 (3) INFORMATION REGARDING HOUSING.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 provide, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
21 and the Secretary of Labor, information regard-
22 ing the availability of the housing assisted
23 under this section.

24 (B) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH AD-
25 DITIONAL AGENCIES.—Within 30 days of re-

1 ceipt of the information, the Secretary of Vet-
2 erans Affairs and Secretary of Labor shall pro-
3 vide such information to agencies in the area of
4 the housing that receive assistance from the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs and the De-
6 partment of Labor for providing medical care,
7 housing, supportive services or employment and
8 training services to homeless veterans.

9 (k) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

10 (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
11 shall make available appropriate technical assistance
12 to ensure that prospective applicants are able to par-
13 ticipate more fully in the program carried out under
14 this section.

15 (2) CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE.—Each owner
16 shall certify, to the satisfaction of the Secretary,
17 that assistance made available under this section will
18 be conducted and administered in conformity with
19 title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
20 2000a et seq.), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
21 3601 et seq.), and other Federal, State, and local
22 laws prohibiting discrimination and promoting equal
23 opportunity.

24 (3) OWNER DEPOSIT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall re-
2 quire an owner of housing, assisted under this
3 section, to deposit an amount not to exceed
4 \$15,000 in a special escrow account to ensure
5 the owner's commitment to the housing.

6 (B) REDUCTION OF REQUIREMENT.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
8 reduce or waive the owner deposit specified
9 under subparagraph (A) for individual ap-
10 plicants if the Secretary finds that such
11 waiver or reduction is necessary to achieve
12 the purposes of this section and the appli-
13 cant demonstrates to the satisfaction of
14 the Secretary that it has the capacity to
15 manage and maintain the housing in ac-
16 cordance with this section.

17 (ii) NONPROFITS.—The Secretary
18 may reduce or waive the requirement of
19 the owner deposit under subparagraph (A)
20 in the case of a nonprofit applicant that is
21 not affiliated with a national sponsor, as
22 determined by the Secretary.

23 (4) NOTICE OF APPEAL.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall no-
25 tify an owner not less than 30 days prior to

canceling any reservation of assistance provided under this section.

(B) APPEAL.—

(i) FILING DEADLINE.—During the 30-day period following the receipt of any notice required under subparagraph (A), an owner may appeal the proposed cancellation.

(ii) TIMING OF DECISION.—Any appeal undertaken under clause (i), including review by the Secretary, shall be completed not later than 45 days after the appeal is filed.

(5) LABOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the construction of housing with 12 or more units assisted under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than the rates prevailing in the locality involved for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter

1 IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States
2 Code.

3 (B) EXEMPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall
4 not apply to any individual who—

5 (i) performs services for which the in-
6 dividual volunteered;

7 (ii) does not receive compensation for
8 such services or is paid expenses, reason-
9 able benefits, or a nominal fee for such
10 services; and

11 (iii) is not otherwise employed at any
12 time in the construction work.

13 (6) ACCESS TO RESIDUAL RECEIPTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall au-
15 thorize the owner of a housing project assisted
16 under this section to use any residual receipts
17 held for the project in excess of \$500 per unit
18 (or in excess of such other amount prescribed
19 by the Secretary based on the needs of the
20 project) for activities to retrofit and renovate
21 the project as described under section 802(d)(3)
22 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable
23 Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8011(d)(3)) or to pro-
24 vide supportive services to residents of the
25 project.

1 (B) REPORT.—Any owner that uses resid-
2 ual receipts under this paragraph shall submit
3 to the Secretary a report, not less than annu-
4 ally, describing the uses of the residual receipts.

5 (C) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—In de-
6 termining the amount of project rental assist-
7 ance to be provided to a project under sub-
8 section (c)(3) of this section, the Secretary may
9 take into consideration the residual receipts
10 held for the project only if, and to the extent
11 that, excess residual receipts are not used under
12 this paragraph.

13 (7) OCCUPANCY STANDARDS AND OBLIGA-
14 TIONS.—Each owner shall operate housing assisted
15 under this section in compliance with subtitle C of
16 title VI of the Housing and Community Develop-
17 ment Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13601 et seq.) and
18 any regulations issued under such subtitle.

19 (8) USE OF PROJECT RESERVES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts for project re-
21 serves for a project assisted under this section
22 may be used for costs, subject to reasonable
23 limitations as the Secretary determines appro-
24 priate, for reducing the number of dwelling

1 units in the project that are currently obsolete
2 or unmarketable.

3 (B) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY RE-
4 QUIRED.—Any use described in subparagraph
5 (A) of amounts for project reserves for a
6 project assisted under this section shall be sub-
7 ject to the approval of the Secretary to ensure
8 that such use is designed to retrofit units that
9 are currently obsolete or unmarketable.

10 (I) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
11 nitions shall apply:

12 (1) CONSUMER COOPERATIVE.—The term “con-
13 sumer cooperative” has the same meaning given
14 such term for purposes of the supportive housing for
15 the elderly program under section 202 of the Hous-
16 ing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

17 (2) VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILY.—The
18 term “very low-income veteran family” means a vet-
19 eran family whose income does not exceed 50 per-
20 cent of the median income for the area, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller
22 and larger families, except that the Secretary may
23 establish an income ceiling higher or lower than 50
24 percent of the median for the area on the basis of
25 the Secretary’s findings that such variations are nec-

1 essary because of prevailing levels of construction
2 costs or fair market rents (as determined under sec-
3 tion 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
4 U.S.C. 1437f)), or unusually high or low family in-
5 comes.

6 (3) OWNER.—The term “owner” means a pri-
7 vate nonprofit organization or consumer cooperative
8 that receives assistance under this section to develop
9 and operate supportive housing for very low-income
10 veteran families.

11 (4) PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The
12 term “private nonprofit organization” means—

13 (A) any incorporated private institution or
14 foundation—

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

18 (ii) which has a governing board that
19 is responsible for the operation of the
20 housing assisted under this section; 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 under 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 under clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of sub-
6 paragraph (A); and

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

11 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,
13 except where specifically provided otherwise.

14 (6) STATE.—The term “State” includes the
15 several States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
16 monwealth of Puerto Rico, and the possessions of
17 the United States.

18 (7) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR VERY LOW-IN-
19 COME VETERAN FAMILIES.—The term “supportive
20 housing for very low-income veteran families” means
21 housing that is designed to accommodate the provi-
22 sion of supportive services that are expected to be
23 needed, either initially or over the useful life of the
24 housing, by the veteran families that the housing is
25 intended to serve.

1 (8) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
3 United States Code.

4 (9) VETERAN FAMILY.—The term “veteran
5 family” includes a veteran who is a single person, a
6 family (including families with children) whose head
7 of household (or whose spouse) is a veteran, and one
8 or more veterans living together with 1 or more per-
9 sons.

10 (m) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of any amounts made
11 available for assistance under this section:

12 (1) PLANNING GRANTS.—Not more than 2.5
13 percent shall be available for planning grants in ac-
14 cordance with subsection (c)(1).

15 (2) CAPITAL ADVANCES.—Such sums as may be
16 necessary shall be available for capital advances in
17 accordance with subsection (c)(2).

18 (3) PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—Such sums
19 as may be necessary shall be available for project
20 rental assistance in accordance with subsection
21 (c)(3).

22 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not more than 1
23 percent shall be available for technical assistance in
24 accordance with subsection (k)(1).

1 (n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR
2 HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
4 appropriated to the Department of Housing and
5 Urban Development for assistance under this section
6 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as
7 may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.

8 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be
9 appropriated by paragraph (1) shall remain available
10 until expended.

11 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the expiration of the 2-year
13 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the
15 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall con-
16 duct an assessment of the pilot program carried out under
17 section 2 to determine the effectiveness and limitations of,
18 and potential improvements for, such program.

19 (b) SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TO CONGRESS.—
20 Not later than 180 days after the expiration of the 2-year
21 period described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Vet-
22 erans Affairs shall submit a report to the Congress regard-
23 ing the results of the assessment required under sub-
24 section (a).

1 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR HOUSING AS-**
2 **SISTANCE FOR VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and
4 Urban Development shall, to the extent amounts are made
5 available in appropriation Acts for grants under this sec-
6 tion, make grants to eligible entities under subsection (b)
7 to provide to nonprofit organizations technical assistance
8 appropriate to assist such organizations in—

9 (1) sponsoring housing projects for veterans as-
10 sisted under programs, including any pilot programs,
11 administered by the Department of Housing and
12 Urban Development;

13 (2) fulfilling the planning and application proc-
14 esses and requirements necessary under such pro-
15 grams administered by the Department; and

16 (3) assisting veterans in obtaining housing or
17 homeless assistance under programs administered by
18 the Department.

19 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity under
20 this subsection is a nonprofit entity or organization having
21 such expertise as the Secretary shall require in providing
22 technical assistance to providers of services for veterans.

23 (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Sec-
24 retary of Housing and Urban Development shall establish
25 criteria for selecting applicants for grants under this sec-

1 tion to receive such grants and shall select applicants
2 based upon such criteria.

3 (d) FUNDING.—Of any amounts made available in
4 fiscal year 2008 or any fiscal year thereafter to the De-
5 partment of Housing and Urban Development for salaries
6 and expenses, \$750,000 shall be available, and shall re-
7 main available until expended, for grants under this sec-
8 tion.

9 **SEC. 5. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR HOMELESS VET-**
10 **ERANS.**

11 Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act
12 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(19) RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR HOMELESS VET-
15 ERANS.—

16 “(A) ADDITIONAL VOUCHERS.—In addition
17 to any amount made available for rental assist-
18 ance under this subsection, the Secretary shall
19 make available the amount specified in subpara-
20 graph (B), for use only for providing rental as-
21 sistance for homeless veterans in conjunction
22 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

23 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in
24 this subparagraph is, for fiscal year 2008, the
25 amount necessary to provide not fewer than

1 5,000 vouchers for rental assistance under this
2 subsection.

3 “(C) FUNDING.—The budget authority
4 made available under any other provisions of
5 law for rental assistance under this subsection
6 for fiscal year 2008 is authorized to be in-
7 creased in each such fiscal year by such sums
8 as may be necessary to provide the number of
9 vouchers specified in subparagraph (B) for such
10 fiscal year.”.

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