

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5735

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Transitional Housing
3 for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Pro-
4 gram Act” or the “THRIVE Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO STUDY THE IMPACT**
6 **OF USING RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR SUP-**
7 **PORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS RECOV-**
8 **ERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDERS OR**
9 **OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.**

10 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
11 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the
12 end the following new paragraph:

13 “(21) RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION PRO-
14 GRAM FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS
15 RECOVERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDERS OR
16 OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
18 shall establish a demonstration program under
19 which the Secretary shall set aside, allocate,
20 and distribute directly to eligible entities, from
21 amounts made available for rental assistance
22 under this subsection, the amounts specified in
23 subparagraph (B) for an eligible entity to pro-
24 vide a voucher for such assistance to a covered
25 individual through a supportive housing pro-
26 gram that provides treatment for opioid use dis-

orders or other substance use disorders (as applicable), coordination with workforce development providers, and such assistance, as determined by the entity.

“(B) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in this subparagraph is, for fiscal year 2019, the amount necessary to provide the lesser of—

“(i) 0.5 percent of the total number of vouchers renewed under this subsection during the fiscal year ending immediately before the date of the enactment of this paragraph; or

“(ii) 10,000 vouchers.

“(C) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
An eligible entity shall—

“(i) provide an evidence-based treatment program and demonstrate the ability to coordinate with workforce development providers for individuals recovering from an opioid use disorder or other substance use disorder, as applicable, that meet standards established by the Secretary; and

“(ii) demonstrate prior experience administering rental assistance vouchers,

1 demonstrate prior experience administering
2 supportive housing programs under the
3 McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, or dem-
4 onstrate a partnership with a public hous-
5 ing agency or a housing program of a
6 State, unit of local government, or Indian
7 tribe (as such term is defined in section 4
8 of the Native American Housing and Self-
9 Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.
10 4103)) that ensures effective administra-
11 tion of rental assistance vouchers.

12 “(D) APPLICATION.—To receive a rental
13 assistance voucher under this paragraph, an eli-
14 gible entity shall submit an application to the
15 Secretary that shall include—

16 “(i) a description of the terms of
17 treatment program, coordination with
18 workforce development providers, and rent-
19 al assistance to be provided to a covered
20 individual, and assurances that such de-
21 scription shall be communicated to covered
22 individuals that receive vouchers pursuant
23 to the demonstration program established
24 under this paragraph;

1 “(ii) a transitional plan that begins on
2 the date on which a covered individual
3 completes the treatment program of the el-
4 igible entity that includes information on
5 additional treatment, coordination with
6 workforce development opportunities, and
7 housing resources and services available to
8 such covered individual; and

9 “(iii) evidence sufficient to dem-
10 onstrate that the local government having
11 jurisdiction over the location of any sup-
12 portive housing facility to be used by the
13 eligible entity in connection with the dem-
14 onstration program under this paragraph
15 permits such facilities in such location.

16 “(E) SELECTION.—In selecting eligible en-
17 tities to receive rental assistance vouchers
18 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

19 “(i) ensure that such eligible enti-
20 ties—

21 “(I) are diverse;

22 “(II) represent an appropriate
23 balance of eligible entities located in
24 urban and rural areas, including trib-
25 al communities;

1 “(III) have adequate resources
2 for treatment, recovery, and sup-
3 portive services;

4 “(IV) fully comply with the Fair
5 Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.)
6 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
7 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.);

8 “(V) appropriately reflect the im-
9 pact that opioids are having in tribal
10 communities; and

11 “(VI) provide supportive and
12 transitional housing programs in di-
13 verse geographic regions with high
14 rates of mortality due to opioid use
15 disorders or other substance use dis-
16 orders, as applicable, based on data of
17 the Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention; and

19 “(ii) consider, in consultation with the
20 Secretary of Health and Human Services
21 and the Secretary of Labor—

22 “(I) the success of each recipient
23 eligible entity at helping individuals
24 complete the treatment program of
25 the eligible entity and refrain from il-

1 licit opioid or other substance usage,
2 as applicable;

3 “(II) the coordination with work-
4 force development providers by the eli-
5 gible entity;

6 “(III) the percentage of partici-
7 pants in unsubsidized employment
8 during the second and fourth calendar
9 quarter after exit from the program;
10 and

11 “(IV) the percentage of partici-
12 pants in the treatment program of the
13 eligible entity that do not relapse into
14 opioid or other substance usage, as
15 applicable.

16 “(F) REISSUANCE OF VOUCHER.—Upon
17 termination of the provision of rental assistance
18 through a voucher to a covered individual, the
19 eligible entity that initially offered such voucher
20 may use such voucher to provide rental assist-
21 ance to another covered individual.

22 “(G) DURATION.—The Secretary shall not
23 make rental assistance available under this
24 paragraph after the expiration of the 5-year pe-

riod beginning on the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

“(H) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may, through publication of a notice in the Federal Register, waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of statute or regulation governing the use of vouchers under this subsection (except for requirements relating to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, or the environment) upon a finding by the Secretary that such waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for the purposes of this paragraph.

“(I) REPORTS.—

“(i) BY THE ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity that receives a rental assistance voucher under this paragraph shall submit to the Secretary—

“(I) annually, the transitional plan described in subparagraph (D)(ii) and information on each covered individual’s housing upon termination of the provision of rental assistance through a voucher to such covered individual in a manner that

1 protects the privacy of such covered
2 individual; and

3 “(II) not later than 4 years after
4 the date of the enactment of this
5 paragraph, a plan describing the
6 treatment and housing options for any
7 covered individual assisted by such
8 voucher who will not have completed
9 the program before the day that is 5
10 years after such date of enactment.

11 “(ii) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
12 retary shall submit to Congress a report
13 that analyzes the impact of rental assist-
14 ance provided under this paragraph—

15 “(I) not later than 2 years after
16 the date of the enactment of this
17 paragraph; and

18 “(II) not later than 4 years after
19 the date of the enactment of this
20 paragraph.

21 “(J) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

22 “(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘el-
23 igible entity’ means a tribally designated
24 housing entity (as such term is defined in
25 section 4 of the Native American Housing

1 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (24
2 U.S.C. 4103)), or a nonprofit organization,
3 that meets the criteria described under
4 subparagraph (C).

5 “(ii) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The
6 term ‘covered individual’ means an indi-
7 vidual recovering from an opioid use dis-
8 order or other substance use disorder.”.

9 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 Effective the day that is 5 years after the date of
12 the enactment of this Act, paragraph (21) of section 8(o)
13 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
14 1437f(o)), as added by this Act, is repealed.

15 **SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION CLOSE-OUT.**

16 An eligible entity that provided vouchers for rental
17 assistance under paragraph (21) of section 8(o) of the
18 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)),
19 as added by this Act, shall return any such vouchers to
20 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development not
21 later than the day that is 5 years after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act for use only for renewals of expiring
23 contracts for such assistance.

1 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

2 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the
4 amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall
5 be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be
6 appropriated.

Passed the House of Representatives June 14, 2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.