

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1949

To authorize demonstration projects to improve educational and housing outcomes for children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize demonstration projects to improve educational and housing outcomes for children.

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 “Affordable Housing
5 for Educational Achievement Demonstration Act” or the
6 “AHEAD Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

9 (1) To provide incentives for public housing
10 agencies or tribally designated housing entities, local

1 educational agencies, and community-based or social
 2 service organizations to work together to improve
 3 educational and life outcomes for students from low-
 4 income families, including students experiencing
 5 homelessness and students at risk of experiencing
 6 homelessness.

7 (2) To reduce and prevent child, youth, and
 8 family homelessness and increase housing and school
 9 stability.

10 (3) To reduce socioeconomic and racial dispari-
 11 ties in academic, health, and quality of life outcomes
 12 by promoting socioeconomic and racial diversity in
 13 neighborhoods, local educational agencies, and
 14 schools.

15 (4) To support and evaluate innovative ideas in
 16 the areas of housing stability, socioeconomic and ra-
 17 tional diversity, and educational success in order to de-
 18 velop evidence-based practices.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-**
 22 **GRAM.**—The term “early childhood education pro-
 23 gram” has the meaning given the term in section
 24 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 25 U.S.C. 1003).

1 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means a partnership that—

3 (A) shall include—

4 (i) a public housing agency or tribally
5 designated housing entity (which may be
6 designated as the lead agency);

7 (ii) a local educational agency (which
8 may be designated as the lead agency); and

9 (iii) a community-based or social serv-
10 ice organization; and

11 (B) may include—

12 (i) a housing developer;

13 (ii) an early childhood education pro-
14 gram;

15 (iii) a community development finan-
16 cial institution;

17 (iv) a program that provides shelter to
18 unaccompanied youth who are homeless,
19 which may include a program established
20 or supported under the Runaway and
21 Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et
22 seq.);

23 (v) a local transportation authority;

- 1 (vi) an institution of higher education,
- 2 as described in section 101 of the Higher
- 3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);
- 4 (vii) a child welfare agency;
- 5 (viii) a domestic violence organization;
- 6 (ix) an owner of a property with a
- 7 project-based rental assistance contract
- 8 under section 8 of the United States Hous-
- 9 ing Act of 1937 (2 U.S.C. 1437f); and
- 10 (x) other community partners.

11 (3) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The
 12 term “homeless children and youths” has the mean-
 13 ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-
 14 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

15 (4) LOCAL COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT.—The
 16 term “local collaborative applicant” means an entity
 17 described in section 401(3) of the McKinney-Vento
 18 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(3)) that
 19 serves the geographic area covered by an eligible en-
 20 tity.

21 (5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 22 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
 23 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 24 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (6) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term
 2 “public housing agency” has the meaning given the
 3 term in section 3 of the United States Housing Act
 4 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a).

5 (7) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
 6 means the Secretary of Education and the Secretary
 7 of Housing and Urban Development.

8 (8) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTI-
 9 TY.—The term “tribally designated housing entity”
 10 has the meaning given the term in section 4(22) of
 11 the Native American Housing Assistance and Self
 12 Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(22)).

13 (9) UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.—The term “un-
 14 accompanied youth” has the meaning given the term
 15 in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
 16 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

17 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds authorized under
 19 section 9(a) and not reserved under section 9(b), the Sec-
 20 retaries, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
 21 Human Services, shall jointly award on a competitive
 22 basis—

23 (1) a planning grant to not more than 30 eligi-
 24 ble entities to enable such eligible entities to prepare

1 to conduct a demonstration project as described in
 2 section 7(a); and

3 (2) an implementation grant to not more than
 4 18 eligible entities (which may include eligible enti-
 5 ties that received a planning grant under paragraph
 6 (1)) to enable such eligible entities to conduct a
 7 demonstration project as described in section 7(b).

8 (b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—

9 (1) PLANNING GRANTS.—A planning grant
 10 awarded under this section shall be for a term of not
 11 more than 2 years.

12 (2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An implemen-
 13 tation grant awarded under this section shall be for
 14 a term of not more than 5 years.

15 (c) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If the amount made
 16 available under section 9(a) for a fiscal year is less than
 17 the amount authorized under such provision for such fiscal
 18 year, the Secretary shall ratably reduce the number of
 19 grants awarded under subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

21 (a) PLANNING GRANT.—An eligible entity that de-
 22 sires a planning grant shall submit an application at such
 23 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
 24 the Secretaries may reasonably require. Such application
 25 shall include—

1 (1) a comprehensive needs assessment, includ-
2 ing information about the number and percentage of
3 homeless children and youths enrolled in schools
4 served by, and the socioeconomic and racial demo-
5 graphics of, the local educational agency that is a
6 partner in the eligible entity;

7 (2) a description of how the eligible entity
8 will—

9 (A) conduct sufficient stakeholder outreach
10 within the community, including through public
11 hearings, in order to inform the development of
12 the memorandum of understanding described in
13 subparagraph (B) and the activities carried out
14 through the demonstration project described in
15 subsection (b)(3)(B);

16 (B) develop the memorandum of under-
17 standing described in section 7(a)(1);

18 (3) a description of the goals of the demonstra-
19 tion project, which shall include—

20 (A) improving academic achievement and
21 life outcomes for children from low-income fam-
22 ilies; and

23 (B) either increasing socioeconomic or ra-
24 cial diversity in one or more local educational
25 agencies, or creating housing and educational

1 stability for homeless children and youths, or
 2 both such goals;

3 (4) a description of the target population to be
 4 served using grant funds, which may include home-
 5 less children and youths, unaccompanied youths, or
 6 children or youths living in subsidized housing;

7 (5) an assurance that each local educational
 8 agency that is a partner in the eligible entity will
 9 meet the applicable requirements of paragraphs (3)
 10 and (6) of section 722(g) of the McKinney-Vento
 11 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(3)
 12 and (6)); and

13 (6) a description, including a timeline and a
 14 budget, of how the eligible entity plans to spend
 15 planning grant funds consistent with section 7(a).

16 (b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT.—An eligible entity
 17 that desires an implementation grant to conduct a dem-
 18 onstration project shall submit an application at such
 19 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
 20 the Secretaries may reasonably require. Such application
 21 shall include—

22 (1) a description of how the eligible entity used
 23 funds under section 7(a), if such entity received a
 24 planning grant under subsection (a);

1 (2) a memorandum of understanding between
2 all partners of the eligible entity, which includes the
3 information described in section 7(a)(1);

4 (3) a description of—

5 (A) the goals described in subsection
6 (a)(3), updated as necessary to reflect the re-
7 sults of the planning period, if applicable;

8 (B) the activities the eligible entity plans
9 to conduct, in accordance with section 7(b);

10 (C) how the eligible entity conducted stake-
11 holder outreach that informed the demonstra-
12 tion project; and

13 (D) the outcomes that the eligible entity
14 plans to achieve, including how the eligible enti-
15 ty will collect data in accordance with section 8;

16 (4) a description, including a timeline and a
17 budget, of how the eligible entity plans to spend
18 grant funds consistent with section 7(b);

19 (5) an assurance that the eligible entity will
20 provide State, local, or private matching funds in an
21 amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the
22 amount of funds awarded under the grant, which
23 may be provided in cash or in kind, to support the
24 demonstration project;

1 (6) a description of how the eligible entity will
2 coordinate services with those provided by—

3 (A) the State, the State Coordinator for
4 the Education of Homeless Children and
5 Youths, local educational agencies, and the local
6 educational agencies' homeless liaisons;

7 (B) the public and private child health and
8 welfare systems and Federal housing, early
9 childhood, education, juvenile justice, and child
10 health and welfare programs, such as—

11 (i) the Runaway and Homeless Youth
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

13 (ii) programs authorized under the
14 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.),
15 the Child Care and Development Block
16 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et
17 seq.), and the Elementary and Secondary
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
19 seq.); and

20 (C) the local collaborative applicant; and

21 (7) an assurance that the eligible entity will
22 participate in the evaluation described in section
23 8(a).

1 **SEC. 6. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In selecting among applications to
3 receive grants under this Act, the Secretaries shall take
4 into account—

5 (1) the potential of each eligible entity to plan
6 and carry out a demonstration project that meets
7 the goals described in section 5(a)(3);

8 (2) the relative performance of the public hous-
9 ing agency that is a partner in the eligible entity, as
10 measured by the Department of Housing and Urban
11 Development Public Housing Assessment System;

12 (3) the capacity of the eligible entity to share
13 relevant data between partner agencies, as described
14 in the memorandum of understanding under section
15 7(a)(1);

16 (4) the evidence-based practices the eligible en-
17 tity plans to adopt to promote housing and edu-
18 cational stability, if applicable;

19 (5) the degree to which the eligible entity has
20 conducted sufficient outreach within the community
21 to be served by the implementation grant; and

22 (6) whether the local educational agency that is
23 a partner in the eligible entity is a local educational
24 agency with an urban-centric district locale code of
25 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43.

1 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION
 2 GRANTS.—In awarding implementation grants, the Secre-
 3 taries shall provide an equal number of grants to eligible
 4 entities desiring to increase socioeconomic or racial diver-
 5 sity in one or more local education agencies as eligible en-
 6 tities desiring to create housing and educational stability
 7 for homeless children and youths.

8 **SEC. 7. USES OF FUNDS.**

9 (a) PLANNING GRANTS.—An eligible entity that re-
 10 ceives a planning grant under section 4(a)(1) shall use the
 11 grant funds—

12 (1) to develop a memorandum of understanding
 13 (which may be an existing or amended memorandum
 14 of understanding) between all partners of the eligible
 15 entity describing the demonstration project that the
 16 eligible entity plans to conduct, including—

17 (A) the roles and responsibilities of each
 18 partner agency;

19 (B) the intended outcomes of the dem-
 20 onstration project;

21 (C) how each partner agency will share rel-
 22 evant data, if applicable, consistent with the re-
 23 quirements of section 444 of the General Edu-
 24 cation Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (com-

1 monly referred to as the “Family Educational
2 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”); and

3 (D) a timeline for the demonstration
4 project;

5 (2) to conduct planning, collaboration activities,
6 stakeholder and community outreach, public hear-
7 ings, and listening sessions, including engagement
8 with the community, parents, teachers, and students;
9 (3) to increase the capacity of the eligible entity
10 to share relevant data; and

11 (4) to investigate innovative approaches to
12 meeting the goals under section 5(a)(3).

13 (b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An eligible entity
14 that receives an implementation grant under section
15 4(a)(2) shall use the grant funds to implement a dem-
16 onstration project that meets the goals identified in sec-
17 tion 5(a)(3), which shall include for one or more of the
18 following activities:

19 (1) To provide housing assistance that facili-
20 tates homeownership or affordable rental, including
21 downpayment assistance, limited-English proficiency
22 support, or rental vouchers or subsidies.

23 (2) To assist families in addressing housing
24 needs, such as through housing counselors or client
25 advocates.

1 (3) To increase educational support for children
2 living in public or subsidized housing, emergency
3 shelters, transitional housing, motels, or other living
4 arrangements described in section 725(2)(B) of the
5 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
6 U.S.C. 11434a(2)(B)).

7 (4) To conduct outreach and collaborate with
8 local entities that provide educational and housing
9 supports for unaccompanied youths who are home-
10 less, including entities funded by the Runaway and
11 Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

12 (5) To improve access to high-quality early
13 childhood education programs for homeless children
14 or children living in subsidized housing.

15 (6) To provide community-based services for
16 low-income children and their families, which may
17 include case management, health, mental health, em-
18 ployment, or other social services provided through
19 a local Continuum of Care program described under
20 subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Home-
21 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.), as ap-
22 plicable.

23 (7) To increase higher education, job training,
24 workforce, adult education, parenting, family en-
25 gagement, and employment supports for families liv-

1 ing in subsidized housing, emergency shelters, or
2 transitional housing.

3 (8) To provide professional development activi-
4 ties for staff and administrators, including training
5 on best practices to promote and support socioeco-
6 nomically and racially diverse classrooms.

7 (9) To promote housing stability for youth who
8 leave foster care after the age of 18 or who have left
9 foster care after the age of 16 to adoption or guard-
10 ianship, which may include intensive case manage-
11 ment or coordination with the family unification pro-
12 gram described in section 8(x) of the United States
13 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)).

14 (10) To support programs that focus on build-
15 ing self-sufficiency skills, permanent connections,
16 and social and emotional well-being for youth at risk
17 of homelessness.

18 (11) To implement strategies to increase socio-
19 economic or racial diversity in early childhood edu-
20 cation programs or public elementary schools or sec-
21 ondary schools.

22 **SEC. 8. EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.**

23 (a) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretaries shall conduct a
24 rigorous evaluation of each implementation grant awarded
25 under section 4 and report the findings of each such eval-

uation to Congress. Such an evaluation shall examine the results of the demonstration project on the following outcomes for children:

- (1) Academic achievement or school readiness.
- (2) Housing and educational stability.
- (3) Socioeconomic or racial diversity.
- (4) Other measures of child well-being and neighborhood opportunity, as determined by the Secretaries.

(b) **REPORTS.**—Each eligible entity receiving an implementation grant under section 4 shall submit to the Secretaries a report detailing the effects of the demonstration project on the outcomes described in subsection (a). Such reports shall be submitted—

- (1) at the end of the third year of the 5-year grant period; and
- (2) at the end of such grant period.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2024 in order to carry out this Act.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVALUATION.**—From the amount appropriated to carry out this Act for any fiscal year, the Secretaries may reserve not more than

- 1 5 percent of funds to provide technical assistance, conduct
- 2 an evaluation of a demonstration project under section
- 3 8(a), and disseminate best practices.

