

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 923

To fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2019

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families.

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 “Fighting Homelessness
5 Through Services and Housing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Health
3 Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this
4 section as the “Administrator”), in consultation with the
5 working group established under subsection (b), shall es-
6 tablish a grant program to award competitive grants to
7 eligible entities for the planning and implementation of
8 programs to address homelessness.

9 (b) WORKING GROUP.—The Administrator shall es-
10 tablish an interagency working group to provide advice to
11 the Administrator in carrying out the program under sub-
12 section (a). The working group shall include representa-
13 tives from the United States Interagency Council on
14 Homelessness, Department of Education, Department of
15 Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and
16 Urban Development, Department of Labor, Department
17 of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, De-
18 partment of Agriculture, Department of the Treasury, De-
19 partment of Justice, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

20 (c) TYPES OF GRANTS.—

21 (1) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the program
23 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall
24 award 5-year implementation grants to eligible
25 entities to assist such entities in carrying out
26 activities, and paying capital building costs, as-

sociated with the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families, including homeless children and youths (as defined by section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)), or those at risk of becoming homeless.

(B) AMOUNT.—The amount awarded to an entity under a grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$25,000,000.

(C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the costs of the activities to be carried out by an entity under a grant under this paragraph, the entity shall make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward such costs in an amount that equals 25 percent of the amount of the grant.

(2) PLANNING GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the program under subsection (a), the Administrator shall award 1-year planning grants to eligible entities to assist such entities in developing comprehensive plans to address homelessness in the communities and regions served by such entities or to enhance the effectiveness of existing pro-

grams that serve homeless individuals and families, including homeless children and youths (as defined by section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)), or those at risk of becoming homeless.

(B) AMOUNT.—The amount awarded to an entity under a grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$100,000, and such amount shall not be subject to any matching requirement.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the program under subsection (a), an entity shall—

(A) be a governmental entity (at the county, city, regional, or locality level), Indian tribe, or tribal organization;

(B) demonstrate that the capacity of the entity for providing services under the grant includes the ability to address mental health, substance use disorder and recovery services, disabling or other chronic health conditions, educational and job training or employment outcomes, and life skills needs (including financial literacy); and

1 (C) submit to the Administrator an appli-
2 cation that includes an assurance that, in car-
3 rying out activities under the grant, the entity
4 will—

5 (i) ensure stable housing, intensive
6 case management, and comprehensive serv-
7 ices that include, at minimum, mental
8 health, substance use disorder treatment
9 and recovery services, education and job
10 training, age-appropriate services for chil-
11 dren, and life skills training (such as fi-
12 nancial literacy training);

13 (ii) coordinate with the population to
14 be served by the entity to ensure that sup-
15 portive services are tailored to meet the
16 specific and actual needs of the individuals
17 and families served;

18 (iii) coordinate with local law enforce-
19 ment, courts (including specialized courts),
20 probation, and other public services agen-
21 cies to conduct outreach and better iden-
22 tify at-risk or homeless populations that
23 would benefit from services offered by the
24 entity;

1 (iv) follow trauma-informed best prac-
 2 tices to address the needs of the popu-
 3 lations to be served;

4 (v) provide services under the grant
 5 on-site or in-home as appropriate;

6 (vi) provide assistance in addressing
 7 the transportation needs of individuals for
 8 services provided under the grant off-site;
 9 and

10 (vii) comply with additional require-
 11 ments, if the entity intends to serve fami-
 12 lies with children under the grant, to en-
 13 sure—

14 (I) that services include chil-
 15 dren’s behavioral and mental health
 16 services, early childhood education,
 17 regular and age-appropriate children’s
 18 programming and activities, child
 19 health, development, and nutrition
 20 screening (including coordination of
 21 medical and well-child services), and
 22 parenting classes and support pro-
 23 grams;

24 (II) in conditions where family
 25 housing is provided in a central facil-

ity and not in mixed units in a commercial building, that a safe space for play and age-appropriate activities is available on-site and has regular hours of operation; and

(III) that the entity has in place protocol for staff training and best practices to identify and prevent child trafficking, abuse, and neglect.

(2) CASE MANAGEMENT.—An entity receiving a grant under this section shall ensure that case management provided by the entity under the grant does not exceed a ratio of 1 caseworker to 20 cases.

(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—An entity may enter into a partnership with more than one provider that may include a local health agency, non-profit service providers, medical and mental health providers, housing providers, and other service providers as necessary.

(e) OVERSIGHT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a grant is received by an entity under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the term of the grant, such entity shall submit to the Administrator a report on the activities carried out under the grant. Such report shall include,

1 with respect to activities carried out under the grant
2 in the community served, measures of outcomes re-
3 lating to—

4 (A) whether individuals and families who
5 are served continued to have housing and did
6 not experience intermittent periods of homeless-
7 ness;

8 (B) whether individuals and families who
9 are served see improvements in their physical
10 and mental health, have access to a specific pri-
11 mary care provider, promptly receive any need-
12 ed health care, and have a health care plan that
13 meets their individual needs (including access to
14 mental health and substance use treatment as
15 applicable, and family-based treatment models);

16 (C) whether children who are served are
17 enrolled in school, attend regularly, and are re-
18 ceiving services to meet their educational needs;

19 (D) whether children who are served have
20 access to trauma-informed mental health care
21 and screening for any mental and behavioral
22 health needs, as well as other services to meet
23 their needs, as appropriate;

24 (E) how grant funds are used; and

1 (F) other matters determined appropriate
2 by the Administrator.

3 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
4 subsection shall be construed to condition the receipt
5 of future housing and other services by individuals
6 under the grant on the outcomes detailed in the re-
7 ports submitted under paragraph (1).

8 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the terms “Indian
9 tribe” and “tribal organization” have the meanings given
10 such terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
11 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) and shall
12 include tribally designated housing entities (as defined in
13 section 4(22) of the Native American Housing Assistance
14 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.
15 4103(22))) and entities that serve Native Hawaiians (as
16 defined in section 338K(c) of the Public Health Service
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 254s(c))).

18 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
20 \$750,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025,
21 of which—

22 (1) not less than 5 percent of such funds shall
23 be awarded to Indian tribes and tribal organizations;

24 (2) \$5,000,000 shall be made available for plan-
25 ning grants under subsection (c)(2); and

- 1 (3) the remainder shall be made available for
- 2 implementation grants under subsection (c)(1).

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