

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2974

To establish a Federal Interagency Council on Housing Affordability and Preservation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a Federal Interagency Council on Housing Affordability and Preservation, 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 “Interagency Council
5 on Affordable Housing Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established in the executive branch an inde-
8 pendent establishment to be known as the United States
9 Interagency Council on Housing Affordability and Preser-

1 vation, whose mission shall be to develop Federal policy
2 designed to preserve and increase affordable housing sup-
3 ply and increase fairness in the rental market and further
4 the principles of fair housing and create a national part-
5 nership at every level of government and with the private
6 sector to carry out such purposes.

7 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

8 (a) MEMBERS.—The Council shall be composed of
9 the heads of the following agencies or offices, or the des-
10 ignee of such agency or office head:

11 (1) Department of Housing and Urban Devel-
12 opment.

13 (2) Department of Justice.

14 (3) Department of Labor.

15 (4) Department of the Treasury.

16 (5) Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

17 (6) Department of Health and Human Services.

18 (7) Department of Education.

19 (8) Department of Veterans Affairs.

20 (9) Department of Agriculture.

21 (10) Department of Commerce.

22 (11) Department of Defense.

23 (12) Department of Energy.

24 (13) Department of Homeland Security.

25 (14) Department of Interior.

1 (15) Department of Transportation.

2 (16) Corporation for National and Community
3 Service.

4 (17) General Services Administration.

5 (18) Office of Management and Budget.

6 (19) Social Security Administration.

7 (20) United States Postal Service.

8 (21) White House Office on Faith-Based and
9 Neighborhood Partnerships.

10 (b) CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall elect a Chair-
11 person and a Vice Chairperson from among its members.
12 The positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall
13 rotate among its members on an annual basis.

14 (c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call
15 of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not
16 less often than four times each year, and the rotation of
17 the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson re-
18 quired under subsection (b) shall occur at the first meet-
19 ing of each year.

20 (d) PROHIBITION OF ADDITIONAL PAY.—Members of
21 the Council shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or
22 benefits by reason of their service on the Council.

23 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Executive Director of
24 the Council shall report to the Chairman of the Council.

1 **SEC. 4. FUNCTIONS.**

2 (a) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

3 (1) not later than 12 months after the date of
4 the enactment of this Act, develop, make available
5 for public comment, and submit to the President
6 and to the Congress a National Strategic Plan to
7 Preserve Affordable Housing, and shall update such
8 plan annually;

9 (2) review all Federal activities and programs
10 relating to public housing, affordable housing pro-
11 duction, affordable housing programs, and housing
12 voucher programs;

13 (3) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improve-
14 ments in programs and activities to assist affordable
15 housing production conducted by Federal agencies,
16 State and local governments, and private voluntary
17 organizations;

18 (4) provide professional and technical assistance
19 (by not less than 5, but in no case more than 10,
20 regional coordinators employed by the Council, each
21 having responsibility for interaction and coordination
22 of the activities of the Council within the 10 stand-
23 ard Federal regions) to States, local governments,
24 and other public and private nonprofit organizations,
25 in order to enable such governments and organiza-
26 tions to—

1 (A) interpret regulations and assist in the
2 application process for Federal assistance, in-
3 cluding grants;

4 (B) provide assistance on the ways in
5 which Federal programs may best be coordi-
6 nated to complement the objectives of this Act;

7 (C) develop recommendations and program
8 ideas based on regional specific issues in serv-
9 ing homeless and low-income populations; and

10 (D) establish a schedule for biennial re-
11 gional workshops to be held by the Council in
12 each of the 10 standard Federal regions to fur-
13 ther carry out and provide the assistance de-
14 scribed in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and
15 other appropriate assistance as necessary;

16 (5) encourage the creation of State Interagency
17 Councils on Affordable Housing and the formulation
18 of jurisdictional 10-year plans to end homelessness
19 at State, city, and county levels;

20 (6) annually obtain from Federal agencies their
21 identification of consumer-oriented entitlement and
22 other resources for which individuals may be eligible
23 and the agencies' identification of improvements to
24 ensure access; develop mechanisms to ensure access
25 by persons and families to all Federal, State, and

1 local programs for which the persons are eligible,
2 and to verify collaboration among entities within a
3 community that receive Federal funding under pro-
4 grams targeted for persons experiencing homeless-
5 ness, and other affordable housing programs for
6 which persons and families are eligible;

7 (7) conduct research and evaluation related to
8 its functions as defined in this section;

9 (8) develop joint Federal agency and other ini-
10 tiatives to fulfill the goals of the agency;

11 (9) collect and disseminate information relating
12 to low-income individuals;

13 (10) prepare the annual reports required in
14 subsection (c)(2);

15 (11) prepare and distribute to States (including
16 State contact persons described in section 7(a)),
17 local governments, and other public and private non-
18 profit organizations, a bimonthly bulletin that de-
19 scribes the Federal resources available to them to
20 assist with affordable housing; and

21 (12) not later than 6 months after completion
22 of the report, convene a meeting of representatives
23 of all Federal agencies and committees of the House
24 of Representatives and the Senate having jurisdic-
25 tion over any Federal program to assist affordable

1 housing programs or production, local and State
2 governments, academic researchers who specialize in
3 homelessness, nonprofit housing and service pro-
4 viders that receive funding under any Federal pro-
5 gram to assist homeless individuals or families, orga-
6 nizations advocating on behalf of such nonprofit pro-
7 viders and persons receiving housing or services
8 under any such Federal affordable housing program,
9 and persons receiving housing or services under any
10 such Federal program, at which meeting such rep-
11 resentatives shall discuss all issues relevant to the
12 council's jurisdiction.

13 (b) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
14 Council may—

15 (1) arrange national, regional, State, and local
16 conferences for the purpose of developing and co-
17 ordinating effective programs and activities to assist
18 in carrying out the mission described in section 2
19 and pay for expenses of attendance at meetings
20 which are concerned with the functions or activities
21 for which the appropriation is made; and

22 (2) publish a newsletter concerning Federal,
23 State, and local programs that are effective in car-
24 rying out such mission.

25 (c) REPORTS.—

1 (1) BY AGENCIES.—Within 90 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
3 thereafter, the head of each Federal agency that is
4 a member of the Council shall prepare and transmit
5 to the Congress and the Council a report that de-
6 scribes—

7 (A) each affordable housing program ad-
8 ministered by such agency and the number of
9 individuals served by such program;

10 (B) impediments, including any statutory
11 and regulatory restrictions, to the use by indi-
12 viduals of each such program and to obtaining
13 services or benefits under each such program;
14 and

15 (C) efforts made by such agency to in-
16 crease the opportunities for individuals to ob-
17 tain permanent housing, supportive services,
18 and access to legal services in regards to hous-
19 ing matters.

20 (2) BY COUNCIL.—The Council shall prepare
21 and transmit to the President and the Congress an
22 annual report that—

23 (A) assesses the nature and extent of the
24 problems relating to affordable housing and the
25 needs of low-income individuals;

1 (B) provides a comprehensive and detailed
2 description of the activities and accomplish-
3 ments of the Federal Government in resolving
4 the problems and meeting the needs assessed
5 pursuant to subparagraph (A);

6 (C) describes the accomplishments and ac-
7 tivities of the Council, in working with Federal,
8 State, and local agencies and public and private
9 organizations in order to preserve and expand
10 affordable housing;

11 (D) assesses the level of Federal assistance
12 necessary to adequately resolve the problems
13 and meet the needs assessed pursuant to sub-
14 paragraph (A); and

15 (E) specifies any recommendations of the
16 Council for appropriate and necessary legisla-
17 tive and administrative actions to resolve such
18 problems and meet such needs.

19 (d) NOTIFICATION OF OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
20 CIES.—If, in monitoring and evaluating programs and ac-
21 tivities to assist in carrying out the mission described in
22 section 2 conducted by other Federal agencies, the Council
23 determines that any significant problem, abuse, or defi-
24 ciency exists in the administration of the program or activ-
25 ity of any Federal agency, the Council shall submit a no-

1 tice of the determination of the Council to the Inspector
2 General of the Federal agency (or the head of the Federal
3 agency, in the case of a Federal agency that has no In-
4 spector General).

5 (e) PROGRAM TIMETABLES.— Not later than 90 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of
7 each Federal agency or office that is a member of the
8 Council and responsible for administering a program to
9 assist in carrying out the mission described in section 2
10 shall provide to the Council a timetable regarding program
11 funding availability and application deadlines. The Council
12 shall furnish such information to each State (including the
13 State contact person described in section 7(a)).

14 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

15 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Council shall appoint an Execu-
16 tive Director, who shall be compensated at a rate not to
17 exceed the rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Ex-
18 ecutive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United
19 States Code. The Council shall appoint an Executive Di-
20 rector at the first meeting of the Council held under sec-
21 tion 3(c).

22 (b) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—With the approval of
23 the Council, the Executive Director of the Council may
24 appoint and fix the compensation of such additional per-

1 sonnel as the Executive Director considers necessary to
2 carry out the duties of the Council.

3 (c) DETAILS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—Upon re-
4 quest of the Council, the head of any Federal agency may
5 detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of
6 such agency to the Council to assist the Council in car-
7 rying out its duties under this Act.

8 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of
9 Housing and Urban Development shall provide the Coun-
10 cil with such administrative and support services as are
11 necessary to ensure that the Council carries out its func-
12 tions under this Act in an efficient and expeditious man-
13 ner.

14 (e) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the ap-
15 proval of the Council, the Executive Director of the Coun-
16 cil may procure temporary and intermittent services under
17 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

18 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

19 (a) MEETINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
20 Act, the Council may hold such meetings, and sit and act
21 at such times and places, as the Council considers appro-
22 priate.

23 (b) DELEGATION.—Any member or employee of the
24 Council may, if authorized by the Council, take any action
25 that the Council is authorized to take in this Act.

1 (c) INFORMATION.—The Council may secure directly
2 from any Federal agency such information as may be nec-
3 essary to enable the Council to carry out this Act. Upon
4 request of the Chairperson of the Council, the head of such
5 agency shall furnish such information to the Council.

6 (d) DONATIONS.—The Council may accept, use, and
7 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property, both
8 real and personal, public and private, without fiscal year
9 limitation, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the
10 work of the Council.

11 (e) MAILS.—The Council may use the United States
12 mails in the same manner and under the same conditions
13 as other Federal agencies.

14 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGEMENT OF STATE INVOLVEMENT.**

15 (a) STATE CONTACT PERSONS.—Each State shall
16 designate an individual to serve as a State contact person
17 for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information
18 and communications received from the Council.

19 (b) STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCILS AND LEAD
20 AGENCIES.—Each State is encouraged to establish a State
21 interagency council on housing affordability and preserva-
22 tion or designate a lead agency for the State for the pur-
23 pose of assuming primary responsibility for coordinating
24 and interacting with the Council and State and local agen-
25 cies as necessary.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the following definitions
3 shall apply:

4 (1) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
5 United States Interagency Council on Housing Af-
6 fordability and Preservation established in section 2.

7 (2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
8 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”
9 in section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this Act \$4,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
13 2028. Any amounts appropriated to carry out this Act
14 shall remain available until expended.

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