

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6724

To authorize emergency homeless assistance grants under the Emergency Solutions Grants program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for response to the public health emergency relating to coronavirus, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2020

Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize emergency homeless assistance grants under the Emergency Solutions Grants program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for response to the public health emergency relating to coronavirus, 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 “Public Health Emer-
5 gency Shelter Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
3 authorized to be appropriated under the Emergency Solu-
4 tions Grants program under subtitle B of title IV of the
5 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
6 11371 et seq.) \$11,500,000,000 for grants under such
7 subtitle in accordance with this section to respond to needs
8 arising from the public health emergency relating to
9 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

10 (b) FORMULA.—Notwithstanding sections 413 and
11 414 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
12 U.S.C. 11372, 11373), the Secretary of Housing and
13 Urban Development (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
14 retary”) shall allocate amounts made available pursuant
15 to subsection (a) in accordance with a formula to be estab-
16 lished by the Secretary that takes into consideration the
17 following factors:

18 (1) Risk of transmission of coronavirus in a ju-
19 risdiction.

20 (2) Whether a jurisdiction has a high number
21 or rate of sheltered and unsheltered homeless indi-
22 viduals and families.

23 (3) Economic and housing market conditions in
24 a jurisdiction.

25 (c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In addition to eligible ac-
26 tivities under section 415(a) of the McKinney-Vento

1 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11374(a)), amounts
2 made available pursuant to subsection (a) may also be
3 used for costs of the following activities:

4 (1) Providing training on infectious disease pre-
5 vention and mitigation.

6 (2) Providing hazard pay, including for time
7 worked before the effectiveness of this clause, for
8 staff working directly to prevent and mitigate the
9 spread of coronavirus or COVID-19 among people
10 experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

11 (3) Reimbursement of costs for eligible activi-
12 ties (including activities described in this paragraph)
13 relating to preventing, preparing for, or responding
14 to the coronavirus or COVID-19 that were accrued
15 before the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 Use of such amounts for activities described in this para-
17 graph shall not be considered use for administrative pur-
18 poses for purposes of section 418 of the McKinney-Vento
19 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11377).

20 (d) INAPPLICABILITY OF PROCUREMENT STAND-
21 ARDS.—To the extent amounts made available pursuant
22 to subsection (a) are used to procure goods and services
23 relating to activities to prevent, prepare for, or respond
24 to the coronavirus or COVID-19, the standards and re-

1 requirements regarding procurement that are otherwise ap-
2 plicable shall not apply.

3 (e) INAPPLICABILITY OF HABITABILITY AND ENVI-
4 RONMENTAL REVIEW STANDARDS.—Any Federal stand-
5 ards and requirements regarding habitability and environ-
6 mental review shall not apply with respect to any emer-
7 gency shelter that is assisted with amounts made available
8 pursuant to subsection (a) and has been determined by
9 a State or local health official, in accordance with such
10 requirements as the Secretary shall establish, to be nec-
11 essary to prevent and mitigate the spread of coronavirus
12 or COVID-19, such shelters.

13 (f) INAPPLICABILITY OF CAP ON EMERGENCY SHEL-
14 TER ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (b) of section 415 of the
15 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act shall not apply
16 to any amounts made available pursuant to subsection
17 (a)(1) of this section.

18 (g) INITIAL ALLOCATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section
19 417(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 11376(b)) shall be applied with respect to
21 amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) by
22 substituting “30-day” for “60-day”.

23 (h) WAIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) AUTHORITY.—In administering amounts
25 made available pursuant to subsection (a), the Sec-

1 retary may waive, or specify alternative require-
2 ments for, any provision of any statute or regulation
3 (except for any requirements related to fair housing,
4 nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environ-
5 ment) that the Secretary administers in connection
6 with the obligation or use by the recipient of such
7 amounts, if the Secretary finds that good cause ex-
8 ists for the waiver or alternative requirement and
9 such waiver or alternative requirement is consistent
10 with the purposes described in this subsection.

11 (2) EFFECTIVENESS; APPLICABILITY.—Any
12 such waivers shall be deemed to be effective as of
13 the date a State or unit of local government began
14 preparing for coronavirus and shall apply to the use
15 of amounts made available pursuant to subsection
16 (a) and amounts provided in prior appropriation
17 Acts for fiscal year 2020 under the heading “De-
18 partment of Housing and Urban Development—
19 Community Planning and Development—Commu-
20 nity Development Fund” and used by recipients for
21 the purposes described in this subsection.

22 (3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify
23 the public through the Federal Register or other ap-
24 propriate means 5 days before the effective date of
25 any such waiver or alternative requirement, and any

1 such public notice may be provided on the internet
2 at the appropriate Government website or through
3 other electronic media, as determined by the Sec-
4 retary.

5 (4) EXEMPTION.—The use of amounts made
6 available pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be sub-
7 ject to the consultation, citizen participation, or
8 match requirements that otherwise apply to the
9 Emergency Solutions Grants program, except that a
10 recipient shall publish how it has and will utilize its
11 allocation at a minimum on the internet at the ap-
12 propriate Government website or through other elec-
13 tronic media.

14 (i) INAPPLICABILITY OF MATCHING REQUIRE-
15 MENT.—Subsection (a) of section 416 of the McKinney-
16 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11375(a))
17 shall not apply to any amounts made available pursuant
18 to subsection (a) of this section.

19 (j) PROHIBITION ON PREREQUISITES.—None of the
20 funds authorized under this section may be used to require
21 people experiencing homelessness to receive treatment or
22 perform any other prerequisite activities as a condition for
23 receiving shelter, housing, or other services.

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