

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7084

To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2020

Ms. WATERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, 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 “Emergency Housing
5 Voucher Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE VOUCHER PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing
10 and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the

1 “Secretary”), \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, to re-
 2 main available until expended, for—

3 (1) 200,000 incremental emergency vouchers
 4 under subsection (b);

5 (2) renewals of the vouchers under subsection
 6 (b); and

7 (3) fees for the costs of administering vouchers
 8 under subsection (b).

9 (b) EMERGENCY VOUCHERS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
 11 emergency rental assistance vouchers under this sub-
 12 section, which shall be tenant-based rental assistance
 13 under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act
 14 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

15 (2) SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—

16 (A) MANDATORY PREFERENCES.—Each
 17 public housing agency administering assistance
 18 under this section shall provide preference for
 19 such assistance to eligible families that are—

20 (i) homeless (as such term is defined
 21 in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento
 22 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 23 11302(a));

24 (ii) at risk of homelessness (as such
 25 term is defined in section 401 of the

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
(42 U.S.C. 11360)); or

(iii) fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(B) ALLOCATION.—In allocating amounts made available under this section, the Secretary shall—

(i) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, allocate at least 50 percent of such amounts to public housing agencies in accordance with a formula that considers—

(I) the capability of public housing agencies to promptly use emergency vouchers provided under this section; and

(II) the need for emergency vouchers provided under this section in the geographical area, based on factors determined by the Secretary, including risk of transmission of coronavirus, high numbers or rates of sheltered and unsheltered homeless-

1 ness, and economic and housing mar-
2 ket conditions;

3 (ii) allocate remaining amounts in ac-
4 cordance with a formula that considers—

5 (I) the criteria under clause (i)
6 and the success of a public housing
7 agency in promptly utilizing vouchers
8 awarded under clause (i); and

9 (II) the capability of the public
10 housing agency to create and manage
11 structured partnerships with service
12 providers for the delivery of appro-
13 priate community-based services; and

14 (iii) designate the number of vouchers
15 under this section that each public housing
16 agency that is awarded funds under this
17 section is authorized to administer.

18 (C) ELECTION NOT TO ADMINISTER.—If a
19 public housing agency elects not to administer
20 amounts under this section, the Secretary shall
21 award such amounts to other public housing
22 agencies according to the criteria in subpara-
23 graph (B).

24 (D) FAILURE TO USE VOUCHERS PROMPT-
25 LY.—If a public housing agency fails to issue

1 all of its authorized vouchers under this section
2 on behalf of eligible families within a reasonable
3 period of time as determined by the Secretary,
4 the Secretary shall reallocate any unissued
5 vouchers and associated funds to others public
6 housing agencies according to the criteria under
7 subparagraph (B)(ii).

8 (3) WAIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIRE-
9 MENTS.—Any waiver or alternative requirement that
10 the Secretary makes available to all public housing
11 agencies in connection with assistance made avail-
12 able under the heading “Tenant-Based Rental As-
13 sistance” in title XII of division B of the CARES
14 Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 601) shall
15 apply to assistance under this section until the expi-
16 ration of such waiver or alternative requirement.

17 (4) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON TURN-
18 OVER.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—A public housing agen-
20 cy may not reissue any vouchers made available
21 under this section when assistance for the fam-
22 ily initially assisted is terminated.

23 (B) REALLOCATION.—Upon termination of
24 assistance for one or more families assisted by
25 a public housing agency under this section, the

1 Secretary shall reallocate amounts that are no
2 longer needed by such public housing agency
3 for assistance under this section to another
4 public housing agency for the renewal of vouch-
5 ers previously authorized under this section.

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