

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6867

To provide necessary flexibility under programs for federally assisted housing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide necessary flexibility under programs for federally assisted housing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 “Housing Waiver Flexi-
5 bility Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOUSING TRUST FUND.**

7 (a) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Housing
8 and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative
9 requirements for, any provision of any statute or regula-
10 tion that the Secretary administers in connection with the

1 use of amounts made available from the Housing Trust
2 Fund established pursuant to section 1338 of the Federal
3 Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act
4 of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568) (except for requirements related
5 to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and
6 the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that
7 any such waivers or alternative requirements are nec-
8 essary for the safe and effective administration of such
9 amounts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to
10 coronavirus (COVID-19).

11 (b) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—Any such waiv-
12 ers shall be deemed to be effective as of the date a State
13 or eligible recipient of amounts from a State allocation of
14 such amounts began preparing for coronavirus and shall
15 apply to the amounts made available from the Housing
16 Trust Fund before, on, and after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SELF-HELP HOUSING PROVIDERS.**

19 (a) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Housing
20 and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative
21 requirements for, any provision of any statute or regula-
22 tion that the Secretary administers in connection with the
23 program for self-help housing assistance under section 11
24 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of
25 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note) (except for requirements re-

lated to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the safe and effective administration of such amounts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus (COVID-19).

(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—Any such waivers and alternative requirements shall be deemed to be effective as of the date an organization or consortia who is a recipient of amounts under the program referred to in subsection (a) began preparing for coronavirus and shall apply to the amounts made available under such program before, on, and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE.

Any amounts made available in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6) for the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Choice Neighborhoods Initiative” shall remain available for the purpose of paying obligations incurred prior to the expiration of such amounts through September 30, 2021.

SEC. 5. CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM.

Due to the emergency relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Notice of Fund-

1 ing Availability (NOFA) for fiscal year 2020 for the Con-
2 tinuum of Care program under subtitle C of title IV of
3 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 11381 et seq.) shall have no force or effect and the Sec-
5 retary of Housing and Urban Development shall distribute
6 amounts made available for such fiscal year for such pro-
7 gram based on the results of the competition for amounts
8 made available for such program for fiscal year 2019
9 (FR-6300-25), except that grant amounts may be ad-
10 justed to account for changes in fair market rents.

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