

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1122

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. DUFFY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

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 Choice Vouch-
5 er Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMON-**
2 **STRATION.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Housing and
4 Urban Development (in this section referred to as the
5 “Secretary”) may carry out a mobility demonstration pro-
6 gram to enable public housing agencies to administer
7 housing choice voucher assistance under section 8(o) of
8 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
9 1437f(o)) in a manner designed to encourage families re-
10 ceiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty
11 areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

12 (b) **SELECTION OF PHAS.**—

13 (1) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall es-
14 tablish requirements for public housing agencies to
15 participate in the demonstration program under this
16 section, which shall provide that the following public
17 housing agencies may participate:

18 (A) Public housing agencies that to-
19 gether—

20 (i) serve areas with high concentra-
21 tions of holders of rental assistance vouch-
22 ers under section 8(o) of the United States
23 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o))
24 in poor, low-opportunity neighborhoods;
25 and

1 (ii) have an adequate number of mod-
2 erately priced rental units in higher-oppor-
3 tunity areas.

4 (B) Planned consortia or partial consortia
5 of public housing agencies that—

6 (i) include at least one agency with a
7 high-performing Family Self-Sufficiency
8 (FSS) program; and

9 (ii) will enable participating families
10 to continue in such program if they relo-
11 cate to the jurisdiction served by any other
12 agency of the consortium.

13 (C) Planned consortia or partial consortia
14 of public housing agencies that—

15 (i) serve jurisdictions within a single
16 region;

17 (ii) include one or more small agen-
18 cies; and

19 (iii) will consolidate mobility focused
20 operations.

21 (D) Such other public housing agencies as
22 the Secretary considers appropriate.

23 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
24 establish competitive selection criteria for public
25 housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to

1 participate in the demonstration program under this
2 section.

3 (3) RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—The
4 Secretary may require participating agencies to use
5 a randomized selection process to select among the
6 families eligible to receive mobility assistance under
7 the demonstration program.

8 (c) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—The Sec-
9 retary shall require each public housing agency applying
10 to participate in the demonstration program under this
11 section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan (in
12 this section referred to as a “Plan”), which shall—

13 (1) identify the public housing agencies that
14 will participate under the Plan and the number of
15 vouchers each participating agency will make avail-
16 able out of their existing programs in connection
17 with the demonstration;

18 (2) identify any community-based organizations,
19 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other enti-
20 ties that will participate under the Plan and describe
21 the commitments for such participation made by
22 each such entity;

23 (3) identify any waivers or alternative require-
24 ments requested for the execution of the Plan;

1 (4) identify any specific actions that the public
2 housing agencies and other entities will undertake to
3 accomplish the goals of the demonstration, which
4 shall include a comprehensive approach to enable a
5 successful transition to opportunity areas and may
6 include counseling and continued support for fami-
7 lies;

8 (5) specify the criteria that the public housing
9 agencies would use to identify opportunity areas
10 under the plan;

11 (6) provide for establishment of priority and
12 preferences for participating families, including a
13 preference for families with young children, as such
14 term is defined by the Secretary, based on regional
15 housing needs and priorities; and

16 (7) comply with any other requirements estab-
17 lished by the Secretary.

18 (d) FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—

19 (1) USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Public
20 housing agencies participating in the demonstration
21 program under this section may use administrative
22 fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing
23 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), their administra-
24 tive fee reserves, and funding from private entities
25 to provide mobility-related services in connection

1 with the demonstration program, including services
2 such as counseling, portability coordination, landlord
3 outreach, security deposits, and administrative ac-
4 tivities associated with establishing and operating re-
5 gional mobility programs.

6 (2) USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—

7 Public housing agencies participating in the dem-
8 onstration under this section may use housing as-
9 sistance payments funds under section 8(o) of the
10 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
11 1437f(o)) for security deposits if necessary to enable
12 families to lease units with vouchers in designated
13 opportunity areas.

14 (e) WAIVERS; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

15 (1) WAIVERS.—To allow for public housing
16 agencies to implement and administer their Regional
17 Housing Mobility Plans, the Secretary may waive or
18 specify alternative requirements for the following
19 provisions of the United States Housing Act of
20 1937:

21 (A) Sections 8(o)(7)(A) and 8(o)(13)(E)(i)

22 (relating to the term of a lease and mobility re-
23 quirements).

24 (B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (relating to the
25 public housing plan for an agency).

1 (C) Section 8(r)(2) (relating to the respon-
2 sibility of a public housing agency to administer
3 ported assistance).

4 (2) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
5 retary shall provide additional authority for public
6 housing agencies in a selected region to form a con-
7 sortium that has a single housing choice voucher
8 funding contract, or to enter into a partial consor-
9 tium to operate all or portions of the Regional Hous-
10 ing Mobility Plan, including agencies participating in
11 the Moving To Work Demonstration program.

12 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any waiver or alter-
13 native requirements pursuant to this subsection shall
14 not take effect before the expiration of the 10-day
15 period beginning upon publication of notice of such
16 waiver or alternative requirement in the Federal
17 Register.

18 (f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may imple-
19 ment the demonstration, including its terms, procedures,
20 requirements, and conditions, by notice.

21 (g) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years after im-
22 plementation of the regional housing mobility programs
23 under the demonstration program under this section, the
24 Secretary shall submit to the Congress and publish in the
25 Federal Register a report evaluating the effectiveness of

1 the strategies pursued under the demonstration, subject
2 to the availability of funding to conduct the evaluation.
3 Through official websites and other methods, the Sec-
4 retary shall disseminate interim findings as they become
5 available, and shall, if promising strategies are identified,
6 notify the Congress of the amount of funds that would
7 be required to expand the testing of these strategies in
8 additional types of public housing agencies and housing
9 markets.

○