

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4164

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 2, 2020

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize emergency housing 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 HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing
9 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 housing
 4 vouchers under subsection (b);

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

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

9 (b) EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS.—

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

15 (2) SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—

16 (A) PREFERENCES FOR EMERGENCY
 17 HOUSING VOUCHERS.—Each public housing
 18 agency administering assistance under this sec-
 19 tion shall provide preference for such assistance
 20 to eligible families that are—

21 (i) homeless (as such term is defined
 22 in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento
 23 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 24 11302(a));

1 (ii) at risk of homelessness (as such
2 term is defined in section 401 of the
3 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 11360); or

5 (iii) fleeing, or attempting to flee, do-
6 mestic violence, dating violence, sexual as-
7 sault, or stalking.

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

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

16 (I) the capability of public hous-
17 ing agencies to promptly use emer-
18 gency housing vouchers provided
19 under this section; and

20 (II) the need for emergency hous-
21 ing vouchers provided under this sec-
22 tion in the geographical area, based
23 on factors determined by the Sec-
24 retary, including risk of transmission
25 of Coronavirus (COVID–19), high

1 numbers or rates of sheltered and
2 unsheltered homelessness, and eco-
3 nomic and housing market conditions;

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

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

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

16 (iii) designate the number of emer-
17 gency housing vouchers under this section
18 that each public housing agency that is
19 awarded funds under this section is au-
20 thorized to administer.

21 (C) ELECTION NOT TO ADMINISTER.—If a
22 public housing agency elects not to administer
23 amounts under this section, the Secretary shall
24 award such amounts to other public housing

1 agencies according to the criteria in subpara-
 2 graph (B).

3 (D) FAILURE TO USE VOUCHERS PROMPT-
 4 LY.—If a public housing agency fails to issue
 5 all of its authorized emergency housing vouch-
 6 ers under this section on behalf of eligible fami-
 7 lies within a reasonable period of time as deter-
 8 mined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall re-
 9 allocate any unissued emergency housing vouch-
 10 ers and associated funds to others public hous-
 11 ing agencies according to the criteria under
 12 subparagraph (B)(ii).

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

22 (4) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON TURN-
 23 OVER.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—A public housing agen-
 25 cy may not reissue any emergency housing

1 vouchers made available under this section
2 when assistance for the family initially assisted
3 is terminated.

4 (B) REALLOCATION.—Upon termination of
5 assistance for one or more families assisted by
6 a public housing agency under this section, the
7 Secretary shall reallocate amounts that are no
8 longer needed by such public housing agency
9 for assistance under this section to another
10 public housing agency for the renewal of emer-
11 gency housing vouchers previously authorized
12 under this section.

13 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “public
14 housing agency” has the meaning given the term in sec-
15 tion 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937
16 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6)).

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