

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 739

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2001

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. REID, and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance
6 Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; definitions.

Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.

- Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 5. Annual meeting requirement for Interagency Council on the Homeless.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of homeless programs.
- Sec. 7. Changes in veterans equitable resource allocation methodology.
- Sec. 8. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 9. Grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 10. Coordination of outreach services for veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Sec. 11. Treatment trials in integrated mental health services delivery.
- Sec. 12. Dental care.
- Sec. 13. Programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 14. Various authorities.
- Sec. 15. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.
- Sec. 16. Transitional assistance grants pilot program.
- Sec. 17. Assistance for grant applications.
- Sec. 18. Home loan program for manufactured housing.
- Sec. 19. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.
- Sec. 20. Use of real property.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) On the field of battle, the members of the
5 Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-
6 bound to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Na-
7 tion is honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.

8 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs report
9 known as the Community Homeless Assessment,
10 Local Education, and Networking Groups for Vet-
11 erans (CHALENG) assessment, issued in May
12 2000, reports that during 1999 there were an esti-
13 mated 344,983 homeless veterans, an increase of 34
14 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 home-
15 less veterans.

16 (3) Male veterans are more likely to be home-
17 less than their nonveteran peers. Although veterans

1 constitute only 13 percent of the general male popu-
2 lation, 23 percent of the homeless male population
3 are veterans.

4 (4) Homelessness among veterans is persistent
5 despite unprecedented economic growth and job cre-
6 ation and general prosperity.

7 (5) While there are many effective programs
8 that assist homeless veterans to again become pro-
9 ductive and self-sufficient members of society, cur-
10 rent resources provided to such programs and other
11 activities that assist homeless veterans are inad-
12 equate to provide all needed essential services, as-
13 sistance, and support to homeless veterans.

14 (6) If current programs to assist homeless vet-
15 erans are fully maintained but not expanded, vet-
16 erans will experience as many as a billion nights of
17 homelessness during the next decade.

18 (7) The CHALENG assessment referred to in
19 paragraph (2) reports—

20 (A) that Department of Veterans Affairs
21 and community providers were responsible for
22 establishing almost 500 beds for homeless vet-
23 erans during 2000, including emergency, transi-
24 tional, and permanent beds; and

1 (B) that there is a need for about 45,724
2 additional beds to meet current needs of home-
3 less veterans.

4 (8) As of February 28, 2001, the Congressional
5 Budget Office forecasts a Federal budget surplus of
6 \$313,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and budget
7 surpluses totaling more than \$5,610,000,000,000
8 over the next 10 years.

9 (9) At least \$750,000,000 will be required to
10 establish the 45,724 additional new beds now needed
11 by homeless veterans, according to an informal De-
12 partment of Veterans Affairs cost estimate.

13 (10) Even if the Department of Veterans Af-
14 fairs and its partners created 2,000 additional beds
15 per year for homeless veterans (roughly quadrupling
16 the number of such beds they currently plan to open
17 annually), it would still take more than two decades
18 to provide the necessary additional beds to meet the
19 current needs of homeless veterans.

20 (11) Nearly four decades ago, the Nation estab-
21 lished a goal of sending a man to the moon and re-
22 turning him safely to earth within a decade and ac-
23 complished that goal, and the Nation can do no less
24 to end homelessness among the Nation's veterans.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

1 (1) The term “homeless veteran” means a vet-
2 eran who—

3 (A) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
4 nighttime residence; or

5 (B) has a primary nighttime residence that
6 is—

7 (i) a supervised publicly or privately
8 operated shelter designed to provide tem-
9 porary living accommodations (including
10 welfare hotels, congregate shelters, grant
11 per diem shelters and transitional housing
12 for the mentally ill);

13 (ii) an institution that provides a tem-
14 porary residence for individuals intended to
15 be institutionalized; or

16 (iii) a public or private place not de-
17 signed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular
18 sleeping accommodation for human beings.

19 (2) The term “grant and per diem provider”
20 means an entity in receipt of a grant under section
21 3 or 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
22 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721
23 note).

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG**
2 **VETERANS.**

3 (a) NATIONAL GOAL.—Congress hereby declares it to
4 be a national goal to end homelessness among veterans
5 within a decade.

6 (b) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.—Con-
7 gress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of
8 Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental
9 organizations, private and public sector entities, including
10 community-based organizations, and individuals to work
11 cooperatively to end homelessness among veterans within
12 a decade.

13 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 38, United
15 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new section:

17 **“§ 546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans**

18 “(a)(1) There is established in the Department the
19 Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in
20 this section referred to as the ‘Committee’).

21 “(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than
22 15 members appointed by the Secretary from among the
23 following:

24 “(A) Veterans service organizations.

25 “(B) Advocates of homeless veterans and other
26 homeless individuals.

1 “(C) Community-based providers of services to
2 homeless individuals.

3 “(D) Previously homeless veterans.

4 “(E) State veterans affairs officials.

5 “(F) Experts in the treatment of individuals
6 with mental illness.

7 “(G) Experts in the treatment of substance use
8 disorders.

9 “(H) Experts in the development of permanent
10 housing alternatives for lower income populations.

11 “(I) Experts in vocational rehabilitation.

12 “(J) Such other organizations or groups as the
13 Secretary considers appropriate.

14 “(3) The Committee shall include, as ex officio
15 members—

16 “(A) the Secretary of Labor (or a representa-
17 tive of the Secretary selected after consultation with
18 the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Em-
19 ployment and Training);

20 “(B) the Secretary of Defense (or a representa-
21 tive of the Secretary);

22 “(C) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
23 ices (or a representative of the Secretary); and

24 “(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
25 velopment (or a representative of the Secretary).

1 “(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of serv-
2 ice and pay and allowances of the members of the Com-
3 mittee, except that a term of service may not exceed three
4 years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for addi-
5 tional terms of service.

6 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, con-
7 sult with and seek the advice of the Committee with re-
8 spect to the provision by the Department of benefits and
9 services to homeless veterans.

10 “(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under
11 this subsection, the Committee shall—

12 “(i) assemble and review information relating to
13 the needs of homeless veterans;

14 “(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the ef-
15 fectiveness of the policies, organizational structures,
16 and services of the Department in assisting homeless
17 veterans; and

18 “(iii) provide on-going advice on the most ap-
19 propriate means of providing assistance to homeless
20 veterans.

21 “(3) The Committee shall—

22 “(A) review the continuum of services provided
23 by the Department directly or by contract in order
24 to define cross-cutting issues and to improve coordi-

1 nation of all services in the Department that address
2 the special needs of homeless veterans;

3 “(B) identify (through the annual assessments
4 under section 1774 of this title and other available
5 resources) gaps in programs of the Department in
6 serving homeless veterans, including identification of
7 geographic areas with unmet needs, and provide rec-
8 ommendations to address those program gaps;

9 “(C) identify gaps in existing information sys-
10 tems on homeless veterans, both within and outside
11 the Department, and provide recommendations
12 about redressing problems in data collection;

13 “(D) identify barriers under existing laws and
14 policies to effective coordination by the Department
15 with other Federal agencies and with State and local
16 agencies addressing homeless populations;

17 “(E) identify opportunities for enhanced liaison
18 by the Department with nongovernmental organiza-
19 tions and individual groups addressing homeless
20 populations;

21 “(F) with appropriate officials of the Depart-
22 ment designated by the Secretary, participate with
23 the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title
24 II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

1 “(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for
2 specialized programs for homeless veterans provided
3 or funded by the Department;

4 “(H) recommend appropriate placement options
5 for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty,
6 or severe mental illness, may not be appropriate can-
7 didates for vocational rehabilitation or independent
8 living; and

9 “(I) perform such other functions as the Sec-
10 retary may direct.

11 “(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the
12 Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the
13 programs and activities of the Department that relate to
14 homeless veterans. Each such report shall include—

15 “(A) an assessment of the needs of homeless
16 veterans;

17 “(B) a review of the programs and activities of
18 the Department designed to meet such needs;

19 “(C) a review of the activities of the Committee;
20 and

21 “(D) such recommendations (including rec-
22 ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-
23 tion) as the Committee considers appropriate.

24 “(2) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a
25 report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit

1 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
2 House of Representatives a copy of the report, together
3 with any comments and recommendations concerning the
4 report that the Secretary considers appropriate.

5 “(3) The Committee may also submit to the Sec-
6 retary such other reports and recommendations as the
7 Committee considers appropriate.

8 “(4) The Secretary shall submit with each annual re-
9 port submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of this
10 title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the
11 Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous
12 annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that
13 section.

14 “(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pro-
15 visions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
16 App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under
17 this section.

18 “(2) Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the
19 Committee.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
22 at the end the following new item:

“546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.”.

1 **SEC. 5. MEETINGS OF INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON THE**
2 **HOMELESS.**

3 Section 202(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
4 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call
7 of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not
8 less often than annually.”.

9 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) EVALUATION CENTERS.—The Secretary of Vet-
11 erans Affairs shall support the continuation within the De-
12 partment of Veterans Affairs of at least one center for
13 evaluation to monitor the structure, process, and outcome
14 of programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs that
15 address homeless veterans.

16 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE.—The Sec-
17 retary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis a re-
18 port on programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs
19 addressing health care needs of homeless veterans. The
20 Secretary shall include in each such report the following:

21 (1) Information about expenditures, costs, and
22 workload under the Department of Veterans Affairs
23 program known as the Health Care for Homeless
24 Veterans program (HCHV).

25 (2) Information about the veterans contacted
26 through that program.

1 ignated as “complex care” within the Veterans Equitable
2 Resource Allocation system:

3 (1) Care provided to veterans enrolled in the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs program for Mental
5 Health Intensive Community Case Management.

6 (2) Continuous care in homeless chronically
7 mentally ill veterans programs.

8 (3) Continuous care within specialized pro-
9 grams provided to veterans who have been diagnosed
10 with both serious chronic mental illness and sub-
11 stance use disorders.

12 (4) Continuous therapy combined with sheltered
13 housing provided to veterans in specialized treat-
14 ment for substance use disorders.

15 (5) Specialized therapies provided to veterans
16 with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), includ-
17 ing therapies provided by or under the following:

18 (A) Specialized outpatient PTSD pro-
19 grams.

20 (B) PTSD clinical teams.

21 (C) Women veterans stress disorder treat-
22 ment teams.

23 (D) Substance abuse disorder PTSD
24 teams.

1 (b) TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOR NEW PROGRAMS
2 FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—The Secretary shall ensure
3 that funds for any new program for homeless veterans car-
4 ried out through a Department health care facility are des-
5 ignated for the first three years of operation of that pro-
6 gram as a special purpose program for which funds are
7 not allocated through the Veterans Equitable Resource Al-
8 location system.

9 **SEC. 8. PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING SERVICES**
10 **TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

11 (a) INCREASE IN RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—
12 Section 4(a) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
13 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
14 amended by striking “at such rates” and all that follows
15 through “homeless veteran—” and inserting the following:
16 “at the same rates as the rates authorized for State homes
17 for domiciliary care provided under section 1741 of title
18 38, United States Code, for services furnished to homeless
19 veterans—”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first
22 fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of
23 this Act.

1 **SEC. 9. GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH**
2 **SPECIAL NEEDS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs shall carry out a program to make grants to health
5 care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and
6 to grant and per diem providers in order to encourage de-
7 velopment by those facilities and providers of programs
8 targeted at meeting special needs within the population
9 of homeless veterans.

10 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—
11 For purposes of this section, homeless veterans with spe-
12 cial needs include homeless veterans who—

13 (1) are women;

14 (2) are 50 years of age or older;

15 (3) are substance abusers;

16 (4) are persons with post-traumatic stress dis-
17 order;

18 (5) are terminally ill;

19 (6) are chronically mentally ill; or

20 (7) have care of minor dependents or other
21 family members.

22 (c) STUDY OF OUTCOME EFFECTIVENESS.—The Sec-
23 retary shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the
24 grant program in meeting the needs of homeless veterans.
25 As part of the study, the Secretary shall compare the re-
26 sults of programs carried out in the grant program under

1 this section in terms of veterans' satisfaction, health sta-
2 tus, reduction in addiction severity, housing, and encour-
3 agement of productive activity with results for similar vet-
4 erans in programs of the Department or of grant and per
5 diem providers that are designed to meet the general needs
6 of homeless veterans.

7 (d) FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated to the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs for “Medical Care” for
9 each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, \$5,000,000
10 shall be available for purposes of the program under this
11 section. Grants under this section to a health care facility
12 of the Department or a grant and per diem provider shall
13 be treated in the manner provided in section 7(b).

14 **SEC. 10. COORDINATION OF OUTREACH SERVICES FOR**
15 **VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

16 (a) OUTREACH PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans
17 Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health,
18 shall provide for appropriate officials of the Mental Health
19 Service and the Readjustment Counseling Service of the
20 Veterans Health Administration to initiate a coordinated
21 plan for joint outreach to veterans at risk of homelessness,
22 including particularly veterans who are being discharged
23 from institutions (including discharges from inpatient psy-
24 chiatric care, substance abuse treatment programs, and
25 penal institutions).

1 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The plan under
2 subsection (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) Strategies to identify and collaborate with
4 external entities used by veterans who have not tra-
5 ditionally used Department of Veterans Affairs serv-
6 ices to further outreach efforts.

7 (2) Strategies to ensure that mentoring pro-
8 grams, recovery support groups, and other appro-
9 priate support networks are optimally available to
10 veterans.

11 (3) Appropriate programs or referrals to family
12 support programs.

13 (4) Means to increase access to case manage-
14 ment services.

15 (5) Plans for making additional employment
16 services accessible to veterans.

17 (6) Appropriate referral sources for mental
18 health and substance abuse services.

19 (c) COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS.—The plan under
20 subsection (a) shall identify strategies for the Department
21 to enter into formal cooperative relationships with entities
22 outside the Department of Veterans Affairs to facilitate
23 making services and resources optimally available to vet-
24 erans.

1 (d) REVIEW OF PLAN.—The Secretary shall submit
2 the plan under subsection (a) to the Advisory Committee
3 on Homeless Veterans for its review and consultation.

4 (e) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than two
5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
7 of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on
8 the Secretary's plan under subsection (a), including goals
9 and timelines for implementation of the plan for particular
10 facilities and service networks.

11 (f) OUTREACH PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall
12 carry out an outreach program to provide information to
13 homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
14 The program shall include at a minimum—

15 (A) provision of information about benefits
16 available to eligible veterans from the Department;
17 and

18 (B) contact information for local Department
19 facilities, including medical facilities, regional offices,
20 and veterans centers.

21 (2) In developing and carrying out the program under
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-
23 ticable, consult with appropriate public and private organi-
24 zations, including the Bureau of Prisons, State social serv-

1 ice agencies, the Department of Defense, and mental
2 health, veterans, and homeless advocates—

3 (A) for assistance in identifying and contacting
4 veterans who are homeless or at risk of homeless-
5 ness;

6 (B) to coordinate appropriate outreach activi-
7 ties with those organizations; and

8 (C) to coordinate services provided to veterans
9 with services provided by those organizations.

10 **SEC. 11. TREATMENT TRIALS IN INTEGRATED MENTAL**
11 **HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
13 Affairs shall carry out two treatment trials in integrated
14 mental health services delivery. Each such trial shall be
15 carried out at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical
16 center selected by the Secretary for such purpose. The
17 trials shall each be carried out over the same one-year pe-
18 riod.

19 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
20 term “integrated mental health services delivery” means
21 a coordinated and standardized approach to evaluation be-
22 tween mental health and primary health care professionals
23 for enrollment, treatment, and followup of patients who
24 have both mental health disorders (including substance
25 use disorders) and medical conditions.

1 (c) SITE SELECTION CRITERIA.—In reviewing appli-
2 cations from Department medical centers for selection as
3 a site for a treatment trial under this section, the Sec-
4 retary shall consider models that use the following:

5 (1) Standardized criteria for admission and en-
6 rollment as participant or control.

7 (2) Focus on prevention and symptom reduc-
8 tion.

9 (3) Development of a comprehensive, integrated
10 treatment plan.

11 (4) Patient assignment to a team or teams.

12 (5) Management of polypharmacy.

13 (6) Use of evidence-based treatment protocols.

14 (7) Case management between visits.

15 (8) Referral and coordination of appropriate
16 Department or community-based services (including
17 housing if necessary).

18 (9) Ability to maintain and provide outcomes
19 for comparison purposes on veterans with similar di-
20 agnoses and characteristics who are not included in
21 the trial, but who are receiving traditional consult-
22 ative services in the same facility.

23 (d) TREATMENT MODELS TO BE TESTED.—The two
24 treatment trials shall each use one of the following models:

25 (1) Mental health primary care teams.

1 (2) Patient assignment to a mental health pri-
2 mary care team that is linked with the patient's
3 medical primary care team.

4 (e) STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary shall
5 compare treatment outcomes (including such outcomes as
6 veterans' satisfaction, health status, treatment compli-
7 ance, patient functionality, reduction in addiction severity
8 as well as service utilization and treatment costs) of the
9 different treatment trials for chronically mentally ill vet-
10 erans who are provided treatment through integrated
11 mental health programs with treatment outcomes for simi-
12 lar chronically mentally ill veterans provided treatment
13 through traditionally consultative relationships.

14 (f) RESULTS.—Not later than 30 months after selec-
15 tion of the two centers under this section, each selected
16 center shall complete measures of treatment outcomes
17 under subsection (e), as well as measures for matched con-
18 trols.

19 (g) MANDATORY AUDIT OF RESULTS.—The Depart-
20 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Inspector General shall
21 review medical records of participants and controls for
22 both trials to ensure that results are accurate.

23 (h) REPORT AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS.—
24 Not later than two years after the date of the enactment
25 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-

1 port setting forth the results of the comparison under sub-
2 section (e) and such recommendations as the Secretary
3 may have. Based upon the Secretary's conclusions, the
4 Secretary shall disseminate the best practices for treat-
5 ment of mentally ill veterans in such manner as the Sec-
6 retary determines appropriate on a nationwide basis.

7 (i) COSTS.—The Secretary may use up to \$2,000,000
8 from funds available to the Secretary for Medical Care for
9 costs for each of the treatment trials. Funds identified by
10 the Secretary for the trials shall remain available until ex-
11 pended.

12 **SEC. 12. DENTAL CARE.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
14 1712(a)(1)(H) of title 38, United States Code, outpatient
15 dental services and treatment of a dental condition or dis-
16 ability of a veteran described in subsection (b) shall be
17 considered to be medically necessary if—

18 (1) the dental services and treatment are nec-
19 essary for the veteran to successfully gain or regain
20 employment;

21 (2) the dental services and treatment are nec-
22 essary to alleviate pain; or

23 (3) the dental services and treatment are nec-
24 essary for treatment of moderate, severe, or severe
25 and complicated gingival and periodontal pathology.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—Subsection (a) applies to
2 a veteran who is—

3 (1) enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of
4 title 38, United States Code; and

5 (2) receiving care (directly or by contract) in
6 any of the following settings:

7 (A) A domiciliary under section 1710 of
8 such title.

9 (B) A therapeutic residence under section
10 1772 of such title.

11 (C) Community residential care coordi-
12 nated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
13 under section 1730 of such title.

14 (D) A setting for which the Secretary pro-
15 vides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

16 (E) Any program described in section 7 of
17 this Act.

18 **SEC. 13. PROGRAMMATIC EXPANSIONS.**

19 (a) ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—The
20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop standards to
21 ensure that mental health services are available to vet-
22 erans in a manner similar to the manner in which primary
23 care is available to veterans who require services by ensur-
24 ing that each primary care health care facility of the De-
25 partment has a mental health treatment capacity.

1 (b) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Effective October 1,
2 2001, section 12 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive
3 Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 12. FUNDING.**

6 “(a) AMOUNTS FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PRO-
7 GRAMS.—From amounts appropriated for ‘Medical Care’
8 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall expend not less
9 than \$55,000,000 (as adjusted from time to time under
10 subsection (b)) to carry out the transitional housing grant
11 and per diem provider programs under sections 3 and 4
12 of this Act.

13 “(b) PERIODIC INCREASES.—The amount in effect
14 under subsection (a) shall be increased for any fiscal year
15 by the overall percentage increase in the Medical Care ac-
16 count for that fiscal year from the preceding fiscal year.”.

17 (c) COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES PRO-
18 GRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall provide for the establish-
19 ment of centers for the provision of comprehensive services
20 to homeless veterans under section 1773(b) of title 38,
21 United States Code, in at least each of the 20 largest met-
22 ropolitan statistical areas.

23 (2) Section 1773(b) of title 38, United States Code,
24 is amended by striking “not fewer than eight”.

1 (d) OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that opioid substitution therapy is
3 available at each Department of Veterans Affairs medical
4 center.

5 (e) PROGRAM EXPIRATION EXTENSION.—Sections
6 1771(b) and 1773(d) of title 38, United States Code, are
7 amended by striking “December 31, 2001” and inserting
8 “December 31, 2006”.

9 **SEC. 14. VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.**

10 (a) EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of
11 Veterans Affairs may authorize homeless veterans receiv-
12 ing care through vocational rehabilitation programs to
13 participate in the compensated work therapy program.

14 (b) SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR VETERANS PARTICI-
15 PATING IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPIES.—The Sec-
16 retary may authorize homeless veterans in the com-
17 pensated work therapy program to be provided housing
18 through the therapeutic residence program under section
19 1772 of title 38, United States Code, or through grant
20 and per diem providers.

21 (c) STAFFING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
22 ensure that there is assigned at each Veterans Benefits
23 Administration regional office at least one employee as-
24 signed specifically to oversee and coordinate homeless vet-
25 erans programs in that region, including the housing pro-

1 gram for veterans supported by the Department of Hous-
2 ing and Urban Development, housing programs supported
3 by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the homeless vet-
4 erans reintegration program of the Department of Labor,
5 the assessments required by section 1774 of title 38,
6 United States Code, Comprehensive Homeless Centers,
7 and such other duties relating to homeless veterans as
8 may be assigned. In any such regional office with at least
9 140 employees, there shall be at least one full-time em-
10 ployee assigned to such functions.

11 (d) COORDINATION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—

12 (1) Section 4103A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is
13 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
14 graph:

15 “(11) Coordination of services provided to vet-
16 erans with training assistance provided to veterans
17 by entities receiving financial assistance under sec-
18 tion 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
19 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

20 (2) Section 4104(b) of such title is amended—

21 (A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
22 (11);

23 (B) by striking the period at the end of para-
24 graph (12) and inserting “; and”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(13) coordinate services provided to veterans
4 with training assistance for veterans provided by en-
5 tities receiving financial assistance under section 738
6 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
7 U.S.C. 11448).”.

8 **SEC. 15. LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM**
9 **PROVIDERS.**

10 (a) **NEW GRANTS.**—Section 3(b)(5) of the Homeless
11 Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992
12 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “, but fire
13 and safety” and all that follows through “in carrying out
14 the grant” and inserting “and the fire and safety require-
15 ments applicable under the Life Safety Code of the Na-
16 tional Fire Protection Association”.

17 (b) **PREVIOUS GRANTEEES.**—Section 4 of such Act is
18 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(e) **LIFE SAFETY CODE.**—(1) Except as provided in
21 paragraph (2), a per diem payment (or in-kind assistance
22 in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under
23 this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the
24 grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements ap-

1 plicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire
2 Protection Association.

3 “(2) During the five-year period beginning on the
4 date of the enactment of the Heather French Henry
5 Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall
6 not apply to an entity that received a grant under section
7 3 before that date if the entity meets fire and safety re-
8 quirements established by the Secretary.

9 “(3) From amounts available for purposes of this sec-
10 tion pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall
11 be used only for grants to assist entities covered by para-
12 graph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National
13 Fire Protection Association.”.

14 **SEC. 16. TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS PILOT PRO-**
15 **GRAM.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
17 of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot pro-
18 gram of transitional assistance grants to eligible homeless
19 veterans. The pilot program shall be established at not less
20 than three nor more than six regional offices of the De-
21 partment of Veterans Affairs and shall include at least
22 one regional office located in a large urban area and at
23 least one regional office serving primarily rural veterans.
24 The maximum number of veterans who may participate
25 in the pilot program is 600.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is eligible for
2 a transitional assistance grant under this section if the
3 veteran is physically present in the geographic area of a
4 regional office which is participating in the pilot program
5 and the veteran—

6 (1) is a veteran of a period of war or, if not a
7 veteran of a period of war, meets the minimum serv-
8 ice requirements specified in section 5303A of title
9 38, United States Code;

10 (2) is being released, or within the preceding 60
11 days was released, from an institution, including a
12 hospital, a penal institution, a homeless shelter, or
13 a facility of a grant and per diem provider;

14 (3) is a homeless veteran or was a homeless vet-
15 eran before institutionalization; and

16 (4) had less than marginal income for the pre-
17 ceding three months.

18 (c) DURATION OF GRANT ASSISTANCE.—An eligible
19 veteran may be provided a transitional assistance grant
20 under this section for no more than three months.

21 (d) EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON GRANT ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—(1) A veteran who receives transitional assistance
23 under this section and who while in receipt of such assist-
24 ance has a claim pending with the Secretary for service-
25 connected disability compensation or nonservice-connected

1 pension shall, notwithstanding subsection (c), continue to
2 be provided transitional assistance under this section after
3 the period prescribed in subsection (c) until the earlier of
4 (A) the date on which a decision on the claim is made
5 by the regional office, or (B) the end of the six-month
6 period beginning on the date of expiration of eligibility
7 under subsection (c).

8 (2) An extension of transitional assistance under
9 paragraph (1) shall be terminated if, as determined by the
10 Secretary, the veteran, without good cause, fails to cooper-
11 ate in establishing the pending claim or if the gross
12 monthly income of the veteran for a month exceeds twice
13 the amount of transitional assistance benefits payable to
14 the veteran for that month. The effective date of such a
15 termination shall be the last day of the month following
16 the month in which the extension under paragraph (1) is
17 terminated under the preceding sentence.

18 (3) Claims of veterans receiving benefits under this
19 subsection shall receive expedited consideration by the re-
20 gional office.

21 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—(1) The monthly amount
22 of a grant provided under this section to an eligible vet-
23 eran shall be the amount of monthly pension that would
24 be payable to that veteran under chapter 15 of title 38,

1 United States Code, if the veteran had a permanent and
2 total nonservice-connected disability.

3 (2) Once eligibility for a grant under this section has
4 been established, the amount of the grant shall be deter-
5 mined without regard to the veteran's income, other than
6 as provided in subsection (d)(2).

7 (f) COORDINATION WITH OTHER BENEFITS.—If ret-
8 roactive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs
9 are payable to a veteran with respect to a month for which
10 the veteran received a transitional assistance grant under
11 this section, the amount of such retroactive benefit pay-
12 able for such month shall be reduced (but not below zero)
13 by the amount of the grant under this section paid for
14 that month. No reduction may be made by the Secretary
15 from an amount otherwise due a veteran for any other
16 month to offset an amount paid under this section for a
17 previous month.

18 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

19 (1) The term “veteran” means a person who
20 served in the active military, naval, or air service (as
21 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States
22 Code) and who was discharged or released from any
23 such period of service under conditions other than
24 dishonorable.

1 **SEC. 19. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRA-**
2 **TION PROGRAM.**

3 Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
4 is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

7 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

8 “(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

9 “(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

10 “(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

11 **SEC. 20. USE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

12 Section 8122(d) of title 38, United States Code, is
13 amended by inserting before the period at the end the fol-
14 lowing: “and is not suitable for use for the provision of
15 services to homeless veterans by the Department or by an-
16 other entity under an enhanced-use lease of such property
17 under section 8162 of this title”.

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