

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 46

To provide for payment of an administrative fee to public housing agencies to cover the costs of administering family self-sufficiency programs in connection with the housing choice voucher program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mrs. BIGGERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for payment of an administrative fee to public housing agencies to cover the costs of administering family self-sufficiency programs in connection with the housing choice voucher program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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 “Family Self-Sufficiency
5 Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FOR FAMILY SELF-SUFFI-**
2 **CIENCY PROGRAM COSTS.**

3 Subsection (h) of section 23 of the United States
4 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u(h)) is amended
5 by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(1) SECTION 8 FEES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 establish a fee under section 8(q) for the costs
10 incurred in administering the self-sufficiency
11 program under this section to assist families re-
12 ceiving voucher assistance through section 8(o).

13 “(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR FEE.—The fee shall
14 provide funding for family self-sufficiency coor-
15 dinators as follows:

16 “(i) BASE FEE.—A public housing
17 agency serving 25 or more participants in
18 the family self-sufficiency program under
19 this section shall receive a fee equal to the
20 costs of employing one full-time family
21 self-sufficiency coordinator. An agency
22 serving fewer than 25 such participants
23 shall receive a prorated fee.

24 “(ii) ADDITIONAL FEE.—An agency
25 that meets minimum performance stand-
26 ards shall receive an additional fee suffi-

1 cient to cover the costs of employing a sec-
2 ond family self-sufficiency coordinator if
3 the agency has 75 or more participating
4 families, and a third such coordinator if it
5 has 125 or more participating families.

6 “(iii) PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGEN-
7 CIES.—An agency that received funding
8 from the Department of Housing and
9 Urban Development for more than three
10 such coordinators in any of fiscal years
11 1999 through 2008 shall receive funding
12 for the highest number of coordinators
13 funded in a single fiscal year during that
14 period, provided they meet applicable size
15 and performance standards.

16 “(iv) INITIAL YEAR.—For the first
17 year in which a public housing agency ex-
18 ercises its right to develop an family self-
19 sufficiency program for its residents, it
20 shall be entitled to funding to cover the
21 costs of up to one family self-sufficiency
22 coordinator, based on the size specified in
23 its action plan for such program.

24 “(v) STATE AND REGIONAL AGEN-
25 CIES.—For purposes of calculating the

1 family self-sufficiency portion of the ad-
2 ministrative fee under this subparagraph,
3 each administratively distinct part of a
4 State or regional public housing agency
5 shall be treated as a separate agency.

6 “(vi) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER
7 OF COORDINATORS.—In determining
8 whether a public housing agency meets a
9 specific threshold for funding pursuant to
10 this paragraph, the number of participants
11 being served by the agency in its family
12 self-sufficiency program shall be considered
13 to be the average number of families en-
14 rolled in such agency’s program during the
15 course of the most recent fiscal year for
16 which the Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development has data.

18 “(C) PRORATION.—If insufficient funds
19 are available in any fiscal year to fund all of the
20 coordinators authorized under this section, the
21 first priority shall be given to funding one coor-
22 dinator at each agency with an existing family
23 self-sufficiency program. The remaining funds
24 shall be prorated based on the number of re-

1 maining coordinators to which each agency is
2 entitled under this subparagraph.

3 “(D) RECAPTURE.—Any fees allocated
4 under this subparagraph by the Secretary in a
5 fiscal year that have not been spent by the end
6 of the subsequent fiscal year shall be recaptured
7 by the Secretary and shall be available for pro-
8 viding additional fees pursuant to subparagraph
9 (B)(ii).

10 “(E) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Within
11 six months after the date of the enactment of
12 this paragraph, the Secretary shall publish a
13 proposed rule specifying the performance stand-
14 ards applicable to funding under clauses (ii)
15 and (iii) of subparagraph (B). Such standards
16 shall include requirements applicable to the
17 leveraging of in-kind services and other re-
18 sources to support the goals of the family self-
19 sufficiency program.

20 “(F) DATA COLLECTION.—Public housing
21 agencies receiving funding under this paragraph
22 shall collect and report to the Secretary, in such
23 manner as the Secretary shall require, informa-
24 tion on the performance of their family self-suf-
25 ficiency programs.

1 “(G) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
2 conduct a formal and scientific evaluation of
3 the effectiveness of well-run family self-suffi-
4 ciency programs, using random assignment of
5 participants to the extent practicable. Not later
6 than the expiration of the 4-year period begin-
7 ning upon the enactment of this paragraph, the
8 Secretary shall submit an interim evaluation re-
9 port to the Congress. Not later than the expira-
10 tion of the 8-year period beginning upon such
11 enactment, the Secretary shall submit a final
12 evaluation report to the Congress. There is au-
13 thorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to
14 carry out the evaluation under this subpara-
15 graph.

16 “(H) INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATION AND
17 HIGH PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary may re-
18 serve up to 10 percent of the amounts made
19 available for administrative fees under this
20 paragraph to provide support to or reward fam-
21 ily self-sufficiency programs that are particu-
22 larly innovative or highly successful in achieving
23 the goals of the program.”.

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