

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5735

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2018

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, 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 “Transitional Housing  
5       for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Pro-  
6       gram Act” or the “THRIVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO STUDY THE IMPACT**  
2 **OF USING RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR SUP-**  
3 **PORTIVE AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR**  
4 **INDIVIDUALS RECOVERING FROM OPIOID**  
5 **USE DISORDERS OR OTHER SUBSTANCE USE**  
6 **DISORDERS.**

7 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of  
8 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the  
9 end the following new paragraph:

10 “(21) RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION PRO-  
11 GRAM FOR SUPPORTIVE AND TRANSITIONAL HOUS-  
12 ING FOR INDIVIDUALS RECOVERING FROM OPIOID  
13 USE DISORDERS OR OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DIS-  
14 ORDERS.—

15 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary  
16 shall establish a demonstration program under  
17 which the Secretary shall set aside, allocate,  
18 and distribute directly to eligible entities, from  
19 amounts made available for rental assistance  
20 under this subsection, the amounts specified in  
21 subparagraph (B) for an eligible entity to pro-  
22 vide a voucher for such assistance to a covered  
23 individual through a supportive and transitional  
24 housing program that provides treatment for  
25 opioid use disorders or other substance use dis-  
26 orders (as applicable), job skills training, and

1 such assistance for a period of 12 to 24  
2 months.

3 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in  
4 this subparagraph is, for each of fiscal years  
5 2019 through 2023, the amount necessary to  
6 provide the lesser of—

7 “(i) 0.5 percent of the total number of  
8 vouchers allocated under this subsection  
9 during the fiscal year ending immediately  
10 before the date of the enactment of this  
11 paragraph; or

12 “(ii) 10,000 vouchers.

13 “(C) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—  
14 An eligible entity shall provide an evidence-  
15 based treatment program and a job skills train-  
16 ing program for individuals recovering from an  
17 opioid use disorder or other substance use dis-  
18 order, as applicable, that meet standards estab-  
19 lished by the Secretary.

20 “(D) APPLICATION.—To receive a rental  
21 assistance voucher under this paragraph, an eli-  
22 gible entity shall submit an application to the  
23 Secretary that shall include—

24 “(i) a description of the terms of  
25 treatment program, job skills training, and

1 rental assistance to be provided to a cov-  
2 ered individual, and assurances that such  
3 description shall be communicated to cov-  
4 ered individuals that receive vouchers pur-  
5 suant to the demonstration program estab-  
6 lished under this paragraph; and

7 “(ii) a transitional plan that begins on  
8 the date on which a covered individual  
9 completes the treatment program of the el-  
10 igible entity that includes information on  
11 additional treatment, job skills training,  
12 and housing resources and services avail-  
13 able to such covered individual.

14 “(E) SELECTION.—In selecting eligible en-  
15 tities to receive rental assistance vouchers  
16 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

17 “(i) ensure that such eligible enti-  
18 ties—

19 “(I) are diverse;

20 “(II) represent an appropriate  
21 balance of eligible entities located in  
22 urban and rural areas; and

23 “(III) provide supportive and  
24 transitional housing programs in di-  
25 verse geographic regions with high

1 rates of mortality due to opioid use  
2 disorders or other substance use dis-  
3 orders, as applicable, based on data of  
4 the Centers for Disease Control and  
5 Prevention; and

6 “(ii) consider—

7 “(I) the success of each recipient  
8 eligible entity at helping individuals  
9 complete the treatment program of  
10 the eligible entity and refrain from  
11 opioid or other substance usage, as  
12 applicable;

13 “(II) the type of job skills train-  
14 ing program provided by the eligible  
15 entity;

16 “(III) the percentage of partici-  
17 pants in the job skills training pro-  
18 gram that gain and maintain employ-  
19 ment;

20 “(IV) the percentage of partici-  
21 pants in the treatment program of the  
22 eligible entity that—

23 “(aa) do not relapse into  
24 opioid or other substance usage,  
25 as applicable; and

1 “(bb) do not receive Federal  
2 assistance for treatment of an  
3 opioid use disorder or other sub-  
4 stance use disorder, as applica-  
5 ble, after completion of the pro-  
6 gram.

7 “(F) TRANSFER OF VOUCHER.—Upon ter-  
8 mination of the provision of rental assistance  
9 through a voucher to a covered individual, the  
10 eligible entity that initially offered such voucher  
11 may use such voucher to provide rental assist-  
12 ance to another covered individual.

13 “(G) DURATION.—The Secretary shall not  
14 make rental assistance available under this  
15 paragraph after the expiration of the 5-year pe-  
16 riod beginning on the date of the enactment of  
17 this paragraph.

18 “(H) REPORTS.—

19 “(i) BY THE ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An  
20 eligible entity that receives a rental assist-  
21 ance voucher under this paragraph shall  
22 submit to the Secretary—

23 “(I) annually, the transitional  
24 plan described in subparagraph  
25 (D)(ii) and information on each cov-

1           ered individual’s housing upon termi-  
2           nation of the provision of rental as-  
3           sistance through a voucher to such  
4           covered individual in a manner that  
5           protects the privacy of such covered  
6           individual; and

7                   “(II) not later than 4 years after  
8           the date of the enactment of this  
9           paragraph, a plan describing the  
10          treatment and housing options for any  
11          covered individual assisted by such  
12          voucher who will not have completed  
13          the program before the day that is 5  
14          years after such date of enactment.

15               “(ii) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-  
16          retary shall submit to Congress a report  
17          that analyzes the impact of rental assist-  
18          ance provided under this paragraph—

19                   “(I) not later than 2 years after  
20          the date of the enactment of this  
21          paragraph; and

22                   “(II) not later than 4 years after  
23          the date of the enactment of this  
24          paragraph, that includes recommenda-  
25          tions for the continuation or expan-

1                   sion of the program established under  
 2                   this paragraph and improving the  
 3                   process for providing such assistance.

4                   “(I) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

5                   “(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘el-  
 6                   igible entity’ means a nonprofit organiza-  
 7                   tion that meets the criteria described  
 8                   under subparagraph (C).

9                   “(ii) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The  
 10                  term ‘covered individual’ means an indi-  
 11                  vidual recovering from an opioid use dis-  
 12                  order or other substance use disorder.”.

13 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION**  
 14 **PROGRAM.**

15           Effective the day that is 5 years after the date of  
 16 the enactment of this Act, paragraph (21) of section 8(o)  
 17 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
 18 1437f(o)), as added by this Act, is repealed.

19 **SEC. 4. RETURN OF VOUCHERS.**

20           An eligible entity that provided vouchers for rental  
 21 assistance under paragraph (21) of section 8(o) of the  
 22 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)),  
 23 as added by this Act, shall return any such vouchers to  
 24 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on the



1 day that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this  
2 Act.

