

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2945

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2018

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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the 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 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEM-**
2 **ONSTRATION.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) FAMILIES; PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The
5 term “public housing agency” have the meanings
6 given those terms in section 3(b) of the United
7 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

8 (2) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.—
9 The term “housing choice voucher assistance”
10 means voucher assistance provided under section
11 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
12 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

13 (3) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means a Regional
14 Housing Mobility Plan submitted under subsection
15 (d).

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

18 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may carry out a mo-
19 bility demonstration program to enable public housing
20 agencies to administer housing choice voucher assistance
21 in a manner designed to encourage families receiving that
22 assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand ac-
23 cess to opportunity areas.

24 (c) SELECTION OF PHAS.—

25 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall es-
26 tablish requirements for public housing agencies to

1 participate in the demonstration program under this
2 section, which shall provide that the following public
3 housing agencies may participate:

4 (A) Public housing agencies that to-
5 gether—

6 (i) serve areas with high concentra-
7 tions of families receiving housing choice
8 voucher assistance in poor, low-opportunity
9 neighborhoods; and

10 (ii) have an adequate number of mod-
11 erately priced rental units in higher-oppor-
12 tunity areas.

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

15 (i) include not less than 1 public
16 housing agency with a high-performing
17 Family Self-Sufficiency program carried
18 out under section 23 of the United States
19 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u);
20 and

21 (ii) will enable participating families
22 to continue in the Family Self-Sufficiency
23 program if the family relocates to the ju-
24 risdiction served by any other public hous-
25 ing agency of the consortium.

1 (C) Planned consortia or partial consortia
2 of public housing agencies that—

3 (i) serve jurisdictions within a single
4 region;

5 (ii) include not less than 1 small pub-
6 lic housing agency; and

7 (iii) will consolidate mobility-focused
8 operations.

9 (D) Such other public housing agencies as
10 the Secretary considers appropriate.

11 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
12 establish competitive selection criteria for public
13 housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to
14 participate in the demonstration program under this
15 section.

16 (3) RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—The
17 Secretary may require public housing agencies par-
18 ticipating in the demonstration program under this
19 section to use a randomized selection process to se-
20 lect among the families eligible to receive assistance
21 under the demonstration program.

22 (d) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—The Sec-
23 retary shall require each public housing agency applying
24 to participate in the demonstration program under this

1 section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan, which
2 shall—

3 (1) identify the public housing agencies that
4 will participate under the Plan and the number of
5 vouchers each participating public housing agency
6 will make available out of their existing programs in
7 connection with the demonstration;

8 (2) identify any community-based organizations,
9 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other enti-
10 ties that will participate under the Plan and describe
11 the commitments for the participation made by each
12 such entity;

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

15 (4) identify any specific actions that the public
16 housing agencies and other entities will undertake to
17 accomplish the goals of the demonstration program,
18 which shall include a comprehensive approach to en-
19 able a successful transition to opportunity areas and
20 may include counseling and continued support for
21 families;

22 (5) specify the criteria that the public housing
23 agencies would use to identify opportunity areas
24 under the Plan;

1 (6) provide for the establishment of priority and
2 preferences for families receiving assistance under
3 the demonstration program, including a preference
4 for families with young children, as such term is de-
5 fined by the Secretary, based on regional housing
6 needs and priorities; and

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

9 (e) FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—

10 (1) USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Each
11 public housing agency participating in the dem-
12 onstration program under this section may use ad-
13 ministrative fees under section 8(q) of the United
14 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)),
15 any administrative fee reserves of the public housing
16 agency, and funding from private entities to provide
17 mobility-related services in connection with the dem-
18 onstration program, including services such as coun-
19 seling, portability coordination, landlord outreach,
20 security deposits, and administrative activities asso-
21 ciated with establishing and operating regional mo-
22 bility programs.

23 (2) USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—
24 Each public housing agency participating in the
25 demonstration program under this section may use

1 housing assistance payment contract funds under
2 section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for security deposits if
4 necessary to enable families to lease units with hous-
5 ing choice voucher assistance in designated oppor-
6 tunity areas.

7 (f) WAIVERS; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (1) WAIVERS.—To allow for public housing
9 agencies to implement and administer the Plan of
10 the public housing agency under the demonstration
11 program under this section, the Secretary may waive
12 or specify alternative requirements for the following
13 provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937
14 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.):

15 (A) Paragraphs (7)(A) and (13)(E)(i) of
16 section 8(o) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) (relating to
17 the term of a lease and mobility requirements).

18 (B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (42 U.S.C.
19 1437f(o)(13)(C)(i)) (relating to the public hous-
20 ing agency plan).

21 (C) Section 8(r)(2) (42 U.S.C.
22 1437f(r)(2)) (relating to the responsibility of a
23 public housing agency to administer portable
24 assistance).

1 (2) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall provide additional authority for public
3 housing agencies in a selected region to form a con-
4 sortium that has a single housing assistance pay-
5 ment contract, or to enter into a partial consortium
6 to operate all or portions of the Plan, including pub-
7 lic housing agencies participating in the Moving To
8 Work demonstration program established under sec-
9 tion 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and
10 Housing and Urban Development, and Independent
11 Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law
12 104–134; 110 Stat. 1321–281).

13 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any waiver or alter-
14 native requirements pursuant to this subsection shall
15 not take effect before the date that is 10 days after
16 the date on which the date on which the Secretary
17 publishes a notice of the waiver or alternative re-
18 quirement in the Federal Register.

19 (g) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may imple-
20 ment the demonstration program under this section, in-
21 cluding the terms, procedures, requirements, and condi-
22 tions of the demonstration, by notice.

23 (h) EVALUATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after
25 the implementation of the regional housing mobility

1 programs by public housing agencies participating in
2 the demonstration program under this section, the
3 Secretary shall submit to Congress and publish in
4 the Federal Register a report evaluating the effec-
5 tiveness of the strategies pursued under the dem-
6 onstration program, subject to the availability of
7 funding to conduct the evaluation.

8 (2) DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall—

10 (A) through internet websites and other
11 means, disseminate interim findings relating to
12 the demonstration program under this section
13 as they become available; and

14 (B) if promising strategies are identified
15 through the findings described in subparagraph
16 (A), notify Congress of the amount of funds
17 that would be required to expand the testing of
18 these strategies in additional types of public
19 housing agencies and housing markets.

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