

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4300

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

To provide Federal housing assistance on behalf of youths
who are aging out of foster care, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF FAMILY.**

5 Subparagraph (A) of section 3(b)(3) of the United
6 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(A))
7 is amended—

8 (1) in the first sentence—

9 (A) by striking “(v)” and inserting “(vi)”;

10 and

11 (B) by inserting after “tenant family,” the
12 following: “(v) a youth described in section
13 8(x)(2)(B),”; and

14 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “or
15 (vi)” after “clause (v)”.

16 **SEC. 3. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS FOR FOSTERING STA-**
17 **BLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.**

18 (a) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER
19 CARE.—Section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of
20 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “subject to
22 paragraph (5),” after “(B)”;

23 (2) in paragraph (3)—

24 (A) by striking “(3) ALLOCATION.—The”
25 and inserting the following:

26 “(3) ALLOCATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

2 (B) by adding at the end the following new
3 subparagraph:

4 “(B) ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT
5 OF FOSTER CARE.—Notwithstanding any other
6 provision of law, the Secretary shall, subject
7 only to the availability of funds, allocate such
8 assistance to any public housing agencies that
9 (i) administer assistance pursuant to paragraph
10 (2)(B), or seek to administer such assistance,
11 consistent with procedures established by the
12 Secretary, (ii) have requested such assistance so
13 that they may provide timely assistance to eligi-
14 ble youth, and (iii) have submitted to the Sec-
15 retary a statement describing how the agency
16 will connect assisted youths with local commu-
17 nity resources and self-sufficiency services, to
18 the extent they are available, and obtain refer-
19 rals from public child welfare agencies regard-
20 ing youths in foster care who become eligible
21 for such assistance.”;

22 (3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
23 graph (6); and

24 (4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(5) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR
2 YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.—Assistance
3 provided under this subsection for an eligible youth
4 pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be subject to the
5 following requirements:

6 “(A) REQUIREMENTS TO EXTEND ASSIST-
7 ANCE.—

8 “(i) PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY SELF-
9 SUFFICIENCY.—In the case of a public
10 housing agency that is providing such as-
11 sistance under this subsection on behalf of
12 an eligible youth and that is carrying out
13 a family self-sufficiency program under
14 section 23, the agency shall, subject only
15 to the availability of such assistance, ex-
16 tend the provision of such assistance for
17 up to 24 months beyond the period re-
18 ferred to in paragraph (2)(B), but only
19 during such period that the youth is in
20 compliance with the terms and conditions
21 applicable under section 23 and the regula-
22 tions implementing such section to a per-
23 son participating in a family self-suffi-
24 ciency program.

1 “(ii) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DE-
2 VELOPMENT, OR EMPLOYMENT.—In the
3 case of a public housing agency that is
4 providing such assistance under this sub-
5 section on behalf of an eligible youth and
6 that is not carrying out a family self-suffi-
7 ciency program under section 23, or is car-
8 rying out such a program in which the
9 youth has been unable to enroll, the agency
10 shall, subject only to the availability of
11 such assistance, extend the provision of
12 such assistance for two successive 12-
13 month periods, after the period referred to
14 in paragraph (2)(B), but only if for not
15 less than 9 months of the 12-month period
16 preceding each such extension the youth
17 was—

18 “(I) engaged in obtaining a rec-
19 ognized postsecondary credential or a
20 secondary school diploma or its recog-
21 nized equivalent;

22 “(II) enrolled in an institution of
23 higher education, as such term is de-
24 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

1001(a)) and including the institutions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)); or

“(III) participating in a career pathway, as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

Notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, a public housing agency shall consider employment as satisfying the requirements under this subparagraph.

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (ii), a public housing agency that is providing such assistance under this subsection on behalf of an eligible youth shall extend the provision of such assistance for up to 24 months beyond the period referred to in paragraph (2)(B), and clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph shall not apply, if the eligible youth certifies that he or she is—

“(I) a parent or other household member responsible for the care of a

1 dependent child under the age of 6 or
2 for the care of an incapacitated per-
3 son;

4 “(II) a person who is regularly
5 and actively participating in a drug
6 addiction or alcohol treatment and re-
7 habilitation program; or

8 “(III) a person who is incapable
9 of complying with the requirement
10 under clause (i) or (ii), as applicable,
11 due to a documented medical condi-
12 tion.

13 “(iv) VERIFICATION OF COMPLI-
14 ANCE.—The Secretary shall require the
15 public housing agency to verify compliance
16 with the requirements under this subpara-
17 graph by each eligible youth on whose be-
18 half the agency provides such assistance
19 under this subsection on an annual basis
20 in conjunction with reviews of income for
21 purposes of determining income eligibility
22 for such assistance.

23 “(B) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—

24 “(i) ELIGIBILITY.—Each eligible
25 youth on whose behalf such assistance

1 under this subsection is provided shall be
2 eligible for any supportive services (as such
3 term is defined in section 103 of the Work-
4 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
5 U.S.C. 3102)) made available, in connec-
6 tion with any housing assistance program
7 of the agency, by or through the public
8 housing agency providing such assistance.

9 “(ii) INFORMATION.—Upon the initial
10 provision of such assistance under this
11 subsection on behalf of any eligible youth,
12 the public housing agency shall inform
13 such eligible youth of the existence of any
14 programs or services referred to in clause
15 (i) and of their eligibility for such pro-
16 grams and services.

17 “(C) APPLICABILITY TO MOVING TO WORK
18 AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
19 sion of law, the requirements of this paragraph
20 shall apply to assistance under this subsection
21 pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) made available
22 by each public housing agency participating in
23 the Moving to Work Program under section 204
24 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and
25 Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-

pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), except that in lieu of compliance with clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such an agency may comply with the requirements under such clauses by complying with such terms, conditions, and requirements as may be established by the agency for persons on whose behalf such rental assistance under this subsection is provided.

“(D) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON TURN-OVER.—A public housing agency shall not reissue any such assistance made available from appropriated funds when assistance for the youth initially assisted is terminated, unless specifically authorized by the Secretary.

“(E) REPORTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require each public housing agency that provides such assistance under this subsection in any fiscal year to submit a report to the Secretary for such fiscal year that—

“(I) specifies the number of persons on whose behalf such assistance

1 under this subsection was provided
2 during such fiscal year;

3 “(II) specifies the number of per-
4 sons who applied during such fiscal
5 year for such assistance under this
6 subsection, but were not provided
7 such assistance, and provides a brief
8 identification in each instance of the
9 reason why the public housing agency
10 was unable to award such assistance;
11 and

12 “(III) describes how the public
13 housing agency communicated or col-
14 laborated with public child welfare
15 agencies to collect such data.

16 “(ii) INFORMATION COLLECTIONS.—
17 The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent
18 possible, utilize existing information collec-
19 tions, including the voucher management
20 system (VMS), the Inventory Management
21 System/PIH Information Center (IMS/
22 PIC), or the successors of those systems,
23 to collect information required under this
24 subparagraph.

1 “(F) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
2 consult with the Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services to provide such information
4 and guidance to the Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services as may be necessary to facili-
6 tate such Secretary in informing States and
7 public child welfare agencies on how to correctly
8 and efficiently implement and comply with the
9 requirements of this subsection relating to as-
10 sistance provided pursuant to paragraph
11 (2)(B).”.

12 (b) COORDINATION BETWEEN PHAS AND PUBLIC
13 CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES.—

14 (1) APPLICABILITY TO FOSTERING STABLE
15 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.—Subparagraph
16 (A) of section 8(x)(4) of the United States Housing
17 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)(4)(A)) is amended
18 by inserting before the semicolon at the end the fol-
19 lowing: “and establishing a point of contact at public
20 housing agencies to ensure that public housing agen-
21 cies receive appropriate referrals regarding eligible
22 recipients”.

23 (c) PHA ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—Subsection (q) of
24 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42

1 U.S.C. 1437f(q)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 2 lowing new paragraph:

3 “(5) SUPPLEMENTS FOR ADMINISTERING AS-
 4 SISTANCE FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER
 5 CARE.—The Secretary may provide supplemental
 6 fees under this subsection to the public housing
 7 agency for the cost of administering any assistance
 8 for foster youth under subsection (x)(2)(B), in an
 9 amount determined by the Secretary, but only if the
 10 agency waives for such eligible youth receiving as-
 11 sistance any residency requirement that it has other-
 12 wise established pursuant to subsection
 13 (r)(1)(B)(i).”.

14 **SEC. 4. EXCEPTIONS TO LIMITATIONS FOR PROJECT-BASED**
 15 **VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.**

16 (a) PERCENTAGE LIMITATION.—The first sentence of
 17 clause (ii) of section 8(o)(13)(B) of the United States
 18 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(B)(ii)) is
 19 amended by inserting before “or that” the following: “that
 20 house eligible youths receiving assistance pursuant to sub-
 21 section (x)(2)(B),”.

22 (b) INCOME-MIXING REQUIREMENT.—Subclause (I)
 23 of section 8(o)(13)(D)(ii) of the United States Housing
 24 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(D)(ii)(I)) is amend-
 25 ed by inserting after “elderly families” the following: “,

4 The amendments made by this Act shall not apply
5 to housing choice voucher assistance made available pur-
6 suant to section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act
7 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)) that is in use on behalf of
8 an assisted family as of the date of the enactment of this
9 Act.

Passed the House of Representatives November 18,
2019.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.