

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7950

To provide emergency relief to youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness, in light of the health and economic consequences of COVID–19.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 7, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide emergency relief to youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness, in light of the health and economic consequences of COVID–19.

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 “Emergency Family
5 Stabilization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CURRENT ACF GRANT OR SUBGRANT RE-
9 CIPIENT.—The term “current ACF grant or

1 subgrant recipient” means an Indian Tribe, Tribal
2 organization, local educational agency, or a local
3 public, private, or Indian nonprofit agency or organi-
4 zation (including culturally specific community-based
5 and faith-based organizations) that, as of the date of
6 application for a grant under section 3, is also re-
7 ceiving another grant or subgrant administered by
8 the Administration for Children and Families.

9 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
10 the Director of the Office of Community Services of
11 the Department of Health and Human Services.

12 (3) DIRECT SERVICES.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 subparagraph (B), the term “direct services”
15 does not include providing referrals or oper-
16 ating a coordinated entry system or homeless
17 management information system, by itself.

18 (B) INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZA-
19 TIONS.—An Indian Tribe or Tribal organization
20 that provides referrals or assists other service
21 providers with direct services shall be consid-
22 ered as providing direct services for purposes of
23 this Act.

24 (4) FAMILY STABILIZATION AGENCY.—The
25 term “family stabilization agency” means—

1 (A) a current ACF grant or subgrant re-
2 cipient;

3 (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
4 tion;

5 (C) an urban Indian organization;

6 (D) a local educational agency; or

7 (E) a local public, private, or Indian non-
8 profit agency or organization (including com-
9 munity-based, culturally specific, and faith-
10 based organizations), with expertise and dem-
11 onstrated experience providing direct services to
12 1 or more of the following populations:

13 (i) Children experiencing homeless-
14 ness, including children under age 6.

15 (ii) Unaccompanied homeless youth
16 under the age of 18.

17 (iii) Unaccompanied homeless youth
18 between the ages of 18 and 25.

19 (iv) Pregnant women, and pregnant or
20 parenting youth, experiencing homeles-
21 ness.

22 (v) Families experiencing homeles-
23 ness.

1 (vi) Survivors of dating violence, do-
2 mestic violence, sexual assault, family vio-
3 lence, or trafficking.

4 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
5 means an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the
6 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

8 (6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
9 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
10 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (7) RURAL.—The term “rural” means a unit of
13 local government with a population of less than
14 50,000.

15 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

17 (9) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal
18 organization” means a tribal organization, as de-
19 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
20 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

21 (10) URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term
22 “urban Indian organization” has the meaning given
23 the term “Urban Indian organization” in section 4
24 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25
25 U.S.C. 1603).

1 (11) YOUTH, CHILD, OR FAMILY EXPERIENCING
2 HOMELESSNESS.—The term “youth, child, or family
3 experiencing homelessness” means—

4 (A) a homeless child or youth, as defined
5 in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento
6 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
7 11434a(2)), who is under the age of 25;

8 (B) an unaccompanied youth, as defined in
9 section 725(6) of the McKinney-Vento Home-
10 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(6)), who
11 is under the age of 25; or

12 (C) a household of not less than 2 people
13 that includes not less than 1 person under age
14 22 who is a homeless child or youth, as defined
15 in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento
16 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 11434a(2)).

18 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
19 the several States, the District of Columbia, the Vir-
20 gin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth
21 of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the
22 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

23 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO FAMILY STABILIZATION AGENCIES.**

24 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
2 able under section 4 and not reserved under sub-
3 section (b), the Secretary, acting through the Direc-
4 tor, shall, on a competitive basis in accordance with
5 subsection (d), award grants to family stabilization
6 agencies (including current ACF grant or subgrant
7 recipients and entities that have not previously re-
8 ceived grants from the Administration for Children
9 and Families) to enable the family stabilization
10 agencies to carry out the activities described in sub-
11 section (e).

12 (2) DISTRIBUTION TIMING.—

13 (A) CURRENT ACF GRANT OR SUBGRANT
14 RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall award grants
15 under this section, in accordance with sub-
16 section (d), to family stabilization agencies that
17 are current ACF grant or subgrant recipients
18 by not later than the date that is 45 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (B) ADDITIONAL GRANTEEES.—The Sec-
21 retary shall award grants under this section, in
22 accordance with subsection (d), to family sta-
23 bilization agencies that are not current ACF
24 grant or subgrant recipients by not later than

1 the date that is 130 days after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act.

3 (3) DISSEMINATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The
4 Secretary shall—

5 (A) ensure the application for grants under
6 this Act is broadly disseminated, including
7 through public posting on the website of the
8 Administration for Children and Families and
9 sharing with current ACF grant or subgrant re-
10 cipients; and

11 (B) make special dissemination efforts to
12 rural areas and among Indian Tribes and Trib-
13 al organizations.

14 (b) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not
15 less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the
16 amount appropriated under this Act to be used for admin-
17 istration, oversight, and technical assistance activities
18 through the Administration for Children and Families.

19 (c) APPLICATION.—A family stabilization agency that
20 desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an
21 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing or accompanied by such information as the
23 Secretary may reasonably require. Such application shall
24 include the following:

1 (1) A description of the housing, education,
2 health, mental and behavioral health, employment,
3 and other needs of youth, children, and families ex-
4 perienceing homelessness, in the area served by such
5 agency, specifically including youth, children, and
6 families who are sharing the housing of other per-
7 sons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or
8 a similar reason.

9 (2) Available data on the extent of youth, child,
10 and family homelessness in the area served by such
11 agency, including data available from local edu-
12 cational agencies and data on child poverty in the
13 area.

14 (3) A description of barriers youth, children,
15 and families experienceing homelessness face in ac-
16 cessing services, including barriers related to dating
17 violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, family vi-
18 olence, poverty, lack of employment, lack of trans-
19 portation, lack of telephone and internet
20 connectivity, educational needs, and language acces-
21 sibility.

22 (4) A description of such agency's direct service
23 expertise and experience with youth, child, or family
24 homelessness, specifically including youth, children,
25 and families who are sharing the housing of other

1 persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,
2 or a similar reason.

3 (5) A description of the area served by such
4 agency, including whether the service area is urban,
5 suburban, rural, or Tribal. If the applicant claims to
6 cover a Tribal service area but is not an Indian
7 Tribe or Tribal organization, the applicant shall pro-
8 vide evidence of having consulted with the Indian
9 Tribe or Tribal organization whose service area the
10 applicant claims to cover and provide proof that the
11 Indian Tribe or Tribal organization supports the ap-
12 plicant's application.

13 (6) A description of such agency's existing part-
14 nerships with other agencies or organizations with
15 experience serving youth, children, and families ex-
16 periencing homelessness.

17 (7) A description of how funds received under
18 the grant will be used to provide emergency relief to
19 youth, children, and families experiencing homeless-
20 ness, specifically including—

21 (A) youth, children, and families who are
22 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss
23 of housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-
24 son; and

1 (B) youth, children, and families experi-
2 encing homelessness who are not receiving serv-
3 ices through the Continuum of Care program
4 under subpart C of title IV of the McKinney-
5 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
6 11381 et seq.) as of the date of the application.

7 (d) AWARD BASIS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
9 grants under this section on the basis of—

10 (A) the need in the area served by each ap-
11 plicant;

12 (B) the quality of each application; and

13 (C) the distribution and priority require-
14 ments under paragraphs (4) and (5).

15 (2) NEED.—In determining need under para-
16 graph (1)(A), the Secretary shall consider—

17 (A) the extent of children, youth, and fam-
18 ilies experiencing homelessness in the area
19 served by the family stabilization agency, in-
20 cluding data available from local educational
21 agencies and data on child poverty;

22 (B) the extent to which the proposed uses
23 of funds will provide emergency relief to meet
24 unmet needs of youth, children, and families ex-
25 periencing homelessness, specifically including

1 youth, children, and families who are sharing
2 the housing of other persons due to loss of
3 housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-
4 son;

5 (C) the extent to which the proposed uses
6 of funds will provide emergency relief to youth,
7 children, and families experiencing homeless-
8 ness who are not currently receiving services
9 through the Continuum of Care program under
10 subpart C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento
11 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et
12 seq.); and

13 (D) the extent to which the application ad-
14 dresses the particular needs of pregnant
15 women, pregnant and parenting youth, Indian
16 women, children under age 6, children with dis-
17 abilities, families experiencing domestic vio-
18 lence, survivors of sexual assault or human traf-
19 ficking, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
20 queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual
21 (LGBTQIA) individuals, or racial and ethnic
22 minority populations.

23 (3) QUALITY.—In determining quality under
24 paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, for
25 both current ACF grant or subgrant recipients and

1 not current ACF grant or subgrant recipients, the
2 following:

3 (A) The family stabilization agency's needs
4 assessment under subsection (e)(1) and the
5 likelihood that the program presented in the ap-
6 plication will meet such needs.

7 (B) The types, intensity, and coordination
8 of the emergency relief to be provided under the
9 program to youth, children, and families experi-
10 encing homelessness.

11 (C) The extent of the family stabilization
12 agency's demonstrated expertise and experience
13 providing direct services to youth, children, and
14 families experiencing homelessness who are
15 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss
16 of housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-
17 son.

18 (D) The robustness of such agency's plan
19 to reach youth, children, and families experi-
20 encing homelessness who are sharing the hous-
21 ing of other persons due to loss of housing, eco-
22 nomic hardship, or a similar reason, including
23 those who have lost a caregiver or family mem-
24 ber to COVID-19.

1 (E) The extent of such agency’s dem-
2 onstrated expertise and experience in providing
3 direct services to youth, children, and families
4 experiencing homelessness specifically.

5 (F) The extent to which the program pre-
6 sented in the application represents a multi-
7 generational approach to supporting youth, chil-
8 dren, and families experiencing homelessness.

9 (G) The extent to which the application re-
10 flects coordination with local educational agen-
11 cies and public or private nonprofit agencies or
12 organizations with experience serving youth,
13 children, and families experiencing homeless-
14 ness.

15 (H) The extent to which the family sta-
16 bilization agency is, has been, or has specific
17 plans to partner with, a recipient of a grant or
18 subgrant administered by the Administration
19 for Children and Families.

20 (4) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—

21 (A) DISTRIBUTION AMONG TYPES OF COM-
22 MUNITIES.—In awarding grants under sub-
23 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that
24 funds are distributed according to the following
25 allocation percentages:

1 (i) Not less than 10 percent of the
2 funds available for grants under this sec-
3 tion shall be awarded to family stabiliza-
4 tion agencies that are Indian Tribes or
5 Tribal organizations serving youth, chil-
6 dren, and families experiencing homeless-
7 ness.

8 (ii) Not less than 36 percent of the
9 funds available for grants under this Act
10 shall be awarded to family stabilization
11 agencies serving predominantly rural areas.

12 (iii) Not less than 30 percent of the
13 funds available for grants under this Act
14 shall be awarded to family stabilization
15 agencies serving predominantly suburban
16 areas.

17 (iv) Not more than 24 percent of the
18 funds available for grants under this Act
19 shall be awarded to family stabilization
20 agencies serving predominantly urban
21 areas.

22 (B) DISTRIBUTION TO EXPERIENCED
23 GRANTEES.—In awarding grants under sub-
24 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

1 (i) 80 percent of the funds available
2 for grants under this section are distrib-
3 uted to family stabilization agencies—

4 (I) that are current ACF grant
5 or subgrant recipients; and

6 (II) which may apply in partner-
7 ship with local educational agencies,
8 Tribal educational agencies, public
9 housing agencies, tribally designated
10 housing entities, community develop-
11 ment financial institutions, State
12 housing finance agencies, programs
13 that provide shelter to youth experi-
14 encing homelessness who are pregnant
15 or parenting, public health agencies,
16 domestic violence, dating violence, sex-
17 ual assault, and family violence orga-
18 nizations, culturally specific organiza-
19 tions, institutions of higher education
20 as defined in section 101 of the High-
21 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1001), urban Indian organizations, or
23 other community partners; and

24 (ii) 20 percent of the funds are dis-
25 tributed as grants to family stabilization

1 agencies that are not current ACF grant
2 or subgrant recipients.

3 (C) SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR GRANTS TO
4 INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
6 to family stabilization agencies that are In-
7 dian Tribes or Tribal organizations pursu-
8 ant to subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary
9 may waive any requirements of paragraph
10 (2) or (3) or subsection (c).

11 (ii) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—
12 In awarding grants pursuant to subpara-
13 graph (A)(i), the Secretary shall consider
14 family stabilization agencies that are In-
15 dian Tribes and Tribal organizations that
16 provide services that address child abuse
17 and neglect.

18 (D) DISTRIBUTION AMONG STATES.—In
19 awarding grants under subsection (a), the Sec-
20 retary shall ensure that at least one family sta-
21 bilization agency in each State receives a grant
22 in each State from which an application that
23 meets the requirements of this section is re-
24 ceived.

1 (5) PRIORITY IN AWARDS.—In awarding grants
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pri-
3 ority to applications that will provide emergency re-
4 lief to youth, children, and families experiencing
5 homelessness who are sharing the housing of other
6 persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,
7 or a similar reason, while ensuring the distribution
8 of awards in accordance with paragraph (4).

9 (e) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Family stabilization
10 agencies may use funds awarded under this section to pro-
11 vide emergency relief to youth, children, and families expe-
12 riencing homelessness, including the following:

13 (1) The provision of personnel necessary to pro-
14 vide emergency relief and ensure services, resources,
15 and assistance reach youth, children, and families
16 experiencing homelessness, whether such personnel
17 are employees of the family stabilization agency or
18 a nonprofit community partner.

19 (2) The provision of personal protective equip-
20 ment, hygiene supplies, and other supplies deter-
21 mined to be necessary to mitigate the spread of
22 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) by the Cen-
23 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occu-
24 pational Safety and Health Administration, a State,
25 an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or a locality

1 for personnel delivering services and for youth, chil-
2 dren, and families experiencing homelessness.

3 (3) Payments to meet shelter and housing-re-
4 lated needs to support safety and health, including
5 payments for—

6 (A) security deposits;

7 (B) eviction prevention;

8 (C) utility connection fees and payments;

9 (D) outstanding rental, utility, motel, and
10 other bills as needed to enter housing or con-
11 nect utilities;

12 (E) motel or hotel stays;

13 (F) housing placement;

14 (G) records expungement; and

15 (H) other assistance.

16 (4) The provision of food and equipment needed
17 to prepare food.

18 (5) The provision of medical and dental health
19 services, including preventive care.

20 (6) The provision of mental and behavioral
21 health services, including preventive care.

22 (7) The provision of clothing, access to laundry
23 facilities, clothes washers and dryers, detergent, and
24 personal hygiene supplies.

1 (8) The provision of transportation, including
2 payments for gas, emergency vehicle repairs, re-
3 quired insurance, driver’s education and driver’s li-
4 cense fees, public transportation, and other trans-
5 portation appropriate for Tribal and rural locations.

6 (9) The provision of support to meet commu-
7 nications and connectivity needs, including internet
8 connectivity, outstanding internet or telephone bills
9 as needed to connect communications services, elec-
10 tronic and connected devices, hotspots, portable
11 chargers, pre-paid phone cards, calling minutes and
12 data plans, and costs to ship items and supplies.

13 (10) The provision of support to meet edu-
14 cational and employment needs, including academic
15 support, distance learning support, resources, and
16 access, child care, social and emotional supports, ca-
17 reer and technical education, employment training
18 and placement, and similar supports.

19 (11) The purchase and distribution of store
20 cards, gift cards, prepaid debit cards, and vouchers
21 to allow youth, children, and families experiencing
22 homelessness to purchase any items or services that
23 constitute emergency relief.

24 (12) The provision of mentorship and service
25 coordination.

1 (13) The provision of services and supports to
2 meet the particular needs of pregnant women, preg-
3 nant and parenting youth, and children birth to age
4 five, experiencing homelessness.

5 (14) The provision of services and supports to
6 meet the particular needs of unaccompanied youth
7 experiencing homelessness.

8 (15) The provision of services and supports to
9 meet the particular needs of survivors of domestic
10 violence, sexual assault, or trafficking.

11 (16) The provision of assistance in accessing
12 advance refunds payable under section 6428(f) of
13 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly re-
14 ferred to as “economic impact payments”), unem-
15 ployment compensation, and other benefits provided
16 by Federal, State and local governments.

17 (17) The provision of services and supports to
18 prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

19 (18) The provision of culturally specific services
20 and supports to meet the particular needs of chil-
21 dren, family, and youth from racial and ethnic mi-
22 nority populations.

23 (19) The provision of other extraordinary or
24 emergency assistance needed to promote the safety

1 and self-sufficiency of youth, children, and families
2 experiencing homelessness.

3 (20) Other purposes as determined by the Sec-
4 retary.

5 (f) REPORTING.—

6 (1) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—A family
7 stabilization agency receiving a grant under this Act
8 shall submit a report to the Secretary at such time
9 and in such manner as the Secretary shall require,
10 that describes the number and demographics of chil-
11 dren, youth, and families served with grant funds,
12 including the number of such youth, children, or
13 families experiencing homelessness, and the activities
14 implemented to provide emergency relief to youth,
15 children, and families experiencing homelessness.

16 (2) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later
17 than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
18 Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the
19 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
20 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
21 and Labor of the House of Representatives a report
22 describing the characteristics of the family stabiliza-
23 tion agencies that received a grant under this Act
24 and summarizing the findings from the reports re-
25 ceived under paragraph (1).

1 (3) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—For
2 the purpose of preparing or submitting a report re-
3 quired under this subsection, information that per-
4 sonally identifies any individual may not be dis-
5 closed.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
8 this Act \$2,000,000,000.

○