

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3083

To authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2019

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 a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

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 Stability and  
5 Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FAMILY STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY VOUCHERS.**

2 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of  
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 “(21) FAMILY STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY  
6 VOUCHERS.—

7 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

8 “(i) The term ‘area of concentrated  
9 poverty’ means a census tract in which the  
10 poverty rate is not less than 30 percent, as  
11 most recently determined by the Bureau of  
12 the Census.

13 “(ii) The term ‘eligible family’ means  
14 a family that—

15 “(I) includes a pregnant woman  
16 or a child under the age of 6;

17 “(II) meets all applicable eligi-  
18 bility requirements under this sub-  
19 section; and

20 “(III) is—

21 “(aa) homeless;

22 “(bb) unstably housed;

23 “(cc) living in an area of  
24 concentrated poverty; or

25 “(dd) at risk of displace-  
26 ment from an opportunity area

1 for children or an area rapidly  
2 transitioning to become an oppor-  
3 tunity area for children.

4 “(iii) The term ‘homeless’, with re-  
5 spect to a family, means the family would  
6 satisfy the definition of ‘homeless children  
7 and youths’ (as defined in section 725 of  
8 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)) but for the re-  
10 quirement to be a child or youth.

11 “(iv) The term ‘opportunity area for  
12 children’ shall have the meaning given the  
13 term by the Secretary, using the best avail-  
14 able, outcomes-based evidence.

15 “(v) The term ‘unstably housed’, with  
16 respect to a family, means a family who—

17 “(I) is at risk of losing tem-  
18 porary or permanent housing;

19 “(II) has moved not less than  
20 twice during the 12-month period end-  
21 ing on the date on which a public  
22 housing agency selects the family  
23 from a waiting list to receive assist-  
24 ance under this paragraph;

1                   “(III) is living in a unit not ac-  
2                   cessible to a disabled family member;

3                   “(IV) is fleeing, or attempting to  
4                   flee, domestic violence, dating vio-  
5                   lence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

6                   “(V) is living in housing condi-  
7                   tions that are dangerous or life-  
8                   threatening.

9                   “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARD.—

10                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
11                   shall provide assistance to public housing  
12                   agencies on a competitive basis to be used  
13                   for—

14                   “(I) incremental vouchers for eli-  
15                   gible families; and

16                   “(II) one-time additional fees for  
17                   the cost to the public housing agencies  
18                   of providing mobility-related services  
19                   to eligible families.

20                   “(ii) SELECTION.—For the second fis-  
21                   cal year in which the Secretary provides  
22                   assistance under this paragraph, and each  
23                   fiscal year thereafter, in selecting public  
24                   housing agencies to receive assistance

1 under this paragraph, the Secretary  
2 shall—

3 “(I) consider the performance of  
4 public housing agencies in imple-  
5 menting this paragraph; and

6 “(II) give preference to public  
7 housing agencies that partner with or-  
8 ganizations that provide home visiting  
9 services, such as the services author-  
10 ized under section 511 of the Social  
11 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) or lo-  
12 cally funded initiatives, if those serv-  
13 ices are available in the service area of  
14 the public housing agency.

15 “(C) SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE OFFERED  
16 TO FAMILIES RECEIVING VOUCHERS.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A public housing  
18 agency that receives assistance under this  
19 paragraph—

20 “(I) shall offer, to each eligible  
21 family that the agency selects to re-  
22 ceive a voucher, mobility-related serv-  
23 ices to help the family move to an op-  
24 portunity area for children with access  
25 to a high-performing school;

1                   “(II) may not require an eligible  
2 family to participate in the mobility-  
3 related services described in subclause  
4 (I) as a condition of receipt of a  
5 voucher; and

6                   “(III) shall adopt mobility-related  
7 policies, to be specified by the Sec-  
8 retary.

9                   “(ii) MINIMUM ASSORTMENT OF SERV-  
10 ICES AND POLICIES.—The Secretary shall  
11 establish a minimum assortment of types  
12 of mobility-related services that a public  
13 housing agency shall offer, and mobility-re-  
14 lated policies that a public housing agency  
15 shall adopt, under clause (i) based on  
16 promising practices and evidence of the ef-  
17 fectiveness of the services and policies.

18                   “(iii) SPECIFIC SERVICES.—The types  
19 of mobility-related services required to be  
20 offered under clause (i)—

21                   “(I) shall include a customized  
22 approach to enable a successful tran-  
23 sition to opportunity areas for chil-  
24 dren; and

1                   “(II) may include counseling and  
2                   continued support for families.

3                   “(iv) OPPORTUNITY AREAS FOR CHIL-  
4                   DREN; HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS.—The  
5                   Secretary shall establish criteria for areas  
6                   and schools to qualify as opportunity areas  
7                   for children and high-performing schools,  
8                   respectively.

9                   “(v) MANNER OF PROVIDING SERV-  
10                  ICES.—A public housing agency may pro-  
11                  vide mobility-related services as required  
12                  under clause (i) directly or through a local  
13                  partnership or contract.

14                  “(D) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

15                  “(i) TURNOVER.—Upon turnover of a  
16                  voucher issued by a public housing agency  
17                  using assistance received under this para-  
18                  graph, the public housing agency shall  
19                  issue the voucher to another eligible family  
20                  under this paragraph.

21                  “(ii) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—  
22                  Notwithstanding any other provision of  
23                  law, with respect to a voucher authorized  
24                  under this paragraph—

1                   “(I) the Secretary may not waive  
2                   any provision of this paragraph or  
3                   subsection (r); and

4                   “(II) subsection (b) of section 16  
5                   shall apply, except as provided under  
6                   subsection (d) of that section.

7                   “(E) IMPLEMENTATION.—

8                   “(i) DEFINITIONS.—Not later than  
9                   180 days after the date of enactment of  
10                  this paragraph, the Secretary shall publish  
11                  a notice for public comment in the Federal  
12                  Register that includes any definitions or  
13                  other specifications required or authorized  
14                  under this paragraph.

15                  “(ii) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

16                  “(I) INITIAL YEAR.—For the  
17                  first fiscal year for which amounts are  
18                  appropriated to be provided to public  
19                  housing agencies for incremental  
20                  vouchers under this paragraph, the  
21                  Secretary shall allocate the amounts  
22                  to public housing agencies not later  
23                  than 1 year after the date on which  
24                  the amounts are appropriated.



1                   “(II) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—For  
 2                   any fiscal year after the fiscal year de-  
 3                   scribed in subclause (I), the Secretary  
 4                   shall allocate amounts to public hous-  
 5                   ing agencies for incremental vouchers  
 6                   under this paragraph not later than  
 7                   180 days after the date on which the  
 8                   amounts are appropriated.

9                   “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
 10                  TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-  
 11                  priated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years  
 12                  2020 through 2024 such sums as may be nec-  
 13                  essary to provide assistance to public housing  
 14                  agencies under this paragraph to be used for—

15                   “(i) 100,000 incremental vouchers, as  
 16                   described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I);

17                   “(ii) fees for the cost of administering  
 18                   the incremental vouchers described in sub-  
 19                   paragraph (B)(i)(I); and

20                   “(iii) one-time additional fees for mo-  
 21                   bility-related services, as described in sub-  
 22                   paragraph (B)(i)(II).”.

○