

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3628

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities are prepared  
for disasters, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 13, 2026

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLI-  
BRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH,  
Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. FETTERMAN) introduced the fol-  
lowing bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities  
are prepared for disasters, 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 “Real Emergency Ac-  
5       cess for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act”  
6       or the “REAADI for Disasters Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
9       ings:



1           (1) In the United States, according to the Cen-  
2           ters for Disease Control and Prevention, there are  
3           more than 70,000,000 adults who are individuals  
4           with disabilities and, according to the Bureau of the  
5           Census, there are more than 54,000,000 adults age  
6           65 or older.

7           (2) There have been nearly 400 emergencies de-  
8           clared under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford  
9           Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
10          U.S.C. 5191) related to hurricanes and tropical cy-  
11          clones during the period beginning January 2000  
12          and ending December 2024. These declared emer-  
13          gencies have directly resulted in at least 1,442  
14          deaths in the United States.

15          (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
16          ministration estimates that—

17                (A) the cumulative damage from weather-  
18                and climate-related disasters in 2022 cost the  
19                United States over \$182,700,000,000; and

20                (B) 27 of the disasters in 2024 cost over  
21                \$1,000,000,000 each.

22          (4) Individuals with disabilities and older adults  
23          have been found to die at higher rates, compared to  
24          the general population, during disasters.



1           (5) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
2           agement Agency, in 2024, the United States experi-  
3           enced a total of 108 major disaster and emergency  
4           declarations under sections 401 and 501, respec-  
5           tively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
6           Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191),  
7           which resulted in more than 4,000,000 individuals  
8           applying for assistance through the Agency.

9           (6) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
10          agement Agency, in 2022, the United States experi-  
11          enced 90 major disasters declared under section 401  
12          of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
13          gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) affecting  
14          more than 54,000,000 people, and more than  
15          16,000,000 of those people were adults with disabili-  
16          ties.

17          (7) Failure to provide accessibility for, or plan  
18          for accommodating, individuals with physical or sen-  
19          sory disabilities, chronic illness, or mental disabilities  
20          decreases the ability of those individuals to evacuate  
21          prior to or during a disaster.

22          (8) Households of individuals with disabilities  
23          are more likely to need assistance and are less likely  
24          to be able to evacuate in advance of disasters.



1           (9) Less than a third of individuals with intel-  
2       lectual disabilities and individuals needing personal  
3       care attendants have planned with their personal  
4       care providers what to do in a disaster.

5           (10) Evacuation information, including orders,  
6       is not uniformly communicated in ways and via  
7       media that are accessible to individuals with disabil-  
8       ities, including being communicated in ways that  
9       lack use of American Sign Language, captions, and  
10      plain language on websites, instructional materials,  
11      and television and radio announcements.

12          (11) Displaced individuals with disabilities  
13      served in general population shelters have better ac-  
14      cess to information and material resources than indi-  
15      viduals with disabilities in specially designed shel-  
16      ters.

17          (12) Despite the better access to information  
18      and resources provided at general population shel-  
19      ters, personnel in general population shelters often  
20      do not have the resources or training to address the  
21      needs of individuals with disabilities and older  
22      adults.

23          (13) Public shelters often do not have dis-  
24      ability-related accommodations, often forcing individ-  
25      uals with disabilities and older adults to be seg-



1 regated, sometimes apart from their families and  
2 natural supports during disasters.

3 (14) Households with individuals with disabili-  
4 ties sustain more costly property damage from dis-  
5 asters than households without individuals with dis-  
6 abilities.

7 (15) Historically, disaster-related recommenda-  
8 tions for individuals with disabilities and older  
9 adults have been typically aimed at caregivers and  
10 service providers, not individuals with disabilities  
11 and older adults themselves.

12 (16) Thousands of individuals with disabilities  
13 have been denied their civil rights because they do  
14 not receive accessible notice during disasters—

15 (A) of spoken instructions via phone or  
16 video; or

17 (B) of instructions regarding evacuations,  
18 sheltering, and other procedures during disas-  
19 ters.

20 (17) Disaster shelters and services do not rou-  
21 tinely have American Sign Language interpreters  
22 nor procedures written or presented in plain lan-  
23 guage.

24 (18) Individuals with disabilities and older  
25 adults are more at risk for loss of life, loss of inde-



1       pendence, or violation of civil rights than the general  
2       population during times of disasters, response, and  
3       recovery.

4       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5       gress that—

6               (1) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
7       should be supported during times of disasters, and  
8       during disaster preparedness, response, recovery,  
9       and mitigation, in order to—

10               (A) ensure maintenance of and access to  
11       services and supports; and

12               (B) enable those individuals and adults to  
13       return to their communities in a timely manner  
14       as compared with the general population;

15               (2) during the recovery and mitigation phases  
16       of disaster response, all buildings and services  
17       should be designed, and constructed or recon-  
18       structed, according to principles of universal design  
19       and to the standards established by the Architec-  
20       tural and Transportation Barriers Compliance  
21       Board in order to ensure access for individuals with  
22       disabilities, older adults, and all individuals;

23               (3) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
24       should have access to shelters and other services



1 during disasters in the same locations and settings  
2 as the general population;

3 (4) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
4 should receive information about preparation for, re-  
5 sponse to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters  
6 in formats accessible to them, including in American  
7 Sign Language, Braille, and plain language, as well  
8 as captioned video messages;

9 (5) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
10 must be included as key speakers, essential stake-  
11 holders, and decisionmakers in the preparation (in-  
12 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
13 phases of disasters;

14 (6) local, State (including territorial), Tribal,  
15 and Federal disaster planning must include robust  
16 representation of individuals with disabilities and  
17 older adults; and

18 (7) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
19 must be included in the evaluation of governmental,  
20 VOAD, and other nongovernmental preparation (in-  
21 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
22 of disasters.

23 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

24 The purposes of this Act are to—



1           (1) improve the inclusion of individuals with  
2           disabilities and older adults in the preparation for,  
3           response to, recovery from, and mitigation of disas-  
4           ters;

5           (2) ensure that individuals with disabilities and  
6           older adults with disabilities are free from discrimi-  
7           nation on the basis of disability or age in programs  
8           and activities and are protected during, and included  
9           in, all phases of disaster preparation, response, re-  
10          covery, and mitigation;

11          (3) ensure compliance with the Americans with  
12          Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of  
13          1973, and other disability laws during preparation  
14          for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation of  
15          disasters;

16          (4) improve coordination among the commu-  
17          nities of individuals with disabilities and older  
18          adults, including multiply marginalized BIPOC and  
19          LGBTQ+ communities, government agencies, cen-  
20          ters for independent living, VOADs, and other non-  
21          governmental organizations, including organizations  
22          that represent and are comprised of covered individ-  
23          uals, in preparing (including planning) for, respond-  
24          ing to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters;



1           (5) improve outcomes for all individuals, includ-  
2           ing individuals with disabilities and older adults, who  
3           are affected by disasters, and increase community  
4           resilience in responding to disasters;

5           (6) establish dedicated Federal funding for ca-  
6           pacity-building and rapid response to support Fed-  
7           eral, State (including territorial), Tribal, and local  
8           entities, and public and private human services enti-  
9           ties, to support activities to address the needs of at-  
10          risk individuals before, during, and after a disaster;  
11          and

12          (7) enact into Federal law standards of care  
13          and standards for protection of civil rights, for older  
14          adults and people with disabilities, to be applied for  
15          disasters and public health emergencies.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17       In this Act:

18           (1) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The  
19           term “access and functional needs”, used with re-  
20           spect to an individual, means an individual with  
21           needs such as—

22                   (A) an individual with a disability;

23                   (B) an older adult;

24                   (C) an individual with limited English pro-  
25           ficiency;



1 (D) an individual with limited access to  
 2 transportation that would enable the individual  
 3 to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and  
 4 mitigate a disaster; or

5 (E) an individual with limited access to the  
 6 financial resources that would enable the indi-  
 7 vidual to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
 8 and mitigate a disaster.

9 (2) AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS.—The term “at-risk  
 10 individuals”—

11 (A) has the meaning given the term in sec-  
 12 tion 2802(b)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service  
 13 Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–1(b)(4)(B)); and

14 (B) includes—

15 (i) older individuals, individuals with  
 16 disabilities, and children; and

17 (ii) members of families that include  
 18 individuals described in clause (i) or sub-  
 19 paragraph (A).

20 (3) CIVIL RIGHTS.—The term “civil rights”,  
 21 used with respect to an individual, means the exist-  
 22 ing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) legal  
 23 rights of an individual to be free from discrimination  
 24 on the basis of disability or age in programs and ac-  
 25 tivities.



1           (4) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
2 individual” means an individual with a disability, an  
3 older adult, and an individual with access and func-  
4 tional needs.

5           (5) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
6 means the Department of Health and Human Serv-  
7 ices.

8           (6) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the  
9 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
10 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
11 12102).

12           (7) DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY MAN-  
13 AGEMENT EXPERIENCE.—The term “disability inclu-  
14 sive emergency management experience”, used with  
15 respect to an individual or entity—

16                   (A) means an individual or entity that  
17 has—

18                           (i) demonstrated disability leadership  
19 experience, including working with non-  
20 governmental entities; and

21                           (ii) subject matter expertise in leading  
22 disability inclusive preparedness, response,  
23 recovery, and mitigation initiatives that  
24 focus on meeting the civil rights of covered  
25 individuals who are affected by disasters,



1 to be free from discrimination on the basis  
2 of disability or age in programs and activi-  
3 ties; and

4 (B) includes an individual or entity that  
5 has demonstrated favorable outcomes that  
6 measure the effective communication access,  
7 physical access, program access, health, safety,  
8 and independence of individuals affected by dis-  
9 asters and their communities.

10 (8) DISASTER.—The term “disaster” means an  
11 emergency or major disaster (as such terms are de-  
12 fined under section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford  
13 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
14 U.S.C. 5122)) that results in severe property dam-  
15 age, deaths, or multiple injuries.

16 (9) DISASTER SERVICES.—The term “disaster  
17 services” means the process of responding to a dis-  
18 aster and providing humanitarian aid to individuals  
19 and communities who are affected by a disaster.

20 (10) DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED.—The  
21 term “disproportionately affected”, used with re-  
22 spect to a group, means a group of individuals with  
23 protected status, including individuals with disabil-  
24 ities or older adults, who are excessively adversely  
25 affected by disaster-related harms.



1           (11) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Dis-  
 2           aster Human Services Emergency Fund established  
 3           under section 7.

4           (12) HUMAN SERVICES.—The term “human  
 5           services”—

6                   (A) means programs and activities de-  
 7                   signed to aid individuals, families, and commu-  
 8                   nities to prevent or remediate problems or  
 9                   events that destabilize lives and undermine the  
 10                  ability to meet basic needs in the immediate  
 11                  aftermath of a disaster and medium- and long-  
 12                  term needs after a disaster; and

13                  (B) includes—

- 14                   (i) preparedness training and capac-  
 15                   ity-building;
- 16                   (ii) peer support;
- 17                   (iii) child care;
- 18                   (iv) nutritional services;
- 19                   (v) home and community-based sup-  
 20                   ports and services;
- 21                   (vi) personal care;
- 22                   (vii) case management;
- 23                   (viii) behavioral health and psycho-  
 24                   social support;



- 1 (ix) assistance with accessing home
- 2 repair and modifications;
- 3 (x) accessible housing;
- 4 (xi) food, home, transportation, com-
- 5 munication, and language access;
- 6 (xii) helping prevent institutionaliza-
- 7 tion or helping transition individuals to
- 8 community living;
- 9 (xiii) helping with evacuation; and
- 10 (xiv) supporting at-risk individuals in
- 11 accessing durable medical equipment or
- 12 other equipment.

13 (13) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
14 “Indian Tribal government” has the meaning given  
15 the term “Indian tribal government” in section 102  
16 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
17 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

18 (14) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The  
19 term “individuals with disabilities” means more than  
20 one individual with a disability.

21 (15) OLDER ADULT.—The term “older adult”  
22 has the meaning given the term ‘older individual’ in  
23 section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42  
24 U.S.C. 3002).



1           (16) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term  
2           “public health emergency” means a public health  
3           emergency declared under section 319 of the Public  
4           Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

5           (17) RESIDENT.—The term “resident”  
6           means—

7                   (A) in the case of an individual receiving  
8                   assistance through an Indian Tribal government  
9                   or other Indian entity, a resident of an area or  
10                  member of a community governed by an Indian  
11                  Tribal government; and

12                  (B) in the case of an individual not de-  
13                  scribed in subparagraph (A), a resident of a  
14                  State that is not an Indian Tribal government.

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

17           (19) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
18           the 50 States, an Indian Tribal government, the  
19           District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
20           Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,  
21           American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
22           Northern Mariana Islands.

23           (20) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
24           “visitability standards” means standards for Type C  
25           (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible



1 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
 2 2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
 3 National Standards Institute.

4 (21) VOAD.—The term “VOAD” means a non-  
 5 governmental organization assisting in disaster prep-  
 6 aration, recovery, response, or mitigation.

7 **SEC. 5. USE OF DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDS.**

8 Section 615 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
 9 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196d) is  
 10 amended—

11 (1) by striking “Funds made available” and in-  
 12 serting the following:

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The  
 15 term ‘access and functional needs’, used with respect  
 16 to an individual, means an individual with needs  
 17 such as—

18 “(A) an individual with a disability;

19 “(B) an older adult;

20 “(C) an individual with limited English  
 21 proficiency;

22 “(D) an individual with limited access to  
 23 transportation that would enable the individual  
 24 to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and  
 25 mitigate an emergency or major disaster; or



1           “(E) an individual with limited access to  
 2           the financial resources that would enable the in-  
 3           dividual to prepare for, respond to, recover  
 4           from, or mitigate an emergency or major dis-  
 5           aster.

6           “(2) CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—The  
 7           term ‘center for independent living’ has the meaning  
 8           given that term in section 702 of the Rehabilitation  
 9           Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a).

10          “(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered re-  
 12           cipient’ means a direct or indirect recipient of  
 13           funds made available under this title for a cov-  
 14           ered use of funds.

15           “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘covered re-  
 16           cipient’ does not include individuals or house-  
 17           holds.

18          “(4) COVERED USE OF FUNDS.—The term ‘cov-  
 19           ered use of funds’ means the use of funds for the  
 20           preparation for, response to, recovery from, or miti-  
 21           gation of hazards.

22          “(5) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

23           “(A) SINGLE.—The term ‘individual with a  
 24           disability’ means an individual with a disability,



1 as defined in section 3 of the Americans with  
2 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

3 “(B) PLURAL.—The term ‘individuals with  
4 disabilities’ means more than 1 individual with  
5 a disability, as defined in subparagraph (A).

6 “(6) OLDER ADULT.—The term ‘older adult’  
7 means an individual who is age 50 or older.

8 “(7) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
9 ‘visitability standards’ means standards for Type C  
10 (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
11 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
12 2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
13 National Standards Institutes.

14 “(b) USE OF FUNDS GENERALLY.—Funds made  
15 available”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—A covered recipient  
18 shall ensure that an advisory committee that includes indi-  
19 viduals with disabilities, older adults, and other individuals  
20 with access and functional needs shall oversee the use of  
21 funds made available under this title to the covered recipi-  
22 ent.

23 “(d) COMPLIANCE WITH DISABILITY LAWS.—A cov-  
24 ered recipient shall use funds made available under this  
25 title in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29



1 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities  
 2 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

3 “(e) CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—A cov-  
 4 ered recipient may contract with 1 or more centers for  
 5 independent living to—

6 “(1) prepare for hazards;

7 “(2) provide personal assistance services during  
 8 response and recovery periods;

9 “(3) identify accessible emergency shelters and  
 10 adapt emergency shelters to be accessible;

11 “(4) develop accessible media, including media  
 12 using American Sign Language; and

13 “(5) meet other needs for individuals with dis-  
 14 abilities, older adults, and individuals with access  
 15 and functional needs.

16 “(f) CONTRACTORS.—A nongovernmental organiza-  
 17 tion that enters into a contract with a covered recipient  
 18 relating to a covered use of funds shall comply with the  
 19 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and  
 20 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
 21 12101 et seq.) in providing property or services under the  
 22 contract.

23 “(g) COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications relating  
 24 to a covered use of funds by a covered recipient shall be  
 25 made available in languages, including American Sign



1 Language and other sign languages, used in the commu-  
 2 nities receiving the communications.

3 “(h) ACCESSIBILITY.—A covered recipient shall en-  
 4 sure each facility or service made available in connection  
 5 with a covered use of funds is accessible to individuals with  
 6 disabilities, older adults, and other individuals with access  
 7 and functional needs, including—

8 “(1) notifications relating to a hazard;

9 “(2) evacuation notifications;

10 “(3) notifications relating to disaster services;

11 and

12 “(4) emergency shelters.

13 “(i) VISITABILITY.—A covered recipient that, as part  
 14 of a covered use of funds, constructs or prepares dwelling  
 15 units (including sleeping units) shall ensure that the dwell-  
 16 ing units meet visitability standards.”.

17 **SEC. 6. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RE-**  
 18 **SEARCH DISABILITY AND DISASTER CEN-**  
 19 **TERS.**

20 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
 21 vide financial support to eligible entities to create centers  
 22 through which the eligible entities will—

23 (1) provide training and technical assistance to  
 24 State, local, Tribal, and territorial disaster relief,  
 25 public health, and social service agencies in the im-



1       plementation and enhancement of systemic and ef-  
2       fective engagement policies, programs, and activities  
3       that ensure—

4               (A) that the needs and civil rights of cov-  
5       ered individuals are addressed and implemented  
6       throughout all phases of disaster preparation,  
7       response, recovery, and mitigation; and

8               (B) the inclusion of covered individuals in  
9       the development of all State, local, Tribal, and  
10      territorial disaster preparation plans;

11      (2) assist Federal, State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
12      ritorial disaster relief agencies in the coordination  
13      and integration of Federal, State (including terri-  
14      torial), local, and Tribal services and programs to  
15      serve covered individuals in the least restrictive envi-  
16      ronment appropriate to their needs during a dis-  
17      aster;

18      (3) conduct research and expand knowledge  
19      about covered individuals and their experiences dur-  
20      ing the preparation, response, recovery, and mitiga-  
21      tion phases of disasters; and

22      (4) discover, through research, and disseminate  
23      knowledge about, the most effective methods for—

24               (A) protecting the civil rights of covered  
25      individuals during times of disasters;



1 (B) including covered individuals in all  
 2 phases of disaster preparation, response, recovery,  
 3 and mitigation;

4 (C) reducing their deaths, injuries and  
 5 losses from disasters;

6 (D) reducing the displacement and disproportionate  
 7 effects of relocation after a disaster, including financial and social effects, on  
 8 covered individuals; and  
 9

10 (E) ensuring covered individuals are participants  
 11 in the research, development, and distribution of evidence-based information regarding  
 12 disasters.  
 13

14 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity”  
 16 means an entity or partnership of entities that—

17 (A) submits an application to the Secretary  
 18 in accordance with subsection (e);

19 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
 20 may be an institution of higher education), or  
 21 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
 22 on—

23 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
 24 with disabilities; or

25 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;



1 (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
 2 with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
 3 service focus;

4 (D) has experience in conducting training,  
 5 technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
 6 consumer-directed community support services  
 7 for covered individuals;

8 (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
 9 tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
 10 ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
 11 ing, technical assistance, and research;

12 (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
 13 taining to the implementation and enhancement  
 14 of systemic and effective engagement policies,  
 15 programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
 16 sion, needs, and civil rights of covered individ-  
 17 uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
 18 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

19 (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
 20 council or similar entity, of which at least 51  
 21 percent of the members are covered individuals.

22 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
 23 term “institution of higher education” has the  
 24 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the  
 25 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).



1           (3) STAKEHOLDER GROUP.—The term “stake-  
 2           holder group” means a group of individuals and or-  
 3           ganizations that—

4                   (A) is committed to disability inclusive and  
 5                   older adult inclusive disaster management;

6                   (B) includes covered individuals through-  
 7                   out preparedness, response, recovery, and miti-  
 8                   gation activities;

9                   (C) has leaders that include covered indi-  
 10                  viduals;

11                  (D) has a governing or advisory board, of  
 12                  which at least half of the members are covered  
 13                  individuals; and

14                  (E) has a mission to inclusively serve cov-  
 15                  ered individuals.

16       (c) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may  
 17       award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities,  
 18       to provide for—

19               (1) activities that include covered individuals in  
 20               the preparation (including planning) for, response  
 21               to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters; and

22               (2) except as described in subsection (d)(2), re-  
 23               search related to disasters and covered individuals.

24       (d) AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF GRANTS.—



1           (1) AMOUNT.—In awarding grants under this  
2           section, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
3           ticable, award a grant to an eligible entity in an  
4           amount that is not less than \$2,500,000 and not  
5           more than \$10,000,000.

6           (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall award  
7           not fewer than 2 of the grants in each of the 10  
8           Federal regions of the Department of Health and  
9           Human Services. At least 1 grant in each region  
10          shall be awarded to an eligible entity exclusively to  
11          conduct training and technical assistance described  
12          in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

13          (3) PERIODS.—The Secretary shall award the  
14          grants for periods of 5 years, through an open com-  
15          petition held at the end of each 5-year period. Eligi-  
16          ble entities that receive grants under this section  
17          may reapply for such grants at the end of the peri-  
18          ods.

19          (e) APPLICATIONS.—

20                (1) SUBMISSIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
21                grant under this section, an entity shall submit an  
22                application to the Secretary at such time and in  
23                such manner as the Secretary may require.

24                (2) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall  
25                include, at a minimum, the following:



1 (A) A description of the applicant's dem-  
2 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
3 formation, and support to individuals with dis-  
4 abilities in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
5 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

6 (B) A description of the applicant's dem-  
7 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
8 formation, and support to older adults in pre-  
9 paring for, responding to, recovering from, and  
10 mitigating disasters.

11 (C) A description of the applicant's dem-  
12 onstrated experience in working with Federal,  
13 State, local, Tribal, and territorial government  
14 agencies in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
15 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

16 (D) A description of the steps the appli-  
17 cant, acting through the center, will take to tar-  
18 get services to low-income individuals and indi-  
19 viduals identified as disproportionately affected  
20 in disasters, including those individuals at  
21 greatest risk of institutionalization.

22 (E) An assurance that the applicant, act-  
23 ing through the center, will—

24 (i) work with State, local, Tribal, and  
25 territorial disaster relief, public health, and



1 social service agencies to determine the  
2 best means for delivery of services to ad-  
3 dress the needs of covered individuals;

4 (ii) assist in establishing State, local,  
5 Tribal, and territorial disaster plans to ad-  
6 dress the needs of both rural and urban  
7 populations;

8 (iii) in carrying out activities under  
9 the grant, conduct sufficient outreach to  
10 centers for independent living, VOADs,  
11 and other nongovernmental organizations,  
12 including organizations that represent and  
13 are comprised of covered individuals;

14 (iv) include covered individuals in a  
15 meaningful way in the development and  
16 execution of activities carried out under  
17 the grant;

18 (v) provide adequate staff, including  
19 staff who are individuals with disabilities,  
20 to carry out the activities under the grant;  
21 and

22 (vi) communicate information on the  
23 programs and systems developed under the  
24 grant, in accessible formats and languages,



1 including American Sign Language, of the  
2 communities being served.

3 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants for activities de-  
4 scribed in this section, the Secretary shall give priority to  
5 eligible entities that—

6 (1) demonstrate a minimum of 3 years of expe-  
7 rience in actively conducting disability inclusive and  
8 older adult inclusive disaster management;

9 (2) propose activities to address the prepared-  
10 ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of  
11 covered individuals;

12 (3) propose activities to address leadership de-  
13 velopment in State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
14 agencies and covered individual advocacy organiza-  
15 tions;

16 (4) includes covered individuals in positions of  
17 leadership in the planning, management, and oper-  
18 ation of the activities carried out under this section;

19 (5) demonstrate ability to provide training that  
20 prevents bias due to disability or age, and that uses  
21 experiential approaches and does not rely on simula-  
22 tions;

23 (6) demonstrate expertise concerning the obliga-  
24 tion to prevent discrimination against covered indi-  
25 viduals on the basis of disability and age in pro-



grams and provide activities and specific plans for achieving and maintaining physical access, program access, and effective communication for covered individuals throughout all grant activities;

(7) demonstrate that the eligible entity involved will use measurable collaboration and partnership strategies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, centers for independent living, VOADs, and other nongovernmental organizations, including organizations that represent and are comprised of covered individuals;

(8) demonstrate that the eligible entity will use measurable disaster outcomes strategies in carrying out grant activities;

(9) demonstrate the ability to quickly create products, such as videos, fact sheets, guidelines, and checklists, to be used in disaster management;

(10) employ constituents of the entity in decisionmaking positions;

(11) provide disability inclusive and older adult inclusive disaster management leadership skills development;

(12) demonstrate awareness of available resources in the community for meeting the prepared-



ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of covered individuals; and

(13) demonstrate expertise in promoting the use of universal design (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)), the philosophy of independent living (within the meaning of that philosophy in title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.)), intersectionality imperatives, and the social model of disability.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds made available under this section shall be used only for activities described in and approved by the Secretary as a part of an application submitted under subsection (e), to carry out—

(A) a strategy designed to ensure the inclusion of covered individuals in the preparation (including planning) for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters; and

(B) research to enhance the activities described in subparagraph (A), using not more than 25 percent of the grant funds to carry out that research.



1           (2) ACTIVITIES.—Such activities may include  
2 initiatives that provide comprehensive training, tech-  
3 nical assistance, development of funding sources,  
4 and support to State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
5 disaster relief, public health, and social service agen-  
6 cies and stakeholder groups, in order to ensure that,  
7 in carrying out disaster management planning and  
8 programs, the agencies and groups address the in-  
9 clusion, civil rights, and needs of covered individuals  
10 by—

11           (A) hiring personnel with direct knowledge  
12 of and experience with meeting the civil rights  
13 of covered individuals to be free from discrimi-  
14 nation on the basis of disability or age in pro-  
15 grams and activities;

16           (B) training staff of State, local, Tribal,  
17 and territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
18 social service agencies on the needs and civil  
19 right of covered individuals, preferably through  
20 training by experts who are, collectively, indi-  
21 viduals with disabilities and older adults;

22           (C) creating partnerships between eligible  
23 entities, State, local, Tribal, and territorial dis-  
24 aster relief, public health, and social service  
25 agencies, centers for independent living,



1 VOADs, and other nongovernmental organiza-  
2 tions, including organizations that represent  
3 and are comprised of covered individuals;

4 (D) assisting in the development and im-  
5 plementation, in partnership with State, local,  
6 Tribal, and territorial disaster relief, public  
7 health, and social service agencies, of plans that  
8 will provide for a continuum of services to re-  
9 move barriers to full engagement for covered in-  
10 dividuals during a disaster and in preparedness  
11 (including planning) for, response to, recovery  
12 from, and mitigation of a disaster;

13 (E) assisting in the creation of standards  
14 and identification of funding sources for re-  
15 building disaster-damaged housing and new  
16 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
17 aster-resilient;

18 (F) assisting in the creation of standards  
19 for homeowner and flood insurance coverage for  
20 rebuilding disaster-damaged housing and new  
21 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
22 aster-resilient;

23 (G) establishing universal design and ac-  
24 cessibility standards, and establishing specifica-  
25 tions for visitability (based on the visitability



standards), for achieving and maintaining equal access for covered individuals throughout hazard mitigation and disaster resilience activities;

(H) establishing initiatives to increase new and transferred technology and innovations to solve notification, evacuation, health maintenance, and other barriers for covered individuals before, during, and after disasters; and

(I) conducting research, in partnership with covered individuals, that will contribute to knowledge and strategies to—

(i) decrease injuries, deaths, and harm to covered individuals;

(ii) create inclusive disaster preparedness, recovery, response, and mitigation strategies for State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, centers for independent living, VOADs, and other nongovernmental organizations, including organizations that represent and are comprised of covered individuals;

(iii) preserve community living options and access to needed services and supports for covered individuals during post-disaster periods; and



1 (iv) conduct longitudinal studies that  
2 create and maintain datasets to assist in  
3 the understanding of Federal, State, local,  
4 Tribal, and territorial policies designed to  
5 reduce the negative impact of disasters on  
6 covered individuals and protect the civil  
7 right of covered individuals to be free from  
8 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
9 age in programs and activities.

10 (3) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Sec-  
11 retary shall establish standards and guidelines for  
12 activities supported by a grant under this section.  
13 Such standards and guidelines shall be developed  
14 with the input of stakeholder groups. In a situation  
15 in which a refinement or adaptation of the standards  
16 or guidelines is made necessary by a local cir-  
17 cumstance, the Secretary shall enter into negotia-  
18 tions with an eligible entity applying for such a  
19 grant for a project in the affected area, to refine or  
20 adapt the standards and guidelines for the project.

21 (h) INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any  
22 other provision of this section, no entity, agency, or group  
23 assisted under this section shall take any action that in-  
24 fringes in any manner on the civil right of covered individ-



1 uals to be free from discrimination on the basis of dis-  
 2 ability or age in programs and activities.

3 (i) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of fiscal  
 4 years 2028 and 2030, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
 5 gress a report describing the activities carried out under  
 6 this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years.

7 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 9 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

10 **SEC. 7. DISASTER HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

12 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the  
 13 term “eligible entity” means—

14 (A) a State or local government agency;

15 (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-  
 16 tion; or

17 (C) a nonprofit organization, including a  
 18 public or nonprofit provider of services

19 (2) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-  
 20 aster” means a disaster that the President has de-  
 21 clared is a major disaster or emergency under sec-  
 22 tion 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Staf-  
 23 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
 24 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191).



1 (b) DISASTERS HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY  
 2 FUND.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in  
 4 the general fund of the Treasury an account, to be  
 5 known as the “Disaster Human Services Emergency  
 6 Fund”. The Fund shall be administered by the Sec-  
 7 retary, in accordance with this section, to rapidly re-  
 8 spond to the immediate human services needs result-  
 9 ing when—

10 (A) a public health emergency or major  
 11 disaster has been declared; or

12 (B) the Secretary determines there is sig-  
 13 nificant potential for a major disaster or public  
 14 health emergency.

15 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts available in the  
 16 Fund shall remain available until expended.

17 (3) USES.—The Secretary may use amounts in  
 18 the Fund to—

19 (A) facilitate coordination between and  
 20 among—

21 (i) Federal, State (including terri-  
 22 torial), Tribal, and local entities; and

23 (ii) public and private human services  
 24 entities that the Secretary determines—



1 (I) may be affected by a major  
2 disaster, public health emergency, or  
3 potential major disaster or public  
4 health emergency; and

5 (II) serve at-risk individuals;

6 (B) make grants or awards to, or enter  
7 into contracts and cooperative agreements with,  
8 eligible entities for projects that provide human  
9 services to at-risk individuals impacted by a  
10 major disaster or public health emergency, or  
11 prevent impacts from a potential major disaster  
12 or public health emergency, including through  
13 peer-to-peer support and person-centered case  
14 management services to address the needs of  
15 disaster survivors from preparedness and re-  
16 sponse through recovery, in accordance with  
17 subsection (c);

18 (C) carry out activities of the Department  
19 that support the provision of the services de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (B) to at-risk individ-  
21 uals, including—

22 (i) the costs of necessary staff salaries  
23 and expenses and other administrative ex-  
24 penses, including information technology;  
25 and



1 (ii) preparation costs that are not  
 2 readily attributable to a single major dis-  
 3 aster or public health emergency; and

4 (D) carry out other activities, as the Sec-  
 5 retary determines applicable and appropriate, to  
 6 address the needs of at-risk individuals during  
 7 public health emergencies, major disasters, and  
 8 potential public health emergencies and major  
 9 disasters.

10 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
 12 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through  
 13 2031.

14 (c) GRANTS, AWARDS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERA-  
 15 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 (1) PRIORITY.—In making grants or awards to,  
 17 or entering into contracts or cooperative agreements  
 18 with, eligible entities using amounts in the Fund,  
 19 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that, di-  
 20 rectly or through a contractual arrangement, will—

21 (A) provide accessible human services to  
 22 at-risk individuals and communities to prepare  
 23 for and mitigate the impacts of a potential  
 24 major disaster or public health emergency;



1 (B) provide accessible human services to  
 2 at-risk individuals impacted by a major disaster  
 3 or public health emergency; and

4 (C) restore human services agency func-  
 5 tions that were diminished or lost due to a dis-  
 6 aster or public health emergency.

7 (2) EXPEDITED DELIVERY.—The Secretary  
 8 shall plan and take such steps as are necessary to  
 9 enable the Secretary to expedite the delivery of  
 10 funds under this section to appropriate agencies and  
 11 entities that support at-risk individuals due to a  
 12 major disaster, public health emergency, or a poten-  
 13 tial major disaster or public health emergency.

14 (3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity  
 15 receiving a grant or award, or entering into a con-  
 16 tract or cooperative agreement, under this sub-  
 17 section shall carry out 1 or more of the following ac-  
 18 tivities:

19 (A) Case management assistance for at-  
 20 risk individuals, including—

21 (i) providing disaster-related applica-  
 22 tion assistance, including—

23 (I) eligibility pre-screening;



1 (II) assistance completing an ap-  
2 plication for disaster-related assist-  
3 ance;

4 (III) translation services for such  
5 application; and

6 (IV) ensuring that applications  
7 for disaster-related assistance are ac-  
8 cessible;

9 (ii) providing person-centered case  
10 management services to address the needs  
11 of disaster survivors from response  
12 through recovery; or

13 (iii) providing other case management  
14 services and activities approved by the Sec-  
15 retary that address the human and social  
16 service needs of the impacted population.

17 (B) Targeted efforts to support community  
18 living options for at-risk individuals before, dur-  
19 ing, and after a disaster or emergency, includ-  
20 ing—

21 (i) providing services and engaging in  
22 activities to prevent individuals from enter-  
23 ing or relocating to institutional settings;

24 (ii) identifying individuals who have  
25 been relocated to acute care and institu-



1 tional settings because of a major disaster  
2 or public health emergency;

3 (iii) providing services for individuals  
4 who were relocated to acute care and insti-  
5 tutional settings because of a disaster or  
6 public health emergency and engaging in  
7 activities to return such individuals to a  
8 home or a community-based setting;

9 (iv) coordinating among emergency  
10 management services and human services  
11 providers to ensure the accessibility of  
12 emergency responses, including the estab-  
13 lishment of accessible emergency shelters;

14 (v) providing legal assistance to sup-  
15 port at-risk individuals in their recovery  
16 from a major disaster or public health  
17 emergency;

18 (vi) engaging in activities that im-  
19 prove accessibility of disaster recovery and  
20 response efforts for at-risk individuals, in-  
21 cluding by providing accessible information  
22 and communications;

23 (vii) replacing, repairing, or acquiring  
24 equipment, materials, or supplies to sup-  
25 port community living, including such



1 items that were lost or damaged due to a  
2 disaster or emergency; or

3 (viii) providing other disaster relief or  
4 public health emergency services approved  
5 by the Secretary that address the human  
6 and social service needs of the population  
7 impacted by the major disaster or public  
8 health emergency.

9 (C) Accessible home and community-based  
10 services and supports for at-risk individuals in  
11 connection with a major disaster, public health  
12 emergency, or potential major disaster or emer-  
13 gency, including—

14 (i) providing accessible transportation  
15 services to support at-risk individuals be-  
16 fore, during, and after a major disaster or  
17 public health emergency in obtaining nec-  
18 essary supports and services;

19 (ii) providing accessible and tailored  
20 nutritional services during a major dis-  
21 aster, public health emergency, or potential  
22 major disaster or public health emergency;

23 (iii) providing accessible housing be-  
24 fore, during, and after a major disaster or  
25 public health emergency;



1 (iv) providing trauma-informed coun-  
 2 seling and support before, during, and  
 3 after a major disaster or public health  
 4 emergency;

5 (v) providing personal care before,  
 6 during, and after a major disaster or pub-  
 7 lic health emergency;

8 (vi) supporting at-risk individuals in  
 9 accessing durable medical equipment or  
 10 other equipment; or

11 (vii) other major disaster relief and  
 12 public health emergency services approved  
 13 by the Secretary that address the human  
 14 service and social service needs of the im-  
 15 pacted population of at-risk individuals.

16 (4) REPORTING.—

17 (A) DATA COLLECTION.—Each eligible en-  
 18 tity receiving a grant, award, contract, or coop-  
 19 erative agreement under this subsection shall  
 20 participate in data collection and reporting, as  
 21 required by this subsection and other law and  
 22 in the manner required by the Secretary.

23 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATION.—

24 (i) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Each  
 25 eligible entity shall reserve not less than 5



1 percent and not more than 10 percent of  
2 the total award amount for an inde-  
3 pendent, third-party evaluation of the ac-  
4 tivities carried out with funds made avail-  
5 able under this subsection.

6 (ii) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—

7 An evaluation described in clause (i) shall  
8 be conducted by an individual or organiza-  
9 tion that—

10 (I) is independent of the recipient

11 entity; and

12 (II) possesses demonstrated ex-

13 pertise in program evaluation, cost-

14 benefit analysis, and community-based

15 human services delivery.

16 (iii) EVALUATION SCOPE.—The eval-

17 uation shall, at a minimum—

18 (I) measure the program outputs

19 and outcomes of the activities sup-

20 ported under the grant, award, con-

21 tract, or cooperative agreement, in-

22 cluding the ability of varying groups

23 of at-risk individuals to access serv-

24 ices;



1 (II) quantify the cost savings or  
 2 cost avoidance attributable to such ac-  
 3 tivities; and

4 (III) assess the community im-  
 5 pact of the activities and the sustain-  
 6 ability of the activities when the  
 7 grant, award, contract, or cooperative  
 8 agreement ends.

9 (iv) REPORTING TO THE SEC-  
 10 RETARY.—The recipient shall submit the  
 11 final evaluation report to the Secretary not  
 12 later than 90 days after the end of the  
 13 project period.

14 (v) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-  
 15 retary shall make evaluation reports re-  
 16 ceived under clause (iv) publicly available  
 17 in an accessible format within 60 days of  
 18 receipt.

19 **SEC. 8. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GRANTS.**

20 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the disaster pre-  
 21 paredness grants and related technical assistance sup-  
 22 ported under this section are—

23 (1) to establish authority to award capacity-  
 24 building grants for accessible disaster preparedness  
 25 and response efforts; and



1           (2) to foster multi-sectoral approaches and  
 2           partnerships across human services networks to en-  
 3           sure coordinated and accessible disaster prepared-  
 4           ness and response efforts for the public, including  
 5           among at-risk individuals.

6           (b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-  
 7           tion, the term “eligible entity” means—

- 8           (1) a State or local government agency;
- 9           (2) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization; or
- 10          (3) a nonprofit organization, including a public  
 11          or nonprofit provider of services.

12          (c) DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GRANTS AUTHOR-  
 13          IZED.—From amounts made available under this section,  
 14          the Secretary may award grants or contracts to, or enter  
 15          into cooperative agreements with, eligible entities in order  
 16          to provide for—

- 17          (1) activities that prepare for disasters or pub-  
 18          lic health emergencies;
- 19          (2) the development of partnerships among  
 20          human service public and nonprofit organizations  
 21          and public health and emergency management agen-  
 22          cies at the State (including territorial), Tribal, and  
 23          local levels;
- 24          (3) activities that improve the ability of human  
 25          service agencies and organizations to mitigate and



1       respond to disasters and public health emergencies  
2       and support the accessible human service needs of  
3       at-risk individuals impacted by disasters and public  
4       health emergencies; and

5           (4) dedicated staff or staffing salaries and ex-  
6       penses for State (including territorial), Tribal, or  
7       local organizations that have demonstrated expertise  
8       in the disaster and public health emergency needs of  
9       at-risk individuals, to enable such organizations to  
10      work with, and be part of, State and local emergency  
11      management efforts.

12      (d) APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS.—To be eligible to  
13      receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under  
14      this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application  
15      to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
16      taining such information as the Secretary may require.

17      (e) AWARD BASIS.—The Secretary shall carry out  
18      subsection (c) in a manner that distributes funds to appro-  
19      priate agencies and entities that support at-risk individ-  
20      uals and can support disaster preparedness capacity-build-  
21      ing initiatives.

22      (f) RESERVATION.—For each fiscal year, the Sec-  
23      retary shall reserve not more than 3 percent of the funds  
24      made available under this section for such year for the  
25      administration of this section.



1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are  
 2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 3 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

4 **SEC. 9. PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
 7 ty” means an entity or partnership of entities that—

8 (A) submits an application to the Sec-  
 9 retary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
 10 taining such information as the Secretary may  
 11 reasonably require;

12 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
 13 may be an institution of higher education), or  
 14 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
 15 on—

16 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
 17 with disabilities; or

18 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

19 (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
 20 with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
 21 service focus;

22 (D) has experience in conducting training,  
 23 technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
 24 consumer-directed community support services  
 25 for covered individuals;



1 (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
 2 tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
 3 ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
 4 ing, technical assistance, and research;

5 (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
 6 taining to the implementation and enhancement  
 7 of systemic and effective engagement policies,  
 8 programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
 9 sion, needs, and civil right of covered individ-  
 10 uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
 11 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

12 (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
 13 council or similar entity, of which at least 51  
 14 percent of the members are covered individuals.

15 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
 16 term “institution of higher education” has the  
 17 meaning given the term in section 6(b).

18 (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
 19 AGREEMENTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
 21 grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative  
 22 agreements with, eligible entities on a competitive  
 23 basis to carry out projects of national significance  
 24 that—



1           (A) create opportunities for individuals  
2 with disabilities and older adults to directly con-  
3 tribute to improving preparation for, recovery  
4 from, response to, and mitigation of disasters;

5           (B) support the development of State,  
6 local, Tribal, and territorial policies that rein-  
7 force and promote the inclusion of individuals  
8 with disabilities and older adults in Federal,  
9 State, local, Tribal, and territorial community  
10 preparation for disasters; and

11          (C) support research that—

12           (i) tracks, in the short-term and long-  
13 term, the effects of disasters on individuals  
14 with disabilities and older adults;

15           (ii) identifies evidence-based practices  
16 that enhance inclusion of individuals with  
17 disabilities and older adults to participate  
18 in and lead preparation for disasters at  
19 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
20 levels;

21           (iii) leads to the creation of strategies  
22 and procedures to implement community  
23 level practices that decrease deaths, inju-  
24 ries, and harm resulting from disasters to



1 individuals with disabilities and older  
2 adults;

3 (iv) contributes to the protection of  
4 the civil right of covered individuals with  
5 disabilities and older adults to be free from  
6 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
7 age in programs and activities, and self-de-  
8 termination of those individuals and  
9 adults, while also promoting their safety  
10 and well-being during and following disas-  
11 ters;

12 (v) contributes to the development of  
13 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
14 policies that enhance collaboration among  
15 governmental entities, centers for inde-  
16 pendent living, VOADs, and other non-  
17 governmental organizations, including or-  
18 ganizations that represent and are com-  
19 prised of covered individuals, to improve  
20 the inclusion of covered individuals in  
21 preparation for, response to, recovery from,  
22 and mitigation of disasters; and

23 (vi) contributes to other efforts, as de-  
24 termined by the Secretary, to advance the  
25 purposes of this section.



1           (2) AMOUNT, QUANTITY, AND DURATION.—In  
 2           awarding grants or entering into contracts or coop-  
 3           erative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
 4           shall—

5                   (A) to the extent practicable, ensure that  
 6           each such grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
 7           ment is for an amount that is not less than  
 8           \$2,500,000 and not more than \$10,000,000;

9                   (B) award or enter into not less than 4  
 10          grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;  
 11          and

12                  (C) ensure that each such grant, contract,  
 13          or cooperative agreement is for a period of not  
 14          less than 3 years and not more than 5 years.

15 **SEC. 10. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE AND CIVIL RIGHTS**  
 16 **LAWS.**

17          (a) STANDARDS OF CARE.—States and local govern-  
 18          mental entities shall develop crisis standards of care for  
 19          implementation during the period of a disaster or public  
 20          health emergency pursuant to the nondiscrimination re-  
 21          quirements under—

22                  (1) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of  
 23          1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

24                  (2) section 1557 of the Patient Protection and  
 25          Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116).



1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—In developing and implementing  
2 crisis standards of care in accordance with subsection (a),  
3 States and local governmental entities shall comply with:

4 (1) The crisis standards of care described in the  
5 guidance issued by the Office for Civil Rights of the  
6 Department of Health and Human Services entitled  
7 “Bulletin: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus  
8 Disease 2019 (COVID–19)” and dated March 28,  
9 2020, and any best practices developed by the Office  
10 of Civil Rights pursuant to such guidance.

11 (2) The following requirements:

12 (A) States and local governmental entities  
13 may not develop or implement potentially dis-  
14 criminatory policies that negatively affect cov-  
15 ered individuals or children. Such policies may  
16 address the application of crisis standards of  
17 care in resource-constrained settings during dis-  
18 asters and public health emergencies.

19 (B) During disasters and public health  
20 emergencies, civil rights may not be suspended  
21 or waived.

22 (C) Crisis standards of care shall reflect  
23 that every human being has fundamental and  
24 inherent dignity, equity, and worth, and has a  
25 right to be treated equally and fairly in the pro-



1 vision of health care services under Federal civil  
2 rights laws.

3 (D) Crisis standards of care shall be suffi-  
4 ciently clear to allow practitioners to apply such  
5 standards of care, especially when stewarding of  
6 scarce resources means withholding or with-  
7 drawing critical care services. Such standards  
8 of care shall reflect the values, wishes, and in-  
9 terest of all patients, especially covered individ-  
10 uals and children.

11 (E) States and local governmental entities  
12 shall partner with, and work to ensure strong  
13 public engagement of, community and provider  
14 stakeholders, with particular attention to the  
15 needs of covered individuals and children.

16 (F) States and local governmental entities  
17 shall use ethically and clinically sound planning  
18 to secure equitable allocation of resources and  
19 fair protections for covered individuals and chil-  
20 dren.

21 (G) States and local governmental entities  
22 shall develop specific response measures to meet  
23 the needs of covered individuals and children.

24 (H) States and local governmental entities  
25 shall seek to eliminate the use of class, race,



1 ethnicity, neighborhood, disability, and age in  
 2 decisions relating to access of care.

3 **SEC. 11. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIVID-**  
 4 **UALS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS.**

5 Section 2811C of the Public Health Service Act (42  
 6 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence,  
 9 by striking “17 members” and inserting “45  
 10 members”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
 12 the following:

13 “(N) 11 members, representing the dis-  
 14 ability community and reflecting the diverse  
 15 characteristics of its members, who shall—

16 “(i) represent individuals with disabil-  
 17 ities with a wide variety of disaster experi-  
 18 ences, including cross-disability representa-  
 19 tion;

20 “(ii) be geographically diverse;

21 “(iii) be ethnically and racially di-  
 22 verse;

23 “(iv) be of diverse ages, and include  
 24 older adults;



1 “(v) represent both genders, and in-  
2 clude members that represent a variety of  
3 sexual orientations and gender identities;

4 “(vi) include veterans; and

5 “(vii) be linguistically diverse.

6 “(O) 1 representative from each of—

7 “(i) a coastal State emergency man-  
8 agement agency with an employee in a po-  
9 sition with established duties relating to in-  
10 tegration of individuals with disabilities or  
11 to addressing access and functional needs;

12 “(ii) a noncoastal State emergency  
13 management agency with an employee in a  
14 position described in clause (i);

15 “(iii) a Tribal emergency management  
16 agency with an employee in a position de-  
17 scribed in clause (i);

18 “(iv) a territorial emergency manage-  
19 ment agency with an employee in a posi-  
20 tion described in clause (i);

21 “(v) a nongovernmental organization  
22 providing disaster preparedness and re-  
23 sponse services;

24 “(vi) a local urban disaster manage-  
25 ment entity, which representative has dis-



1 ability inclusive emergency management  
2 experience;

3 “(vii) a local rural disaster manage-  
4 ment entity, which representative has dis-  
5 ability inclusive emergency management  
6 experience;

7 “(viii) a local disability organization  
8 with a cross-disability focus;

9 “(ix) a State disability organization  
10 with a cross-disability focus;

11 “(x) a national disability organization  
12 with a cross-disability focus;

13 “(xi) a national older adults organiza-  
14 tion;

15 “(xii) the Council of the Inspectors  
16 General on Integrity and Efficiency;

17 “(xiii) a low-income housing organiza-  
18 tion, who has expertise in the civil rights  
19 of disaster-affected covered individuals;  
20 and

21 “(xiv) a representative of a legal serv-  
22 ices agency with expertise in the civil  
23 rights of disaster-affected covered individ-  
24 uals.

25 “(P) The Secretary of Transportation.



1                   “(Q) The Director of Disability Policy for  
2                   the Domestic Policy Council.”; and

3                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

4                   “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the  
5                   terms ‘access and functional needs’, ‘civil rights’,  
6                   ‘covered individual’, ‘disability inclusive emergency  
7                   management experience’, ‘disaster’, ‘individuals with  
8                   disabilities’, ‘older adult’, and ‘State’ have the mean-  
9                   ings given the terms in section 4 of the REAADI for  
10                  Disasters Act.”;

11                  (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
12                  section (h);

13                  (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
14                  lowing:

15                  “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16                  is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
17                  \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.”;  
18                  and

19                  (4) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

20                         (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “on Sep-  
21                         tember 30, 2025” and inserting “4 years after  
22                         the date of enactment of the REAADI for Dis-  
23                         asters Act”; and

24                         (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “October  
25                         1, 2022” and inserting “2 years after the date



1 of enactment of the REAADI for Disasters  
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 12. REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATED**  
4 **TO DISASTERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-**  
5 **ABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CHIEF OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS SEC-  
8 TION.—The term “Chief of the Disability Rights  
9 Section” means the Chief of the Disability Rights  
10 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-  
11 ment of Justice.

12 (2) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee”  
13 means the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Ad-  
14 visory Committee established under subsection (b).

15 (3) COVERED COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The  
16 term “covered committee of Congress” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
18 Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on  
19 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
20 of the Senate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
22 Infrastructure, the Committee on Education  
23 and Workforce, and the Committee on Energy  
24 and Commerce of the House of Representatives.



1           (4) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The  
2           term “covered settlement agreement” means a set-  
3           tlement agreement—

4                   (A) entered into by the United States dur-  
5           ing the period beginning on January 1, 2005,  
6           and ending on the first December 31 after the  
7           date of enactment of this Act; and

8                   (B) that relates to a potential violation of  
9           the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701  
10          et seq.) or the Americans with Disabilities Act  
11          of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) in connec-  
12          tion with the preparation for, response to, re-  
13          covery from, or mitigation of a disaster.

14          (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—There is es-  
15          tablished an advisory committee, to be known as the “Dis-  
16          ability and Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee”,  
17          to review covered settlement agreements.

18          (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

19                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
20          the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-  
21          eral shall appoint the members of the Committee,  
22          which shall include—

23                   (A) employees of the Department of Jus-  
24          tice; and



1 (B) not less than 3 disability rights advo-  
2 cates who—

3 (i) are not employees of the Federal  
4 Government;

5 (ii) are individuals with disabilities;  
6 and

7 (iii) have disability inclusive emer-  
8 gency management experience.

9 (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
11 mittee shall be appointed for the life of the  
12 Committee.

13 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
14 Committee—

15 (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
16 Committee; and

17 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
18 as the original appointment.

19 (3) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

20 The members of the Committee shall elect a Chair-  
21 person and a Vice Chairperson from among the  
22 members, not less than 1 of whom shall be a mem-  
23 ber appointed under paragraph (1)(B).

24 (4) MEETINGS.—



1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
2 meet at the call of the Chairperson.

3 (B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members  
4 of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but  
5 a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

6 (d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

7 (1) conduct a review of each covered settlement  
8 agreement;

9 (2) review annual reports and recommendations  
10 provided to each covered committee of Congress re-  
11 lating to addressing the needs of covered individuals  
12 in the preparation for, response to, recovery from, or  
13 mitigation of a disaster;

14 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
15 actment of this Act, submit a report containing the  
16 findings and recommendations of the Committee  
17 to—

18 (A) each covered committee of Congress;

19 (B) any other entity of Congress with ju-  
20 risdiction over matters relating to addressing  
21 the needs of covered individuals in the prepara-  
22 tion for, response to, recovery from, or mitiga-  
23 tion of a disaster;

24 (C) the Attorney General;

25 (D) the Secretary of Education;



1 (E) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

2 (F) the Secretary of Health and Human  
3 Services;

4 (G) the Secretary of Transportation; and

5 (H) the President, through the Director of  
6 Disability Policy for the Domestic Policy Coun-  
7 cil; and

8 (4) provide the comments and recommendations  
9 described in section 13(b)(2).

10 (e) POWERS OF COMMITTEE.—

11 (1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such  
12 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take  
13 such testimony, and receive such evidence as the  
14 Committee considers advisable to carry out this sec-  
15 tion.

16 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may  
18 secure directly from any Federal department or  
19 agency such information as the Committee con-  
20 sider necessary to carry out this section.

21 (B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On re-  
22 quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the  
23 head of the department or agency shall furnish  
24 the information to the Committee.



1 (C) DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—The  
2 Chief of the Disability Rights Section shall sub-  
3 mit to the Committee a report on the oversight  
4 of covered settlement agreements a sufficient  
5 period of time before the date specified in sub-  
6 section (d)(3) to allow the Committee to review  
7 the report and include the report of the Chief  
8 of the Disability Rights Section in the report of  
9 the Committee under subsection (d)(3).

10 (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may  
11 use the United States mails in the same manner and  
12 under the same conditions as other departments and  
13 agencies of the Federal Government.

14 (f) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

15 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
17 mittee who is not an officer or employee of the  
18 Federal Government shall be compensated at a  
19 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual  
20 rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the  
21 Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title  
22 5, United States Code, for each day (including  
23 travel time) during which the member is en-  
24 gaged in the performance of the duties of the  
25 Committee.



1           (B) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—A member of  
2           the Committee who is an officer or employee of  
3           the United States shall serve without compensa-  
4           tion in addition to that received for service as  
5           an officer or employee of the United States.

6           (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
7           Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
8           ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
9           ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of  
10          chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
11          away from their home or regular places of business  
12          in the performance of services for the Committee.

13          (3) STAFF.—

14               (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
15               Committee may, without regard to the civil  
16               service laws (including regulations), appoint  
17               and terminate an executive director and such  
18               other additional personnel as may be necessary  
19               to enable the Committee to perform the duties  
20               of the Committee, except that the employment  
21               of an executive director shall be subject to con-  
22               firmation by the Committee.

23               (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of  
24               the Committee may fix the compensation of the  
25               executive director and other personnel without



1           regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of  
2           chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relat-  
3           ing to classification of positions and General  
4           Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay  
5           for the executive director and other personnel  
6           may not exceed the rate payable for level V of  
7           the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
8           that title.

9           (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

10          Any Federal Government employee may be detailed  
11          to the Committee without reimbursement, and such  
12          detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
13          service status or privilege.

14          (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-

15          MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
16          mittee may procure temporary and intermittent serv-  
17          ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States  
18          Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed  
19          the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay  
20          prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule  
21          under section 5316 of that title.

22          (g) TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee

23          shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Com-  
24          mittee submits the report required under subsection

25          (d)(3).



1 (h) REPORTS BY DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—On  
2 and after the date on which the Committee submits the  
3 report required under subsection (d)(3), the Chief of the  
4 Disability Rights Section shall publish an annual report  
5 on the oversight of settlement agreements relating to dis-  
6 aster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation ac-  
7 tivities.

8 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PAST USE OF DISASTER FUNDS.**

9 (a) INVESTIGATION.—Not later than 60 days after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
11 of the United States shall begin to conduct an investiga-  
12 tion of whether, on or after January 1, 2005, Federal  
13 agencies have complied with the Americans with Disabil-  
14 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and the Reha-  
15 bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), in expend-  
16 ing Federal funds to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
17 or mitigate disasters, including whether and, if so, how  
18 such funds were used to ensure accessibility to services  
19 and supports for individuals with disabilities and older  
20 adults.

21 (b) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
24 General shall, in accordance with paragraph (2),  
25 issue a report on the investigation conducted under



subsection (a), along with recommendations for re-  
mediation of any misexpenditures identified.

(2) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to issuing the re-  
port under paragraph (1), the Comptroller Gen-  
eral shall obtain comments and recommenda-  
tions on a draft version of the report, including  
the recommendations described in subparagraph  
(B), from the National Advisory Committee on  
Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters es-  
tablished under section 2811C of the Public  
Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) and  
the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Advi-  
sory Committee established under section 12(b)  
(referred to in this paragraph as the “Commit-  
tees”), and any other agency determined appro-  
priate by the Secretary.

(B) COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
ADDITIONAL SOURCES.—The recommendations  
obtained under subparagraph (A) shall include  
recommendations from the Committees regard-  
ing additional sources the Comptroller General  
may interview for purposes of the investigation  
under subsection (a).

○