

“(2) Services described in paragraph (1) that are delivered to very low-income veteran families who are homeless and who are scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of housing suitable for permanent housing.

“(3) Services described in paragraph (1) for very low-income veteran families who have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing after a period of tenancy in permanent housing, that are provided, for a period of 90 days after such families exit permanent housing or until such families commence receipt of other housing services adequate to meet their current needs, but only to the extent that services under this paragraph are designed to support such families in their choice to transition into housing that is responsive to their individual needs and preferences.

“(C) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor in such form, in such manner, and containing such commitments and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

“(2) Each application submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) a description of the supportive services proposed to be provided by the eligible entity and the identified needs for those services;

“(B) a description of the types of very low-income veteran families proposed to be provided such services;

“(C) an estimate of the number of very low-income veteran families proposed to be provided such services;

“(D) evidence of the experience of the eligible entity in providing supportive services to very low-income veteran families; and

“(E) a description of the managerial capacity of the eligible entity—

“(i) to coordinate the provision of supportive services with the provision of permanent housing by the eligible entity or by other organizations;

“(ii) to assess continuously the needs of very low-income veteran families for supportive services;

“(iii) to coordinate the provision of supportive services with the services of the Department;

“(iv) to tailor supportive services to the needs of very low-income veteran families; and

“(v) to seek continuously new sources of assistance to ensure the long-term provision of supportive services to very low-income veteran families.

“(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the selection of eligible entities to be provided financial assistance under this section.

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide training and technical assistance to participating eligible entities regarding the planning, development, and provision of supportive services to very low-income veteran families occupying permanent housing, through the Technical Assistance grants program in section 2064 of this title.

“(2) The Secretary may provide the training described in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or contracts with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

“(e) FUNDING.—(1) From amounts appropriated to the Department for Medical Services, there shall be available to carry out subsection (a), (b), and (c) amounts as follows:

“(A) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

“(B) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(C) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(2) Not more than \$750,000 may be available under paragraph (1) in any fiscal year to provide technical assistance under subsection (d).

“(3) There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal year 2008 through 2010 to carry out the provisions of subsection (d).

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘consumer cooperative’ has the meaning given such term in section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

“(2) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

“(B) a consumer cooperative.

“(3) The term ‘homeless’ has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

“(4) The term ‘permanent housing’ means community-based housing without a designated length of stay.

“(5) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’ means any of the following:

“(A) Any incorporated private institution or foundation—

“(i) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual;

“(ii) which has a governing board that is responsible for the operation of the supportive services provided under this section; and

“(iii) which is approved by the Secretary as to financial responsibility.

“(B) A for-profit limited partnership, the sole general partner of which is an organization meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

“(C) A corporation wholly owned and controlled by an organization meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

“(D) A tribally designated housing entity (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

“(6)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the term ‘very low-income veteran family’ means a veteran family whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for an area specified by the Secretary for purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) The Secretary shall make appropriate adjustments to the income requirement under subparagraph (A) based on family size.

“(C) The Secretary may establish an income ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of the median income for an area if the Secretary determines that such variations are necessary because the area has unusually high or low construction costs, fair market rents (as determined under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)), or family incomes.

“(7) The term ‘veteran family’ includes a veteran who is a single person and a family in which the head of household or the spouse of the head of household is a veteran.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2043 the following new item:

“2044. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.”

(c) STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the permanent housing program under section 2044 of title 38, United

States Code, as added by subsection (b), in meeting the needs of very low-income veteran families, as that term is defined in that section.

(2) COMPARISON.—In the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall compare the results of the program referred to in that subsection with other programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated to the delivery of housing and services to veterans.

(3) CRITERIA.—In making the comparison required in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall examine the following:

(A) The satisfaction of veterans targeted by the programs described in paragraph (2).

(B) The health status of such veterans.

(C) The housing provided such veterans under such programs.

(D) The degree to which such veterans are encouraged to productive activity by such programs.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2011, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study required by paragraph (1).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kellen McNulty, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this work period.