

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4746

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, 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. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE**
4 **SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN**
5 **FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

6 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
7 “Services to Prevent Veterans Homelessness Act”.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facili-
2 tate the provision of supportive services for very low-in-
3 come veteran families in permanent housing.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20
6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 2044. Financial assistance for supportive services**
9 **for very low-income veteran families re-**
10 **siding in permanent housing**

11 “(a) DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 (1) The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eli-
13 gible entities approved under this section to provide and
14 coordinate the provision of the supportive services for very
15 low-income veteran families residing in permanent hous-
16 ing.

17 “(2)(A) Financial assistance under this section shall
18 consist of payments for each such family for which an ap-
19 proved eligible entity provides or coordinates the provision
20 of supportive services.

21 “(B) The Secretary shall establish a formula for de-
22 termining the rate of payments provided to a very low-
23 income veteran family receiving supportive services under
24 this section. The rate shall be adjusted not less than once
25 annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. In calcu-

1 lating the payment formula under this subparagraph, the
2 Secretary may consider geographic cost of living variances,
3 family size, and the cost of services provided.

4 “(3) In providing financial assistance under para-
5 graph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to an entity
6 that provides or coordinates the provision of supportive
7 services for very low-income veteran families who are
8 transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

9 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent
10 practicable, financial assistance under this subsection is
11 equitably distributed across geographic regions, including
12 rural communities and tribal lands.

13 “(5) Each entity receiving financial assistance under
14 this section to provide supportive services to a very low-
15 income veteran family shall notify the family that such
16 services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by the
17 Department.

18 “(6) The Secretary may require an entity receiving
19 financial assistance under this section to submit a report
20 to the Secretary describing the supportive services pro-
21 vided with such financial assistance.

22 “(b) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—
23 (1) An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under
24 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application
25 in such form, in such manner, and containing such com-

1 mitments and information as the Secretary determines to
2 be necessary.

3 “(2) An application submitted under paragraph (1)
4 shall contain—

5 “(A) a description of the supportive services
6 proposed to be provided by the eligible entity;

7 “(B) a description of the types of very low-in-
8 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
9 services;

10 “(C) an estimate of the number of very low-in-
11 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
12 services;

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

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

18 “(i) coordinate the provision of supportive
19 services with the provision of permanent hous-
20 ing, by the eligible entity or by other organiza-
21 tions;

22 “(ii) continuously assess the needs of very
23 low-income veteran families for supportive serv-
24 ices;

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

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

5 “(v) continuously seek new sources of as-
6 sistance to ensure the long-term provision of
7 supportive services to very low-income veteran
8 families.

9 “(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the se-
10 lection of eligible entities to receive financial assistance
11 under this section.

12 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
13 shall provide training and technical assistance eligible en-
14 tities that receive financial assistance under this section
15 with respect to the planning, development, and provision
16 of supportive services to very low-income veteran families
17 occupying permanent housing.

18 “(2) The Secretary may provide the training de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or con-
20 tracts with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

21 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the amounts available each fiscal
22 year to the Department for Medical Care for veterans,
23 \$25,000,000 shall be available in each such fiscal year to
24 carry out the provisions of this section, of which not more

1 than \$750,000 may be used to provide technical assistance
2 under subsection (c).

3 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘very low-income veteran family’
5 means a veteran family whose income does not ex-
6 ceed 50 percent of the median income for the area,
7 as determined by the Secretary in accordance with
8 this paragraph, except that—

9 “(A) the Secretary shall make appropriate
10 adjustments to the income requirement under
11 subparagraph (A) based on family size; and

12 “(B) the Secretary may establish an in-
13 come ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of
14 the median income for an area if the Secretary
15 determines that such variations are necessary
16 because the area has unusually high or low con-
17 struction costs, fair market rents (as deter-
18 mined under section 8 of the United States
19 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)), or
20 family incomes.

21 “(2) The term ‘veteran family’ includes a vet-
22 eran who is a single person and a family in which
23 the head of household or the spouse of the head of
24 household is a veteran.

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

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

5 “(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

6 “(B) a consumer cooperative.

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

10 “(6) The term ‘permanent housing’ means com-
11 munity-based housing without a designated length of
12 stay.

13 “(7) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’
14 means—

15 “(A) any incorporated private institution
16 or foundation—

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

20 “(ii) which has a governing board that
21 is responsible for the operation of the sup-
22 portive services provided under this sec-
23 tion; and

24 “(iii) which is approved by the Sec-
25 retary as to financial responsibility;

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

5 “(C) a corporation wholly owned and con-
6 trolled by an organization meeting the require-
7 ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
8 graph (A); and

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

13 “(8) The term ‘supportive services’ means the
14 following:

15 “(A) Services provided by an eligible entity
16 or subcontractors that address the needs of very
17 low-income veteran families occupying perma-
18 nent housing, including—

19 “(i) outreach services;

20 “(ii) health care services, including di-
21 agnosis, treatment, and counseling for
22 mental health and substance abuse dis-
23 orders and for post-traumatic stress dis-
24 order, if such services are not readily avail-
25 able through the Department of Veterans

1 Affairs medical center serving the geo-
2 graphic area in which the veteran family is
3 housed;

4 “(iii) habilitation and rehabilitation
5 services;

6 “(iv) case management services;

7 “(v) daily living services;

8 “(vi) personal financial planning;

9 “(vii) transportation services;

10 “(viii) vocational counseling;

11 “(ix) employment and training;

12 “(x) educational services;

13 “(xi) assistance in obtaining veterans
14 benefits and other public benefits, includ-
15 ing health care provided by the Depart-
16 ment;

17 “(xii) assistance in obtaining income
18 support;

19 “(xiii) assistance in obtaining health
20 insurance;

21 “(xiv) fiduciary and representative
22 payee services;

23 “(xv) legal services to assist the vet-
24 eran family with reconsiderations or ap-
25 peals of veterans and public benefit claim

1 denials and to resolve outstanding war-
2 rants that interfere with the family's abil-
3 ity to obtain or retain housing or sup-
4 portive services;

5 “(xvi) child care;

6 “(xvii) housing counseling;

7 “(xviii) other services necessary for
8 maintaining independent living; and

9 “(xix) coordination of services de-
10 scribed in this paragraph.

11 “(B) Services provided by an eligible entity
12 or subcontractors, including services described
13 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
14 (A), that are delivered to very low-income vet-
15 eran families who are homeless and who are
16 scheduled to become residents of permanent
17 housing within 90 days of the date on which the
18 service is provided pending the location or de-
19 velopment of housing suitable for permanent
20 housing.

21 “(C) Services provided by an eligible entity
22 or subcontractors, including services described
23 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
24 (A), for very low-income veteran families who
25 have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing

1 after a period of tenancy in permanent housing,
2 that are provided, for a period of 90 days be-
3 ginning on the date on which such a family
4 exits permanent housing or until such a family
5 commences receipt of other housing services
6 adequate to meet the needs of the family, but
7 only to the extent that services under this para-
8 graph are designed to support such a family in
9 the choice to transition into housing that is re-
10 sponsive to the individual needs and preferences
11 of the family.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
13 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
14 by inserting after the item relating to section 2043
15 the following new item:

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

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