

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2116

To reform the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to help States address the importance of adequate, affordable housing in promoting family progress toward self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2002

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To reform the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to help States address the importance of adequate, affordable housing in promoting family progress toward self-sufficiency, 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 “Welfare Reform and
5 Housing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SIMPLIFICATION OF THE USE OF FUNDS FOR HOUS-**
2 **ING ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

3 (a) SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING BENEFITS.—Section
4 404 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 604) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING
7 BENEFITS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a grant
9 is made under section 403 may use the grant to pro-
10 vide supplemental housing benefits (as defined in
11 paragraph (4)) to, or on behalf of, an individual eli-
12 gible for assistance under the State program funded
13 under this part, in order to carry out the purposes
14 specified in section 401(a).

15 “(2) NOT CONSIDERED ASSISTANCE.—Supple-
16 mental housing benefits (as so defined) shall not for
17 any purpose, be considered assistance under the
18 State program funded under this part.

19 “(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—A State
20 may not use any part of the funds made available
21 under a grant made under section 403 to supplant
22 existing State expenditures on housing-related pro-
23 grams. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a
24 State may use such funds to supplement such State
25 expenditures.

1 “(4) DEFINITION OF SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING
2 BENEFITS.—In this subsection, the term ‘supple-
3 mental housing benefits’ means payments made to,
4 or on behalf of, an individual to reduce or reimburse
5 the costs incurred by the individual for housing ac-
6 commodations.

7 “(m) STATE AUTHORITY TO DEFINE MINOR HOUS-
8 ING REHABILITATION COSTS.—A State to which a grant
9 is made under section 403 may use the grant to provide
10 grants, loans, or to otherwise pay the costs of minor reha-
11 bilitation of housing owned or rented by individuals eligi-
12 ble for assistance under the State program funded under
13 this part, consistent with a definition of minor housing
14 rehabilitation adopted by the State and incorporated into
15 the State plan required under section 402(a).”.

16 (b) AUTHORITY TO RESERVE GRANT FOR FUTURE
17 USE.—Section 404(e) (42 U.S.C. 604(e)) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 “(e) AUTHORITY TO RESERVE CERTAIN AMOUNTS
20 FOR FUTURE USE.—A State or Indian tribe may reserve
21 amounts paid to the State or Indian tribe under this part
22 for a fiscal year for any allowable expenditures under this
23 part without fiscal year limitation.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONSIDERATION OF HOUSING-RELATED BARRIERS**
2 **TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.**

3 (a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT ON DESCRIPTION OF
4 HOUSING NEEDS AND SOLUTIONS.—Section
5 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 602(a)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(v) The document shall describe—

9 “(I) the primary problems that
10 families receiving assistance and fami-
11 lies who have recently ceased to re-
12 ceive assistance under the State pro-
13 gram funded under this part experi-
14 ence in securing and retaining ade-
15 quate, affordable housing and the esti-
16 mated extent of each such problem,
17 including the price of such housing in
18 various areas of the State that include
19 a large proportion of recipients of as-
20 sistance under the State program, and
21 the steps that have been and will be
22 taken by the State and other public or
23 private entities, including community
24 action partnership agencies, that ad-
25 minister housing or homelessness pro-
26 grams to address these needs; and

1 “(II) the methods the State has
2 adopted to identify barriers to work
3 posed by the living arrangement,
4 housing cost, and housing location of
5 individuals eligible for the State pro-
6 gram funded under this part and the
7 services and benefits that have been
8 or will be provided by the State and
9 other public or private entities to help
10 families overcome such barriers.”.

11 (b) ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING BARRIERS TO
12 WORK.—Section 408(b)(2)(A)(iv) of the Social Security
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 608(b)(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by inserting
14 “, including the housing-related benefits or services that
15 the State or other public or private entities, including com-
16 munity action partnership agencies, will provide to over-
17 come barriers to work posed by the individual’s living ar-
18 rangement, housing cost, or housing location” before the
19 semicolon.

20 (c) IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING-RELATED DATA
21 COLLECTION.—

22 (1) INCLUSION IN QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Sec-
23 tion 411(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
24 U.S.C. 611(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

1 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “and city or
2 other political jurisdiction” after “county”;

3 (B) in clause (ix), by inserting “and the
4 type of subsidized housing received” after “sub-
5 sidized housing”; and

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

7 “(xviii) From a sample of closed cases
8 in which the family left due to employ-
9 ment, the city or other political jurisdiction
10 of the employment and the employed indi-
11 vidual’s estimated travel time from the
12 family’s residence to the place of employ-
13 ment.”.

14 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF DATA COLLECTION PRO-
15 TOCOL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
16 ices and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
17 opment jointly shall develop a procedure for inter-
18 agency data matching or other uniform data collec-
19 tion protocol to determine the type of subsidized
20 housing received by families receiving assistance
21 under the State programs funded under part A of
22 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601
23 et seq.) and federally funded (including through the
24 use of tax credits pursuant to section 42 of the In-

1 “(ii) public housing agencies will co-
2 operate with agencies administering such
3 funds to make residents of public housing
4 and recipients of housing vouchers under
5 section 8(o) of the United States Housing
6 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) that
7 have ceased to receive assistance under the
8 State program funded under this part
9 aware of transitional services and benefits
10 for which the residents or recipients may
11 be eligible; and

12 “(iii) agencies will cooperate to assist
13 recipients of housing vouchers under sec-
14 tion 8(o) of such Act in locating housing
15 that will help the recipients succeed at ob-
16 taining or retaining employment.

17 “(B) PRIVATE PARTICIPATION.—A State
18 may invite private owners of federally assisted
19 housing to participate in cooperation agree-
20 ments under this paragraph.”.

21 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY DEMONSTRATION ON HOUSING WITH**
22 **SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE**
23 **BARRIERS TO WORK.**

24 Section 403(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) GRANTS FOR INTERAGENCY DEMONSTRA-
2 TION ON HOUSING WITH SERVICES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the
4 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
5 (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘Secre-
6 taries’) jointly shall award grants for the con-
7 duct and evaluation of demonstrations of dif-
8 ferent models to provide housing with services
9 to promote the employment of parents and
10 caretaker relatives who are eligible for a benefit
11 or service under the State program funded
12 under this part and who have multiple barriers
13 to work, including lack of adequate housing.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(i) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Grants
16 shall be awarded under this paragraph on
17 a competitive basis to States and organiza-
18 tions which have exempt status under sec-
19 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986, including community and
21 faith-based organizations.

22 “(ii) LOCATION.—In awarding such
23 grants, the Secretaries shall ensure that
24 demonstrations are conducted in metropoli-
25 tan and nonmetropolitan areas.

1 “(iii) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Funds pro-
3 vided under a grant awarded under
4 this paragraph shall be used for the
5 cost of implementation and evaluation
6 of the demonstrations conducted with
7 such funds.

8 “(II) LIMITATION ON BENEFITS
9 OR SERVICES TO NON-CUSTODIAL
10 PARENTS.—Not more than 10 percent
11 of the total amount of grant funds
12 awarded to a State or organization
13 under this paragraph may be used to
14 provide benefits or services to non-
15 custodial parents.

16 “(iv) NOT CONSIDERED ASSIST-
17 ANCE.—A benefit or service provided with
18 funds made available under a grant award-
19 ed under this paragraph shall not for any
20 purpose, be considered assistance under
21 the State program funded under this part.

22 “(v) DURATION; AVAILABILITY OF
23 FUNDS.—Funds provided under a grant
24 awarded under this paragraph shall remain

1 available for a period of 3 years after the
2 date on which the grant is made.

3 “(C) EVALUATION.—Not later than De-
4 cember 31, 2006, the Secretaries shall publish
5 an evaluation of the demonstrations conducted
6 under grants made under this paragraph.

7 “(D) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money
8 in the Treasury of the United States not other-
9 wise appropriated, there are appropriated
10 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 for grants
11 under this paragraph.”

12 **SEC. 6. CONFORMING IMMIGRANT ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUS-**
13 **ING ASSISTANCE WITH RULES APPLICABLE**
14 **TO OTHER FEDERAL NEEDS-BASED ASSIST-**
15 **ANCE.**

16 Section 214(a) of the Housing and Community De-
17 velopment Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)) is
18 amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “or” at the
20 end;

21 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
22 the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following—

24 “(8) an alien who is a qualified alien, as defined
25 in subsection (b) of section 431 of the Personal Re-

1 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
2 Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641), including a battered
3 alien or alien child who is described in subsection (c)
4 of such section.”.

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