

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2994

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish the Reentry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish the Reentry Rental Assistance and Housing Services Grant Program, 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 “Returning Home Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REENTRY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING**
2 **SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
4 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**OF-**
7 **FENDER**”;

8 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “offender”;

9 (3) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “**OF-**
11 **FENDER**”;

12 (B) by striking “offender”;

13 (C) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
15 ing “individuals”; and

16 (ii) by striking “or juvenile facilities”
17 and inserting “juvenile facilities, or half-
18 way houses”;

19 (D) in paragraph (3)—

20 (i) by striking “prison, jail, or a juve-
21 nile facility” and inserting “a prison, jail,
22 juvenile facility, or halfway house”; and

23 (ii) by striking “offenders” and insert-
24 ing “individuals”;

1 (E) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “of-
2 fenders” and inserting “individuals who are in-
3 carcerated or who were incarcerated”;

4 (F) in paragraph (5)—

5 (i) by striking “or juvenile facility”
6 and inserting “juvenile facility, or halfway
7 house”; and

8 (ii) by striking “offenders while in
9 custody” and inserting “such individuals
10 during incarceration”;

11 (G) in paragraph (6)—

12 (i) by striking “by offenders to vic-
13 tims” and inserting “by individuals who
14 committed crimes to victims of such
15 crimes”; and

16 (ii) by striking “of offenders” and in-
17 serting “of such individuals from a prison,
18 jail, juvenile facility, or halfway house”;
19 and

20 (H) in paragraph (7), by striking “dan-
21 gerous offenders” and inserting “individuals
22 who are incarcerated and dangerous”;

23 (4) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in the heading, by striking “OF-
25 FENDER”; and

1 (B) by striking “offender”;

2 (5) in subsection (d)—

3 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “for a
4 planning grant under subsection (e) and an im-
5 plementation grant under subsection (f)” and
6 inserting “when applying simultaneously for
7 two or more of the grants established under
8 subsections (e), (f), and (o)”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by striking “under subsections (e)
11 and (f)” and inserting “under subsections
12 (e), (f), and (o)”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
14 “offender”;

15 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “offender”;

16 (7) in subsection (f)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “of-
18 fender”;

19 (B) in paragraph (2)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
21 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
22 are incarcerated”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
24 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
25 are incarcerated”;

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(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “and juvenile facilities” and inserting “juvenile facilities, and halfway houses”; and

(II) by striking “offenders” and inserting “individuals”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “offenders” and inserting “individuals”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities” and inserting “a prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway house”; and

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “offenders” and inserting “individuals who are incarcerated or who were incarcerated”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

(I) by striking “an offender” and inserting “an incarcerated individual”; and

(II) by striking “that offenders” and inserting “that such individuals”;

1 (iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking
2 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
3 are incarcerated”; and

4 (v) in subparagraph (G)—

5 (I) by striking “offenders with
6 histories” and inserting “individuals
7 who are incarcerated or who were in-
8 carcerated and who have a history”;
9 and

10 (II) by striking “offender” in
11 each place it occurs and inserting “in-
12 dividual”;

13 (8) in subsection (h)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
16 ing “individuals”;

17 (ii) by striking “subsection (f)” each
18 place such term appears and inserting
19 “subsection (f) or (o)”;

20 (iii) by striking “prison, jail or a juve-
21 nile facility” and inserting “a prison, jail,
22 juvenile facility, or halfway house”;

23 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “released
24 offenders” and inserting “individuals released

1 from a prison, jail, juvenile facility, or halfway
2 house”;

3 (9) in subsection (i)(1)—

4 (A) by striking “under subsection (f)” and
5 inserting “under subsection (f) or (o)”;

6 (B) by striking “returning offenders and”
7 and inserting “individuals reentering the com-
8 munity after time spent in a prison, jail, juve-
9 nile facility, or halfway house and to”;

10 (C) by striking “offenders’ time in prison,
11 jail, or a juvenile facility” and inserting “such
12 time”;

13 (D) by striking “of offenders” and insert-
14 ing “of such individuals”; and

15 (E) by striking “offender”;

16 (10) in subsection (j)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by striking “an implementation”
19 and inserting “a”; and

20 (ii) by striking “subsection (f)” each
21 place such term appears and inserting
22 “subsection (f) or (o)”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “offend-
24 ers released back” and inserting “individuals

1 who were released from a prison, jail, juvenile
2 facility, or halfway house”;

3 (C) in paragraph (3)—

4 (i) by striking “offenders” and insert-
5 ing “individuals”; and

6 (ii) by striking “prison, jails, or juve-
7 nile facilities” and inserting “prisons, jails,
8 juvenile facilities, or halfway houses”; and

9 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking “sub-
10 section (f)” and inserting “subsections (f) and
11 (o)”;

12 (11) in subsection (k)(1), by striking “sub-
13 section (f)” each place such term appears and in-
14 serting “subsections (f) and (o)”;

15 (12) in subsection (m)—

16 (A) by striking “Juvenile Offender” each
17 place such term appears and inserting “Juve-
18 nile”;

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “of-
20 fender”; and

21 (C) in paragraph (3)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “offender”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (F)—

1 (I) by striking “prison, jail, or a
2 juvenile facility” and inserting “a
3 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or half-
4 way house”; and

5 (II) by striking “prisons, jails, or
6 juvenile facilities” and inserting “a
7 prison, jail, juvenile facility, or half-
8 way house”; and

9 (iii) in subparagraph (I), by striking
10 “offenders” and inserting “individuals who
11 are incarcerated or who were incarcer-
12 ated”;

13 (13) in subsection (n)(2)(A), by striking “of-
14 fenders” and inserting “individuals who received as-
15 sistance from such projects and who are incarcer-
16 ated or who were incarcerated”;

17 (14) in subsection (o)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section”
19 and inserting “section (other than subsection
20 (o))”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “section” and inserting “section (including
24 amounts made available to carry out sub-
25 section (o))”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “criminal offenders” and inserting “indi-
3 viduals who were incarcerated”;

4 (15) in subsection (p)—

5 (A) by striking “offenders reentering the
6 community” in each place it occurs and insert-
7 ing “individuals who are reentering the commu-
8 nity after incarceration”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “offend-
10 ers” and inserting “individuals”;

11 (16) by redesignating subsections (o) and (p) as
12 subsections (p) and (q), respectively; and

13 (17) by inserting after subsection (n) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(o) REENTRY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING
16 SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General
18 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing
19 and Urban Development, establish a program to be
20 known as the ‘Reentry Rental Assistance and Hous-
21 ing Services Grant Program’ to provide grants as
22 provided under this subsection.

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this sub-
24 section may be used for—

1 “(A) providing 24 months of rental assist-
2 ance to an individual who was incarcerated for
3 purposes of paying housing costs at a perma-
4 nent residence;

5 “(B) providing a stipend to a family mem-
6 ber of an individual who was incarcerated if the
7 individual lives in the family member’s house-
8 hold; and

9 “(C) providing supportive services to indi-
10 viduals who are incarcerated or who were incar-
11 cerated, including—

12 “(i) pre-release planning;

13 “(ii) document collection support;

14 “(iii) housing counseling and location
15 services;

16 “(iv) system navigation and linkage
17 support to other services, including mental
18 health therapy, program services for vic-
19 tims of domestic violence, program services
20 for victims of sexual assault, substance
21 abuse treatment, education services, and
22 employment services;

23 “(v) information about home-based
24 services and community-based services;

1 “(vi) case management and address-
2 ing criminogenic needs;

3 “(vii) move-in support and assistance;

4 “(viii) support with security deposits
5 and other leasing fees;

6 “(ix) housing placement support;

7 “(x) housing stabilization support for
8 at least 12 months to help retain housing
9 after placement;

10 “(xi) financial incentives to landlords,
11 including payment of holding fees, funds to
12 mitigate property damage, and other incen-
13 tives to accept tenants who are receiving
14 rental assistance; and

15 “(xii) other similar supportive services
16 as determined by the Secretary.

17 “(3) ALLOCATION FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 A grantee shall use—

19 “(A) not less than 60 percent of the grant
20 funding for rental assistance described under
21 paragraph (2)(A); and

22 “(B) not more than 25 percent of grant
23 funding for financial incentives to landlords de-
24 scribed under paragraph (2)(C)(x).

25 “(4) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) APPLICATION.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible appli-
3 cant seeking a grant under this subsection
4 shall submit to the Attorney General an
5 application that meets the requirements of
6 paragraphs (1) and (2) in subsection (f)
7 and includes a proposed program under
8 subparagraph (B).

9 “(ii) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—For pur-
10 poses of this subparagraph, an eligible ap-
11 plicant is—

12 “(I) an eligible entity;

13 “(II) a nonprofit organization or
14 service provider in partnership with
15 an eligible entity; or

16 “(III) a nonprofit organization or
17 service provider in partnership with—

18 “(aa) a collaborative appli-
19 cant or other entity funded under
20 the Continuum of Care program
21 under subtitle IV of the McKin-
22 ney-Vento Homeless Assistance
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.);

24 “(bb) a protection and advo-
25 cacy system (as defined in section

1 102 of the Developmental Dis-
2 abilities Assistance and Bill of
3 Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.
4 15002));

5 “(cc) a client assistance pro-
6 gram (as described in section 112
7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
8 (29 U.S.C. 732)); or

9 “(dd) a center for inde-
10 pendent living (as defined in sec-
11 tion 702 of the Rehabilitation
12 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a)).

13 “(iii) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
14 AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.—In the case
15 that the eligible applicant that applies for
16 the grant is a nonprofit organization or
17 service provider, paragraphs (1) and (2) in
18 subsection (f) shall apply in the case of
19 that applicant.

20 “(B) PROGRAM PROPOSAL.—The Attorney
21 General may make a grant under this sub-
22 section to an applicant only if the applicant
23 submits a proposed program that will benefit—

24 “(i) individuals who are incarcerated
25 in a prison, jail, juvenile facility, or half-

1 way house who are not more than 365
2 days from their release date and are at
3 risk of becoming homeless or exiting into
4 housing insecurity;

5 “(ii) individuals experiencing home-
6 lessness while under parole or supervised
7 release from a prison, jail, juvenile facility,
8 or halfway house; or

9 “(iii) individuals experiencing home-
10 lessness or housing insecurity and who
11 were discharged from a prison, jail, juve-
12 nile facility, or halfway house.

13 “(C) PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—The
14 Attorney General shall prioritize grants—

15 “(i) to an applicant as described in
16 subsection (f)(3);

17 “(ii) to an applicant that implements
18 a housing first approach program which
19 includes low-barrier screening criteria for
20 determining which individuals receive as-
21 sistance under the program; and

22 “(iii) to an applicant that implements
23 a program to serve a population that, when
24 compared to the general population, is at
25 a disproportionate risk of incarceration

1 and that experiences a disproportionate
2 rate of homelessness.

3 “(D) PROHIBITION ON GRANTS TO LAW
4 ENFORCEMENT.—The Attorney General may
5 not provide a grant under this subsection to a
6 law enforcement entity, including an entity that
7 employs probation officers.

8 “(5) DENIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this
10 subsection shall notify individuals who apply for
11 and are denied support from programs funded
12 with such grants about—

13 “(i) the denial;

14 “(ii) the reason for the denial; and

15 “(iii) supportive services (including
16 housing counseling) and free legal re-
17 sources.

18 “(B) TIMING.—Such notifications shall be
19 sent to the individual within 15 days after de-
20 nial.

21 “(6) ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—A grant-
22 ee under this subsection shall ensure that informa-
23 tion regarding the programs and support services
24 that the grantee offers and that are funded with
25 such grants is made available—

1 “(A) in a manner that uses simple, plain
2 language and is reader friendly; and

3 “(B) in a form that is accessible to individ-
4 uals with disabilities.

5 “(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 There is authorized to be appropriated
7 \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this
8 subsection.

9 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’
11 has the meaning given to such term in section
12 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
13 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

14 “(B) HOUSING COSTS.—The term ‘housing
15 costs’ includes rent, utilities, security deposits,
16 application fees, and other similar expenses as
17 determined by the Attorney General, in con-
18 sultation with the Secretary.

19 “(C) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
20 means the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
21 velopment.”.

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