

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9217

To establish, in the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Destination Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board and to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible arrivals in destination States and localities to promote their self-sufficiency, reduce costs of extended emergency service provision, maximize benefit to new arrivals and host communities, provide diversion from homelessness, and promote the effective navigation and compliance of the immigration process.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2024

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BUSH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. CHU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish, in the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Destination Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board and to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible arrivals in destination States and localities to promote their self-sufficiency, reduce costs of extended emergency service provision, maximize benefit to new arrivals and host communities, provide diversion from homelessness,

and promote the effective navigation and compliance of the immigration process.

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 “Destination Reception
 5 Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF DESTINATION RECEPTION**
 7 **SERVICES PROGRAM.**

8 Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
 9 (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 “(g) DESTINATION RECEPTION SERVICES PRO-
 12 GRAM.—

13 “(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the
 14 term ‘eligible arrival’ means an individual who—

15 “(A) has been granted parole;

16 “(B) have been placed in removal pro-
 17 ceedings; or

18 “(C) has a pending application for asylum.

19 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established,
 20 in the Office, the Destination Reception Services
 21 Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Pro-
 22 gram’), which shall carry out the provisions of this
 23 subsection under the direction of the New Arrival
 24 Services Board (referred to in this subsection as the

1 ‘Board’). The Program shall coordinate with the Un-
2 accompanied Children Program and the Refugee
3 Program to ensure that eligible arrivals receive all of
4 the services for which they are eligible.

5 “(3) NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARD.—

6 “(A) APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 30
7 days after the date of the enactment of the
8 Destination Reception Assistance Act, the Di-
9 rector, who shall act as chairperson of the
10 Board, shall appoint 8 additional members to
11 the Board who represent nongovernmental or-
12 ganizations with experience providing, evalu-
13 ating, and offering technical assistance on eligi-
14 ble services provided through the Program, in-
15 cluding organizations representing individuals
16 with lived experience of forced migration.

17 “(B) FUNCTIONS.—The Board shall—

18 “(i) identify communities in which
19 concentrations of eligible arrivals in need
20 of assistance reside; and

21 “(ii) recommend the amount of fund-
22 ing to be allocated to such communities in
23 accordance with formulas, policies, proce-
24 dures, and guidelines established by the
25 Office.

1 “(C) CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUND-
2 ING.—In determining the allocation of Federal
3 funding to communities under this subsection,
4 the Board shall prioritize funding for commu-
5 nities with—

6 “(i) a higher ratio of eligible arrivals
7 compared to other communities;

8 “(ii) higher housing and transpor-
9 tation costs; or

10 “(iii) the most significant medium-
11 term reception needs (in per capita or ab-
12 solute terms) in which the level of direct
13 services provided by nonprofit, faith-based,
14 or governmental organizations to families
15 and individuals released by the Depart-
16 ment of Homeland Security is most acute.

17 “(4) PROGRAM STRUCTURE.—

18 “(A) FRAMEWORK.—The framework of the
19 Program shall be similar to the framework of
20 the Emergency Food and Shelter Program of
21 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to
22 facilitate the timely delivery of Federal funding
23 in support of eligible arrivals.

24 “(B) DISTINCTION FROM ALTERNATIVES
25 TO DETENTION.—The Program is not an alter-

1 natives to detention program. Prior partici-
2 tion in an alternatives to detention program is
3 not an eligibility requirement for eligible arriv-
4 als to receive Program services, nor is partici-
5 pating in monitoring or surveillance practices a
6 condition while receiving Program services.

7 “(C) RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS.—The
8 Program shall provide funding to local govern-
9 ment entities and private nonprofit organiza-
10 tions to provide medium-term services to eligi-
11 ble arrivals who have been processed and re-
12 leased into the United States by the Depart-
13 ment of Homeland Security, including—

14 “(i) housing transition, rental, and
15 utility assistance programs;

16 “(ii) medical and mental health care
17 or insurance for such care;

18 “(iii) child care, child care assistance
19 programs, and out-of-school programming;

20 “(iv) workforce development, job
21 training, English language training, paid
22 apprenticeships, work study, and loan pro-
23 grams;

24 “(v) local public transportation sup-
25 port;

1 “(vi) interpretation and translation
2 services;

3 “(vii) legal services, particularly serv-
4 ices supporting applications for work au-
5 thorization, asylum, and other types of hu-
6 manitarian relief;

7 “(viii) programs, including case man-
8 agement and social work services, to pro-
9 vide support to individuals accessing and
10 navigating available assistance and serv-
11 ices;

12 “(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation
13 service; and

14 “(x) other eligible services, as deter-
15 mined by the Director.

16 “(5) LOCAL NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARDS.—

17 “(A) COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION.—The
18 Board shall identify, in accordance with criteria
19 to be established by the Board, communities
20 throughout the United States where eligible ar-
21 rivals are residing.

22 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT; DESIGNATION.—
23 Each community designated pursuant to sub-
24 paragraph (A) desiring a grant under para-
25 graph (7) shall—

1 “(i) establish a local new arrival serv-
2 ices board (referred to in this paragraph as
3 a ‘local board’); or

4 “(ii) at the discretion of the Board,
5 appoint an existing substantially similar
6 board to carry out the functions of a local
7 board.

8 “(C) MEMBERSHIP.—Each local board
9 shall consist of—

10 “(i) the head of a unit of local govern-
11 ment within such community, or of a rel-
12 evant department of such local govern-
13 ment;

14 “(ii) to the extent practicable, rep-
15 resentatives of the organizations that are
16 represented on the Board;

17 “(iii) representatives of other local,
18 private nonprofit organizations, as appro-
19 priate;

20 “(iv) representatives of ethnic and
21 community-based organizations; and

22 “(v) an asylum seeker or parolee
23 being served by the Program.

1 “(D) CHAIRPERSON.—Each local board es-
2 tablished pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall
3 elect a chairperson from among its members.

4 “(E) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each local
5 board established pursuant to subparagraph
6 (B) shall—

7 “(i) determine which local government
8 entities or private nonprofit organizations
9 are eligible to receive grants to provide the
10 services referred to in paragraph (4)(C);

11 “(ii) allocate available Federal fund-
12 ing among the entities and organizations
13 referred to in clause (i);

14 “(iii) monitor recipient service pro-
15 viders for Program compliance;

16 “(iv) reallocate Federal funding
17 among service providers whenever a par-
18 ticular service provider fails to substan-
19 tially comply with Program requirements;

20 “(v) ensure proper reporting to the
21 Board; and

22 “(vi) coordinate with other Federal,
23 State, and local government assistance pro-
24 grams available in the community.

25 “(6) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in con-
2 sultation with the Board, shall annually estab-
3 lish guidelines specifying which services for eli-
4 gible arrivals may be funded under the Pro-
5 gram, which may include—

6 “(i) noncustodial housing services, in-
7 cluding rental and utility assistance;

8 “(ii) cultural orientation training;

9 “(iii) culturally competent interpreta-
10 tion and translation services;

11 “(iv) workforce development services,
12 including education, employment, and
13 training services, work study, loan pro-
14 grams, and childcare support;

15 “(v) immigration-related legal serv-
16 ices, including preparation and practice;

17 “(vi) referral and case management
18 services;

19 “(vii) medical and mental health serv-
20 ices or insurance for such services;

21 “(viii) local public transportation sup-
22 port;

23 “(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation
24 services; and

1 “(x) other eligible services, as deter-
2 mined by the Director.

3 “(B) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall
4 annually publish the guidelines established pur-
5 suant to subparagraph (A) in the Federal Reg-
6 ister before the first day of the fiscal year dur-
7 ing which they will take effect.

8 “(7) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

9 “(A) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Direc-
10 tor, working through the Board, may award
11 competitive grants to communities identified
12 pursuant to paragraph (5)(A) which have estab-
13 lished a local new arrival services board to pro-
14 vide services to eligible arrivals who are residing
15 in such communities. The allocation of available
16 Federal funding among such communities shall
17 be based on a formula developed by the Office.
18 Grant funds allocated to a community pursuant
19 to this subparagraph shall be disbursed to gov-
20 ernment human services agencies and local non-
21 profit organizations that have successfully pro-
22 vided human and social services in accordance
23 with Federal, State, and local requirements, as
24 applicable.

1 “(B) FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS.—A por-
2 tion of the Federal funding made available to
3 carry out this subsection shall be reserved for
4 Federal block grants to communities. Commu-
5 nities receiving funding under this subpara-
6 graph shall match every \$1 of Federal funding
7 with \$1 of non-Federal funding.

8 “(C) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The primary
9 purpose of the grants awarded pursuant to sub-
10 paragraph (A) or (B) shall be to increase the
11 capacity of grant recipients to provide medium-
12 term services and other service navigation as-
13 sistance to new arrivals to attain self-suffi-
14 ciency.

15 “(D) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is el-
16 igible to receive a grant under this subsection
17 if the entity is—

18 “(i) a local government, an Indian
19 Tribe, or a nonprofit organization (as such
20 terms are defined in section 200.1 of title
21 2, Code of Federal Regulations);

22 “(ii) a State of the United States, the
23 District of Columbia, or the Common-
24 wealth of Puerto Rico;

1 “(iii) any agency or instrumentality of
2 a governmental entity listed in clause (ii)
3 (excluding local governments); or

4 “(iv) physically located in a State, the
5 District of Columbia, or a territory of the
6 United States.

7 “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—
8 When issuing guidelines to carry out this subsection,
9 including setting eligibility requirements and making
10 program changes, the Director shall not be subject
11 to the procedural rulemaking requirements set forth
12 in subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title
13 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Ad-
14 ministrative Procedures Act’).

15 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
16 There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of
17 the fiscal years 2025 through 2028, \$3,000,000,000
18 to carry out the Program established by this sub-
19 section.”.

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