

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1257

To authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

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 “Family Stability and
5 Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAMILY STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY VOUCHERS.**

7 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
8 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), as amended by section

1 601(a)(2)(B) of division AA of the Consolidated Appro-
2 priations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328;), is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 “(23) FAMILY STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY
5 VOUCHERS.—

6 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

7 “(i) The term ‘area of concentrated
8 poverty’ means a census tract in which the
9 poverty rate is not less than 30 percent, as
10 most recently determined by the Bureau of
11 the Census.

12 “(ii) The term ‘at risk of homeless-
13 ness’ has the meaning given the term in
14 section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Home-
15 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).

16 “(iii) The term ‘eligible family’ means
17 a family that—

18 “(I)(aa) will welcome a minor
19 child through birth or adoption in the
20 next 300 days; or

21 “(bb) has not less than 1 child
22 under the age of 6;

23 “(II) meets all applicable eligi-
24 bility requirements under this sub-
25 section; and

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“(III) is—
 “(aa) homeless;
 “(bb) unstably housed;
 “(cc) living in an area of
concentrated poverty; or
 “(dd) at risk of displacement from—
 “(AA) an opportunity
area for children; or
 “(BB) an area rapidly
transitioning to become an
opportunity area for children.

“(iv) The term ‘high-performing school’ shall have the meaning given the term by the Secretary, using the best available evidence.

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

“(vi) The term ‘opportunity area for children’ shall have the meaning given the term by the Secretary, using the best available evidence.

1 “(vii) The term ‘unstably housed’,
2 with respect to a family, means a family
3 who—

4 “(I) is at risk of homelessness;

5 “(II) has moved not less than
6 twice during the 12-month period end-
7 ing on the date on which a public
8 housing agency selects the family
9 from a waiting list to receive assist-
10 ance under this paragraph;

11 “(III) is living in a unit not ac-
12 cessible to a family member with a
13 disability;

14 “(IV) is experiencing trauma or a
15 lack of safety relating to, or fleeing or
16 attempting to flee, domestic violence,
17 dating violence, sexual assault, stalk-
18 ing, or another dangerous, traumatic,
19 or life-threatening condition relating
20 to violence against a member of the
21 family or an individual in the housing
22 situation of the family, including an
23 instance in which the health and safe-
24 ty of a child is jeopardized; or

1 “(V) is living in housing condi-
2 tions that are dangerous or life-
3 threatening.

4 “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARD.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year
6 for which amounts are authorized to be ap-
7 propriated under subparagraph (F), the
8 Secretary shall provide assistance to public
9 housing agencies on a competitive basis to
10 be used for—

11 “(I) incremental vouchers for eli-
12 gible families; and

13 “(II) additional fees for the cost
14 to the public housing agencies of pro-
15 viding mobility-related services to eli-
16 gible families.

17 “(ii) SELECTION.—For the second fis-
18 cal year in which the Secretary provides
19 assistance under this paragraph, and each
20 fiscal year thereafter, in selecting public
21 housing agencies to receive assistance
22 under this paragraph, the Secretary
23 shall—

1 “(I) consider the performance of
2 public housing agencies in imple-
3 menting this paragraph; and

4 “(II) give preference to public
5 housing agencies that partner with or-
6 ganizations that provide home visiting
7 services, such as the services author-
8 ized under section 511 of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) or lo-
10 cally funded initiatives, if those serv-
11 ices are available in the service area of
12 the public housing agency.

13 “(C) SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE OFFERED
14 TO FAMILIES RECEIVING VOUCHERS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A public housing
16 agency that receives assistance under this
17 paragraph—

18 “(I) shall offer, to each eligible
19 family that the agency selects to re-
20 ceive a voucher, mobility-related serv-
21 ices to help the family move to an op-
22 portunity area for children with access
23 to—

24 “(aa) a high-performing
25 school; or

1 “(bb) high-quality childcare
2 and early education;

3 “(II) may not require an eligible
4 family to participate in the mobility-
5 related services described in subclause
6 (I) as a condition of receipt of a
7 voucher; and

8 “(III) shall adopt mobility-related
9 policies, to be specified by the Sec-
10 retary.

11 “(ii) MINIMUM ASSORTMENT OF SERV-
12 ICES AND POLICIES.—The Secretary shall
13 establish a minimum assortment of types
14 of mobility-related services that a public
15 housing agency shall offer, and mobility-re-
16 lated policies that a public housing agency
17 shall adopt, under clause (i) based on
18 promising practices and evidence of the ef-
19 fectiveness of the services and policies.

20 “(iii) SPECIFIC SERVICES.—The types
21 of mobility-related services required to be
22 offered under clause (i)—

23 “(I) shall include a customized
24 approach to enable a successful tran-

1 sition to opportunity areas for chil-
2 dren; and

3 “(II) may include counseling and
4 continued supportive services for fami-
5 lies.

6 “(iv) OPPORTUNITY AREAS FOR CHIL-
7 DREN; HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS; HIGH-
8 QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDU-
9 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish cri-
10 teria for areas, schools, and child care and
11 early education to qualify as opportunity
12 areas for children, high-performing schools,
13 and high-quality child care and early edu-
14 cation, respectively.

15 “(v) MANNER OF PROVIDING SERV-
16 ICES.—A public housing agency may pro-
17 vide mobility-related services as required
18 under clause (i) directly or through a local
19 partnership or contract.

20 “(D) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(i) TURNOVER.—

22 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Upon turn-
23 over of a voucher issued by a public
24 housing agency using assistance re-
25 ceived under this paragraph, the pub-

1 lic housing agency shall issue the
2 voucher to another eligible family
3 under this paragraph.

4 “(II) MOBILITY SERVICES.—A
5 public housing agency turning over a
6 voucher as described in subclause (I)
7 shall provide any available mobility
8 services to the eligible family receiving
9 the voucher.

10 “(ii) RECAPTURE AND REALLOCATION
11 BY SECRETARY.—If a public housing agen-
12 cy that receives assistance to be used for
13 vouchers and fees under this paragraph de-
14 termines that it no longer has an identified
15 need for the assistance, the public housing
16 agency shall notify the Secretary, who may
17 recapture the assistance and reallocate the
18 assistance in accordance with this para-
19 graph.

20 “(E) IMPLEMENTATION.—

21 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—Not later than
22 180 days after the date of enactment of
23 this paragraph, the Secretary shall publish
24 a notice for public comment in the Federal
25 Register that includes any definitions or

1 other specifications required or authorized
2 under this paragraph.

3 “(ii) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

4 “(I) INITIAL YEAR.—For the
5 first fiscal year for which amounts are
6 appropriated to be provided to public
7 housing agencies for incremental
8 vouchers under this paragraph, the
9 Secretary shall allocate the amounts
10 to public housing agencies not later
11 than 2 years after the date on which
12 the amounts are appropriated.

13 “(II) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—For
14 any fiscal year after the fiscal year de-
15 scribed in subclause (I), the Secretary
16 shall allocate amounts to public hous-
17 ing agencies for incremental vouchers
18 under this paragraph not later than
19 180 days after the date on which the
20 amounts are appropriated.

21 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
22 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
23 priated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years
24 2024 through 2029 such sums as may be nec-

1 essary to provide assistance to public housing
2 agencies under this paragraph to be used for—

3 “(i) not more than 50,000 incre-
4 mental vouchers each fiscal year, as de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (B)(i)(I); and

6 “(ii) fees for the cost of administering
7 the incremental vouchers described in sub-
8 paragraph (B)(i)(I) and other mobility-re-
9 lated expenses.”.

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