

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

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

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 2019”.

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

2 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(21) FAMILY STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY
6 VOUCHERS.—

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

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

13 “(ii) The term ‘eligible family’ means
14 a family that—

15 “(I) includes a pregnant woman
16 or a child under the age of 6;

17 “(II) meets all applicable eligi-
18 bility requirements under this sub-
19 section; and

20 “(III) is—

21 “(aa) homeless;

22 “(bb) unstably housed;

23 “(cc) living in an area of
24 concentrated poverty; or

25 “(dd) at risk of displace-
26 ment from an opportunity area

1 for children or an area rapidly
2 transitioning to become an oppor-
3 tunity area for children.

4 “(iii) The term ‘homeless’, with re-
5 spect to a family, means the family would
6 satisfy the definition of ‘homeless children
7 and youths’ (as defined in section 725 of
8 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)) but for the re-
10 quirement to be a child or youth.

11 “(iv) The term ‘opportunity area for
12 children’ shall have the meaning given the
13 term by the Secretary, using the best avail-
14 able, outcomes-based evidence.

15 “(v) The term ‘unstably housed’, with
16 respect to a family, means a family who—

17 “(I) is at risk of losing tem-
18 porary or permanent housing;

19 “(II) has moved not less than
20 twice during the 12-month period end-
21 ing on the date on which a public
22 housing agency selects the family
23 from a waiting list to receive assist-
24 ance under this paragraph;

1 “(III) is living in a unit not ac-
2 cessible to a disabled family member;

3 “(IV) is fleeing, or attempting to
4 flee, domestic violence, dating vio-
5 lence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

6 “(V) is living in housing condi-
7 tions that are dangerous or life-
8 threatening.

9 “(B) COMPETITIVE AWARD.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
11 shall provide assistance to public housing
12 agencies on a competitive basis to be used
13 for—

14 “(I) incremental vouchers for eli-
15 gible families; and

16 “(II) one-time additional fees for
17 the cost to the public housing agencies
18 of providing mobility-related services
19 to eligible families.

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

1 under this paragraph, the Secretary
2 shall—

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

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

15 “(C) SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE OFFERED
16 TO FAMILIES RECEIVING VOUCHERS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 “(I) shall include a customized
22 approach to enable a successful tran-
23 sition to opportunity areas for chil-
24 dren; and

1 “(II) may include counseling and
2 continued support for families.

3 “(iv) OPPORTUNITY AREAS FOR CHIL-
4 DREN; HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS.—The
5 Secretary shall establish criteria for areas
6 and schools to qualify as opportunity areas
7 for children and high-performing schools,
8 respectively.

9 “(v) MANNER OF PROVIDING SERV-
10 ICES.—A public housing agency may pro-
11 vide mobility-related services as required
12 under clause (i) directly or through a local
13 partnership or contract.

14 “(D) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(i) TURNOVER.—Upon turnover of a
16 voucher issued by a public housing agency
17 using assistance received under this para-
18 graph, the public housing agency shall
19 issue the voucher to another eligible family
20 under this paragraph.

21 “(ii) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of
23 law, with respect to a voucher authorized
24 under this paragraph—

1 “(I) the Secretary may not waive
2 any provision of this paragraph or
3 subsection (r); and

4 “(II) subsection (b) of section 16
5 shall apply, except as provided under
6 subsection (d) of that section.

7 “(E) IMPLEMENTATION.—

8 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—Not later than
9 180 days after the date of enactment of
10 this paragraph, the Secretary shall publish
11 a notice for public comment in the Federal
12 Register that includes any definitions or
13 other specifications required or authorized
14 under this paragraph.

15 “(ii) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

16 “(I) INITIAL YEAR.—For the
17 first fiscal year for which amounts are
18 appropriated to be provided to public
19 housing agencies for incremental
20 vouchers under this paragraph, the
21 Secretary shall allocate the amounts
22 to public housing agencies not later
23 than 1 year after the date on which
24 the amounts are appropriated.

1 “(II) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—For
2 any fiscal year after the fiscal year de-
3 scribed in subclause (I), the Secretary
4 shall allocate amounts to public hous-
5 ing agencies for incremental vouchers
6 under this paragraph not later than
7 180 days after the date on which the
8 amounts are appropriated.

9 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
10 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years
12 2020 through 2024 such sums as may be nec-
13 essary to provide assistance to public housing
14 agencies under this paragraph to be used for—

15 “(i) 100,000 incremental vouchers, as
16 described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I);

17 “(ii) fees for the cost of administering
18 the incremental vouchers described in sub-
19 paragraph (B)(i)(I); and

20 “(iii) one-time additional fees for mo-
21 bility-related services, as described in sub-
22 paragraph (B)(i)(II).”.