

Calendar No. _____

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 2172**

[Report No. 117- _____]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve grants, payments, and technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2021

Mr. TESTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. TESTER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve grants, payments, and technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans, 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,*

20 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

21 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
22 *“Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homeless-*
23 *ness Act of 2021”.*

24 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
25 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Adjustments of grants awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for comprehensive service programs to serve homeless veterans.*
- Sec. 3. Adjustments to rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for services furnished to homeless veterans.*
- Sec. 4. Training and technical assistance provided by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recipients of certain financial assistance.*
- Sec. 5. Report on shallow subsidy program under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.*
- Sec. 6. Modifications to program to improve retention of housing by formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.*
- Sec. 7. Pilot program on award of grants for substance use disorder recovery for homeless veterans.*
- Sec. 8. Modifications to homeless veterans reintegration programs.*
- Sec. 9. Pilot program on grants to improve public transportation services for veterans.*
- Sec. 10. Pilot program on grants for health care for homeless veterans.*
- Sec. 11. Report by Comptroller General of the United States on affordable housing for veterans.*
- Sec. 12. Modification of eligibility requirements for entities collaborating with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide case management services to homeless veterans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program.*

1 **SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENTS OF GRANTS AWARDED BY THE SEC-**
2 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR COM-**
3 **PREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS TO SERVE**
4 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

5 (a) *ELIMINATION OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—*

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Section 2011(c) of title 38,*
7 *United States Codes, is amended—*

8 (A) *by striking paragraph (2); and*

9 (B) *by redesignating paragraph (3) as*
10 *paragraph (2).*

11 (2) *APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by*
12 *paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any grant*
13 *awarded under section 2011 of title 38, United States*
14 *Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

1 (3) *DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF GRANT.*—On
2 or after the date that is five years after the date of
3 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs may determine the maximum amount of a
5 grant under section 2011 of title 38, United States
6 Code, which shall be not less than 70 percent of the
7 estimated cost of the project concerned.

8 (4) *SUNSET.*—Section 4201(b)(2) of the Johnny
9 Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health
10 Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public
11 Law 116–315; 134 Stat. 5009; 38 U.S.C. 2011 note)
12 is amended—

13 (A) by striking “Subsection (c)(2)” and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (c)(2)”;

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new
17 subparagraph:

18 “(B) *SUNSET.*—Subparagraph (A) shall
19 cease to be effective on the date of the enactment
20 of the Building Solutions for Veterans Experi-
21 encing Homelessness Act of 2021.”.

22 (b) *ELIMINATION OF PROPERTY DISPOSITION RE-*
23 *QUIREMENTS.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—A recipient of a grant award-
25 ed under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code,

1 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act for
2 a project described in subsection (b)(1) of such section
3 shall not be subject to any property disposition re-
4 quirements relating to the grant under subsection (c)
5 or (f) of section 61.67 of title 38, Code of Federal Reg-
6 ulations, section 200.311(c) of title 2, Code of Federal
7 Regulations, or successor regulations.

8 (2) *SUNSET.*—Section 4201(b)(6) of the Johnny
9 Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health
10 Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public
11 Law 116–315; 134 Stat. 5010; 38 U.S.C. 2011 note)
12 is amended—

13 (A) by striking “During” and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—During”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new
17 subparagraph:

18 “(B) *SUNSET.*—Subparagraph (A) shall
19 cease to be effective on the date of the enactment
20 of the Building Solutions for Veterans Experi-
21 encing Homelessness Act of 2021.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ADJUSTMENTS TO RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS**
2 **PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED TO**
4 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

5 *Section 2012(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code,*
6 *is amended—*

7 *(1) in clause (i)—*

8 *(A) in subclause (I), by inserting “, includ-*
9 *ing in response to an emergency” after “appro-*
10 *priate”; and*

11 *(B) in subclause (II)(aa)(BB), by striking*
12 *“115” and inserting “200”; and*

13 *(2) in clause (ii), by striking “150” and insert-*
14 *ing “200”.*

15 **SEC. 4. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**
16 **BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RE-**
17 **CIPIENTS OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL ASSIST-**
18 **ANCE.**

19 *(a) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME*
20 *FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.—Section 2044(e) of*
21 *title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

22 *(1) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and*

23 *(2) by striking “(1) From amounts” and insert-*
24 *ing “From amounts”.*

25 *(b) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter II of chapter 20 of
2 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

3 (A) by redesignating section 2014 as section
4 2015; and

5 (B) by inserting after section 2013 the fol-
6 lowing new section 2014:

7 **“§2014. Training and technical assistance**

8 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall provide train-
9 ing and technical assistance to recipients of grants under
10 sections 2011 and 2013 of this title and recipients of per
11 diem payments under section 2012 of this title regarding
12 the planning, development, and provision of services for
13 which the grant or payment is made.

14 “(b) *PROVISION OF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-*
15 *ANCE.*—The Secretary may provide training and technical
16 assistance under paragraph (1) directly or through grants
17 or contracts with such public or nonprofit private entities
18 as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

19 (2) *USE OF AMOUNTS.*—The Secretary of Vet-
20 erans Affairs shall provide training and technical as-
21 sistance under section 2014 of such title, as inserted
22 by paragraph (1)(B), using amounts appropriated or
23 otherwise made available to the Department of Vet-
24 erans Affairs on or after the date of the enactment of
25 this Act.

1 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 20013(a) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Eco-
3 nomic Security Act (38 U.S.C. 2011 note) is amended
4 by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

5 (4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
6 tions at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is
7 amended by striking the item relating to section 2014
8 and inserting the following new items:

“2014. Training and technical assistance.

“2015. Authorization of appropriations.”.

9 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON SHALLOW SUBSIDY PROGRAM UNDER**
10 **THE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN**
11 **FAMILIES PROGRAM.**

12 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days
13 after the end of the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted,
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
15 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
16 on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
17 on the program for providing rental subsidies under section
18 62.34(a)(8) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
19 successor regulation) (in this section referred to as the “pro-
20 gram”).

21 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a)
22 shall include the following:

23 (1) The number of veterans and families served
24 under the program during the fiscal year in which

1 *this Act is enacted, disaggregated, if such information*
2 *is available, by—*

3 *(A) race and ethnicity;*

4 *(B) gender;*

5 *(C) geographic location; and*

6 *(D) age.*

7 *(2) A description of support provided to special*
8 *populations under the program, including elderly vet-*
9 *erans, women veterans, children of veterans, disabled*
10 *veterans, veterans transitioning from certain institu-*
11 *tions, and minority veterans.*

12 *(3) A description of the decision-making process*
13 *of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding*
14 *which locations would be eligible for coverage under*
15 *the program.*

16 *(4) An assessment of whether increasing the pay-*
17 *ment rate under the program is necessary.*

18 *(5) An assessment of whether it is feasible and*
19 *beneficial to expand the program nationally.*

20 *(6) An assessment of the efficacy of the increased*
21 *payments provided under the program based on in-*
22 *creases in number of veterans served and number of*
23 *veterans transitioned into permanent housing.*

1 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATIONS TO PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RETEN-**
2 **TION OF HOUSING BY FORMERLY HOMELESS**
3 **VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF BE-**
4 **COMING HOMELESS.**

5 *Section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-*
6 *ed—*

7 *(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection*
8 *(d);*

9 *(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following*
10 *new subsections:*

11 *“(b) SERVICES.—Services provided under the program*
12 *shall include services to assist veterans described in sub-*
13 *section (a) with navigating resources provided by the Fed-*
14 *eral Government and State, local, and Tribal governments.*

15 *“(c) STAFFING.—In geographic areas where individ-*
16 *uals who meet the licensure and certification requirements*
17 *to provide services under the program are in high demand*
18 *as determined by the Secretary, such services may be pro-*
19 *vided through one or more individuals with a master’s de-*
20 *gree in social work who are undergoing training to meet*
21 *such requirements, if such individuals are under the super-*
22 *vision of an individual who meets such requirements.”; and*

23 *(3) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-*
24 *graph (1), by adding at the end the following new*
25 *paragraph:*

1 “(3) The Secretary shall require each recipient of a
2 grant awarded under this subsection to submit to the Sec-
3 retary a report that describes the services provided or co-
4 ordinated with amounts under such grant.”.

5 **SEC. 7. PILOT PROGRAM ON AWARD OF GRANTS FOR SUB-**
6 **STANCE USE DISORDER RECOVERY FOR**
7 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

8 (a) *PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—Not later than 180
9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a
11 pilot program under which the Secretary shall award
12 grants to eligible entities for the provision or coordination
13 of services for recovery from substance use disorder for vet-
14 erans who are homeless, were previously homeless and are
15 transitioning to permanent housing, or are at risk of becom-
16 ing homeless.

17 (b) *DURATION.*—The Secretary shall carry out the
18 pilot program during the five-year period beginning on the
19 date of the commencement of the pilot program.

20 (c) *LOCATIONS.*—The Secretary shall carry out the
21 pilot program at not fewer than five locations selected by
22 the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

23 (d) *AWARD OF GRANTS.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—In carrying out the pilot pro-
25 gram, the Secretary shall award a grant to an eligible

1 *entity for each veteran with substance use disorder*
2 *participating in the pilot program for which the eli-*
3 *gible entity is providing or coordinating the provision*
4 *of recovery services for substance use disorder under*
5 *the pilot program.*

6 (2) *INTERVALS OF PAYMENT AND MAXIMUM*
7 *AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may establish intervals of*
8 *payment for the administration of grants under this*
9 *section and a maximum amount to be awarded, in*
10 *accordance with the services being provided and the*
11 *duration of such services.*

12 (3) *PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under*
13 *paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to*
14 *eligible entities providing or coordinating the provi-*
15 *sion of recovery services for substance use disorder for*
16 *veterans with substance-use dependency who face bar-*
17 *riers in accessing substance-use recovery services from*
18 *the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

19 (4) *EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary*
20 *shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, grant*
21 *amounts awarded under paragraph (1) are equitably*
22 *distributed across geographic regions, including rural*
23 *and Tribal communities.*

24 (5) *NOTIFICATION OF SOURCE OF AMOUNTS.—*
25 *Each eligible entity awarded a grant under para-*

1 *graph (1) shall notify each veteran receiving services*
2 *paid for with amounts under such grant that such*
3 *services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by*
4 *the Department.*

5 (6) *REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.*—*The Sec-*
6 *retary shall require each eligible entity awarded a*
7 *grant under paragraph (1) to submit to the Secretary*
8 *a report that describes the services provided or coordi-*
9 *nated with amounts under such grant.*

10 (e) *GRANT APPLICATION.*—

11 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*An eligible entity seeking the*
12 *award of a grant under this section shall submit to*
13 *the Secretary an application therefor in such form, in*
14 *such manner, and containing such commitments and*
15 *information as the Secretary considers necessary to*
16 *carry out this section.*

17 (2) *CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.*—*Each applica-*
18 *tion submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph*
19 (1) *shall contain the following:*

20 (A) *A description of the recovery services for*
21 *substance use disorder proposed to be provided*
22 *by the eligible entity under the pilot program*
23 *and the identified need for those services.*

1 (B) *A description of the types of veterans*
2 *with substance use disorder proposed to be pro-*
3 *vided such recovery services.*

4 (C) *An estimate of the number of veterans*
5 *with substance use disorder proposed to be pro-*
6 *vided such recovery services.*

7 (D) *Evidence of the experience of the eligible*
8 *entity in providing such recovery services to vet-*
9 *erans with substance use disorder.*

10 (E) *A description of the managerial capac-*
11 *ity of the eligible entity—*

12 (i) *to assess continually the needs of*
13 *veterans with substance use disorder for*
14 *such recovery services;*

15 (ii) *to coordinate the provision of such*
16 *recovery services with services provided by*
17 *the Department; and*

18 (iii) *to tailor such recovery services to*
19 *the needs of veterans with substance use dis-*
20 *order.*

21 (3) *CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—*

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-*
23 *tablish criteria for the selection of eligible enti-*
24 *ties to be awarded grants under this section.*

1 (B) *ELEMENTS.*—Criteria established under
2 subparagraph (A) with respect to an eligible en-
3 tity shall include the following:

4 (i) *Relevant accreditation as may be*
5 *required by each State in which the eligible*
6 *entity operates.*

7 (ii) *Experience coordinating care or*
8 *providing treatment for veterans or mem-*
9 *bers of the Armed Forces.*

10 (f) *PARTICIPATION.*—Participation by a veteran in the
11 *pilot program shall not affect any eligibility status or re-*
12 *quirements for such veteran with respect to other benefits*
13 *or services provided by the Department.*

14 (g) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall provide
16 *training and technical assistance to eligible entities*
17 *awarded grants under this section regarding the plan-*
18 *ning, development, and provision of recovery services*
19 *for substance use disorder under this section.*

20 (2) *PROVISION OF TRAINING.*—The Secretary
21 *may provide the training required under paragraph*
22 *(1) directly or through grants or contracts with such*
23 *public or nonprofit private entities as the Secretary*
24 *considers appropriate for purposes of this section, in-*

1 cluding through grants awarded under section 2064 of
2 title 38, United States Code.

3 (h) *COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.*—To the extent
4 practicable, the Secretary may collect information from an
5 eligible entity awarded a grant under this section relating
6 to a substance use disorder of a veteran participating in
7 the pilot program for inclusion in the electronic health
8 record of the Department for such veteran for the sole pur-
9 pose of improving care provided to such veteran.

10 (i) *STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—

11 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall conduct a
12 study on the effectiveness of the pilot program in
13 meeting the needs of veterans with substance use dis-
14 order.

15 (2) *COMPARISON.*—In conducting the study re-
16 quired by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall compare
17 the results of the pilot program with other programs
18 of the Department dedicated to the delivery to vet-
19 erans of recovery services for substance use disorder.

20 (3) *CRITERIA.*—In making the comparison re-
21 quired by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall examine
22 the following:

23 (A) *The satisfaction of veterans targeted by*
24 *the programs described in paragraph (2).*

25 (B) *The health status of such veterans.*

1 (C) *The mental wellness of such veterans.*

2 (D) *The degree to which such programs en-*
3 *courage such veterans to engage in productive ac-*
4 *tivity.*

5 (E) *The number of veterans using such pro-*
6 *grams, disaggregated by—*

7 (i) *veterans who have received care*
8 *from the Department during the two-year*
9 *period preceding the conduct of the study;*
10 *and*

11 (ii) *veterans who have not received*
12 *care from the Department during such pe-*
13 *riod.*

14 (F) *The number of veterans who are still*
15 *homeless or at risk of becoming homeless one*
16 *year after completion of receipt of recovery serv-*
17 *ices under such programs.*

18 (G) *The number of veterans who still have*
19 *a substance use disorder within 180 days of dis-*
20 *charge from receipt of services provided under*
21 *this section.*

22 (4) *REPORT.—Not later than one year after the*
23 *date on which the first grant is awarded under this*
24 *section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall*
25 *submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the*

1 *Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the*
2 *House of Representatives a report on the results of the*
3 *study required by paragraph (1).*

4 (j) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

5 (1) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-*
6 *ty” means any of the following:*

7 (A) *An incorporated private institution or*
8 *foundation—*

9 (i) *no part of the net earnings of which*
10 *inures to the benefit of any member, found-*
11 *er, contributor, or individual;*

12 (ii) *that has a governing board that is*
13 *responsible for the operation of the recovery*
14 *services for substance use disorder provided*
15 *under this section; and*

16 (iii) *that is approved by the Secretary*
17 *with respect to financial responsibility.*

18 (B) *A for-profit limited partnership, the*
19 *sole general partner of which is an organization*
20 *meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A).*

21 (C) *A corporation wholly owned and con-*
22 *trolled by an organization meeting the require-*
23 *ments of subparagraph (A).*

24 (D) *A tribally designated housing entity (as*
25 *defined in section 4 of the Native American*

1 *Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act*
2 *of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).*

3 (2) *SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.*—*The term “sub-*
4 *stance use disorder”, with respect to a veteran, means*
5 *the veteran has been diagnosed with, or is seeking*
6 *treatment for, substance use disorder, as determined*
7 *by the Secretary.*

8 **SEC. 8. MODIFICATIONS TO HOMELESS VETERANS RE-**
9 **INTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 2021 of title 38, United*
11 *States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

12 **“§ 2021. Homeless veterans reintegration programs**

13 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the availability of ap-*
14 *propriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary of*
15 *Labor shall conduct, directly or through grant or contract,*
16 *such programs as that Secretary determines appropriate to*
17 *provide job training, counseling, and placement services*
18 *(including job readiness and literacy and skills training)*
19 *to expedite the reintegration into the labor force of—*

20 “(1) *homeless veterans (including veterans who*
21 *were homeless but found housing during the 60-day*
22 *period preceding the date on which the veteran begins*
23 *to participate in a program under this section);*

24 “(2) *veterans participating in the Department of*
25 *Housing and Urban Development-Department of Vet-*

1 *erans Affairs supported housing program for which*
2 *rental assistance is provided pursuant to section*
3 *8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42*
4 *U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) or the Tribal HUD-VA Sup-*
5 *portive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program;*

6 *“(3) Indians who are veterans and receiving as-*
7 *sistance under the Native American Housing Assist-*
8 *ance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.*
9 *4101 et seq.);*

10 *“(4) veterans described in section 2023(d) of this*
11 *title or any other veterans who are transitioning from*
12 *being incarcerated; and*

13 *“(5) veterans participating in the Department of*
14 *Veterans Affairs rapid rehousing and prevention pro-*
15 *gram authorized in section 2044 of this title.*

16 *“(b) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The*
17 *Secretary of Labor shall provide training and technical as-*
18 *sistance to entities seeking a grant or contract under this*
19 *section and recipients of a grant or contract under this sec-*
20 *tion regarding the planning, development, and provision of*
21 *services for which the grant or contract is awarded, includ-*
22 *ing before and during the grant application or contract*
23 *award period.*

24 *“(2) The training and technical assistance provided*
25 *under paragraph (1) shall include outreach and assistance*

1 *specifically designed for entities serving regions and popu-*
2 *lations underserved by the programs conducted under this*
3 *section.*

4 “(3) *The Secretary may provide training and tech-*
5 *nical assistance under paragraph (1) directly or through*
6 *grants or contracts with such public or nonprofit private*
7 *entities as that Secretary considers appropriate.*

8 “(c) *REQUIREMENT TO MONITOR EXPENDITURES OF*
9 *FUNDS.—(1) The Secretary of Labor shall collect such in-*
10 *formation as that Secretary considers appropriate to mon-*
11 *itor and evaluate the distribution and expenditure of funds*
12 *appropriated to carry out this section.*

13 “(2) *Information collected under paragraph (1) shall*
14 *include data with respect to the results or outcomes of the*
15 *services provided to each homeless veteran under this sec-*
16 *tion.*

17 “(3) *Information collected under paragraph (1) shall*
18 *be furnished in such form and manner as the Secretary of*
19 *Labor may specify.*

20 “(d) *ADMINISTRATION THROUGH ASSISTANT SEC-*
21 *RETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND*
22 *TRAINING.—The Secretary of Labor shall carry out this sec-*
23 *tion through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’*
24 *Employment and Training.*

1 “(e) *PROVISION OF SERVICES TO VETERANS IN CER-*
2 *TAIN INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Attorney General of the*
3 *United States shall permit a recipient of a grant or con-*
4 *tract under this section to provide services under this sec-*
5 *tion to any veteran described in subsection (a)(4) who is*
6 *residing in a penal institution under the jurisdiction of the*
7 *Bureau of Prisons.*

8 “(2) *The recipient of a grant or contract under this*
9 *section may provide to officials of an institution described*
10 *in paragraph (1) information regarding the services pro-*
11 *vided to veterans under this subsection during the 18-month*
12 *period preceding the release or discharge of a veteran from*
13 *the institution.*

14 “(f) *REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.—(1) The Sec-*
15 *retary of Labor shall require each recipient of a grant or*
16 *contract under this section to submit to that Secretary a*
17 *report on the services provided and veterans served using*
18 *grant or contract amounts not later than 90 days after the*
19 *end of each program year, beginning with the program year*
20 *the begins after the date of the enactment of the Building*
21 *Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act of*
22 *2021.*

23 “(2) *To the extent practicable, each report submitted*
24 *under paragraph (1) shall—*

1 “(A) disaggregate the number of veterans served
2 by—

3 “(i) gender;

4 “(ii) age;

5 “(iii) race;

6 “(iv) ethnicity;

7 “(v) approximate era in which the veteran
8 served in the Armed Forces;

9 “(vi) the highest level of education attained;

10 “(vii) the average period of time the veteran
11 was unemployed or underemployed before receiv-
12 ing services under this section and while receiv-
13 ing such services; and

14 “(viii) housing status as of the date on
15 which the report is submitted; and

16 “(B) include data on the number of veterans that
17 received health care from the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs during the two-year period preceding the date
19 on which the veteran began receiving services under
20 this section.

21 “(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—(1) Not less frequently
22 than every two years, the Secretary of Labor shall submit
23 to Congress a report on the programs conducted under this
24 section. The Secretary of Labor shall include in the report
25 the following:

1 “(A) *An evaluation of services furnished to vet-*
2 *erans under this section.*

3 “(B) *An analysis of the information collected*
4 *under subsection (c).*

5 “(2) *Not later than 180 days after the end of the pro-*
6 *gram year that begins after the date of the enactment of*
7 *the Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Home-*
8 *lessness Act of 2021, and not later than 120 days after the*
9 *end of each program year thereafter, the Secretary of Labor*
10 *shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
11 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans’*
12 *Affairs of the Senate a report setting forth the following:*

13 “(A) *Data obtained from the reports submitted*
14 *under subsection (f), disaggregated by geographic lo-*
15 *cation.*

16 “(B) *The number of grants and contracts not*
17 *awarded under this section due to insufficient funds.*

18 “(C) *The number of returning recipients of*
19 *grants or contracts that were and were not awarded*
20 *grants or contracts under this section during the most*
21 *recent application cycle.*

22 “(D) *The number of applications received from*
23 *entities in States in which no entities received a*
24 *grant or contract under this section.*

1 “(E) *The number of veterans who were admitted*
2 *to a program conducted under this section but not*
3 *placed in a job following participation in such pro-*
4 *gram, disaggregated by geographic location, age, gen-*
5 *der, and race or ethnicity.*

6 “(h) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)*
7 *There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this*
8 *section amounts as follows:*

9 “(A) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.*

10 “(B) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.*

11 “(C) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.*

12 “(D) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.*

13 “(E) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.*

14 “(F) *\$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007*
15 *through 2021.*

16 “(G) *\$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each*
17 *fiscal year thereafter.*

18 “(2) *Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall*
19 *remain available until expended. Funds obligated in any*
20 *fiscal year to carry out this section may be expended in*
21 *that fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year.”.*

22 “(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2021A(e) of*
23 *title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “sec-*
24 *tion 2021(d)” and inserting “section 2021(g)(1)”.*

1 **SEC. 9. PILOT PROGRAM ON GRANTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC**
2 **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

3 (a) *GRANT PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—Not later than one
4 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a
6 pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of
7 awarding grants to eligible entities to improve public trans-
8 portation services for veterans.

9 (b) *DURATION.*—The Secretary shall carry out the
10 pilot program during the five-year period beginning on the
11 date on which the pilot program commences.

12 (c) *LOCATIONS.*—The Secretary shall carry out the
13 pilot program at not fewer than five locations selected by
14 the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

15 (d) *AWARD OF GRANTS.*—

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—In carrying out the pilot pro-
17 gram, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible en-
18 tities to expand, retain, or establish public transpor-
19 tation services that provide veterans access to loca-
20 tions of facilities or organizations that serve veterans,
21 including—

22 (A) facilities of the Department of Veterans
23 Affairs; and

24 (B) organizations that provide services to
25 veterans using funds provided by the Depart-
26 ment.

1 (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—For purposes of this
2 section, an eligible entity is any State, Tribal, coun-
3 ty, or city government that—

4 (A) is providing public transportation serv-
5 ices as of the date on which the pilot program
6 commences; or

7 (B) has a proven ability and intention to
8 establish public transportation infrastructure.

9 (3) *INTERVALS OF PAYMENT AND MAXIMUM*
10 *GRANT AMOUNT.*—The Secretary may establish inter-
11 vals of payment for the administration of grants
12 under this section and a maximum grant amount to
13 be awarded, in accordance with the services being
14 provided and the duration of such services.

15 (4) *COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.*—In
16 awarding grants under this section, the Secretary
17 may coordinate and consult with the Secretary of
18 Transportation.

19 (5) *EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.*—The Secretary
20 of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that, to the extent
21 practicable, grants awarded under this section are eq-
22 uitably distributed among eligible entities across geo-
23 graphic regions, including rural and Tribal commu-
24 nities.

25 (e) *GRANT APPLICATION.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—An eligible entity seeking the
2 award of a grant under this section shall submit to
3 the Secretary an application therefor in such form, in
4 such manner, and containing such commitments and
5 information as the Secretary considers necessary to
6 carry out this section.

7 (2) *CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.*—Each applica-
8 tion submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph
9 (1) shall contain the following:

10 (A) A description of the public transpor-
11 tation services that the entity intends to provide
12 under the grant.

13 (B) A list of all sites accessed by the public
14 transportation services to be provided.

15 (C) The schedule of such services.

16 (D) A list of the locations of facilities and
17 organizations that serve veterans that will be
18 accessed by such services.

19 (E) An estimate of the number of veterans
20 that would use such services.

21 (F) Evidence of the ability of the entity to
22 provide such services.

23 (f) *NOTIFICATION TO VETERANS.*—Each eligible entity
24 awarded a grant under this section shall notify veterans
25 of the expansion or establishment of public transportation

1 *services to locations of facilities or organizations that serve*
2 *veterans and that those services are available in whole or*
3 *in part due to funds provided by the Department.*

4 (g) *REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.*—*The Secretary*
5 *shall require each eligible entity awarded a grant under this*
6 *section to submit to the Secretary a report that describes*
7 *the expansion, retention, or establishment of public trans-*
8 *portation services provided with amounts under such grant.*

9 (h) *REPORT.*—

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than one year after*
11 *the date on which the first grant is awarded under*
12 *this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-*
13 *mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the*
14 *Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-*
15 *resentatives a report on the services provided under*
16 *the pilot program.*

17 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—*The report required by para-*
18 *graph (1) shall include the following:*

19 (A) *The geographic location of each recipi-*
20 *ent of a grant under this section.*

21 (B) *The estimated number of veterans*
22 *served by each such grant recipient.*

23 (C) *An assessment of whether use of facili-*
24 *ties of the Department has increased due to ac-*
25 *cess to public transportation provided under*

1 grants awarded under this section, if informa-
2 tion for such an assessment is available.

3 **SEC. 10. PILOT PROGRAM ON GRANTS FOR HEALTH CARE**
4 **FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

5 (a) *PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—Not later than one
6 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a
8 pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of
9 awarding grants to eligible entities to meet the health care
10 needs of—

11 (1) *veterans who are homeless;*

12 (2) *veterans who were previously homeless and*
13 *are transitioning to permanent housing; and*

14 (3) *veterans who are at risk of becoming home-*
15 *less.*

16 (b) *LOCATIONS.*—The Secretary shall carry out the
17 pilot program at not fewer than five locations selected by
18 the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

19 (c) *AWARD OF GRANTS.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—In carrying out the pilot pro-
21 gram, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible en-
22 tities for the purpose described in subsection (a).

23 (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—For purposes of this
24 section, an eligible entity is any organization that is
25 successfully providing transitional housing services to

1 *veterans as of the date on which the entity applies for*
2 *a grant under this section.*

3 (3) *PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under*
4 *this section, the Secretary shall give preference to eli-*
5 *gible entities that are successfully providing transi-*
6 *tional housing services using amounts provided by the*
7 *Secretary under sections 2012 and 2061 of title 38,*
8 *United States Code, as of the date on which the entity*
9 *applies for a grant under this section.*

10 (4) *INTERVALS OF PAYMENT AND MAXIMUM*
11 *GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary may establish inter-*
12 *vals of payment for the administration of grants*
13 *under this section and a maximum grant amount to*
14 *be awarded, in accordance with the services being*
15 *provided by staff hired using grant amounts and the*
16 *duration of such services.*

17 (5) *EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary*
18 *shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, grant*
19 *amounts awarded under paragraph (1) are equitably*
20 *distributed among eligible entities across geographic*
21 *regions, including rural and Tribal communities.*

22 (d) *USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The recipient of a*
23 *grant under the pilot program—*

24 (1) *shall use grant amounts for the hiring of*
25 *nursing staff to care for veterans described in sub-*

1 *section (a) who require assistance with activities of*
2 *daily living or need consistent medical attention and*
3 *monitoring; and*

4 *(2) may use such amounts for supplies and in-*
5 *frastructure needs associated with the duties of such*
6 *staff and the needs of such veterans.*

7 *(e) REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.—The Secretary*
8 *shall require each eligible entity awarded a grant under this*
9 *section to submit to the Secretary a report that describes*
10 *the services provided or coordinated with amounts under*
11 *such grant.*

12 *(f) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot*
13 *program during the five-year period beginning on the date*
14 *on which the pilot program commences.*

15 *(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—*

16 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after*
17 *the date on which the first grants are awarded under*
18 *this section, and annually thereafter until the pro-*
19 *gram terminates, the Secretary shall submit to the*
20 *Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the*
21 *Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-*
22 *resentatives a report on the effectiveness of the pro-*
23 *gram.*

24 *(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-*
25 *graph (1) shall include the number of veterans served*

1 *by the pilot program under the care of a staff member*
2 *the funding for whom is provided by a grant under*
3 *the program, disaggregated by—*

4 *(A) geographic location;*

5 *(B) gender;*

6 *(C) age;*

7 *(D) race and ethnicity;*

8 *(E) whether or not a veteran received health*
9 *care from the Department during the two-year*
10 *period preceding the date on which the veteran*
11 *began participating in the program;*

12 *(F) the number of veterans who transitioned*
13 *into permanent housing as a result of participa-*
14 *tion in the program; and*

15 *(G) with respect to veterans who did not*
16 *transition into permanent housing as a result of*
17 *participation in the program, the main reasons*
18 *for not so transitioning.*

19 **SEC. 11. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE**
20 **UNITED STATES ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
21 **FOR VETERANS.**

22 *(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than three years*
23 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller*
24 *General of the United States shall submit to the Committee*
25 *on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on*

1 *Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report*
2 *on the availability of affordable housing for veterans who*
3 *have or are participating in any program administered by*
4 *the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Vet-*
5 *erans Affairs.*

6 (b) *CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a)*
7 *shall include, with respect to the one-year period preceding*
8 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the following:*

9 (1) *The number of veterans using housing vouch-*
10 *ers under the program carried out under section*
11 *8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42*
12 *U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)). (commonly referred to as*
13 *“HUD–VASH”).*

14 (2) *The number of veterans who were allocated*
15 *a housing voucher described in paragraph (1) but who*
16 *have been unable to attain permanent housing.*

17 (3) *The number of available housing vouchers de-*
18 *scribed in paragraph (1) that are unused for any rea-*
19 *son.*

20 (4) *Available data regarding the number of vet-*
21 *erans who were discharged from transitional housing*
22 *provided using amounts provided under sections 2061*
23 *and 2012 of title 38, United States Code, and did not*
24 *transition to permanent housing due to a shortage*
25 *of—*

1 (A) case managers under the program de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1);

3 (B) housing vouchers described in such
4 paragraph; or

5 (C) housing that meets the requirements
6 and limitations with respect to such vouchers.

7 (c) *DISAGGREGATION.*—The contents of the report de-
8 scribed in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of subsection (b)
9 shall be disaggregated by veterans with a household income
10 that does not exceed—

11 (1) the area median income;

12 (2) 80 percent of the area median income;

13 (3) 50 percent of the area median income; and

14 (4) 30 percent of the area median income.

15 **SEC. 12. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
16 **FOR ENTITIES COLLABORATING WITH THE**
17 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PRO-**
18 **VIDE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO**
19 **HOMELESS VETERANS IN THE DEPARTMENT**
20 **OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-DE-**
21 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUP-**
22 **PORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.**

23 Section 304(c)(2)(A) of the Honoring America's Vet-
24 erans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012
25 (38 U.S.C. 2041 note) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through
2 (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F), respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
5 lowing new subparagraph (B):

6 “(B) providing case management services to
7 veterans for obtaining suitable housing at vary-
8 ing locations nationwide or in the area or areas
9 similar to where the services will be provided
10 under the relevant contract or agreement;”.