

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1719

To provide homelessness and supportive services assistance for Native Americans to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

Mr. VARGAS (for himself and Ms. WATERS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

To provide homelessness and supportive services assistance for Native Americans to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 “Emergency Tribal
5 Housing Assistance Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE**
7 **SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERI-**
8 **CANS.**

9 (a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts other-
10 wise made available, out of any money in the Treasury

1 not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated for fis-
2 cal year 2021, \$750,000,000, to remain available until
3 September 30, 2025, to prevent, prepare for, and respond
4 to coronavirus, for activities and assistance authorized
5 under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance
6 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25
7 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), under title VIII of NAHASDA (25
8 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.), and under title I of the Housing
9 and Community Development Act of 1974 with respect to
10 Indian tribes (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), which amounts
11 shall be made available as follows:

12 (1) HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS.—\$455,000,000
13 shall be available for the Native American Housing
14 Block Grants and Native Hawaiian Housing Block
15 Grant programs, as authorized under titles I and
16 VIII of NAHASDA, subject to the following terms
17 and conditions:

18 (A) FORMULA.—Of the amounts made
19 available under this paragraph, \$450,000,000
20 shall be for grants under title I of NAHASDA
21 and shall be distributed according to the same
22 funding formula used in fiscal year 2021.

23 (B) NATIVE HAWAIIANS.—Of the amounts
24 made available under this paragraph,

1 \$5,000,000 shall be for grants under title VIII
2 of NAHASDA.

3 (C) USE.—Amounts made available under
4 this paragraph shall be used by recipients to
5 prevent, prepare for, and respond to
6 coronavirus, including to maintain normal oper-
7 ations and fund eligible affordable housing ac-
8 tivities under NAHASDA during the period
9 that the program is impacted by coronavirus. In
10 addition, amounts made available under sub-
11 paragraph (B) shall be used to provide rental
12 assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian families
13 both on and off the Hawaiian Home Lands.

14 (D) TIMING OF OBLIGATIONS.—Amounts
15 made available under this paragraph shall be
16 used, as necessary, to cover or reimburse allow-
17 able costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond
18 to coronavirus that are incurred by a recipient,
19 including for costs incurred as of January 21,
20 2020.

21 (E) WAIVERS.—Any provision of statute or
22 regulation used to administer amounts made
23 available under this paragraph (except for re-
24 quirements related to fair housing, non-
25 discrimination, labor standards, and the envi-

ronment), shall be waived upon a finding that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of amounts made available under this paragraph.

(F) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available under this paragraph which are not accepted, are voluntarily returned, or otherwise recaptured for any reason shall be used to fund grants under paragraph (2).

(2) INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS.—\$280,000,000 shall be available for grants under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(A) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used, without competition, for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety and are designed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(B) PLANNING.—Not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds made available under this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration.

1 (C) TIMING OF OBLIGATIONS.—Amounts
2 made available under this paragraph shall be
3 used, as necessary, to cover or reimburse allow-
4 able costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond
5 to coronavirus incurred by a recipient, including
6 for costs incurred as of January 21, 2020.

7 (D) INAPPLICABILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES
8 CAP.—Notwithstanding section 105(a)(8) of the
9 Housing and Community Development Act of
10 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(8)), there shall be no
11 per centum limitation for the use of funds made
12 available under this paragraph for public serv-
13 ices activities to prevent, prepare for, and re-
14 spond to coronavirus.

15 (E) WAIVERS.—Any provision of any stat-
16 ute or regulation used to administer amounts
17 made available under this paragraph (except for
18 requirements related to fair housing, non-
19 discrimination, labor standards, and the envi-
20 ronment), shall be waived upon a finding that
21 any such waivers or alternative requirements
22 are necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of
23 amounts made available under this paragraph.

24 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—\$10,000,000
25 shall be used, without competition, to make new

1 awards or increase prior awards to existing technical
2 assistance providers to provide an immediate in-
3 crease in training and technical assistance to Indian
4 tribes, Indian housing authorities, and tribally des-
5 ignated housing entities for activities under this sec-
6 tion.

7 (4) OTHER COSTS.—\$5,000,000 shall be used
8 for the administrative costs to oversee and admin-
9 ister the implementation of this section, and pay for
10 associated information technology, financial report-
11 ing, and other costs.

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