

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1706

To provide emergency homelessness assistance to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. WATERS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To provide emergency homelessness assistance 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 Homeless-  
5 ness Assistance Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE**  
7 **SERVICES PROGRAM.**

8 (a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts other-  
9 wise made available, out of any money in the Treasury  
10 not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated for fis-

1 cal year 2021, \$5,000,000,000, as authorized under title  
2 II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing  
3 Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.), to remain  
4 available until September 30, 2025, except that amounts  
5 authorized under subsection (d)(3) shall remain available  
6 until September 30, 2029, for the following activities to  
7 primarily benefit qualifying individuals or families:

8 (1) Tenant-based rental assistance.

9 (2) The development and support of affordable  
10 housing pursuant to section 212(a) of the Cranston-  
11 Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 12742(a)) (“the Act” herein).

13 (3) Supportive services to qualifying individuals  
14 or families not already receiving such supportive  
15 services, including—

16 (A) activities listed in section 401(29) of  
17 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
18 (42 U.S.C. 11360(29));

19 (B) housing counseling; and

20 (C) homeless prevention services.

21 (4) The acquisition and development of non-  
22 congregate shelter units, all or a portion of which  
23 may—

24 (A) be converted to permanent affordable  
25 housing;

1 (B) be used as emergency shelter under  
2 subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento  
3 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371–  
4 11378);

5 (C) be converted to permanent housing  
6 under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-  
7 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 11381–11389); or

9 (D) remain as non-congregate shelter  
10 units.

11 (b) QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES DE-  
12 FINED.—For the purposes of this section, qualifying indi-  
13 viduals or families are those who are—

14 (1) homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of  
15 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42  
16 U.S.C. 11302(a));

17 (2) at-risk of homelessness, as defined in sec-  
18 tion 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-  
19 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1));

20 (3) fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic vio-  
21 lence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or  
22 human trafficking;

23 (4) in other populations where providing sup-  
24 portive services or assistance under section 212(a) of  
25 the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the

1 family's homelessness or would serve those with the  
2 greatest risk of housing instability; or

3 (5) veterans and families that include a veteran  
4 family member that meet one of the preceding cri-  
5 teria.

6 (c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

7 (1) FUNDING RESTRICTIONS.—The cost limits  
8 in section 212(e) (42 U.S.C. 12742(e)), the commit-  
9 ment requirements in section 218(g) (42 U.S.C.  
10 12749(g)), the matching requirements in section 220  
11 (42 U.S.C. 12750), and the set-aside for housing de-  
12 veloped, sponsored, or owned by community housing  
13 development organizations required in section 231 of  
14 the Act (42 U.S.C. 12771) shall not apply for  
15 amounts made available in this section.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Notwithstanding  
17 sections 212(c) and (d)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C.  
18 12742(c) and (d)(1)), of the funds made available in  
19 this section for carrying out activities authorized in  
20 this section, a grantee may use up to fifteen percent  
21 of its allocation for administrative and planning  
22 costs.

23 (3) OPERATING EXPENSES.—Notwithstanding  
24 sections 212(a) and (g) of the Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 12742(a) and (g)), a grantee may use up to an addi-

1 tional five percent of its allocation for the payment  
2 of operating expenses of community housing develop-  
3 ment organizations and nonprofit organizations car-  
4 rying out activities authorized under this section,  
5 but only if—

6 (A) such funds are used to develop the ca-  
7 pacity of the community housing development  
8 organization or nonprofit organization in the ju-  
9 risdiction or insular area to carry out activities  
10 authorized under this section; and

11 (B) the community housing development  
12 organization or nonprofit organization complies  
13 with the limitation on assistance in section  
14 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12774(b)).

15 (d) ALLOCATION.—

16 (1) FORMULA ASSISTANCE.—Except as pro-  
17 vided in paragraphs (2) and (3), amounts made  
18 available under this section shall be allocated pursu-  
19 ant to section 217 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12746) to  
20 grantees that received allocations pursuant to that  
21 same formula in fiscal year 2021, and such alloca-  
22 tions shall be made within 30 days of enactment of  
23 this Act.

24 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Up to  
25 \$25,000,000 of the amounts made available under

1       this section shall be used, without competition, to  
2       make new awards or increase prior awards to exist-  
3       ing technical assistance providers to provide an im-  
4       mediate increase in capacity building and technical  
5       assistance available to any grantees implementing  
6       activities or projects consistent with this section.

7           (3) OTHER COSTS.—Up to \$50,000,000 of the  
8       amounts made available under this section shall be  
9       used for the administrative costs to oversee and ad-  
10      minister implementation of this section and the  
11      HOME program generally, including information  
12      technology, financial reporting, and other costs.

13          (4) WAIVERS.—Any provision of any statute or  
14      regulation used to administer the amounts made  
15      available under this section (except for requirements  
16      related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor  
17      standards, and the environment), may be waived  
18      upon a finding that any such waivers or alternative  
19      requirements are necessary to expedite or facilitate  
20      the use of amounts made available in this section.

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