

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3949

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2021

Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

---

## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization, 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 “Clean Up Our Neigh-  
5 borhoods Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. BLIGHT ELIMINATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVI-**  
2 **TALIZATION GRANTS.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Housing and  
4 Urban Development may make grants under this section,  
5 on a competitive basis, to States for use for eligible activi-  
6 ties under subsection (c)(1) designed to eliminate blight  
7 and promote neighborhood revitalization.

8 (b) **USE IN NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT AREAS.**—  
9 Amounts from a grant under this section may be used only  
10 to carry out eligible activities under subsection (c)(1) with-  
11 in low-income communities, as such term is defined in sub-  
12 section (g).

13 (c) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts from a grant  
15 under this section may be used only for the following  
16 activities:

17 (A) Demolition, clearance, and removal of  
18 blighted structures.

19 (B) Boarding of vacant properties and  
20 blighted structures.

21 (C) Deconstruction of structures.

22 (D) Removal of waste and site clearance  
23 and vacant land management.

24 (E) Stabilization activities in connection  
25 with providing vacant, open green space for the  
26 purpose of public access and redevelopment, in-

cluding greening projects, and associated maintenance activities, including mowing.

(F) Renovation of existing structures, except that not more than 30 percent of any grant under this section may be used for such activities.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—A grantee State may use amounts from a grant under this Act to carry out eligible activities under paragraph (1) or may provide such amounts to land banks or units of general local government within the State whose jurisdictions include low-income communities for use to carry out such eligible activities within such low-income communities.

(3) PRIORITY FOR LAND BANKS.—In areas where land banks exist, a grantee State shall give priority, in the use of amounts from a grant under this Act, to eligible activities that will be carried out by land banks, in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish.

(4) PROHIBITION.—Amounts from a grant under this section may not be used to acquire any occupied residential dwelling unit.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require  
2           each State that receives a grant under this section  
3           to contribute, toward carrying out the plan for the  
4           State under subsection (e)(2), an amount of match-  
5           ing funds from non-Federal sources that is equal to  
6           or greater than 15 percent of the amount of the  
7           grant.

8           (2) USE OF SALE PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds  
9           from sales of properties renovated pursuant to sub-  
10          section (c)(1)(F) may be counted toward compliance  
11          with the requirement under paragraph (1).

12         (e) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—

13           (1) APPLICATION.—A grant under this section  
14           may only be provided to a State that submits to the  
15           Secretary an application for such a grant that con-  
16           tains a plan for use of grant funds in accordance  
17           with paragraph (2) and such other information, cer-  
18           tifications, and assurances as the Secretary con-  
19           siders necessary to provide for selection of States in  
20           accordance with the process and criteria under sub-  
21           section (f).

22           (2) PLAN.—A plan under this paragraph shall  
23           be a detailed 5-year plan for the use of grant  
24           amounts under this section and matching amounts

1 contributed pursuant to subsection (d) that in-  
2 cludes—

3 (A) identification of the low-income com-  
4 munities in which eligible activities under sub-  
5 section (c)(1) will be carried out using grant  
6 and matching amounts;

7 (B) a description of the eligible activities  
8 under subsection (c)(1) to be carried out using  
9 grant and matching amounts;

10 (C) a timetable for carrying out such eligi-  
11 ble activities, which shall provide for the ex-  
12 penditure of grant and matching amounts with-  
13 in 5 years after receipt; and

14 (D) identification of the sources of match-  
15 ing amounts to be provided in accordance with  
16 subsection (d) and assurances of the availability  
17 of such matching amounts.

18 (f) SELECTION; CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall se-  
19 lect applications to receive grants under this section pur-  
20 suant to a competition and based on criteria as established  
21 by the Secretary for such selection.

22 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the  
23 following definitions shall apply:

24 (1) LAND BANK.—The term “land bank”  
25 means—

1 (A) a land bank, as such term is defined  
2 under State law; and

3 (B) with respect to any State for which the  
4 laws of such State do not explicitly define such  
5 term, any publicly or community-owned entity  
6 established for the purpose of reducing or pre-  
7 venting blight by acquiring, managing, main-  
8 taining, and re-purposing vacant, abandoned,  
9 and foreclosed properties, including abandoned  
10 houses and buildings and empty lots.

11 (2) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-  
12 income community” has the meaning given such  
13 term in section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code  
14 of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 45D) and includes any census  
15 tract or other area that is treated as a low-income  
16 community for purposes of such section.

17 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
18 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

19 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
20 the several States, the District of Columbia, the  
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,  
22 Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Is-  
23 lands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and  
24 any other territory or possession of the United  
25 States.

1           (5) STRUCTURE.—The term “structure” in-  
2       cludes residential structures and commercial struc-  
3       tures.

4       (h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue any  
5       regulations necessary to carry out this section.

6       (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7       are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
8       necessary for grants under this section for each of fiscal  
9       years 2022 through 2027.

○