

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5735

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## AN ACT

To amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Transitional Housing  
3 for Recovery in Viable Environments Demonstration Pro-  
4 gram Act” or the “THRIVE Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO STUDY THE IMPACT**  
6 **OF USING RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR SUP-**  
7 **PORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS RECOV-**  
8 **ERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDERS OR**  
9 **OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.**

10 Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of  
11 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) is amended by adding at the  
12 end the following new paragraph:

13 “(21) RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION PRO-  
14 GRAM FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS  
15 RECOVERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDERS OR  
16 OTHER SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary  
18 shall establish a demonstration program under  
19 which the Secretary shall set aside, allocate,  
20 and distribute directly to eligible entities, from  
21 amounts made available for rental assistance  
22 under this subsection, the amounts specified in  
23 subparagraph (B) for an eligible entity to pro-  
24 vide a voucher for such assistance to a covered  
25 individual through a supportive housing pro-  
26 gram that provides treatment for opioid use dis-

1 orders or other substance use disorders (as ap-  
2 plicable), coordination with workforce develop-  
3 ment providers, and such assistance, as deter-  
4 mined by the entity.

5 “(B) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in  
6 this subparagraph is, for fiscal year 2019, the  
7 amount necessary to provide the lesser of—

8 “(i) 0.5 percent of the total number of  
9 vouchers renewed under this subsection  
10 during the fiscal year ending immediately  
11 before the date of the enactment of this  
12 paragraph; or

13 “(ii) 10,000 vouchers.

14 “(C) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—  
15 An eligible entity shall—

16 “(i) provide an evidence-based treat-  
17 ment program and demonstrate the ability  
18 to coordinate with workforce development  
19 providers for individuals recovering from  
20 an opioid use disorder or other substance  
21 use disorder, as applicable, that meet  
22 standards established by the Secretary;  
23 and

24 “(ii) demonstrate prior experience ad-  
25 ministering rental assistance vouchers,

1 demonstrate prior experience administering  
2 supportive housing programs under the  
3 McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, or dem-  
4 onstrate a partnership with a public hous-  
5 ing agency or a housing program of a  
6 State, unit of local government, or Indian  
7 tribe (as such term is defined in section 4  
8 of the Native American Housing and Self-  
9 Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C.  
10 4103)) that ensures effective administra-  
11 tion of rental assistance vouchers.

12 “(D) APPLICATION.—To receive a rental  
13 assistance voucher under this paragraph, an eli-  
14 gible entity shall submit an application to the  
15 Secretary that shall include—

16 “(i) a description of the terms of  
17 treatment program, coordination with  
18 workforce development providers, and rent-  
19 al assistance to be provided to a covered  
20 individual, and assurances that such de-  
21 scription shall be communicated to covered  
22 individuals that receive vouchers pursuant  
23 to the demonstration program established  
24 under this paragraph;

1           “(ii) a transitional plan that begins on  
2           the date on which a covered individual  
3           completes the treatment program of the el-  
4           igible entity that includes information on  
5           additional treatment, coordination with  
6           workforce development opportunities, and  
7           housing resources and services available to  
8           such covered individual; and

9           “(iii) evidence sufficient to dem-  
10          onstrate that the local government having  
11          jurisdiction over the location of any sup-  
12          portive housing facility to be used by the  
13          eligible entity in connection with the dem-  
14          onstration program under this paragraph  
15          permits such facilities in such location.

16          “(E) SELECTION.—In selecting eligible en-  
17          tities to receive rental assistance vouchers  
18          under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

19                 “(i) ensure that such eligible enti-  
20                 ties—

21                         “(I) are diverse;

22                         “(II) represent an appropriate  
23                         balance of eligible entities located in  
24                         urban and rural areas, including trib-  
25                         al communities;

1           “(III) have adequate resources  
2           for treatment, recovery, and sup-  
3           portive services;

4           “(IV) fully comply with the Fair  
5           Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.)  
6           and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42  
7           U.S.C. 2000a et seq.);

8           “(V) appropriately reflect the im-  
9           pact that opioids are having in tribal  
10          communities; and

11          “(VI) provide supportive and  
12          transitional housing programs in di-  
13          verse geographic regions with high  
14          rates of mortality due to opioid use  
15          disorders or other substance use dis-  
16          orders, as applicable, based on data of  
17          the Centers for Disease Control and  
18          Prevention; and

19          “(ii) consider, in consultation with the  
20          Secretary of Health and Human Services  
21          and the Secretary of Labor—

22                 “(I) the success of each recipient  
23                 eligible entity at helping individuals  
24                 complete the treatment program of  
25                 the eligible entity and refrain from il-

1           licit opioid or other substance usage,  
2           as applicable;

3                   “(II) the coordination with work-  
4           force development providers by the eli-  
5           gible entity;

6                   “(III) the percentage of partici-  
7           pants in unsubsidized employment  
8           during the second and fourth calendar  
9           quarter after exit from the program;  
10          and

11                   “(IV) the percentage of partici-  
12          pants in the treatment program of the  
13          eligible entity that do not relapse into  
14          opioid or other substance usage, as  
15          applicable.

16                   “(F) REISSUANCE OF VOUCHER.—Upon  
17          termination of the provision of rental assistance  
18          through a voucher to a covered individual, the  
19          eligible entity that initially offered such voucher  
20          may use such voucher to provide rental assist-  
21          ance to another covered individual.

22                   “(G) DURATION.—The Secretary shall not  
23          make rental assistance available under this  
24          paragraph after the expiration of the 5-year pe-

1           riod beginning on the date of the enactment of  
2           this paragraph.

3           “(H) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may,  
4           through publication of a notice in the Federal  
5           Register, waive or specify alternative require-  
6           ments for any provision of statute or regulation  
7           governing the use of vouchers under this sub-  
8           section (except for requirements relating to fair  
9           housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, or  
10          the environment) upon a finding by the Sec-  
11          retary that such waiver or alternative require-  
12          ment is necessary for the purposes of this para-  
13          graph.

14          “(I) REPORTS.—

15                 “(i) BY THE ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An  
16                 eligible entity that receives a rental assist-  
17                 ance voucher under this paragraph shall  
18                 submit to the Secretary—

19                         “(I) annually, the transitional  
20                         plan described in subparagraph  
21                         (D)(ii) and information on each cov-  
22                         ered individual’s housing upon termi-  
23                         nation of the provision of rental as-  
24                         sistance through a voucher to such  
25                         covered individual in a manner that



1 protects the privacy of such covered  
2 individual; and

3 “(II) not later than 4 years after  
4 the date of the enactment of this  
5 paragraph, a plan describing the  
6 treatment and housing options for any  
7 covered individual assisted by such  
8 voucher who will not have completed  
9 the program before the day that is 5  
10 years after such date of enactment.

11 “(ii) BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-  
12 retary shall submit to Congress a report  
13 that analyzes the impact of rental assist-  
14 ance provided under this paragraph—

15 “(I) not later than 2 years after  
16 the date of the enactment of this  
17 paragraph; and

18 “(II) not later than 4 years after  
19 the date of the enactment of this  
20 paragraph.

21 “(J) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

22 “(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘el-  
23 igible entity’ means a tribally designated  
24 housing entity (as such term is defined in  
25 section 4 of the Native American Housing

1 and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (24  
2 U.S.C. 4103)), or a nonprofit organization,  
3 that meets the criteria described under  
4 subparagraph (C).

5 “(ii) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The  
6 term ‘covered individual’ means an indi-  
7 vidual recovering from an opioid use dis-  
8 order or other substance use disorder.”.

9 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF RENTAL VOUCHER DEMONSTRATION**  
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 Effective the day that is 5 years after the date of  
12 the enactment of this Act, paragraph (21) of section 8(o)  
13 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
14 1437f(o)), as added by this Act, is repealed.

15 **SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION CLOSE-OUT.**

16 An eligible entity that provided vouchers for rental  
17 assistance under paragraph (21) of section 8(o) of the  
18 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)),  
19 as added by this Act, shall return any such vouchers to  
20 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development not  
21 later than the day that is 5 years after the date of the  
22 enactment of this Act for use only for renewals of expiring  
23 contracts for such assistance.

1 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

2 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
3 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act and the  
4 amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall  
5 be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be  
6 appropriated.

Passed the House of Representatives June 14, 2018.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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