

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3957

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to modify and upgrade structures to serve as interim and permanent housing to accommodate unhoused individuals with pets, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2023

Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MACE, and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to modify and upgrade structures to serve as interim and permanent housing to accommodate unhoused individuals with pets, 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 “Providing for
5 Unhoused People with Pets Act of 2023” or the “PUPP
6 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR UPGRADING STRUCTURES**
2 **TO SERVE AS INTERIM AND PERMANENT**
3 **HOUSING TO ACCOMMODATE UNHOUSED IN-**
4 **DIVIDUALS WITH PETS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
6 ing in direct consultation with the Secretary of Housing
7 and Urban Development, may carry out a program under
8 this section to make grants to eligible entities for pro-
9 viding interim and permanent housing that accommodates
10 homeless persons, and homeless families, who have pets.

11 (b) **USE.**—Amounts from a grant under this section
12 may be used only for—

13 (1) costs of acquiring, renovating, rehabili-
14 tating, re-purposing, retrofitting, or constructing a
15 property to be used as interim or permanent housing
16 that accommodates homeless persons, and homeless
17 families, who have pets;

18 (2) pet-related costs of operating such housing
19 as provided in this section; and

20 (3) costs of training staff and volunteers associ-
21 ated with such housing in basic pet care, including
22 nutrition, behavioral training, and health mainte-
23 nance.

24 (c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Interim or permanent housing
25 assisted with amounts from a grant under this Act shall
26 comply with the following requirements:

1 (1) SERVICES.—

2 (A) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Appropriate
3 supportive services, including mental health,
4 employment, substance use disorder, and
5 wellness services, shall be made available to oc-
6 cupants of the housing.

7 (B) VETERINARY SERVICES.—Basic veteri-
8 nary care and behavioral support for pets, in-
9 cluding spay and neuter, basic wellness exami-
10 nations, vaccinations, dental care, heartworm
11 treatment and prevention, flea and tick treat-
12 ment and prevention, and basic medical proce-
13 dures, shall be made available for pets of occu-
14 pants of the housing.

15 (C) LOCATION.—Services required under
16 this paragraph shall be made available on-site
17 in such housing, except that services that can-
18 not be furnished on-site may be made available
19 off-site, but only if direct linkage to transpor-
20 tation services is made available to occupants to
21 access such services.

22 (2) ANIMAL HOUSING.—The housing shall pro-
23 vide accommodations for pets of occupants of the
24 housing that are appropriate for the layout and type

1 of the interim or permanent housing, which may in-
2 clude crates and kennels.

3 (3) COORDINATION.—The manager of the hous-
4 ing shall—

5 (A) coordinate with public services and law
6 enforcement agencies to provide services and
7 safety for the housing, as the Secretary shall
8 require;

9 (B) coordinate with local veterinary service
10 and animal care providers to provide care for
11 pets that accompany occupants of the housing;
12 and

13 (C) in making occupancy available in the
14 housing, coordinate with the administrative en-
15 tity for the Continuum of Care under subtitle
16 C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
17 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) for
18 the area in which the housing is located.

19 (d) APPLICATIONS; PLAN.—

20 (1) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall provide
21 for eligible entities to submit applications for grants
22 under this section and shall require such applica-
23 tions to include a plan under paragraph (2).

24 (2) PLAN.—A plan under this paragraph
25 shall—

1 (A) identify existing housing, shelters, or
2 unused structures or land within the area
3 served by the eligible entity submitting the ap-
4 plication that will be used for providing the
5 housing to be assisted under subsection (b) with
6 amounts from a grant under this section;

7 (B) identify the extent of need, in the area
8 of such housing, shelters, structures, or land
9 identified, for interim or permanent housing for
10 homeless persons with pets;

11 (C) identify partnering veterinary service
12 and animal care providers that will provide care
13 for pets that accompany occupants of the hous-
14 ing and any partnering animal welfare organi-
15 zation;

16 (D) include such assurances as the Sec-
17 retary considers necessary to ensure that such
18 housing will be provided using grant amounts,
19 that such housing will accommodate homeless
20 persons, and homeless families, who have pets,
21 and that such housing will comply with the re-
22 quirements under subsection (c); and

23 (E) provide for targeted outreach to indi-
24 viduals experiencing homelessness within the
25 area served by the eligible entity receiving a

1 grant under this section to inform such individ-
2 uals regarding the availability of the housing
3 assisted with grant amounts.

4 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select ap-
5 plications to be awarded such grants on a competi-
6 tive basis, based on criteria that the Secretary shall
7 establish.

8 (e) REPORTS.—Each eligible entity that receives a
9 grant under this section for a fiscal year shall submit a
10 report to the Secretary, not later than 90 days after the
11 end of the fiscal year for which the grant was made, that
12 shall include the following information:

13 (1) A description of the activities undertaken by
14 the eligible entity using such grant amounts.

15 (2) Identification of the costs of each of the
16 services provided in connection with the housing as-
17 sisted with such grant amounts.

18 (3) An assessment of the effectiveness of the
19 program grants under this section and any rec-
20 ommendations for improving the program.

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

23 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible enti-
25 ty” means—

- 1 (i) a unit of general local government;
2 (ii) a nonprofit organization; and
3 (iii) an entity providing housing or
4 shelters for homeless persons.

5 (B) LIMITATION.—Such term does not in-
6 clude an animal wellness or welfare organiza-
7 tion or an animal shelter, except that this sub-
8 paragraph may not be construed to prevent any
9 such organization or shelter from partnering
10 with an eligible entity to provide interim or per-
11 manent housing assisted with amounts from a
12 grant under this Act.

13 (2) HOMELESS.—The term “homeless” has the
14 meaning given such term in section 103 of the
15 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
16 U.S.C. 11302).

17 (3) INTERIM HOUSING.—The term “interim
18 housing” means any housing or shelter that does not
19 provide permanent housing. Such term includes
20 transitional housing (as such term is defined in such
21 section 401) and emergency shelters (as such term
22 is defined in section 321 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
23 13351)).

24 (4) PERMANENT HOUSING.—The term “perma-
25 nent housing” has the meaning given such term in

1 section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
2 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).

3 (5) PET.—The term “pet” means any domes-
4 ticated animal that is normally maintained as a com-
5 panion or pet animal near the owner or person who
6 cares for the animal, such as a domestic dog (includ-
7 ing a service dog), domestic cat, ferret, gerbil,
8 mouse, rat, guinea pig, rabbit, hamster, or bird.

9 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture.

11 (7) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—
12 The term “unit of general local government” has the
13 meaning given such term in the first sentence of
14 paragraph (1) of section 102(a) of the Housing and
15 Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
16 5302(a)(1)).

17 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

○