

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7950

To provide emergency relief to youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness, in light of the health and economic consequences of COVID–19.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 7, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To provide emergency relief to youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness, in light of the health and economic consequences of COVID–19.

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 Family  
5 Stabilization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CURRENT ACF GRANT OR SUBGRANT RE-  
9 CIPIENT.—The term “current ACF grant or

1 subgrant recipient” means an Indian Tribe, Tribal  
2 organization, local educational agency, or a local  
3 public, private, or Indian nonprofit agency or organi-  
4 zation (including culturally specific community-based  
5 and faith-based organizations) that, as of the date of  
6 application for a grant under section 3, is also re-  
7 ceiving another grant or subgrant administered by  
8 the Administration for Children and Families.

9 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
10 the Director of the Office of Community Services of  
11 the Department of Health and Human Services.

12 (3) DIRECT SERVICES.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
14 subparagraph (B), the term “direct services”  
15 does not include providing referrals or oper-  
16 ating a coordinated entry system or homeless  
17 management information system, by itself.

18 (B) INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZA-  
19 TIONS.—An Indian Tribe or Tribal organization  
20 that provides referrals or assists other service  
21 providers with direct services shall be consid-  
22 ered as providing direct services for purposes of  
23 this Act.

24 (4) FAMILY STABILIZATION AGENCY.—The  
25 term “family stabilization agency” means—

1 (A) a current ACF grant or subgrant re-  
2 cipient;

3 (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-  
4 tion;

5 (C) an urban Indian organization;

6 (D) a local educational agency; or

7 (E) a local public, private, or Indian non-  
8 profit agency or organization (including com-  
9 munity-based, culturally specific, and faith-  
10 based organizations), with expertise and dem-  
11 onstrated experience providing direct services to  
12 1 or more of the following populations:

13 (i) Children experiencing homeless-  
14 ness, including children under age 6.

15 (ii) Unaccompanied homeless youth  
16 under the age of 18.

17 (iii) Unaccompanied homeless youth  
18 between the ages of 18 and 25.

19 (iv) Pregnant women, and pregnant or  
20 parenting youth, experiencing homeles-  
21 ness.

22 (v) Families experiencing homeles-  
23 ness.

1 (vi) Survivors of dating violence, do-  
2 mestic violence, sexual assault, family vio-  
3 lence, or trafficking.

4 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
5 means an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the  
6 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

8 (6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
9 “local educational agency” has the meaning given  
10 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
11 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (7) RURAL.—The term “rural” means a unit of  
13 local government with a population of less than  
14 50,000.

15 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

17 (9) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal  
18 organization” means a tribal organization, as de-  
19 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination  
20 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

21 (10) URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term  
22 “urban Indian organization” has the meaning given  
23 the term “Urban Indian organization” in section 4  
24 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25  
25 U.S.C. 1603).

1 (11) YOUTH, CHILD, OR FAMILY EXPERIENCING  
2 HOMELESSNESS.—The term “youth, child, or family  
3 experiencing homelessness” means—

4 (A) a homeless child or youth, as defined  
5 in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento  
6 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 11434a(2)), who is under the age of 25;

8 (B) an unaccompanied youth, as defined in  
9 section 725(6) of the McKinney-Vento Home-  
10 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(6)), who  
11 is under the age of 25; or

12 (C) a household of not less than 2 people  
13 that includes not less than 1 person under age  
14 22 who is a homeless child or youth, as defined  
15 in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento  
16 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 11434a(2)).

18 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
19 the several States, the District of Columbia, the Vir-  
20 gin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth  
21 of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the  
22 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

23 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO FAMILY STABILIZATION AGENCIES.**

24 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-  
2           able under section 4 and not reserved under sub-  
3           section (b), the Secretary, acting through the Direc-  
4           tor, shall, on a competitive basis in accordance with  
5           subsection (d), award grants to family stabilization  
6           agencies (including current ACF grant or subgrant  
7           recipients and entities that have not previously re-  
8           ceived grants from the Administration for Children  
9           and Families) to enable the family stabilization  
10          agencies to carry out the activities described in sub-  
11          section (e).

12           (2) DISTRIBUTION TIMING.—

13           (A) CURRENT ACF GRANT OR SUBGRANT  
14           RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall award grants  
15           under this section, in accordance with sub-  
16           section (d), to family stabilization agencies that  
17           are current ACF grant or subgrant recipients  
18           by not later than the date that is 45 days after  
19           the date of enactment of this Act.

20           (B) ADDITIONAL GRANTEEES.—The Sec-  
21           retary shall award grants under this section, in  
22           accordance with subsection (d), to family sta-  
23           bilization agencies that are not current ACF  
24           grant or subgrant recipients by not later than

1           the date that is 130 days after the date of en-  
2           actment of this Act.

3           (3) DISSEMINATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The  
4           Secretary shall—

5                   (A) ensure the application for grants under  
6           this Act is broadly disseminated, including  
7           through public posting on the website of the  
8           Administration for Children and Families and  
9           sharing with current ACF grant or subgrant re-  
10          cipients; and

11                   (B) make special dissemination efforts to  
12          rural areas and among Indian Tribes and Trib-  
13          al organizations.

14          (b) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not  
15          less than 1 percent and not more than 1.5 percent of the  
16          amount appropriated under this Act to be used for admin-  
17          istration, oversight, and technical assistance activities  
18          through the Administration for Children and Families.

19          (c) APPLICATION.—A family stabilization agency that  
20          desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an  
21          application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,  
22          and containing or accompanied by such information as the  
23          Secretary may reasonably require. Such application shall  
24          include the following:

1           (1) A description of the housing, education,  
2 health, mental and behavioral health, employment,  
3 and other needs of youth, children, and families ex-  
4 periencing homelessness, in the area served by such  
5 agency, specifically including youth, children, and  
6 families who are sharing the housing of other per-  
7 sons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or  
8 a similar reason.

9           (2) Available data on the extent of youth, child,  
10 and family homelessness in the area served by such  
11 agency, including data available from local edu-  
12 cational agencies and data on child poverty in the  
13 area.

14           (3) A description of barriers youth, children,  
15 and families experiencing homelessness face in ac-  
16 cessing services, including barriers related to dating  
17 violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, family vi-  
18 olence, poverty, lack of employment, lack of trans-  
19 portation, lack of telephone and internet  
20 connectivity, educational needs, and language acces-  
21 sibility.

22           (4) A description of such agency's direct service  
23 expertise and experience with youth, child, or family  
24 homelessness, specifically including youth, children,  
25 and families who are sharing the housing of other



1 persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,  
2 or a similar reason.

3 (5) A description of the area served by such  
4 agency, including whether the service area is urban,  
5 suburban, rural, or Tribal. If the applicant claims to  
6 cover a Tribal service area but is not an Indian  
7 Tribe or Tribal organization, the applicant shall pro-  
8 vide evidence of having consulted with the Indian  
9 Tribe or Tribal organization whose service area the  
10 applicant claims to cover and provide proof that the  
11 Indian Tribe or Tribal organization supports the ap-  
12 plicant's application.

13 (6) A description of such agency's existing part-  
14 nerships with other agencies or organizations with  
15 experience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
16 periencing homelessness.

17 (7) A description of how funds received under  
18 the grant will be used to provide emergency relief to  
19 youth, children, and families experiencing homeless-  
20 ness, specifically including—

21 (A) youth, children, and families who are  
22 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss  
23 of housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-  
24 son; and

1           (B) youth, children, and families experi-  
2           encing homelessness who are not receiving serv-  
3           ices through the Continuum of Care program  
4           under subpart C of title IV of the McKinney-  
5           Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
6           11381 et seq.) as of the date of the application.

7           (d) AWARD BASIS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
9           grants under this section on the basis of—

10           (A) the need in the area served by each ap-  
11           plicant;

12           (B) the quality of each application; and

13           (C) the distribution and priority require-  
14           ments under paragraphs (4) and (5).

15           (2) NEED.—In determining need under para-  
16           graph (1)(A), the Secretary shall consider—

17           (A) the extent of children, youth, and fam-  
18           ilies experiencing homelessness in the area  
19           served by the family stabilization agency, in-  
20           cluding data available from local educational  
21           agencies and data on child poverty;

22           (B) the extent to which the proposed uses  
23           of funds will provide emergency relief to meet  
24           unmet needs of youth, children, and families ex-  
25           periencing homelessness, specifically including

1 youth, children, and families who are sharing  
2 the housing of other persons due to loss of  
3 housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-  
4 son;

5 (C) the extent to which the proposed uses  
6 of funds will provide emergency relief to youth,  
7 children, and families experiencing homeless-  
8 ness who are not currently receiving services  
9 through the Continuum of Care program under  
10 subpart C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento  
11 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et  
12 seq.); and

13 (D) the extent to which the application ad-  
14 dresses the particular needs of pregnant  
15 women, pregnant and parenting youth, Indian  
16 women, children under age 6, children with dis-  
17 abilities, families experiencing domestic vio-  
18 lence, survivors of sexual assault or human traf-  
19 ficking, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
20 queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual  
21 (LGBTQIA) individuals, or racial and ethnic  
22 minority populations.

23 (3) QUALITY.—In determining quality under  
24 paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, for  
25 both current ACF grant or subgrant recipients and

1 not current ACF grant or subgrant recipients, the  
2 following:

3 (A) The family stabilization agency's needs  
4 assessment under subsection (e)(1) and the  
5 likelihood that the program presented in the ap-  
6 plication will meet such needs.

7 (B) The types, intensity, and coordination  
8 of the emergency relief to be provided under the  
9 program to youth, children, and families experi-  
10 encing homelessness.

11 (C) The extent of the family stabilization  
12 agency's demonstrated expertise and experience  
13 providing direct services to youth, children, and  
14 families experiencing homelessness who are  
15 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss  
16 of housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-  
17 son.

18 (D) The robustness of such agency's plan  
19 to reach youth, children, and families experi-  
20 encing homelessness who are sharing the hous-  
21 ing of other persons due to loss of housing, eco-  
22 nomic hardship, or a similar reason, including  
23 those who have lost a caregiver or family mem-  
24 ber to COVID-19.

1           (E) The extent of such agency's dem-  
2           onstrated expertise and experience in providing  
3           direct services to youth, children, and families  
4           experiencing homelessness specifically.

5           (F) The extent to which the program pre-  
6           sented in the application represents a multi-  
7           generational approach to supporting youth, chil-  
8           dren, and families experiencing homelessness.

9           (G) The extent to which the application re-  
10          flects coordination with local educational agen-  
11          cies and public or private nonprofit agencies or  
12          organizations with experience serving youth,  
13          children, and families experiencing homeless-  
14          ness.

15          (H) The extent to which the family sta-  
16          bilization agency is, has been, or has specific  
17          plans to partner with, a recipient of a grant or  
18          subgrant administered by the Administration  
19          for Children and Families.

20          (4) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—

21                (A) DISTRIBUTION AMONG TYPES OF COM-  
22                MUNITIES.—In awarding grants under sub-  
23                section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that  
24                funds are distributed according to the following  
25                allocation percentages:

1 (i) Not less than 10 percent of the  
2 funds available for grants under this sec-  
3 tion shall be awarded to family stabiliza-  
4 tion agencies that are Indian Tribes or  
5 Tribal organizations serving youth, chil-  
6 dren, and families experiencing homeless-  
7 ness.

8 (ii) Not less than 36 percent of the  
9 funds available for grants under this Act  
10 shall be awarded to family stabilization  
11 agencies serving predominantly rural areas.

12 (iii) Not less than 30 percent of the  
13 funds available for grants under this Act  
14 shall be awarded to family stabilization  
15 agencies serving predominantly suburban  
16 areas.

17 (iv) Not more than 24 percent of the  
18 funds available for grants under this Act  
19 shall be awarded to family stabilization  
20 agencies serving predominantly urban  
21 areas.

22 (B) DISTRIBUTION TO EXPERIENCED  
23 GRANTEES.—In awarding grants under sub-  
24 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

1 (i) 80 percent of the funds available  
2 for grants under this section are distrib-  
3 uted to family stabilization agencies—

4 (I) that are current ACF grant  
5 or subgrant recipients; and

6 (II) which may apply in partner-  
7 ship with local educational agencies,  
8 Tribal educational agencies, public  
9 housing agencies, tribally designated  
10 housing entities, community develop-  
11 ment financial institutions, State  
12 housing finance agencies, programs  
13 that provide shelter to youth experi-  
14 encing homelessness who are pregnant  
15 or parenting, public health agencies,  
16 domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
17 ual assault, and family violence orga-  
18 nizations, culturally specific organiza-  
19 tions, institutions of higher education  
20 as defined in section 101 of the High-  
21 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
22 1001), urban Indian organizations, or  
23 other community partners; and

24 (ii) 20 percent of the funds are dis-  
25 tributed as grants to family stabilization

1 agencies that are not current ACF grant  
2 or subgrant recipients.

3 (C) SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR GRANTS TO  
4 INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants  
6 to family stabilization agencies that are In-  
7 dian Tribes or Tribal organizations pursu-  
8 ant to subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary  
9 may waive any requirements of paragraph  
10 (2) or (3) or subsection (c).

11 (ii) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—  
12 In awarding grants pursuant to subpara-  
13 graph (A)(i), the Secretary shall consider  
14 family stabilization agencies that are In-  
15 dian Tribes and Tribal organizations that  
16 provide services that address child abuse  
17 and neglect.

18 (D) DISTRIBUTION AMONG STATES.—In  
19 awarding grants under subsection (a), the Sec-  
20 retary shall ensure that at least one family sta-  
21 bilization agency in each State receives a grant  
22 in each State from which an application that  
23 meets the requirements of this section is re-  
24 ceived.



1           (5) PRIORITY IN AWARDS.—In awarding grants  
2           under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pri-  
3           ority to applications that will provide emergency re-  
4           lief to youth, children, and families experiencing  
5           homelessness who are sharing the housing of other  
6           persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,  
7           or a similar reason, while ensuring the distribution  
8           of awards in accordance with paragraph (4).

9           (e) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Family stabilization  
10          agencies may use funds awarded under this section to pro-  
11          vide emergency relief to youth, children, and families expe-  
12          riencing homelessness, including the following:

13               (1) The provision of personnel necessary to pro-  
14               vide emergency relief and ensure services, resources,  
15               and assistance reach youth, children, and families  
16               experiencing homelessness, whether such personnel  
17               are employees of the family stabilization agency or  
18               a nonprofit community partner.

19               (2) The provision of personal protective equip-  
20               ment, hygiene supplies, and other supplies deter-  
21               mined to be necessary to mitigate the spread of  
22               Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) by the Cen-  
23               ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occu-  
24               pational Safety and Health Administration, a State,  
25               an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or a locality

1 for personnel delivering services and for youth, chil-  
2 dren, and families experiencing homelessness.

3 (3) Payments to meet shelter and housing-re-  
4 lated needs to support safety and health, including  
5 payments for—

6 (A) security deposits;

7 (B) eviction prevention;

8 (C) utility connection fees and payments;

9 (D) outstanding rental, utility, motel, and  
10 other bills as needed to enter housing or con-  
11 nect utilities;

12 (E) motel or hotel stays;

13 (F) housing placement;

14 (G) records expungement; and

15 (H) other assistance.

16 (4) The provision of food and equipment needed  
17 to prepare food.

18 (5) The provision of medical and dental health  
19 services, including preventive care.

20 (6) The provision of mental and behavioral  
21 health services, including preventive care.

22 (7) The provision of clothing, access to laundry  
23 facilities, clothes washers and dryers, detergent, and  
24 personal hygiene supplies.

1           (8) The provision of transportation, including  
2           payments for gas, emergency vehicle repairs, re-  
3           quired insurance, driver’s education and driver’s li-  
4           cense fees, public transportation, and other trans-  
5           portation appropriate for Tribal and rural locations.

6           (9) The provision of support to meet commu-  
7           nications and connectivity needs, including internet  
8           connectivity, outstanding internet or telephone bills  
9           as needed to connect communications services, elec-  
10          tronic and connected devices, hotspots, portable  
11          chargers, pre-paid phone cards, calling minutes and  
12          data plans, and costs to ship items and supplies.

13          (10) The provision of support to meet edu-  
14          cational and employment needs, including academic  
15          support, distance learning support, resources, and  
16          access, child care, social and emotional supports, ca-  
17          reer and technical education, employment training  
18          and placement, and similar supports.

19          (11) The purchase and distribution of store  
20          cards, gift cards, prepaid debit cards, and vouchers  
21          to allow youth, children, and families experiencing  
22          homelessness to purchase any items or services that  
23          constitute emergency relief.

24          (12) The provision of mentorship and service  
25          coordination.

1           (13) The provision of services and supports to  
2 meet the particular needs of pregnant women, preg-  
3 nant and parenting youth, and children birth to age  
4 five, experiencing homelessness.

5           (14) The provision of services and supports to  
6 meet the particular needs of unaccompanied youth  
7 experiencing homelessness.

8           (15) The provision of services and supports to  
9 meet the particular needs of survivors of domestic  
10 violence, sexual assault, or trafficking.

11           (16) The provision of assistance in accessing  
12 advance refunds payable under section 6428(f) of  
13 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly re-  
14 ferred to as “economic impact payments”), unem-  
15 ployment compensation, and other benefits provided  
16 by Federal, State and local governments.

17           (17) The provision of services and supports to  
18 prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

19           (18) The provision of culturally specific services  
20 and supports to meet the particular needs of chil-  
21 dren, family, and youth from racial and ethnic mi-  
22 nority populations.

23           (19) The provision of other extraordinary or  
24 emergency assistance needed to promote the safety

1 and self-sufficiency of youth, children, and families  
2 experiencing homelessness.

3 (20) Other purposes as determined by the Sec-  
4 retary.

5 (f) REPORTING.—

6 (1) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—A family  
7 stabilization agency receiving a grant under this Act  
8 shall submit a report to the Secretary at such time  
9 and in such manner as the Secretary shall require,  
10 that describes the number and demographics of chil-  
11 dren, youth, and families served with grant funds,  
12 including the number of such youth, children, or  
13 families experiencing homelessness, and the activities  
14 implemented to provide emergency relief to youth,  
15 children, and families experiencing homelessness.

16 (2) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later  
17 than 18 months after the date of enactment of this  
18 Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the  
19 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
20 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education  
21 and Labor of the House of Representatives a report  
22 describing the characteristics of the family stabiliza-  
23 tion agencies that received a grant under this Act  
24 and summarizing the findings from the reports re-  
25 ceived under paragraph (1).

1           (3) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—For  
2           the purpose of preparing or submitting a report re-  
3           quired under this subsection, information that per-  
4           sonally identifies any individual may not be dis-  
5           closed.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7           There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
8           this Act \$2,000,000,000.

○