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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. YARMUTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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:

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

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

14          (3) DIRECT SERVICES.—

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

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

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

3           (A) a current ACF grant or subgrant re-  
4 cipient;

5           (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-  
6 tion;

7           (C) an urban Indian organization;

8           (D) a local educational agency; or

9           (E) a local public, private, or Indian non-  
10 profit agency or organization (including com-  
11 munity-based, culturally specific, and faith-  
12 based organizations), with expertise and dem-  
13 onstrated experience providing direct services to  
14 1 or more of the following populations:

15           (i) Children experiencing homeless-  
16 ness, including children under age 6.

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

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

21           (iv) Pregnant women, and pregnant or  
22 parenting youth, experiencing homeless-  
23 ness.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-  
25 able under section 4 and not reserved under sub-

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

10 (2) DISTRIBUTION TIMING.—

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

18 (B) ADDITIONAL GRANTEES.—The Sec-  
19 retary shall award grants under this section, in  
20 accordance with subsection (d), to family sta-  
21 bilization agencies that are not current ACF  
22 grant or subgrant recipients by not later than  
23 the date that is 130 days after the date of en-  
24 actment of this Act.

1           (3) DISSEMINATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The  
2       Secretary shall—

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

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

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

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

23           (1) A description of the housing, education,  
24       health, mental and behavioral health, employment,  
25       and other needs of youth, children, and families ex-

1       periencing homelessness, in the area served by such  
2       agency, specifically including youth, children, and  
3       families who are sharing the housing of other per-  
4       sons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or  
5       a similar reason.

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

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

19              (4) A description of such agency's direct service  
20      expertise and experience with youth, child, or family  
21      homelessness, specifically including youth, children,  
22      and families who are sharing the housing of other  
23      persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,  
24      or a similar reason.

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

11           (6) A description of such agency's existing part-  
12 nerships with other agencies or organizations with  
13 experience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
14 perience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
15 perience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
16 perience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
17 perience serving youth, children, and families ex-  
18 perience serving youth, children, and families ex-

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

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

          (B) youth, children, and families experi-  
encing homelessness who are not receiving serv-  
ices through the Continuum of Care program

1 under subpart C of title IV of the McKinney-  
2 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 11381 et seq.) as of the date of the application.

4 (d) AWARD BASIS.—

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

7 (A) the need in the area served by each ap-  
8 plicant;

9 (B) the quality of each application; and

10 (C) the distribution and priority require-  
11 ments under paragraphs (4) and (5).

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

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

19 (B) the extent to which the proposed uses  
20 of funds will provide emergency relief to meet  
21 unmet needs of youth, children, and families ex-  
22 perienceing homelessness, specifically including  
23 youth, children, and families who are sharing  
24 the housing of other persons due to loss of

1 housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-  
2 son;

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

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

21 (3) QUALITY.—In determining quality under  
22 paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, for  
23 both current ACF grant or subgrant recipients and  
24 not current ACF grant or subgrant recipients, the  
25 following:

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

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

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

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

23          (E) The extent of such agency's dem-  
24          onstrated expertise and experience in providing

1 direct services to youth, children, and families  
2 experiencing homelessness specifically.

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

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

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

18 (4) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—

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

24 (i) Not less than 10 percent of the  
25 funds available for grants under this sec-

1           tion shall be awarded to family stabiliza-  
2           tion agencies that are Indian Tribes or  
3           Tribal organizations serving youth, chil-  
4           dren, and families experiencing homeless-  
5           ness.

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

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

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

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

23               (i) 80 percent of the funds available  
24               for grants under this section are distrib-  
25               uted to family stabilization agencies—

- 1 (I) that are current ACF grant  
2 or subgrant recipients; and
- 3 (II) which may apply in partner-  
4 ship with local educational agencies,  
5 Tribal educational agencies, public  
6 housing agencies, tribally designated  
7 housing entities, community develop-  
8 ment financial institutions, State  
9 housing finance agencies, programs  
10 that provide shelter to youth experi-  
11 encing homelessness who are pregnant  
12 or parenting, public health agencies,  
13 domestic violence, dating violence, sex-  
14 ual assault, and family violence orga-  
15 nizations, culturally specific organiza-  
16 tions, institutions of higher education  
17 as defined in section 101 of the High-  
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
19 1001), urban Indian organizations, or  
20 other community partners; and
- 21 (ii) 20 percent of the funds are dis-  
22 tributed as grants to family stabilization  
23 agencies that are not current ACF grant  
24 or subgrant recipients.

1 (C) SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR GRANTS TO  
2 INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

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

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

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

23 (5) PRIORITY IN AWARDS.—In awarding grants  
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pri-  
25 ority to applications that will provide emergency re-

1        lief to youth, children, and families experiencing  
2        homelessness who are sharing the housing of other  
3        persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship,  
4        or a similar reason, while ensuring the distribution  
5        of awards in accordance with paragraph (4).

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

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

16            (2) The provision of personal protective equip-  
17            ment, hygiene supplies, and other supplies deter-  
18            mined to be necessary to mitigate the spread of  
19            Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) by the Cen-  
20            ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occu-  
21            pational Safety and Health Administration, a State,  
22            an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or a locality  
23            for personnel delivering services and for youth, chil-  
24            dren, and families experiencing homelessness.

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

4                   (A) security deposits;

5                   (B) eviction prevention;

6                   (C) utility connection fees and payments;

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

10                  (E) motel or hotel stays;

11                  (F) housing placement;

12                  (G) records expungement; and

13                  (H) other assistance.

14           (4) The provision of food and equipment needed  
15           to prepare food.

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

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

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

23           (8) The provision of transportation, including  
24           payments for gas, emergency vehicle repairs, re-  
25           quired insurance, driver's education and driver's li-

1       cense fees, public transportation, and other trans-  
2       portation appropriate for Tribal and rural locations.

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

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

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

21          (12) The provision of mentorship and service  
22       coordination.

23          (13) The provision of services and supports to  
24       meet the particular needs of pregnant women, preg-

1       nant and parenting youth, and children birth to age  
2       five, experiencing homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

21          (19) The provision of other extraordinary or  
22      emergency assistance needed to promote the safety  
23      and self-sufficiency of youth, children, and families  
24      experiencing homelessness.

1           (20) Other purposes as determined by the Sec-  
2     retary.

3     (f) REPORTING.—

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

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

24          (3) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—For  
25    the purpose of preparing or submitting a report re-

1       quired under this subsection, information that per-  
2       sonally identifies any individual may not be dis-  
3       closed.

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

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