116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7084

To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Waters introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ___________

A BILL

To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Housing Voucher Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE VOUCHER PRO-
GRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing
and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, to re-
main available until expended, for—

(1) 200,000 incremental emergency vouchers
under subsection (b);

(2) renewals of the vouchers under subsection
(b); and

(3) fees for the costs of administering vouchers
under subsection (b).

(b) EMERGENCY VOUCHERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
emergency rental assistance vouchers under this sub-
section, which shall be tenant-based rental assistance
under section 8(o) the United States Housing Act of
1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(2) SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—

(A) MANDATORY PREFERENCES.—Each
public housing agency administering assistance
under this section shall provide preference for
such assistance to eligible families that are—

(i) homeless (as such term is defined
in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
11302(a));
(ii) at risk of homelessness (as such term is defined in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360); or

(iii) fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(B) ALLOCATION.—In allocating amounts made available under this section, the Secretary shall—

(i) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, allocate at least 50 percent of such amounts to public housing agencies in accordance with a formula that considers—

(I) the capability of public housing agencies to promptly use emergency vouchers provided under this section; and

(II) the need for emergency vouchers provided under this section in the geographical area, based on factors determined by the Secretary, including risk of transmission of coronavirus, high numbers or rates of
sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and economic and housing market conditions;

(ii) allocate remaining amounts in accordance with a formula that considers—

(I) the criteria under clause (i) and the success of a public housing agency in promptly utilizing vouchers awarded under clause (i); and

(II) the capability of the public housing agency to create and manage structured partnerships with service providers for the delivery of appropriate community-based services; and

(iii) designate the number of vouchers under this section that each public housing agency that is awarded funds under this section is authorized to administer.

(C) ELECTION NOT TO ADMINISTER.—If a public housing agency elects not to administer amounts under this section, the Secretary shall award such amounts to other public housing agencies according to the criteria in subparagraph (B).
(D) Failure to use vouchers promptly.—If a public housing agency fails to issue all of its authorized vouchers under this section on behalf of eligible families within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall reallocate any unissued vouchers and associated funds to other public housing agencies according to the criteria under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(3) Waivers and alternative requirements.—Any waiver or alternative requirement that the Secretary makes available to all public housing agencies in connection with assistance made available under the heading “Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” in title XII of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat.601) shall apply to assistance under this section until the expiration of such waiver or alternative requirement.

(4) Termination of vouchers upon turnover.—

(A) In general.—A public housing agency may not reissue any vouchers made available under this section when assistance for the family initially assisted is terminated.
(B) REALLOCATION.—Upon termination of assistance for one or more families assisted by a public housing agency under this section, the Secretary shall reallocate amounts that are no longer needed by such public housing agency for assistance under this section to another public housing agency for the renewal of vouchers previously authorized under this section.