To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to provide amounts to eligible entities for costs associated with the establishment and operation of a safe parking program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to provide amounts to eligible entities for costs associated with the establishment and operation of a safe parking program, 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 “Naomi Schwartz Safe
5 Parking Program Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. SAFE PARKING PROGRAM GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall establish a grant program to provide amounts to eligible entities for costs associated with the establishment and operation of new or existing safe parking program.

(b) GRANT TERM.—If the Secretary awards a grant to an eligible entity under subsection (a), such grant shall be for a term of 5 years.

(c) AMOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under this section shall receive an equal amount of money in each of the 5 years of the term of the grant.

(2) CAP.—No eligible entity may receive an amount under this section that exceeds $5,000,000.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a description of how any amounts awarded to the eligible entity will be used.
(2) **MULTIPLE LOCATIONS.**—An eligible entity may, in such application, propose to establish or continue operating safe parking program as multiple locations.

(3) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall give priority to applications from eligible entities that serve homeless persons in underserved areas, as such term is defined in section 81.2 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Except as provided by subsection (f), any eligible entity that is awarded an amount under this section shall use such amount for costs associated with—

(1) establishing and operating a safe parking program;

(2) providing permanent rehousing assistance to families using the safe parking program;

(3) employing staff who maintain the safety and health of participants and monitor program or shelter compliance;

(4) establishing and maintaining the operation of hygiene facilities and restrooms for homeless persons;

(5) maintaining the vehicles of homeless persons using a safe parking program and providing
gas for such persons to use their vehicles to drive to
places that will help them obtain or maintain hous-
ing, including to work, to schools, to medical ap-
pointments, and to search for home; or

(6) entering data and information into the De-
partment of Housing and Urban Development’s
Homeless Management Information System.

(f) ALTERNATIVE USE OF FUNDS.—If an eligible enti-
ty determines that a safe parking program is no longer
necessary, such eligible entity may, after approval from
the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development use any
amounts provided under this section for activities that are
eligible for the use of emergency solutions grant program
amounts under section 415 of the McKinney-Vento Home-
less Assistance Act.

(g) REHOUSING AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERV-
ICES.—Any homeless person who makes use of a safe
parking program established or operated using amounts
awarded under this section is not required to accept case
management or rehousing services offered as part of such
program.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
ty” means—
(A) a unit of general purpose local govern-
ment;

(B) an Indian tribe or its tribally des-
ignated housing entity as such terms are de-
fined in section 4 of the Native American Hous-
ing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of
1996;

(C) a non-profit organization that provides
services to homeless persons; or

(D) a collaborative applicant or other orga-
nization or entity funded under the Continuum
of Care program under subtitle C of title IV of
the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
(42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.).

(2) ESSENTIAL SERVICE.—The term “essential
service” as the meaning given the term in section

(3) HOMELESS PERSON.—The term “homeless
person” has the meaning given the term in section
103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
Act.

(4) SAFE PARKING PROGRAM.—The term “safe
parking program” means a program that—

(A) provides homeless persons living in ve-
hicles, including motor homes, with a safe place
to park their vehicles overnight to facilitate a
transition to more stable housing; and

(B) provides re-housing services and essen-
tial services.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
the several States, the District of Columbia, the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Is-
lands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and
any other territory or possession of the United
States.

(i) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall, not
later than 180 days after the end of the second fiscal year
and after the end of the fifth fiscal year following the date
of the enactment of this section, submit to the Congress
a report on the impact of grants awarded under this sec-
tion, including, to the extent determinable, any data
about—

(1) the number of homeless persons living in ve-
hicles in the geographic region in which the eligible
entity operates in each of the 7 previous years;
(2) the demographics and number of homeless persons who choose to participate in a safe parking program; and

(3) the number of homeless persons who choose to participate in a safe parking program who exit into permanent housing.

(j) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $25,000,000 for each of the first 5 fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of this section.

(k) Termination of Grant Program.—The Secretary may not award any grant under this section after the date that is final day of the fifth fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this section.