

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2273

To enhance the functioning and integration of formerly homeless veterans who reside in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2007

Mr. AKAKA (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To enhance the functioning and integration of formerly homeless veterans who reside in permanent housing, 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 “Enhanced Opportuni-
5 ties for Formerly Homeless Veterans Residing in Perma-
6 nent Housing Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO ENTITIES THAT COORDINATE THE PRO-**
2 **VISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO FOR-**
3 **MERLY HOMELESS VETERANS RESIDING ON**
4 **QUALIFYING MILITARY PROPERTY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) Subject to the availability of appropriations
7 for such purpose, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 may carry out a pilot program to make grants to
9 public and non-profit (including faith-based and
10 community) organizations to coordinate the provi-
11 sion of supportive services available in the local com-
12 munity to very low income, formerly homeless vet-
13 erans residing in permanent housing that is located
14 on qualifying property.

15 (2) The Secretary may make grants at up to 10
16 qualifying properties under the pilot program.

17 (b) QUALIFYING PROPERTY.—A military installation
18 closed in accordance with the 2005 base realignment and
19 closure process (pursuant to the Defense Base Realign-
20 ment and Closure Act of 1990 (BRAC), as amended), and
21 the property disposal provisions of chapter 5 of title 40,
22 United States Code (formerly the Federal Property and
23 Administrative Property Act of 1949) that the Secretary
24 of Defense determines, after consideration of the local re-
25 development authority's redevelopment plan, may be used

1 to assist the homeless in accordance with the redevelop-
2 ment plan.

3 (c) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
4 prescribe criteria and requirements for grants under this
5 section and shall publish such criteria and requirements
6 in the Federal Register.

7 (d) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The authority of the
8 Secretary to provide grants under a pilot program under
9 this section will cease on the date that is five years after
10 the date of the commencement of that pilot program.

11 (e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, “very
12 low income” has the same meaning as that used in the
13 Resident Characteristics Report issued annually by the
14 Department of Housing and Urban Development.

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF
16 FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated from
17 amounts made available under the heading “General Op-
18 erating Expenses”, not more than \$3,000,000 in each of
19 fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out the purposes
20 of this section.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ENTITIES THAT COORDINATE THE PRO-**
22 **VISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO FOR-**
23 **MERLY HOMELESS VETERANS RESIDING IN**
24 **PERMANENT HOUSING.**

25 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) Subject to the availability of appropriations
2 for such purpose, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 may carry out a pilot program to make grants to
4 public and non-profit (including faith-based and
5 community) organizations to coordinate the provi-
6 sion of supportive services available in the local com-
7 munity to very low income, formerly homeless vet-
8 erans residing in permanent housing.

9 (2) The Secretary may make grants at up to 10
10 qualifying properties under the pilot program.

11 (b) QUALIFYING PROPERTY.—Any property in the
12 United States on which permanent housing is provided or
13 afforded to formerly homeless veterans, as determined by
14 the Secretary.

15 (c) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
16 prescribe criteria and requirements for grants under this
17 section and shall publish such criteria and requirements
18 in the Federal Register.

19 (d) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The authority
20 of the Secretary to provide grants under a pilot program
21 under this section will cease on the date that is five years
22 after the date of the commencement of that pilot program.

23 (e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, “very
24 low income” has the same meaning as that used in the

1 Resident Characteristics Report issued annually by the
2 Department of Housing and Urban Development.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF
4 FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated from
5 amounts made available under the heading “General Op-
6 erating Expenses”, not more than \$3,000,000 in each of
7 fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out the purposes
8 of this section.

9 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO ENTITIES FOR PENSION OUTREACH.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—In addition to
11 the outreach authority provided to the Secretary of Vet-
12 erans Affairs by section 7722 of title 38 United States
13 Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a
14 pilot program to make grants to public and non-profit (in-
15 cluding faith-based and community) organizations for
16 services to provide outreach to inform low-income and el-
17 derly veterans and their spouses who reside in rural areas
18 of benefits for which they may be eligible under chapter
19 15 of title 38, United States Code.

20 (b) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
21 prescribe criteria and requirements for grants under this
22 section and shall publish such criteria and requirements
23 in the Federal Register.

24 (c) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The authority
25 of the Secretary to provide grants under a pilot program

1 under this section will cease on the date that is five years
2 after the date of the commencement of that pilot program.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF
4 FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated from
5 amounts made available under the heading “General Op-
6 erating Expenses”, not more than \$1,275,000 in each of
7 fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out the purposes
8 of this section.

9 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO ENTITIES THAT ASSIST ELIGIBLE**
10 **TRANSITIONING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF**
11 **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE**
12 **AND SERVICES.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—

14 (1) Subject to the availability of appropriations
15 provided for such purpose as authorized under sub-
16 section (i) of this section, the Secretary of Veterans
17 Affairs may carry out a pilot program to make
18 grants to eligible entities to establish new programs
19 or activities, or expand or modify existing programs
20 or activities, for the purpose of furnishing the fol-
21 lowing services and assistance to each eligible
22 transitioning individual who is entitled and eligible
23 for a rehabilitation program (hereinafter referred to
24 in this section as a “rehabilitation program”) under
25 chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code:

1 (A) Transportation assistance, which may
2 include providing transportation, paying for or
3 reimbursing transportation costs, and paying
4 for or reimbursing other transportation-related
5 expenses (including orientation on the use of
6 transportation) to facilitate an eligible individ-
7 ual's participation in a rehabilitation program
8 or related activities.

9 (B) Childcare assistance, which may in-
10 clude childcare services or reimbursement of ex-
11 penses related to childcare to facilitate an eligi-
12 ble individual's participation in a rehabilitation
13 program or related activities.

14 (C) Clothing assistance, which may include
15 personal services in selecting, and payment of a
16 monetary allowance to cover the cost of pur-
17 chasing, clothing and accessories suitable for
18 job interviews or related activities consistent
19 with an individual's participation in a rehabili-
20 tation program or related activities.

21 (2) The Secretary is authorized to make grants
22 under this section during the period beginning on
23 October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30,
24 2010.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

1 (1) the term “eligible entities” means public
2 and non-profit organizations (including faith-based
3 and community organizations) approved by the Sec-
4 retary under subsection (e) of this section for the
5 purpose of assisting individuals who are eligible for
6 vocational rehabilitation assistance and services
7 under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code;
8 and

9 (2) the term “eligible transitioning individual”
10 means a person described in section 3102 of title 38,
11 United States Code, or an individual who was sepa-
12 rated or released from active military, naval, or air
13 service due to a service-connected disability on or
14 after October 1, 2006.

15 (c) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall es-
16 tablish criteria and requirements for grants under this sec-
17 tion, including criteria for entities eligible to receive
18 grants, and shall publish such criteria and requirements
19 in the Federal Register. The criteria established under
20 this subsection shall include the following:

21 (1) Specification as to the kinds of projects or
22 activities for which grants are available.

23 (2) Specification as to the number of projects
24 or activities for which grants are available.

1 (3) Provisions to ensure that grants under this
2 section shall not result in duplication of ongoing
3 services.

4 (d) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The authority
5 of the Secretary to provide grants under a pilot program
6 under this section will cease on the date that is three years
7 after the date of the commencement of that pilot program.

8 (e) FUNDING LIMITATION.—A grant under this sec-
9 tion may not be used to support eligible entities' oper-
10 ational costs.

11 (f) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may make
12 a grant under this section to an entity applying for such
13 a grant only if the applicant for the grant—

14 (1) is a public or nonprofit private entity with
15 the capacity (as determined by the Secretary) to ef-
16 fectively administer a grant under this section;

17 (2) demonstrates that adequate financial sup-
18 port will be available to carry out the project or ac-
19 tivity for which the grant is sought consistent with
20 the plans, specifications, and schedule submitted by
21 the applicant; and

22 (3) agrees to meet the applicable criteria and
23 requirements established under subsections (c) and
24 (g) and has, as determined by the Secretary, the ca-
25 pacity to meet such criteria and requirements.

1 (g) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—An entity seeking
2 a grant for a project or activity under this section shall
3 submit to the Secretary an application for the grant. The
4 application shall set forth the following:

5 (1) The amount of the grant sought for the
6 project or activity.

7 (2) Plans, specifications, and the schedule for
8 implementation of the project or activity in accord-
9 ance with criteria and requirements prescribed by
10 the Secretary under subsection (c).

11 (h) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may
12 not make a grant for a project or activity to an applicant
13 under this section unless the applicant in the application
14 for the grant agrees to each of the following requirements:

15 (1) To provide the services for which the grant
16 is made at locations accessible to eligible individuals.

17 (2) To ensure the confidentiality of records
18 maintained on eligible individuals receiving services
19 through the project.

20 (3) To establish such procedures for fiscal con-
21 trol and fund accounting as may be necessary to en-
22 sure proper disbursement and accounting with re-
23 spect to the grant and to such payments as may be
24 made under this section.

25 (i) RECOVERY OF UNUSED GRANT FUNDS.—

1 (1) If a grant recipient under this section—

2 (A) does not establish a program or activ-
3 ity in accordance with this section; or

4 (B) ceases to furnish services under such
5 a program for which the grant was made,

6 the United States shall be entitled to recover from
7 such recipient the total of all unused grant amounts
8 made under this section to such recipient in connec-
9 tion with such program.

10 (2) Any amount recovered by the United States
11 under paragraph (1) may be obligated by the Sec-
12 retary without fiscal year limitation to carry out pro-
13 visions of this section.

14 (3) An amount may not be recovered under
15 paragraph (1)(A) as an unused grant amount before
16 the end of the three-year period beginning on the
17 date on which the grant is made.

18 (j) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF
19 FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated from
20 amounts made available under the heading “General Op-
21 erating Expenses”, not more than \$5,000,000 in each of
22 fiscal years 2008 through 2010 to carry out the purposes
23 of this section.

1 **SEC. 6. ASSESSMENT OF PILOT PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) Not less than one year before the expiration of
3 the authority to carry out the pilot programs authorized
4 in sections 2 through 5 of this bill, the Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs shall provide a progress report to the Con-
6 gress for each of the pilot programs that includes key
7 measures and lessons that the Secretary can apply to pro-
8 grams with similar purposes, as well as recommendations
9 on whether or not to continue each program.

10 (b) Key measures that the Secretary shall report on
11 include the number of veterans and dependents served by
12 the pilot programs, quality of service to veterans and de-
13 pendents, the amount of funds provided to grant recipi-
14 ents, and the names of organizations that have received
15 grants.

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