

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1133

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with States and nonprofit organizations to collaborate in the provision of case management services associated with certain supported housing programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2011

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with States and nonprofit organizations to collaborate in the provision of case management services associated with certain supported housing programs for veterans, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Our Homeless  
3 Veterans Act of 2011”.

4 **SEC. 2. COLLABORATION IN PROVISION OF CASE MANAGE-**  
5 **MENT SERVICES TO VETERANS IN SUP-**  
6 **PORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.**

7 (a) COLLABORATION AUTHORIZED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20  
9 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
10 ing at the end the following new section:

11 **“§ 2045. Collaboration in provision of case manage-**  
12 **ment services to veterans in supported**  
13 **housing program**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into  
15 agreements with eligible entities to collaborate in the pro-  
16 vision of case management services as part of the sup-  
17 ported housing program carried out under section  
18 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42  
19 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) to expand and improve the provision  
20 of supported housing services and related outreach to vet-  
21 erans, including veterans who live in rural areas or under-  
22 served veterans who live in metropolitan areas or on In-  
23 dian lands.

24 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this sec-  
25 tion, an eligible entity is any entity that—

26 “(1) is—

1           “(A) a State or local government agency;

2           “(B) a tribal organization (as such term is  
3 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
4 mination and Education Assistance Act (25  
5 U.S.C. 450b)); or

6           “(C) a nonprofit organization;

7           “(2) has the capacity (as determined by the  
8 Secretary) to collaborate in the provision of case  
9 management services as described in subsection (a);  
10 and

11          “(3) agrees—

12           “(A) to ensure access to case management  
13 services to veterans described in subsection (a)  
14 on an as-needed basis;

15           “(B) to maintain referral networks for  
16 homeless veterans for purposes of assisting such  
17 veterans in demonstrating eligibility for assist-  
18 ance and additional services under entitlement  
19 and assistance programs available for such vet-  
20 erans, and to otherwise aid such veterans in ob-  
21 taining such assistance and services;

22           “(C) to ensure the confidentiality of  
23 records maintained by the entity on veterans re-  
24 ceiving services through the supported housing  
25 program described in subsection (a);

1           “(D) to establish such procedures for fiscal  
2 control and fund accounting as the Secretary  
3 considers appropriate to ensure proper dis-  
4 bursement and accounting of funds under the  
5 agreement entered into by the entity under this  
6 section;

7           “(E) to submit to the Secretary each year,  
8 in such form and such manner as the Secretary  
9 may require, a report on the collaboration un-  
10 dertaken by the entity under this section, in-  
11 cluding a description of—

12                   “(i) the services and assistance pro-  
13 vided to veterans as part of such collabora-  
14 tion; and

15                   “(ii) the specific goals set by the enti-  
16 ty for the provision of such services and  
17 assistance and whether the entity achieved  
18 such goals; and

19           “(F) to meet such other requirements as  
20 the Secretary considers appropriate for pur-  
21 poses of this section.

22           “(c) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—(1) Not  
23 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this  
24 section, the Secretary shall establish a process for the re-  
25 ceipt and consideration of proposals submitted under

1 paragraph (2), including the appropriate form, manner,  
2 and time for submittal of such proposals.

3 “(2) An eligible entity seeking to enter into an agree-  
4 ment under this section shall submit to the Secretary a  
5 proposal therefor in accordance with the process estab-  
6 lished by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1).

7 “(3) Each proposal submitted under paragraph (2)  
8 shall set forth a description of the collaboration proposed  
9 to be undertaken by the entity concerned, including the  
10 following:

11 “(A) A description of the region in which the  
12 entity proposes to collaborate in the provision of case  
13 management services described in subsection (a), in-  
14 cluding a description of resources and services al-  
15 ready available to veterans described in such sub-  
16 section in such region and a description of any gaps  
17 in such resources and services available to veterans  
18 in such region.

19 “(B) A description of the veterans described in  
20 subsection (a) in the region described in subpara-  
21 graph (A) and the needs of such veterans for sup-  
22 ported housing services.

23 “(C) A description of the capacity of the entity  
24 to provide services to veterans described in subpara-

1 graph (B) to meet their needs for the services de-  
2 scribed in such subparagraph.

3 “(D) Plans, specifications, and a schedule for  
4 the provision of case management services under  
5 subsection (a).

6 “(d) CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—For purposes  
7 of this section, case management services include the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(1) Personal health and development assist-  
10 ance, including such assistance relating to the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(A) Health care and referrals for health  
13 care.

14 “(B) Mental health.

15 “(C) Substance abuse.

16 “(D) Counseling.

17 “(E) Family support.

18 “(F) Benefits and employment counseling.

19 “(G) Job training and placement.

20 “(H) Education on personal finance.

21 “(I) Hygiene facilities.

22 “(J) Meals.

23 “(K) Transportation.

24 “(2) Housing assistance for veterans, including:

1           “(A) Assistance locating affordable hous-  
2           ing, assistance with scheduling appointments to  
3           view available housing, accompanying veterans  
4           when viewing available housing, assistance with  
5           negotiating leases, and assistance with review-  
6           ing tenant leases.

7           “(B) Rental and rent subsidies.

8           “(C) Assistance in working with public  
9           housing agencies.

10          “(D) Assistance in understanding lease  
11          terms and landlord and tenant laws.

12          “(E) Assistance in understanding fair  
13          housing laws.

14          “(F) Assistance in the resolution or pre-  
15          vention of mortgage delinquency, including as-  
16          sistance with matters relating to default, fore-  
17          closure, loss mitigation, budgeting, and credit.

18          “(G) Assistance with home maintenance  
19          and financial management.

20          “(H) Such other assistance in connection  
21          with locating housing and maintaining housing  
22          stability as the Secretary considers appropriate.

23          “(3) Such other case management services, out-  
24          reach, and other services as the Secretary considers  
25          appropriate.”.

1           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
2           tions at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is  
3           amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
4           tion 2044 the following new item:

“2045. Collaboration in provision of case management services to veterans in  
supported housing program.”.

5           (b) REPORT.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years  
7           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
8           retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress  
9           a report on the collaboration of the Secretary in the  
10          provision of case management services under section  
11          2045 of title 38, United States Code (as added by  
12          subsection (a)).

13          (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph  
14          (1) shall include the following:

15                (A) The number of eligible entities with  
16                whom the Secretary has entered into an agree-  
17                ment under section 2045 of title 38, United  
18                States Code (as so added).

19                (B) A description of the geographic regions  
20                in which such eligible entities provide services  
21                under such section.

22                (C) The number of veterans who received  
23                case management services from eligible entities  
24                under such section, disaggregated by—



1 (i) underserved veterans in metropoli-  
2 tan areas;

3 (ii) underserved veterans who live on  
4 Indian lands; and

5 (iii) veterans in rural areas.

6 (D) An assessment of the feasibility and  
7 advisability of entering into agreements with el-  
8 igible entities under such section.

9 (E) Such recommendations for legislative  
10 or administrative action as the Secretary con-  
11 siders appropriate for the improvement of the  
12 authorities on collaboration in the provision of  
13 case management services under such section.

14 **SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF RENTAL VOUCHERS TO VET-**  
15 **ERANS IN RURAL AREAS AND UNDERSERVED**  
16 **VETERANS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20 of  
18 title 38, United States Code, as amended by section  
19 2(a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
20 lowing new section:

21 **“§ 2046. Distribution of rental vouchers to veterans in**  
22 **rural areas and underserved veterans in**  
23 **metropolitan areas**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-  
25 tion with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-

1 ment, ensure that the distribution of vouchers to veterans  
2 under the supported housing program carried out under  
3 section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937  
4 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) meets the needs of veterans in  
5 rural areas and underserved veterans in metropolitan  
6 areas or on Indian lands in each region of the United  
7 States by using—

8           “(1) statistical data and analysis;

9           “(2) recommendations from any recipients of  
10 grants under the Continuum of Care Program set  
11 forth under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-  
12 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et  
13 seq.); or

14           “(3) such other means as Secretary considers  
15 appropriate.

16       “(b) AGREEMENTS WITH NONPROFIT AND STATE  
17 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Secretary  
18 shall consider how agreements under section 2045(a) of  
19 this title can be used to ensure the distribution of vouchers  
20 as described in subsection (a) of this section.”.

21       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
22 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended  
23 by inserting after the item relating to section 2045, as  
24 added by section 2(a)(2), the following new item:

“2046. Distribution of rental vouchers to veterans in rural areas and underserved veterans in metropolitan areas.”.

