

Calendar No. 487

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 3552****[Report No. 117-148]**

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, 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 “Targeting Resources
5 to Communities in Need Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-**
4 **GRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
7 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
8 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and
9 the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
10 ernmental Affairs of the Senate;

11 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
12 Committee on the Budget, the Committee on
13 Energy and Commerce, the Committee on
14 Transportation and Infrastructure, and the
15 Committee on Oversight and Reform of the
16 House of Representatives; and

17 (C) any other committee of Congress that
18 has jurisdiction over a department or agency
19 with a role developing or implementing meas-
20 ures under section 4(a).

21 (2) **AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.**—The term
22 “area of persistent poverty” means an area that is
23 a high-poverty census tract or a persistent poverty
24 county.

1 ~~(3) DIRECTOR.~~—The term “Director” means
 2 the Director of the Office of Management and Budget
 3 et.

4 ~~(4) HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACT.~~—The term
 5 “high-poverty census tract” means a census tract
 6 that has a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent
 7 in the most recent American Community Survey 5-
 8 year survey by the Bureau of the Census.

9 ~~(5) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.~~—The term
 10 “persistent poverty county” means—

11 ~~(A) a county, parish, or other equivalent~~
 12 ~~county division (as determined by the Bureau of~~
 13 ~~the Census) with a poverty rate of not less than~~
 14 ~~20 percent in the Small Area Income and Pov-~~
 15 ~~erty Estimates by the Bureau of the Census for~~
 16 ~~1997, 2007, 2017, and the most recent year for~~
 17 ~~which the estimates are available; or~~

18 ~~(B) any territory or possession of the~~
 19 ~~United States.~~

20 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF LIST OF AREAS OF PERSISTENT**
 21 **POVERTY.**

22 ~~(a) IN GENERAL.~~—Not later than 60 days after the
 23 date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of the Census
 24 shall publish a list of all areas of persistent poverty.

1 (b) UPDATE.—The Bureau of the Census shall up-
 2 date annually the list published under subsection (a).

3 **SEC. 4. INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO**
 4 **AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AND OTHER**
 5 **HIGH-POVERTY AREAS.**

6 (a) GUIDANCE AND MEASURES TO INCREASE FED-
 7 ERAL INVESTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
 8 date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation
 9 with Federal agencies, shall develop and implement guid-
 10 ance and measures to increase the share of Federal invest-
 11 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty and other
 12 areas with high and persistent poverty (including any
 13 other areas that the Director, in consultation with Federal
 14 agencies, determines to be appropriate areas to target).

15 (b) GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES.—Not later than 120
 16 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director
 17 shall issue guidance to agencies regarding—

18 (1) identifying the scope of programs subject to
 19 increased targeted investment described in sub-
 20 section (a);

21 (2) identifying the manner and share of tar-
 22 geted investment described in subsection (a); and

23 (3) outlining measures to track increased in-
 24 vestment in areas of persistent poverty and other
 25 areas with high and persistent poverty over time.

1 (c) MINIMUM INVESTMENT AMOUNT.—In developing
 2 the guidance and measures under subsection (a), the Di-
 3 rector shall include a minimum goal that Federal invest-
 4 ments targeted to areas of persistent poverty or other
 5 areas with high and persistent poverty be in an amount
 6 that is greater than the amount that is proportional to
 7 the population of such areas in the United States relative
 8 to the population of the United States as a whole.

9 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall
 10 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an an-
 11 nual report that includes—

12 (1) a list of the programs, by agency, that are
 13 included in the effort to increase the share of Fed-
 14 eral investments targeted to areas of persistent pov-
 15 erty and other areas with high and persistent pov-
 16 erty; and

17 (2) for each program listed under paragraph
 18 (1)—

19 (A) the amount of funds that were directed
 20 under the program toward an area of persistent
 21 poverty or other area with high and persistent
 22 poverty during the previous fiscal year;

23 (B) the percentage change from the fiscal
 24 year before the previous fiscal year in the
 25 amount of funds that were directed under the

1 program toward an area of persistent poverty
2 or other area with high and persistent poverty;
3 and

4 (C) to the extent practicable, an assess-
5 ment of the economic impact of the program,
6 including data on impacted individuals,
7 disaggregated by household income, race, gen-
8 der, age, national origin, disability status, and
9 whether the individuals live in an urban area,
10 suburban area, or rural area.

11 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORTS.**

12 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller Gen-
14 eral of the United States shall report to the appropriate
15 committees of Congress on the effectiveness of the meas-
16 ures implemented pursuant to section 4(a), including an
17 assessment regarding the impact of the measures on in-
18 creasing Federal funds spent in areas of persistent poverty
19 and other areas with high and persistent poverty.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
22 2022, \$5,000,000 for salaries and expenses (including for
23 entering contracts with non-Federal persons) to carry out
24 this Act.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Targeting Resources to*
 3 *Communities in Need Act of 2022”.*

4 **SEC. 2. INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO**
 5 **AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AND OTHER**
 6 **HIGH-POVERTY AREAS.**

7 (a) *INCREASING SHARE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES.—*

8 (1) *GUIDANCE AND MEASURES TO INCREASE*
 9 *FEDERAL INVESTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after*
 10 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in con-*
 11 *sultation with Federal agencies, shall implement*
 12 *guidance and measures to increase the share of Fed-*
 13 *eral investments targeted to—*

14 (A) *areas of persistent poverty; and*

15 (B) *other areas of high and persistent pov-*
 16 *erty that the Director, in consultation with Fed-*
 17 *eral agencies, determines to be appropriate.*

18 (2) *GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES.—Not later than*
 19 *120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the*
 20 *Director shall issue guidance to Federal agencies*
 21 *identifying—*

22 (A) *the scope and type of programs subject*
 23 *to the guidance and measures required under*
 24 *paragraph (1);*

25 (B) *the share of Federal investments to be*
 26 *targeted to covered areas;*

1 (C) *the manner in which Federal invest-*
2 *ments are to be targeted to covered areas; and*

3 (D) *measures to track the Federal invest-*
4 *ments targeted to covered areas over time.*

5 (3) *INVESTMENT AMOUNT.—In developing the*
6 *guidance and measures under paragraph (1), the Di-*
7 *rector shall include a minimum goal that Federal in-*
8 *vestments targeted to covered areas be in an amount*
9 *that is greater than the amount that is proportional*
10 *to the population of covered areas in the United*
11 *States relative to the population of the United States*
12 *as a whole.*

13 (4) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Each fiscal year,*
14 *the Director, in consultation with Federal agencies,*
15 *shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*
16 *gress a report that includes—*

17 (A) *a list of the programs, by agency, under*
18 *which the amount of Federal funds targeted to*
19 *covered areas were increased in the previous fis-*
20 *cal year, in accordance with such paragraph;*
21 *and*

22 (B) *for each program listed under subpara-*
23 *graph (A)—*

1 (i) the amount of funds that were tar-
 2 geted under the program to a covered area
 3 during the previous fiscal year;

4 (ii) the percent change from the fiscal
 5 year before the previous fiscal year in the
 6 amount of funds that were targeted under
 7 the program toward a covered area; and

8 (iii) to the extent practicable, an as-
 9 sessment of the economic impact of the pro-
 10 gram on the covered area, including data
 11 on the categories of individuals impacted by
 12 the targeting of funds to covered areas
 13 under the program, disaggregated by house-
 14 hold income, race, gender, age, national ori-
 15 gin, disability status, and whether the indi-
 16 viduals live in an urban area, suburban
 17 area, or rural area.

18 (b) *PUBLICATION OF LIST OF AREAS OF PERSISTENT*
 19 *POVERTY.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days after
 21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of the
 22 Census shall publish a list of all areas of persistent
 23 poverty.

1 (2) *UPDATE.*—*The Bureau of the Census shall*
2 *update annually the list published under paragraph*
3 *(1).*

4 *(c) GAO REPORTS.*—

5 (1) *INITIAL REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 years*
6 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-*
7 *troller General of the United States shall provide to*
8 *the appropriate committees of Congress a report on*
9 *the effectiveness of the measures implemented under*
10 *subsection (a), including an assessment regarding the*
11 *impact of increasing Federal investments spent in*
12 *covered areas.*

13 (2) *SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.*—*Not later than 10*
14 *years after the date of enactment of this Act, the*
15 *Comptroller General of the United States shall submit*
16 *to the appropriate committees of Congress at least 2*
17 *reports, in addition to the report under paragraph*
18 *(1), providing the information described in para-*
19 *graph (1).*

20 *(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
21 *authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023,*
22 *\$5,000,000 for salaries and expenses (including for entering*
23 *contracts with non-Federal persons) to carry out this Act.*

24 *(e) DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

1 (1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—

2 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
3 *means—*

4 (A) *the Committee on Appropriations, the*
5 *Committee on the Budget, the Committee on*
6 *Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the*
7 *Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-*
8 *mental Affairs of the Senate;*

9 (B) *the Committee on Appropriations, the*
10 *Committee on the Budget, the Committee on En-*
11 *ergy and Commerce, the Committee on Transpor-*
12 *tation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on*
13 *Oversight and Reform of the House of Represent-*
14 *atives; and*

15 (C) *any other committee of Congress that*
16 *has jurisdiction over an agency with a role de-*
17 *veloping or implementing measures under sub-*
18 *section (a).*

19 (2) *AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY.*—*The term*
20 *“area of persistent poverty” means an area that is a*
21 *high-poverty census tract or a persistent poverty*
22 *county.*

23 (3) *COVERED AREA.*—*The term “covered area”*
24 *means an area of persistent poverty or other area of*

1 *high and persistent poverty described in subsection*
 2 *(a)(1).*

3 (4) *DIRECTOR.*—*The term “Director” means the*
 4 *Director of the Office of Management and Budget.*

5 (5) *HIGH-POVERTY CENSUS TRACT.*—*The term*
 6 *“high-poverty census tract”*—

7 (A) *means a census tract that has a poverty*
 8 *rate of not less than 20 percent in the most re-*
 9 *cent American Community Survey 5-year data*
 10 *published by the Bureau of the Census; or*

11 (B) *in the case of an area where no such*
 12 *data is collected from the American Community*
 13 *Survey, includes a census tract in such an area*
 14 *with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent*
 15 *in the most recent decennial census of population*
 16 *conducted by the Bureau of the Census.*

17 (6) *PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.*—*The term*
 18 *“persistent poverty county” means—*

19 (A) *a county, parish, or other equivalent*
 20 *county division (as determined by the Bureau of*
 21 *the Census) with a poverty rate of not less than*
 22 *20 percent in the Small Area Income and Pov-*
 23 *erty Estimates by the Bureau of the Census dur-*
 24 *ing—*

1 *(i) the most recent year for which the*
 2 *estimates are available; and*

3 *(ii) at least 25 of the most recent 30*
 4 *years; or*

5 *(B) for an area for which Small Area In-*
 6 *come and Poverty Estimates are not available, a*
 7 *county, parish, or equivalent level of geography,*
 8 *with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent,*
 9 *as determined by the Bureau of the Census, dur-*
 10 *ing—*

11 *(i) the most recent year for which an*
 12 *estimate is available; and*

13 *(ii) at least 25 of the most recent 30*
 14 *years.*

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