

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4941

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for Unhoused Individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for Unhoused Individuals, 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 “Providing Access to
5 Treatment and Housing Act of 2023” or the “PATH Act
6 of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTER FOR UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.**

2 Part B of title V of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 290bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 **“Subpart 4—Center for Unhoused Individuals**

6 **“SEC. 520O. CENTER FOR UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Ad-
8 ministration a Center for Unhoused Individuals (in this
9 section referred to as the ‘Center’) to lead Federal efforts
10 to improve and expand access to mental and behavioral
11 health services for unhoused individuals. The Center shall
12 be headed by a director (in this section referred to as the
13 ‘Director’) appointed by the Secretary from among indi-
14 viduals with extensive experience or academic qualifica-
15 tions in the provision of mental and behavioral health serv-
16 ices to unhoused individuals.

17 “(b) DUTIES.—The Director of the Center shall—

18 “(1) develop and promote policies that expand
19 access to mental and behavioral health services for
20 unhoused individuals;

21 “(2) develop and promote policies that support
22 housing services for unhoused individuals that have,
23 or likely have, at least one mental and behavioral
24 health condition;

25 “(3) facilitate coordination among—

1 “(A) Federal, State, and local entities that
2 serve unhoused individuals; and

3 “(B) entities that provide mental and be-
4 havioral health services; and

5 “(4) provide technical assistance to entities re-
6 ceiving a grant under section 5200–1 regarding the
7 use of Federal funds to best support mental and be-
8 havioral health services for unhoused individuals.

9 “(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In
10 carrying out the duties under subsection (b), the Director
11 may make grants to and enter into contracts and coopera-
12 tive agreements with public and nonprofit private entities.

13 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2029.

16 **“SEC. 5200–1. MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RE-**
17 **SPONSE GRANTS FOR UNHOUSED INDIVID-**
18 **UALS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
20 with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,
21 shall establish a grant program under which the Secretary
22 will award grants to eligible entities to improve mental and
23 behavioral health and housing services for unhoused indi-
24 viduals, including through—

1 “(1) the expansion and improvement of mental
2 and behavioral health services for unhoused individ-
3 uals; and

4 “(2) the expansion and improvement of housing
5 services for individuals experiencing, or likely experi-
6 encing, mental and behavioral health conditions.

7 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity is eligible to receive a
8 grant under this section if such entity is—

9 “(1) a State (as defined in section 534);

10 “(2) a municipality or other unit of local gov-
11 ernment; or

12 “(3) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of
13 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
14 ance Act).

15 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity may use funds re-
16 ceived through a grant under this section to increase ac-
17 cess to mental and behavioral health services for unhoused
18 individuals, including through—

19 “(1) expanding access to evidence-based sub-
20 stance use disorder treatment and recovery activities
21 and services for unhoused individuals;

22 “(2) increasing access to medication-assisted
23 treatment for unhoused individuals who are also ex-
24periencing opioid use disorder;

1 “(3) implementing and expanding harm reduc-
2 tion strategies and services through programs that
3 serve unhoused individuals;

4 “(4) reducing opioid and synthetic opioid or
5 fentanyl overdose deaths among unhoused individ-
6 uals;

7 “(5) implementing and expanding evidence-
8 based substance use disorder prevention strategies
9 among unhoused individuals;

10 “(6) expanding and increasing care coordina-
11 tion for unhoused individuals experiencing a mental
12 and behavioral health condition;

13 “(7) expanding access to and increasing the
14 number of health care professionals who treat
15 unhoused individuals experiencing at least one men-
16 tal and behavioral health condition;

17 “(8) establishing and expanding housing pro-
18 grams targeting unhoused individuals experiencing
19 mental and behavioral health conditions;

20 “(9) expanding access to mental and behavioral
21 health diagnostic services for unhoused individuals;

22 “(10) supporting and expanding the mental and
23 behavioral health care workforce that treats
24 unhoused individuals; and

1 “(11) supporting and expanding evidence-based
2 mental health training for non-health care profes-
3 sionals that interface frequently with unhoused indi-
4 viduals, such as law enforcement personnel and first
5 responders.

6 “(d) ALLOCATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-
8 able to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the
9 Secretary shall distribute a portion of such amount
10 to eligible entities selected to receive a grant under
11 this section on the basis of a formula developed by
12 the Secretary.

13 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The formula developed
14 by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall prioritize
15 eligible entities located in regions that—

16 “(A) experience high rates of homelessness
17 and housing instability; and

18 “(B) experience above-average housing
19 costs.

20 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$2,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
23 2029.

24 **“SEC. 520O–2. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “In this subpart:

1 “(1) MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.—The
2 term ‘mental and behavioral health’ means the
3 health of an individual as it pertains to mental ill-
4 ness, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and substance use
5 disorders.

6 “(2) UNHOUSED INDIVIDUAL.—The term
7 ‘unhoused individual’ has the meaning given the
8 term ‘homeless individual’ in section 103(a) of the
9 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.”.

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