

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R.** _____

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to assist in housing planning activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. WATERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to assist in housing planning activities, 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. UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES GRANTS.**

4 (a) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary of Housing
5 and Urban Development (hereafter referred to as the
6 “Secretary”) shall, using selection criteria determined by
7 the Secretary, award grants on a competitive basis to re-

1 gional planning agencies or consortia to use to assist plan-
2 ning activities, including—

3 (1) the development of housing plans;

4 (2) the substantial improvement of State or
5 local housing strategies;

6 (3) the development of new regulatory require-
7 ments and processes;

8 (4) the reforming of zoning codes;

9 (5) increasing the capacity to conduct housing
10 inspections;

11 (6) increasing the capacity to reduce barriers to
12 housing supply elasticity and housing affordability;

13 (7) to develop local or regional plans for com-
14 munity development; and

15 (8) to substantially improve community develop-
16 ment strategies, including strategies designed to—

17 (A) increase the availability of affordable
18 housing and access to affordable housing;

19 (B) increase access to public transpor-
20 tation; and

21 (C) advance sustainable or location-effi-
22 cient community development goals.

23 (b) IMPLEMENTATION AND LIVABLE COMMUNITY IN-
24 VESTMENT GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
2 implementation grants on a competitive basis to eli-
3 gible entities to use to—

4 (A) implement and administer housing
5 strategies and housing plans;

6 (B) implement and administer any plans to
7 affirmatively further fair housing within the
8 meaning of subsections (d) and (e) of section
9 808 of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 608);

10 (C) fund any community investments that
11 support goals identified in a housing strategy or
12 housing plan;

13 (D) implement and administer regulatory
14 requirements and processes with respect to re-
15 formed zoning codes;

16 (E) increase the capacity to conduct hous-
17 ing inspections;

18 (F) increase the capacity to reduce bar-
19 riers to housing supply elasticity and housing
20 affordability;

21 (G) implement and administer local or re-
22 gional plans for community development; and

23 (H) fund any planning to increase—

24 (i) the availability of affordable hous-
25 ing and access to affordable housing;

- 1 (ii) access to public transportation;
2 and
3 (iii) any location-efficient community
4 development goals.

5 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible
7 entity” means a State, insular area, metropoli-
8 tan city, or urban county, as such terms are de-
9 fined in section 102 of the Housing and Com-
10 munity Development Act of 1974.

11 (B) HOUSING PLAN.—The term “housing
12 plan” means a plan to, with respect to an area
13 within the jurisdiction of an eligible entity—

14 (i) increase the amount of available
15 housing to meet the demand for such hous-
16 ing and any projected increase in the de-
17 mand for such housing;

18 (ii) increase the affordability of hous-
19 ing;

20 (iii) increase the accessibility of hous-
21 ing for people with disabilities, including
22 location-efficient housing;

23 (iv) preserve or improve the quality of
24 housing;

1 (v) reduce barriers to housing develop-
2 ment; and

3 (vi) coordinate with transportation-re-
4 lated agencies.

5 (C) HOUSING STRATEGY.—The term
6 “housing strategy” means a housing strategy
7 required under section 105 of the Cranston-
8 Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

9 (c) COORDINATION.—To the extent practicable, the
10 Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Transit Ad-
11 ministrator in carrying out this section.

12 (d) USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Any entity
13 that receives a grant under this section may use not great-
14 er than 15 percent of such amounts for administrative
15 costs.

16 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
18 vided by this section, amounts appropriated or oth-
19 erwise made available under this section shall be
20 subject to the community development block grant
21 program requirements under subsection (a)(1).

22 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—

23 (A) HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.—Expendi-
24 tures on new construction of housing shall be
25 an eligible expense under this section.

1 (B) BUILDINGS FOR GENERAL CONDUCT
2 OF GOVERNMENT.—Expenditures on building
3 for the general conduct of government, other
4 than the Federal Government, shall be eligible
5 under this section when necessary and appro-
6 priate as a part of a natural hazard mitigation
7 project.