

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4731

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for the renovation, rehabilitation, and modernization of local chapter facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2021

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CHU, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for the renovation, rehabilitation, and modernization of local chapter facilities.

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 “Veterans Service Orga-
5 nization Modernization Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE OR-**
2 **GANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITA-**
3 **TION AND MODERNIZATION.**

4 (a) GRANTS.—Section 107 of the Housing and Com-
5 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5307) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(g) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE
9 ORGANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITATION AND
10 UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY; ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND
12 USES.—Using the amounts made available under
13 section 106(a)(4) in each fiscal year for grants
14 under this subsection, the Secretary shall make
15 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible veterans
16 service organizations, which grant amounts shall be
17 available for use only for—

18 “(A) repairs or rehabilitation of existing
19 facilities of such organizations; and

20 “(B) modernization of technologies used by
21 such organizations.

22 “(2) ELIGIBLE VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZA-
23 TIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
24 ‘eligible veterans service organization’ means—

25 “(A) an entity that—

1 “(i) is organized on a local or area
2 basis; and

3 “(ii) is—

4 “(I) exempt from taxation pursu-
5 ant to section 501(c)(19) of the Inter-
6 nal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
7 501(c)(19)); or

8 “(II) an organization of past or
9 present members of the Armed Forces
10 of the United States that is chartered
11 under title 36, United States Code;
12 and

13 “(B) a local or area chapter, post, or other
14 unit of a national, regional, Statewide, or other
15 larger entity of which local or area chapters,
16 posts, or units are members—

17 “(i) that is exempt from taxation pur-
18 suant to section 501(c)(19) of the Internal
19 Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
20 501(c)(19)); or

21 “(ii) which larger entity is an organi-
22 zation of past or present members of the
23 Armed Forces of the United States that is
24 chartered under title 36, United States
25 Code.

1 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

2 “(A) AMOUNT.—No eligible veterans serv-
3 ice organization may receive grant amounts
4 under this subsection, from the amounts made
5 available for any single fiscal year, in an
6 amount exceeding the lesser of—

7 “(i) the aggregate cost of the pro-
8 posed activities and uses under paragraph
9 (1) for which the grant amounts will be
10 used; or

11 “(ii) \$100,000.

12 “(B) TIMING.—Any eligible veterans serv-
13 ice organization that receives grant amounts
14 under this subsection from amounts made avail-
15 able for a fiscal year shall be ineligible for any
16 grant from any amounts made available for
17 such grants for any of the succeeding three fis-
18 cal years.

19 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for assist-
20 ance under this subsection may be submitted only by
21 eligible veterans service organizations, and shall be
22 in such form and in accordance with such proce-
23 dures as the Secretary shall establish. Such applica-
24 tions shall include a plan for the proposed repair or

1 rehabilitation activities to be conducted using grant
2 amounts under this subsection.

3 “(5) SELECTION; CRITERIA.—The Secretary
4 shall select applications to receive grants under this
5 subsection pursuant to a competition and based on
6 criteria for such selection, which shall include—

7 “(A) the extent of need for such assist-
8 ance;

9 “(B) the quality of the plan proposed for
10 repair or rehabilitation of the facility involved;

11 “(C) the capacity or potential capacity of
12 the applicant to successfully carry out the plan;
13 and

14 “(D) such other factors as the Secretary
15 determines to be appropriate.

16 “(6) PROHIBITION OF CONSTRUCTION OR AC-
17 QUISSION.—No amounts from a grant under this
18 subsection may be used for the construction or ac-
19 quisition of a new facility.”.

20 (b) FUNDING.—Subsection (a) of section 106 of the
21 Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42
22 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and (3)”’
24 and inserting “(3), and (4)”;

1 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
2 graph (5); and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(4) For each fiscal year, after reserving
6 amounts under paragraphs (1) and (2) and allo-
7 cating amounts under paragraph (3), the Secretary
8 shall allocate \$10,000,000 (subject to sufficient
9 amounts remaining after such reservations and allo-
10 cation) for grants under section 107(g).”.

11 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and
12 Urban Development shall issue any regulations necessary
13 to carry out sections 106(a)(4) and 107(g) of the Housing
14 and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by
15 the amendments made by this section, not later than the
16 expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of
17 the enactment of this Act.

○