

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2658

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities are prepared for disasters, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2021

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities are prepared for disasters, 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 “Real Emergency Ac-  
5 cess for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act”  
6 or the “REAADI for Disasters Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
9 ings:

1           (1) In the United States, according to the Cen-  
2           ters for Disease Control and Prevention, there are  
3           more than 61,000,000 adults who are individuals  
4           with disabilities and, according to the Bureau of the  
5           Census, there are more than 47,800,000 adults age  
6           65 or older.

7           (2) There have been more than 80 hurricanes,  
8           resulting in thousands of deaths, in the United  
9           States since 2005.

10          (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
11          ministration estimates that—

12                 (A) the cumulative damage from weather-  
13                 and climate-related disasters in 2017 cost the  
14                 United States over \$300,000,000,000; and

15                 (B) 17 of the disasters in 2017 cost over  
16                 \$1,000,000,000 each.

17          (4) Individuals with disabilities and older adults  
18          have been found to die at higher rates, compared to  
19          the general population, during disasters.

20          (5) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
21          agement Agency—

22                 (A) more than 48,000,000 people were af-  
23                 fected by hurricanes and wildfires between Au-  
24                 gust and December of 2017; and

1 (B) more than 12,000,000, or one quarter,  
2 of those peoples were adults who were individ-  
3 uals with disabilities.

4 (6) An estimated 70 percent of the deaths at-  
5 tributed to Hurricane Maria in 2017 were to people  
6 age 70 or older.

7 (7) Failure to provide accessibility for, or plan  
8 for accommodating, individuals with physical or sen-  
9 sory disabilities, chronic illness, or mental disabilities  
10 decreases the ability of those individuals to evacuate  
11 prior to or during a disaster.

12 (8) Households of individuals with disabilities  
13 are more likely to need assistance and are less likely  
14 to be able to evacuate in advance of disasters.

15 (9) Less than a third of individuals with intel-  
16 lectual disabilities and individuals needing personal  
17 care attendants have planned with their personal  
18 care providers what to do in a disaster.

19 (10) Evacuation information, including orders,  
20 is not uniformly communicated in ways and via  
21 media that are accessible to individuals with disabil-  
22 ities, including being communicated in ways that  
23 lack use of American Sign Language, captions, and  
24 plain language on websites, instructional materials,  
25 and television and radio announcements.

1           (11) Displaced individuals with disabilities  
2 served in general population shelters have better ac-  
3 cess to information and material resources than indi-  
4 viduals with disabilities in specially designed shel-  
5 ters.

6           (12) Despite better access to information and  
7 resources, personnel in general population shelters  
8 often do not have the resources or training to ad-  
9 dress the needs of individuals with disabilities and  
10 older adults.

11           (13) Public shelters often do not have dis-  
12 ability-related accommodations, often forcing individ-  
13 uals with disabilities and older adults to be seg-  
14 regated, sometimes apart from their families and  
15 natural supports during disasters.

16           (14) Households with individuals with disabili-  
17 ties sustain more costly property damage from dis-  
18 asters than households without individuals with dis-  
19 abilities.

20           (15) Historically, disaster-related recommenda-  
21 tions for individuals with disabilities and older  
22 adults have been typically aimed at caregivers and  
23 service providers, not individuals with disabilities  
24 and older adults.

1           (16) Thousands of individuals with disabilities  
2           have been denied their civil rights because they do  
3           not receive accessible notice during disasters—

4                   (A) of spoken instructions via phone or  
5           video; or

6                   (B) of instructions regarding evacuations,  
7           sheltering, and other procedures during disas-  
8           ters.

9           (17) Disaster shelters and services do not rou-  
10          tinely have American Sign Language interpreters  
11          nor procedures written or presented in plain lan-  
12          guage.

13          (18) Individuals with disabilities and older  
14          adults are more at risk for loss of life, loss of inde-  
15          pendence, or violation of civil rights than the general  
16          population during times of disasters, response, and  
17          recovery.

18          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
19          gress that—

20                   (1) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
21          should be supported during times of disasters, and  
22          during disaster preparedness, response, recovery,  
23          and mitigation in order to—

24                           (A) ensure maintenance of and access to  
25          services and supports; and

1 (B) enable those individuals and adults to  
2 return to their communities in a timely manner  
3 as compared with the general population;

4 (2) during the recovery and mitigation phases  
5 of disaster response, all buildings and services  
6 should be designed, and constructed or recon-  
7 structed, according to principles of universal design  
8 and to the standards established by the Architec-  
9 tural and Transportation Barriers Compliance  
10 Board in order to ensure access for individuals with  
11 disabilities, older adults, and all individuals;

12 (3) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
13 should have access to shelters and other services  
14 during disasters in the same locations and settings  
15 as the general population;

16 (4) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
17 should receive information about preparation for, re-  
18 sponse to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters  
19 in formats accessible to them, including in American  
20 Sign Language, Braille, and plain language, as well  
21 as captioned video messages;

22 (5) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
23 must be included as key speakers, essential stake-  
24 holders, and decisionmakers in the preparation (in-

1 including planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
2 phases of disasters;

3 (6) local, State (including territorial), Tribal,  
4 and Federal disaster planning must include robust  
5 representation of individuals with disabilities and  
6 older adults; and

7 (7) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
8 must be included in the evaluation of governmental,  
9 VOAD, and other nongovernmental preparation (in-  
10 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
11 of disasters.

12 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

13 The purposes of this Act are to—

14 (1) improve the inclusion of individuals with  
15 disabilities and older adults in the preparation for,  
16 response to, recovery from, and mitigation of disas-  
17 ters;

18 (2) ensure that individuals with disabilities and  
19 older adults with disabilities are free from discrimi-  
20 nation on the basis of disability or age in programs  
21 and activities, are protected during and included in  
22 all phases of disaster preparation, response, recov-  
23 ery, and mitigation;

24 (3) ensure compliance with the Americans with  
25 Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of

1 1973, and other disability laws during preparation  
2 for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation of  
3 disasters;

4 (4) improve coordination among the commu-  
5 nities of individuals with disabilities and older  
6 adults, including multiply marginalized BIPOC and  
7 LGBTQ+ communities, government agencies, cen-  
8 ters for independent living, VOADs, and other non-  
9 governmental organizations, including organizations  
10 that represent and are comprised of covered individ-  
11 uals; in preparing (including planning) for, respond-  
12 ing to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters;  
13 and

14 (5) improve outcomes for all individuals, includ-  
15 ing individuals with disabilities and older adults, who  
16 are affected by disasters, and increase community  
17 resilience in responding to disasters.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) **ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.**—The  
21 term “access and functional needs”, used with re-  
22 spect to an individual, means an individual with  
23 needs such as—

24 (A) an individual with a disability;

25 (B) an older adult;



1 (C) an individual with limited English pro-  
2 ficiency;

3 (D) an individual with limited access to  
4 transportation that would enable the individual  
5 to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and  
6 mitigate a disaster; or

7 (E) an individual with limited access to the  
8 financial resources that would enable the indi-  
9 vidual to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
10 and mitigate a disaster.

11 (2) ALL HAZARDS APPROACH.—The term “all  
12 hazards approach” means planning for natural,  
13 technological, or human-caused incidents that war-  
14 rant action to—

15 (A) protect life, property, the environment,  
16 or the public health or safety; and

17 (B) minimize disruptions of school activi-  
18 ties.

19 (3) CIVIL RIGHTS.—The term “civil rights”,  
20 used with respect to an individual, means the exist-  
21 ing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) legal  
22 rights of an individual to be free from discrimination  
23 on the basis of disability or age in programs and ac-  
24 tivities.

1           (4) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
2 individual” means an individual with a disability, an  
3 older adult, and an individual with access and func-  
4 tional needs.

5           (5) DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY MAN-  
6 AGEMENT EXPERIENCE.—The term “disability inclu-  
7 sive emergency management experience”, used with  
8 respect to an individual or entity—

9           (A) means an individual or entity that  
10 has—

11           (i) demonstrated disability leadership  
12 experience, including working with non-  
13 governmental entities; and

14           (ii) subject matter expertise in leading  
15 disability inclusive preparedness, response,  
16 recovery, and mitigation initiatives that  
17 focus on meeting the civil rights of covered  
18 individuals who are affected by disasters,  
19 to be free from discrimination on the basis  
20 of disability or age in programs and activi-  
21 ties; and

22           (B) includes an individual or entity that  
23 has demonstrated favorable outcomes that  
24 measure the effective communication access,  
25 physical access, program access, health, safety,

1           and independence of individuals affected by dis-  
2           asters and their communities.

3           (6) DISASTER.—The term “disaster” means an  
4           emergency or major disaster (as such terms are de-  
5           fined under section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford  
6           Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
7           U.S.C. 5122)) that results in severe property dam-  
8           age, deaths, or multiple injuries.

9           (7) DISASTER SERVICES.—The term “disaster  
10          services” means the process of responding to a dis-  
11          aster and providing humanitarian aid to individuals  
12          and communities who are affected by a disaster.

13          (8) DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED.—The  
14          term “disproportionately affected”, used with re-  
15          spect to a group, means a group of individuals with  
16          protected status, including individuals with disabil-  
17          ities or older adults, who are excessively adversely  
18          affected by disaster-related harms.

19          (9) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
20          “Indian Tribal government” has the meaning given  
21          the term “Indian tribal government” in section 102  
22          of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
23          gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

24          (10) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

1 (A) SINGLE.—The term “individual with a  
2 disability” means an individual with a dis-  
3 ability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans  
4 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 12102).

6 (B) PLURAL.—The term “individuals with  
7 disabilities” means more than one individual  
8 with a disability, as defined in subparagraph  
9 (A).

10 (11) OLDER ADULT.—The term “older adult”  
11 means a resident who is age 50 or older.

12 (12) RESIDENT.—The term “resident”  
13 means—

14 (A) in the case of an individual receiving  
15 assistance through an Indian Tribal Govern-  
16 ment or other Indian entity, a resident of an  
17 area or member of a community governed by an  
18 Indian Tribal Government; and

19 (B) in the case of an individual not de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (A), a resident of a  
21 State that is not an Indian Tribal Government.

22 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
23 means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

24 (14) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
25 the 50 States, an Indian Tribal Government, the

1 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
2 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,  
3 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
4 Northern Mariana Islands.

5 (15) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
6 “visitability standards” means standards for Type C  
7 (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
8 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
9 2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
10 National Standards Institute.

11 (16) VOAD.—The term “VOAD” means a non-  
12 governmental organization assisting in disaster prep-  
13 aration, recovery, response, or mitigation.

14 **SEC. 5. USE OF DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDS.**

15 Section 615 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
16 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196d) is  
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking “Funds made available” and in-  
19 serting the following:

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The  
22 term ‘access and functional needs’, used with respect  
23 to an individual, means an individual with needs  
24 such as—

25 “(A) an individual with a disability;

1           “(B) an older adult;

2           “(C) an individual with limited English  
3 proficiency;

4           “(D) an individual with limited access to  
5 transportation that would enable the individual  
6 to prepare for, respond to, or recover from, and  
7 mitigate an emergency or major disaster; or

8           “(E) an individual with limited access to  
9 the financial resources that would enable the in-  
10 dividual to prepare for, respond to, recover  
11 from, or mitigate an emergency or major dis-  
12 aster.

13           “(2) CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—The  
14 term ‘center for independent living’ has the meaning  
15 given that term in section 702 of the Rehabilitation  
16 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a).

17           “(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—

18           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered re-  
19 cipient’ means a direct or indirect recipient of  
20 funds made available under this title for a cov-  
21 ered use of funds.

22           “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘covered re-  
23 cipient’ does not include individuals or house-  
24 holds.

1           “(4) COVERED USE OF FUNDS.—The term ‘cov-  
2           ered use of funds’ means the use of funds for the  
3           preparation for, response to, recovery from, or miti-  
4           gation of hazards.

5           “(5) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

6                   “(A) SINGLE.—The term ‘individual with a  
7                   disability’ means an individual with a disability,  
8                   as defined in section 3 of the Americans with  
9                   Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

10                   “(B) PLURAL.—The term ‘individuals with  
11                   disabilities’ means more than one individual  
12                   with a disability, as defined in subparagraph  
13                   (A).

14           “(6) OLDER ADULT.—The term ‘older adult’  
15           means an individual who is age 50 or older.

16           “(7) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
17           ‘visitability standards’ means standards for Type C  
18           (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
19           and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
20           2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
21           National Standards Institutes.

22           “(b) USE OF FUNDS GENERALLY.—Funds made  
23           available”; and

24                   (2) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—A covered recipient  
2 shall ensure that an advisory committee that includes indi-  
3 viduals with disabilities, older adults, and other individuals  
4 with access and functional needs shall oversee the use of  
5 funds made available under this title to the covered recipi-  
6 ent.

7       “(d) COMPLIANCE WITH DISABILITY LAWS.—A cov-  
8 ered recipient shall use funds made available under this  
9 title in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
10 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities  
11 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

12       “(e) CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—A cov-  
13 ered recipient may contract with 1 or more centers for  
14 independent living to—

15               “(1) prepare for hazards;

16               “(2) provide personal assistance services during  
17 response and recovery periods;

18               “(3) identify accessible emergency shelters and  
19 adapt emergency shelters to be accessible;

20               “(4) develop accessible media, including media  
21 using American Sign Language; and

22               “(5) meet other needs for individuals with dis-  
23 abilities, older adults, and individuals with access  
24 and functional needs.



1       “(f) CONTRACTORS.—A nongovernmental organiza-  
2 tion that enters into a contract with a covered recipient  
3 relating to a covered use of funds shall comply with the  
4 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and  
5 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
6 12101 et seq.) in providing property or services under the  
7 contract.

8       “(g) COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications relating  
9 to a covered use of funds by a covered recipient shall be  
10 made available in languages, including American Sign  
11 Language and other sign languages, used in the commu-  
12 nities receiving the communications.

13       “(h) ACCESSIBILITY.—A covered recipient shall en-  
14 sure each facility or service made available in connection  
15 with a covered use of funds is accessible to individuals with  
16 disabilities, older adults, and other individuals with access  
17 and functional needs, including—

18               “(1) notifications relating to a hazard;

19               “(2) evacuation notifications;

20               “(3) notifications relating to disaster services;

21       and

22               “(4) emergency shelters.

23       “(i) VISITABILITY.—A covered recipient that, as part  
24 of a covered use of funds, constructs or prepares dwelling

1 units (including sleeping units) shall ensure that the dwell-  
 2 ing units meet visitability standards.”.

3 **SEC. 6. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RE-**  
 4 **SEARCH DISABILITY AND DISASTER CEN-**  
 5 **TERS.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
 7 vide financial support to eligible entities to create centers  
 8 through which the eligible entities will—

9 (1) provide training and technical assistance to  
 10 State, local, Tribal, and territorial disaster relief,  
 11 public health, and social service agencies in the im-  
 12 plementation and enhancement of systemic and ef-  
 13 fective engagement policies, programs, and activities  
 14 that ensure—

15 (A) that the needs and civil rights of cov-  
 16 ered individuals are addressed and implemented  
 17 throughout all phases of disaster preparation,  
 18 response, recovery, and mitigation; and

19 (B) the inclusion of covered individuals in  
 20 the development of all State, local, Tribal, and  
 21 territorial disaster preparation plans;

22 (2) assist Federal, State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
 23 ritorial disaster relief agencies in the coordination  
 24 and integration of Federal, State (including terri-  
 25 torial), local, and Tribal services and programs to

1 serve covered individuals in the least restrictive envi-  
2 ronment appropriate to their needs during a dis-  
3 aster;

4 (3) conduct research and expand knowledge  
5 about covered individuals and their experiences dur-  
6 ing the preparation, response, recovery, and mitiga-  
7 tion phases of disasters; and

8 (4) discover, through research, and disseminate  
9 knowledge about, the most effective methods for—

10 (A) protecting the civil rights of covered  
11 individuals during times of disasters;

12 (B) including covered individuals in all  
13 phases of disaster preparation, response, recov-  
14 ery, and mitigation;

15 (C) reducing their deaths, injuries and  
16 losses from disasters;

17 (D) reducing the displacement and dis-  
18 proportionate effects of relocation after a dis-  
19 aster, including financial and social effects, on  
20 covered individuals; and

21 (E) ensuring covered individuals are par-  
22 ticipants in the research, development, and dis-  
23 tribution of evidence-based information regard-  
24 ing disasters.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2           ty” means an entity or partnership of entities that—

3                   (A) submits an application to the Sec-  
4                   retary in accordance with subsection (e);

5                   (B) is or includes an institution (which  
6                   may be an institution of higher education), or  
7                   a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
8                   on—

9                           (i) serving the needs of individuals  
10                           with disabilities; or

11                           (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

12                   (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
13                   with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
14                   service focus;

15                   (D) has experience in conducting training,  
16                   technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
17                   consumer-directed community support services  
18                   for covered individuals;

19                   (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
20                   tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
21                   ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
22                   ing, technical assistance, and research;

23                   (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
24                   taining to the implementation and enhancement  
25                   of systemic and effective engagement policies,

1 programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
2 sion, needs, and civil rights of covered individ-  
3 uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
4 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

5 (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
6 council or similar entity, of which at least 51  
7 percent of the members are covered individuals.

8 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
9 term “institution of higher education” has the  
10 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the  
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

12 (3) STAKEHOLDER GROUP.—The term “stake-  
13 holder group” means a group of individuals and or-  
14 ganizations that—

15 (A) is committed to disability inclusive and  
16 older adult inclusive disaster management;

17 (B) includes covered individuals through-  
18 out preparedness, response, recovery, and miti-  
19 gation activities;

20 (C) has leaders that include covered indi-  
21 viduals;

22 (D) has a governing or advisory board, of  
23 which at least half of the members are covered  
24 individuals; and

1 (E) has a mission to inclusively serve cov-  
2 ered individuals.

3 (c) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may  
4 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities,  
5 to provide for—

6 (1) activities that include covered individuals in  
7 the preparation (including planning) for, response  
8 to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters; and

9 (2) except as described in subsection (d)(2), re-  
10 search related to disasters and covered individuals.

11 (d) AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF GRANTS.—

12 (1) AMOUNT.—In awarding grants under this  
13 section, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
14 ticable, award a grant to an eligible entity in an  
15 amount that is not less than \$1,000,000 and not  
16 more than \$3,000,000.

17 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall award  
18 not fewer than 2 of the grants in each of the 10  
19 Federal regions of the Department of Health and  
20 Human Services. At least 1 grant in each region  
21 shall be awarded to an eligible entity exclusively to  
22 conduct training and technical assistance described  
23 in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

24 (3) PERIODS.—The Secretary shall award the  
25 grants for periods of 5 years, through an open com-

1 petition held at the end of each 5-year period. Eligi-  
2 ble entities that receive grants under this section  
3 may reapply for such grants at the end of the peri-  
4 ods.

5 (e) APPLICATIONS.—

6 (1) SUBMISSIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
7 grant under this section, an entity shall submit an  
8 application to the Secretary at such time and in  
9 such manner as the Secretary may require.

10 (2) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall  
11 include, at a minimum, the following:

12 (A) A description of the applicant's dem-  
13 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
14 formation, and support to individuals with dis-  
15 abilities in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
16 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

17 (B) A description of the applicant's dem-  
18 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
19 formation, and support to older adults in pre-  
20 paring for, responding to, recovering from, and  
21 mitigating disasters.

22 (C) A description of the applicant's dem-  
23 onstrated experience in working with Federal,  
24 State, local, Tribal, and territorial government

1 agencies in preparing for, responding to, recover-  
2 ing from, and mitigating disasters.

3 (D) A description of the steps the appli-  
4 cant, acting through the center, will take to tar-  
5 get services to low-income individuals and indi-  
6 viduals identified as disproportionately affected  
7 in disasters, including those individuals at  
8 greatest risk of institutionalization.

9 (E) An assurance that the applicant, act-  
10 ing through the center, will—

11 (i) work with State, local, Tribal, and  
12 territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
13 social service agencies to determine the  
14 best means for delivery of services to ad-  
15 dress the needs of covered individuals;

16 (ii) assist in establishing State, local,  
17 Tribal, and territorial disaster plans to ad-  
18 dress the needs of both rural and urban  
19 populations;

20 (iii) in carrying out activities under  
21 the grant, conduct sufficient outreach to  
22 centers for independent living, VOADs,  
23 and other nongovernmental organizations,  
24 including organizations that represent and  
25 are comprised of covered individuals;



1 (iv) include covered individuals in a  
2 meaningful way in the development and  
3 execution of activities carried out under  
4 the grant; and

5 (v) communicate information on the  
6 programs and systems developed under the  
7 grant, in accessible formats and languages,  
8 including American Sign Language, of the  
9 communities being served.

10 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants for activities de-  
11 scribed in this section, the Secretary shall give priority to  
12 eligible entities that—

13 (1) demonstrate a minimum of 3 years of expe-  
14 rience in actively conducting disability inclusive and  
15 older adult inclusive disaster management;

16 (2) propose activities to address the prepared-  
17 ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of  
18 covered individuals;

19 (3) propose activities to address leadership de-  
20 velopment in State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
21 agencies and covered individual advocacy organiza-  
22 tions;

23 (4) demonstrate ability to provide training that  
24 prevents bias due to disability or age, and that uses

1 experiential approaches and does not rely on simula-  
2 tions;

3 (5) demonstrate expertise concerning the obliga-  
4 tion to prevent discrimination against covered indi-  
5 viduals on the basis of disability and age in pro-  
6 grams and provide activities and specific plans for  
7 achieving and maintaining physical access, program  
8 access, and effective communication for covered indi-  
9 viduals throughout all grant activities;

10 (6) demonstrate that the eligible entity involved  
11 will use measurable collaboration and partnership  
12 strategies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
13 agencies, centers for independent living, VOADs,  
14 and other nongovernmental organizations, including  
15 organizations that represent and are comprised of  
16 covered individuals;

17 (7) demonstrate that the eligible entity will use  
18 measurable disaster outcomes strategies in carrying  
19 out grant activities;

20 (8) demonstrate the ability to quickly create  
21 products, such as videos, fact sheets, guidelines, and  
22 checklists, to be used in disaster management;

23 (9) employ constituents of the entity in deci-  
24 sionmaking positions;

1           (10) provide disability inclusive and older adult  
2 inclusive disaster management leadership skills de-  
3 velopment;

4           (11) demonstrate awareness of available re-  
5 sources in the community for meeting the prepared-  
6 ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of  
7 covered individuals; and

8           (12) demonstrate expertise in promoting the  
9 use of universal design (as defined in section 3 of  
10 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
11 1003)), the philosophy of independent living (within  
12 the meaning of that philosophy in title VII of the  
13 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.)),  
14 intersectionality imperatives, and the social model of  
15 disability.

16 (g) USE OF FUNDS.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds made available  
18 under this section shall be used only for activities  
19 described in and approved by the Secretary as a part  
20 of an application submitted under subsection (e), to  
21 carry out—

22           (A) a strategy designed to ensure the in-  
23 clusion of covered individuals in the preparation  
24 (including planning) for, response to, recovery  
25 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

1 (B) research to enhance the activities de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A), using not more  
3 than 25 percent of the grant funds to carry out  
4 that research.

5 (2) ACTIVITIES.—Such activities may include  
6 initiatives that provide comprehensive training, tech-  
7 nical assistance, development of funding sources,  
8 and support to State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
9 disaster relief, public health, and social service agen-  
10 cies and stakeholder groups, in order to ensure that,  
11 in carrying out disaster management planning and  
12 programs, the agencies and groups address the in-  
13 clusion, civil rights, and needs of covered individuals  
14 by—

15 (A) hiring personnel with direct knowledge  
16 of and experience with meeting the civil rights  
17 of covered individuals to be free from discrimi-  
18 nation on the basis of disability or age in pro-  
19 grams and activities;

20 (B) training staff of State, local, Tribal,  
21 and territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
22 social service agencies on the needs and civil  
23 right of covered individuals, preferably through  
24 training by experts who are, collectively, indi-  
25 viduals with disabilities and older adults;

1 (C) creating partnerships between eligible  
2 entities, State, local, Tribal, and territorial dis-  
3 aster relief, public health, and social service  
4 agencies, centers for independent living,  
5 VOADs, and other nongovernmental organiza-  
6 tions, including organizations that represent  
7 and are comprised of covered individuals;

8 (D) assisting in the development and im-  
9 plementation, in partnership with State, local,  
10 Tribal, and territorial disaster relief, public  
11 health, and social service agencies, of plans that  
12 will provide for a continuum of services to re-  
13 move barriers to full engagement for covered in-  
14 dividuals during a disaster and in preparedness  
15 (including planning) for, response to, recovery  
16 from, and mitigation of a disaster;

17 (E) assisting in the creation of standards  
18 and identification of funding sources for re-  
19 building disaster-damaged housing and new  
20 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
21 aster-resilient;

22 (F) assisting in the creation of standards  
23 for homeowner and flood insurance coverage for  
24 rebuilding disaster-damaged housing and new

1 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
2 aster-resilient;

3 (G) establishing universal design and ac-  
4 cessibility standards, and establishing specifica-  
5 tions for visitability (based on the visitability  
6 standards), for achieving and maintaining equal  
7 access for covered individuals throughout all  
8 hazard mitigation and disaster resilience activi-  
9 ties;

10 (H) establishing initiatives to increase new  
11 and transferred technology and innovations to  
12 solve notification, evacuation, health mainte-  
13 nance, and other barriers for covered individ-  
14 uals before, during, and after disasters; and

15 (I) conducting research, in partnership  
16 with covered individuals, that will contribute to  
17 knowledge and strategies to—

18 (i) decrease injuries, deaths, and harm  
19 to covered individuals;

20 (ii) create inclusive disaster prepared-  
21 ness, recovery, response, and mitigation  
22 strategies for State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
23 ritorial agencies, centers for independent  
24 living, VOADs, and other nongovernmental  
25 organizations, including organizations that

1 represent and are comprised of covered in-  
2 dividuals;

3 (iii) preserve community living options  
4 and access to needed services and supports  
5 for covered individuals during post-disaster  
6 periods; and

7 (iv) conduct longitudinal studies that  
8 create and maintain datasets to assist in  
9 the understanding of Federal, State, local,  
10 Tribal, and territorial policies designed to  
11 reduce the negative impact of disasters on  
12 covered individuals and protect the civil  
13 right of covered individuals to be free from  
14 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
15 age in programs and activities.

16 (3) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Sec-  
17 retary shall establish standards and guidelines for  
18 activities supported by a grant under this section.  
19 Such standards and guidelines shall be developed  
20 with the input of stakeholder groups. In a situation  
21 in which a refinement or adaptation of the standards  
22 or guidelines is made necessary by a local cir-  
23 cumstance, the Secretary shall enter into negotia-  
24 tions with an eligible entity applying for such a

1 grant for a project in the affected area, to refine or  
2 adapt the standards and guidelines for the project.

3 (h) INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any  
4 other provision of this section, no entity, agency, or group  
5 assisted under this section shall take any action that in-  
6 fringes in any manner on the civil right of covered individ-  
7 uals to be free from discrimination on the basis of dis-  
8 ability or age in programs and activities.

9 (i) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of fiscal  
10 years 2024 and 2026, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
11 gress a report describing the activities carried out under  
12 this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years.

13 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
14 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
15 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

16 **SEC. 7. PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
19 ty” means an entity or partnership of entities that—

20 (A) submits an application to the Sec-  
21 retary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
22 taining such information as the Secretary may  
23 reasonably require;

24 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
25 may be an institution of higher education), or



1 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
2 on—

3 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
4 with disabilities; or

5 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

6 (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
7 with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
8 service focus;

9 (D) has experience in conducting training,  
10 technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
11 consumer-directed community support services  
12 for covered individuals;

13 (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
14 tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
15 ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
16 ing, technical assistance, and research;

17 (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
18 taining to the implementation and enhancement  
19 of systemic and effective engagement policies,  
20 programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
21 sion, needs, and civil right of covered individ-  
22 uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
23 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

1           (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
2           council or similar entity, of which at least half  
3           of the members are covered individuals.

4           (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
5           term “institution of higher education” has the  
6           meaning given the term in section 6(b).

7           (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
8           AGREEMENTS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
10          grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative  
11          agreements with, eligible entities on a competitive  
12          basis to carry out projects of national significance  
13          that—

14               (A) create opportunities for individuals  
15               with disabilities and older adults to directly con-  
16               tribute to improving preparation for, recovery  
17               from, response to, and mitigation of disasters;

18               (B) support the development of State,  
19               local, Tribal, and territorial policies that rein-  
20               force and promote the inclusion of individuals  
21               with disabilities and older adults in Federal,  
22               State, local, Tribal, and territorial community  
23               preparation for disasters; and

24               (C) support research that—

- 1 (i) tracks, in the short-term and long-  
2 term, the effects of disasters on individuals  
3 with disabilities and older adults;
- 4 (ii) identifies evidence-based practices  
5 that enhance inclusion of individuals with  
6 disabilities and older adults to participate  
7 in and lead preparation for disasters at  
8 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
9 levels;
- 10 (iii) leads to the creation of strategies  
11 and procedures to implement community  
12 level practices that decrease deaths, inju-  
13 ries, and harm resulting from disasters to  
14 individuals with disabilities and older  
15 adults;
- 16 (iv) contributes to the protection of  
17 the civil right of covered individuals with  
18 disabilities and older adults to be free from  
19 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
20 age in programs and activities, and self-de-  
21 termination of those individuals and  
22 adults, while also promoting their safety  
23 and well-being during and following disas-  
24 ters;

1 (v) contributes to the development of  
2 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
3 policies that enhance collaboration among  
4 governmental entities, centers for inde-  
5 pendent living, VOADs, and other non-  
6 governmental organizations, including or-  
7 ganizations that represent and are com-  
8 prised of covered individuals, to improve  
9 the inclusion of covered individuals in  
10 preparation for, response to, recovery from,  
11 and mitigation of disasters; and

12 (vi) contributes to other efforts, as de-  
13 termined by the Secretary, to advance the  
14 purposes of this section.

15 (2) AMOUNT, QUANTITY, AND DURATION.—In  
16 awarding grants or entering into contracts or coop-  
17 erative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
18 shall—

19 (A) to the extent practicable, ensure that  
20 each such grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
21 ment is for an amount that is not less than  
22 \$1,000,000 and not more than \$3,000,000;

23 (B) award or enter into not less than 4  
24 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;  
25 and

1 (C) ensure that each such grant, contract,  
2 or cooperative agreement is for a period of not  
3 less than 3 years and not more than 5 years.

4 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS**  
5 **AND DISASTERS.**

6 Section 2811C of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “17  
10 members” and inserting “44 members”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
12 the following:

13 “(N) 11 members, representing the dis-  
14 ability community and reflecting the diverse  
15 characteristics of its members, who shall—

16 “(i) represent individuals with disabil-  
17 ities with a wide variety of disaster experi-  
18 ences, including cross-disability representa-  
19 tion;

20 “(ii) be geographically diverse;

21 “(iii) be ethnically and racially di-  
22 verse;

23 “(iv) be of diverse ages, and include  
24 older adults;

1           “(v) represent both genders, and in-  
2           clude members that represent a variety of  
3           sexual orientations and gender identities;

4           “(vi) include veterans; and

5           “(vii) be linguistically diverse;

6           “(O) 1 representative from each of—

7           “(i) a coastal State emergency man-  
8           agement agency with an employee in a po-  
9           sition with established duties relating to in-  
10          tegration of individuals with disabilities or  
11          to addressing access and functional needs;

12          “(ii) a noncoastal State emergency  
13          management agency with an employee in a  
14          position described in clause (i);

15          “(iii) a Tribal emergency management  
16          agency with an employee in a position de-  
17          scribed in clause (i);

18          “(iv) a territorial emergency manage-  
19          ment agency with an employee in a posi-  
20          tion described in clause (i);

21          “(v) a nongovernmental organization  
22          providing disaster preparedness and re-  
23          sponse services;

24          “(vi) a local urban disaster manage-  
25          ment entity, which representative has dis-

1 ability inclusive emergency management  
2 experience;

3 “(vii) a local rural disaster manage-  
4 ment entity, which representative has dis-  
5 ability inclusive emergency management  
6 experience;

7 “(viii) a local disability organization  
8 with a cross-disability focus;

9 “(ix) a State disability organization  
10 with a cross-disability focus;

11 “(x) a national disability organization  
12 with a cross-disability focus;

13 “(xi) a national older adults organiza-  
14 tion;

15 “(xii) the Council of the Inspectors  
16 General on Integrity and Efficiency;

17 “(xiii) a low-income housing organiza-  
18 tion, who has expertise in the civil rights  
19 of disaster-affected covered individuals;  
20 and

21 “(xiv) a representative of a legal serv-  
22 ices agency with expertise in the civil  
23 rights of disaster-affected covered individ-  
24 uals;

25 “(P) the Secretary of Transportation;

1           “(Q) the Director of Disability Policy for  
2           the Domestic Policy Council.”; and

3           (C) by adding at the end the following:

4           “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms  
5           ‘access and functional needs’, ‘civil rights’, ‘covered  
6           individual’, ‘disability inclusive emergency manage-  
7           ment experience’, ‘disaster’, ‘individuals with disabil-  
8           ities’, ‘older adult’, and ‘State’ have the meanings  
9           given the terms in section 4 of the REAADI for Dis-  
10          asters Act.”;

11          (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
12          section (h);

13          (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
14          lowing:

15          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16          is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
17          \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.”;  
18          and

19          (4) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

20                  (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “on Sep-  
21                  tember 30, 2023” and inserting “3 years after  
22                  the date of enactment of the REAADI for Dis-  
23                  asters Act”; and

24                  (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “October  
25                  1, 2022” and inserting “2 years after the date



1 of enactment of the REAADI for Disasters  
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 9. REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATED**  
4 **TO DISASTERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-**  
5 **ABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CHIEF OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS SEC-  
8 TION.—The term “Chief of the Disability Rights  
9 Section” means the Chief of the Disability Rights  
10 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-  
11 ment of Justice.

12 (2) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee”  
13 means the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Ad-  
14 visory Committee established under subsection (b).

15 (3) COVERED COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The  
16 term “covered committee of Congress” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
18 Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on  
19 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
20 of the Senate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
22 Infrastructure, the Committee on Education  
23 and Labor, and the Committee on Energy and  
24 Commerce of the House of Representatives.

1           (4) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The  
2 term “covered settlement agreement” means a set-  
3 tlement agreement—

4           (A) entered into by the United States dur-  
5 ing the period beginning on January 1, 2005,  
6 and ending on the first December 31 after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act; and

8           (B) that relates to a potential violation of  
9 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701  
10 et seq.) or the Americans with Disabilities Act  
11 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) in connec-  
12 tion with the preparation for, response to, re-  
13 covery from, or mitigation of a disaster.

14       (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—There is es-  
15 tablished an advisory committee, to be known as the “Dis-  
16 ability and Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee” to  
17 review covered settlement agreements.

18       (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-  
21 eral shall appoint the members of the Committee,  
22 which shall include—

23           (A) employees of the Department of Jus-  
24 tice; and

1 (B) not less than 3 disability rights advo-  
2 cates who—

3 (i) are not employees of the Federal  
4 Government;

5 (ii) are individuals with disabilities;  
6 and

7 (iii) have disability inclusive emer-  
8 gency management experience.

9 (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
11 mittee shall be appointed for the life of the  
12 Committee.

13 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
14 Committee—

15 (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
16 Committee; and

17 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
18 as the original appointment.

19 (3) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

20 The members of the Committee shall elect a Chair-  
21 person and a Vice Chairperson from among the  
22 members, not less than 1 of whom shall be a mem-  
23 ber appointed under paragraph (1)(B).

24 (4) MEETINGS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
2 meet at the call of the Chairperson.

3 (B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members  
4 of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but  
5 a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

6 (d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

7 (1) conduct a review of each covered settlement  
8 agreement;

9 (2) review annual reports and recommendations  
10 provided to each covered committee of Congress re-  
11 lating to addressing the needs of covered individuals  
12 in the preparation for, response to, recovery from, or  
13 mitigation of a disaster;

14 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
15 actment of this Act, submit a report containing the  
16 findings and recommendations of the Committee  
17 to—

18 (A) each covered committee of Congress;

19 (B) any other entity of Congress with ju-  
20 risdiction over matters relating to addressing  
21 the needs of covered individuals in the prepara-  
22 tion for, response to, recovery from, or mitiga-  
23 tion of a disaster;

24 (C) the Attorney General;

25 (D) the Secretary of Education;

- 1 (E) the Secretary of Homeland Security;  
2 (F) the Secretary of Health and Human  
3 Services;  
4 (G) the Secretary of Transportation; and  
5 (H) the President, through the Director of  
6 Disability Policy for the Domestic Policy Coun-  
7 cil; and  
8 (4) provide the comments and recommendations  
9 described in section 10(b)(2).

10 (e) POWERS OF COMMITTEE.—

11 (1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such  
12 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take  
13 such testimony, and receive such evidence as the  
14 Committee considers advisable to carry out this sec-  
15 tion.

16 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may  
18 secure directly from any Federal department or  
19 agency such information as the Committee con-  
20 siders necessary to carry out this section.

21 (B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On re-  
22 quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the  
23 head of the department or agency shall furnish  
24 the information to the Committee.

1           (C) DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—The  
2 Chief of the Disability Rights Section shall sub-  
3 mit to the Committee a report on the oversight  
4 of covered settlement agreements a sufficient  
5 period of time before the date specified in sub-  
6 section (d)(3) to allow the Committee to review  
7 the report and include the report of the Chief  
8 of the Disability Rights Section in the report of  
9 the Committee under subsection (d)(3).

10          (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may  
11 use the United States mails in the same manner and  
12 under the same conditions as other departments and  
13 agencies of the Federal Government.

14          (f) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

15           (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

16           (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
17 mittee who is not an officer or employee of the  
18 Federal Government shall be compensated at a  
19 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual  
20 rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the  
21 Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title  
22 5, United States Code, for each day (including  
23 travel time) during which the member is en-  
24 gaged in the performance of the duties of the  
25 Committee.

1           (B) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—A member of  
2           the Committee who is an officer or employee of  
3           the United States shall serve without compensa-  
4           tion in addition to that received for service as  
5           an officer or employee of the United States.

6           (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
7           Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
8           ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
9           ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of  
10          chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
11          away from their home or regular places of business  
12          in the performance of services for the Committee.

13          (3) STAFF.—

14           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
15           Committee may, without regard to the civil  
16           service laws (including regulations), appoint  
17           and terminate an executive director and such  
18           other additional personnel as may be necessary  
19           to enable the Committee to perform the duties  
20           of the Committee, except that the employment  
21           of an executive director shall be subject to con-  
22           firmation by the Committee.

23           (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of  
24           the Committee may fix the compensation of the  
25           executive director and other personnel without

1 regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of  
2 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relat-  
3 ing to classification of positions and General  
4 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay  
5 for the executive director and other personnel  
6 may not exceed the rate payable for level V of  
7 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
8 that title.

9 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—  
10 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed  
11 to the Committee without reimbursement, and such  
12 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
13 service status or privilege.

14 (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-  
15 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
16 mittee may procure temporary and intermittent serv-  
17 ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States  
18 Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed  
19 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay  
20 prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule  
21 under section 5316 of that title.

22 (g) TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee  
23 shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Com-  
24 mittee submits the report required under subsection  
25 (d)(3).



1 (h) REPORTS BY DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—On  
2 and after the date on which the Committee submits the  
3 report required under subsection (d)(3), the Chief of the  
4 Disability Rights Section shall publish an annual report  
5 on the oversight of settlement agreements relating to dis-  
6 aster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation ac-  
7 tivities.

8 **SEC. 10. GAO REPORT ON PAST USE OF DISASTER FUNDS.**

9 (a) INVESTIGATION.—Not later than 60 days after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
11 of the United States shall begin to conduct an investiga-  
12 tion of whether, on or after January 1, 2005, Federal  
13 agencies have complied with the Americans with Disabil-  
14 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and the Reha-  
15 bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), in expend-  
16 ing Federal funds to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
17 or mitigate disasters, including whether and, if so, how  
18 such funds were used to ensure accessibility to services  
19 and supports for individuals with disabilities and older  
20 adults.

21 (b) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
24 General shall, in accordance with paragraph (2),  
25 issue a report on the investigation conducted under

1 subsection (a), along with recommendations for re-  
2 mediation of any misexpenditures identified.

3 (2) REVIEW.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to issuing the re-  
5 port under paragraph (1), the Comptroller Gen-  
6 eral shall obtain comments and recommenda-  
7 tions on a draft version of the report, including  
8 the recommendations described in subparagraph  
9 (B), from the National Advisory Committee on  
10 Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters es-  
11 tablished under section 2811C of the Public  
12 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) and  
13 the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Advi-  
14 sory Committee established under section 9(b)  
15 (referred to in this paragraph as the “Commit-  
16 tees”), and any other agency determined appro-  
17 priate by the Secretary.

18 (B) COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
19 ADDITIONAL SOURCES.—The recommendations  
20 obtained under subparagraph (A) shall include  
21 recommendations from the Committees regard-  
22 ing additional sources the Comptroller General  
23 may interview for purposes of the investigation  
24 under subsection (a).

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