

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve coordination among providers of supportive services for homeless individuals and to establish a supported housing program to provide rental assistance to homeless individuals with chronic mental illnesses or chronic substance use disorders, 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 improve coordination among providers of supportive services for homeless individuals and to establish a supported housing program to provide rental assistance to homeless individuals with chronic mental illnesses or chronic substance use disorders, 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 “Housing is Health  
5 Care Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG PUBLIC HOUS-**  
2 **ING AGENCIES, PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES,**  
3 **AND HEALTH CENTERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Hous-  
6 ing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health  
7 and Human Services shall jointly issue guidance to im-  
8 prove coordination between local public housing agencies,  
9 local public health agencies, Federally qualified health cen-  
10 ters, case managers, and other providers of health services  
11 and supportive services for persons and families who are  
12 experiencing homelessness and persons and families on  
13 whose behalf rental assistance is provided under section  
14 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
15 1437f(o)).

16 (b) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued pursuant to  
17 subsection (a) shall include guidance regarding—

18 (1) establishing points of contact at public  
19 housing agencies, public health agencies, and Feder-  
20 ally qualified health centers—

21 (A) to ensure that public housing agencies  
22 receive appropriate referrals regarding persons  
23 and families who are eligible to receive rental  
24 assistance under section 8(o) of the United  
25 States Housing Act of 1937; and

1 (B) to ensure that public health agencies  
2 and Federally qualified health centers receive  
3 appropriate referrals regarding persons who are  
4 eligible to receive health services;

5 (2) participating in the Continuum of Care pro-  
6 gram established under subtitle C of title IV of the  
7 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) and coordinating with Feder-  
9 ally qualified health centers and other providers of  
10 health services and supportive services in the com-  
11 munity; and

12 (3) implementing strategies to enable persons  
13 and families who are experiencing homelessness and  
14 persons and families on whose behalf rental assist-  
15 ance is provided under section 8(o) of the United  
16 States Housing Act of 1937 to obtain access to qual-  
17 ity health services, reduce lapses in health care, and  
18 improve health outcomes.

19 (c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
20 term “Federally qualified health center” has the meaning  
21 given the term in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security  
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)).

1 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS**  
2 **PERSONS WITH A CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS**  
3 **OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(o) of the United States  
5 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(8)(o)) is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 “(22) RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR HEALTH AND  
8 HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTED HOUSING PRO-  
9 GRAM.—

10 “(A) SET ASIDE.—Subject to subpara-  
11 graph (F), the Secretary shall set aside, from  
12 amounts made available for rental assistance  
13 under this subsection, the amounts specified in  
14 subparagraph (E) for use only for providing  
15 such assistance through a supported housing  
16 program administered in conjunction with the  
17 Department of Health and Human Services.

18 “(B) SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.—  
19 The supported housing program described in  
20 subparagraph (A) shall—

21 “(i) provide rental assistance for  
22 homeless persons who meet the eligibility  
23 requirements described in subparagraph  
24 (C); and

25 “(ii) ensure that each homeless person  
26 receiving rental assistance through the sup-

1           ported housing program has guaranteed  
2           access to appropriate supportive services,  
3           including case management and health  
4           services, including substance use disorder  
5           services and mental health services

6           “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF HOMELESS PER-  
7           SONS.—

8                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—A homeless person  
9           shall be initially eligible to receive rental  
10          assistance and supportive services under  
11          the program under this paragraph, if such  
12          person—

13                           “(I) has a chronic mental illness  
14                           or chronic substance use disorder, as  
15                           determined by a qualified, licensed  
16                           health professional; and

17                                   “(II) is referred to the Depart-  
18                                   ment of Housing and Urban Develop-  
19                                   ment or a local public housing agency  
20                                   for participation in the supported  
21                                   housing program by an eligible Feder-  
22                                   ally qualified health center.

23                           “(ii) CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.—As-  
24           sistance under the program under this  
25           paragraph may not be terminated because

1 the assisted person no longer has a condi-  
2 tion referred to in clause (i)(I).

3 “(D) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH  
4 CENTER PARTICIPATION.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any eligible Fed-  
6 erally qualified health center may elect to  
7 participate in the supported housing pro-  
8 gram but shall not be permitted to partici-  
9 pate unless such center enters into any  
10 agreement that the Secretary, in consulta-  
11 tion with the Secretary of Health and  
12 Human Services, determines is necessary  
13 to ensure that such center provides appro-  
14 priate health services, including substance  
15 use disorder services and mental health  
16 services, to eligible homeless persons.

17 “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
18 after the date of the enactment of this  
19 paragraph, the Secretary, in consultation  
20 with the Secretary of Health and Human  
21 Services, shall submit to the Congress a re-  
22 port that analyzes the extent to which eli-  
23 gible Federally qualified health centers  
24 have sufficient resources to provide to

1           homeless persons the services required  
2           under this subparagraph.

3           “(E) SET-ASIDE AMOUNT.—The amount of  
4           the set-aside described in subparagraph (A)  
5           is—

6                   “(i) for fiscal year 2023, the amount  
7                   necessary to provide **【#】** vouchers for  
8                   rental assistance under this subsection;  
9                   and

10                   “(ii) for each of fiscal years 2024  
11                   through 20**【\_\_\_\_】**, the amount necessary  
12                   to provide **【#】** vouchers for rental assist-  
13                   ance under this subsection.

14           “(F) FUNDING THROUGH INCREMENTAL AS-  
15           SISTANCE.—In any fiscal year, to the extent  
16           that this paragraph requires the Secretary to  
17           set aside rental assistance amounts for use  
18           under this paragraph in an amount that ex-  
19           ceeds the amount set aside in the preceding fis-  
20           cal year, such requirement shall be effective  
21           only to such extent or in such amounts as are  
22           or have been provided in appropriation Acts for  
23           such fiscal year for incremental rental assist-  
24           ance under this subsection.

1                   “(G) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of  
2                   this paragraph—

3                   “(i) ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED  
4                   HEALTH CENTER.—The term ‘eligible Fed-  
5                   erally qualified health center’ means a  
6                   Federally qualified health center that—

7                                 “(I) provides substance use dis-  
8                                 order services; and

9                                 “(II) mental health services.

10                   “(ii) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH  
11                   CENTER.—The term ‘Federally qualified  
12                   health center’ has the meaning given the  
13                   term in section 1861(aa) of the Social Se-  
14                   curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)).

15                   “(iii) HOMELESS PERSON.—The term  
16                   ‘homeless person’ has the meaning given  
17                   such term in section 103 of the McKinney-  
18                   Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
19                   11302).”.

20                   (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21                   date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Hous-  
22                   ing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health  
23                   and Human Services shall jointly issue guidance to coordi-  
24                   nate the administration of the supported housing program  
25                   established by paragraph (22) of section 8(o) of the



1 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.  
2 1437f(8)(o)(22)), as added by the amendment made by  
3 subsection (a) of this section, which shall address coordi-  
4 nation between local public housing agencies, eligible Fed-  
5 erally qualified health centers, case managers, and other  
6 providers of supportive services.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be appropriated, to the Secretary of Housing  
9 and Urban Development, for fiscal year 2023, such  
10 amounts as are necessary to provide **【#】** incremental  
11 vouchers for rental assistance under section 8(o) of the  
12 United States Housing Act of 1937.