

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize demonstration projects to improve educational and housing outcomes for children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize demonstration projects to improve educational and housing outcomes for children.

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 “Affordable Housing
5 for Educational Achievement Demonstration Act” or the
6 “AHEAD Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

- 9 (1) To provide incentives for local educational
10 agencies to partner with public housing agencies or

1 tribally designated housing entities, and community-
2 based or social service organizations to improve out-
3 comes for children and youth from low-income fami-
4 lies, including students experiencing homelessness
5 and students at risk of experiencing homelessness.

6 (2) To connect children and families with re-
7 sources to reduce and prevent child, youth, and fam-
8 ily homelessness and increase housing and edu-
9 cational stability.

10 (3) To support and evaluate innovative ideas in
11 the areas of educational success and housing sta-
12 bility, in order to develop evidence-based practices.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-**
16 **GRAM.**—The term “early childhood education pro-
17 gram” has the meaning given the term in section
18 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1003).

20 (2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
21 ty” means a partnership that—

22 (A) shall include—

23 (i) a local educational agency or tribal
24 educational agency, which shall be des-
25 igned as the lead agency;

1 (ii) a public housing agency or tribally
2 designated housing entity; and

3 (iii) a community-based or social serv-
4 ice organization; and

5 (B) may include—

6 (i) a housing developer or property
7 owner;

8 (ii) an early childhood education pro-
9 gram;

10 (iii) a community development finan-
11 cial institution or State housing finance
12 agency;

13 (iv) a program that provides shelter to
14 unaccompanied youth who are homeless,
15 which may include a program established
16 or supported under the Runaway and
17 Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et
18 seq.);

19 (v) a local transportation authority;

20 (vi) an institution of higher education,
21 as described in section 101 of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

23 (vii) a child welfare agency;

24 (viii) a public health agency;

25 (ix) a domestic violence organization;

1 (x) an owner of a property with a
2 project-based rental assistance contract
3 under section 8 of the United States Hous-
4 ing Act of 1937 (2 U.S.C. 1437f); and

5 (xi) other community partners.

6 (3) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The
7 term “homeless children and youths” has the mean-
8 ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-
9 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

10 (4) LOCAL COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT.—The
11 term “local collaborative applicant” means an entity
12 described in section 401(3) of the McKinney-Vento
13 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(3)) that
14 serves the geographic area covered by an eligible en-
15 tity.

16 (5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
17 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
18 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
19 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

20 (6) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term
21 “public housing agency” has the meaning given the
22 term in section 3 of the United States Housing Act
23 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a).

24 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Education.

1 (8) TRIBAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
2 “tribal educational agency” means the agency, de-
3 partment, or instrumentality of an Indian tribe that
4 is primarily responsible for supporting tribal stu-
5 dents’ elementary and secondary education.

6 (9) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTI-
7 TY.—The term “tribally designated housing entity”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4(22) of
9 the Native American Housing Assistance and Self
10 Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(22)).

11 (10) UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.—The term “un-
12 accompanied youth” has the meaning given the term
13 in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
14 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

15 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds authorized under
17 section 11(a) and not reserved under section 11(b), the
18 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing
19 and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services, shall award on a competitive basis—

21 (1) planning grants to eligible entities to enable
22 such eligible entities to prepare to conduct a dem-
23 onstration project as described in section 7(a); and

24 (2) implementation grants to eligible entities
25 (which shall include eligible entities that received a

1 planning grant under paragraph (1) and eligible en-
2 tities that demonstrate that they have completed the
3 activities described in section 7(a)) to enable such el-
4 igible entities to conduct a demonstration project as
5 described in section 7(b).

6 (b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—

7 (1) PLANNING GRANTS.—A planning grant
8 awarded under this section shall be for a term of not
9 more than 2 years

10 (2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An implemen-
11 tation grant awarded under this section shall be for
12 a term of not more than 5 years.

13 (c) MINIMUM AWARDS.—

14 (1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The amount of a
15 planning grant awarded under this section shall be
16 for not less than \$150,000.

17 (2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The amount
18 of an implementation grant awarded under this sec-
19 tion shall be for not less than \$250,000.

20 (d) TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.—Not less than 2 plan-
21 ning grants and 2 implementation grants shall be awarded
22 under this section to an eligible entity that includes a trib-
23 ally designated housing entity or a tribal educational agen-
24 cy.

1 (e) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding planning
2 grants and implementation grants under this section, the
3 Secretary shall ensure representation from all geographic
4 regions of the United States.

5 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

6 (a) PLANNING GRANT.—An eligible entity that de-
7 sires a planning grant shall submit an application at such
8 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
9 the Secretary may reasonably require. Such application
10 shall include—

11 (1) a comprehensive needs assessment, includ-
12 ing information about—

13 (A) the number and percentage of home-
14 less children and youths enrolled in schools
15 served by, and the socioeconomic and racial de-
16 mographics of, the local educational agency that
17 is a partner in the eligible entity;

18 (B) the number and percentage of students
19 who were chronically absent and the number
20 and percentage of students who were suspended
21 from schools served by the local educational
22 agency that is a partner in the eligible entity,
23 disaggregated by homeless status, race and eth-
24 nicity, income status, disability status, and
25 English language learner status, except in the

1 case that such disaggregation would result in
2 revealing personally identifiable information;
3 and

4 (C) the four-year adjusted cohort gradua-
5 tion rate (as defined in section 8101 of the Ele-
6 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 7801) and results from academic as-
8 sessments described under section 1111(b)(2)
9 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)) for stu-
11 dents served by the local educational agency
12 that is a partner in the eligible entity,
13 disaggregated by homeless status, race and eth-
14 nicity, income status, disability status, and
15 English language learner status, except in the
16 case that such disaggregation would result in
17 revealing personally identifiable information;

18 (2) a description of how the eligible entity
19 will—

20 (A) conduct sufficient stakeholder outreach
21 within the community, including through public
22 hearings and engagement with students, par-
23 ents, teachers, and principals and other school
24 leaders, in order to inform the development of
25 the memorandum of understanding described in

1 subparagraph (B) and the activities carried out
2 through the demonstration project described in
3 subsection (b)(3)(B); and

4 (B) develop the memorandum of under-
5 standing described in section 7(a)(1);

6 (3) a description of the goals of the demonstra-
7 tion project, which shall include improving outcomes
8 and creating educational and housing stability for
9 children from low-income families;

10 (4) a description of the target population to be
11 served using grant funds, which may include home-
12 less children and youths, unaccompanied youths,
13 children or youths living in public or subsidized
14 housing, or children that face other risk factors;

15 (5) an assurance that each local educational
16 agency that is a partner in the eligible entity will
17 meet the applicable requirements of paragraphs (3)
18 and (6) of section 722(g) of the McKinney-Vento
19 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g) (3)
20 and (6));

21 (6) a description, including a timeline and a
22 budget, of how the eligible entity plans to spend
23 planning grant funds consistent with section 7(a);
24 and

1 (7) a description of how the eligible entity will
2 improve the identification of children and youth ex-
3 periencing homelessness or who are at risk of home-
4 lessness.

5 (b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT.—An eligible entity
6 that desires an implementation grant to conduct a dem-
7 onstration project shall submit an application at such
8 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
9 the Secretary may reasonably require. Such application
10 shall include—

11 (1) a description of how the eligible entity used
12 funds under section 7(a), if such entity received a
13 planning grant under subsection (a);

14 (2) a memorandum of understanding between
15 all partners of the eligible entity, which includes the
16 information described in section 7(a)(1);

17 (3) a description of—

18 (A) the goals described in subsection
19 (a)(3), updated as necessary to reflect the re-
20 sults of the planning period, if applicable;

21 (B) the activities the eligible entity plans
22 to conduct, in accordance with section 7(b), in-
23 cluding any evidence-based practices to promote
24 housing and educational stability if the eligible

1 entity chooses to use such evidence-based prac-
2 tices;

3 (C) how the eligible entity conducted stake-
4 holder outreach described in subsection
5 (a)(2)(A) that informed the demonstration
6 project; and

7 (D) the outcomes for children that the eli-
8 gible entity plans to achieve, including how the
9 eligible entity will collect data in accordance
10 with section 8;

11 (4) a description, including a timeline and a
12 budget, of how the eligible entity plans to spend
13 grant funds consistent with section 7(b);

14 (5) an assurance that the eligible entity will
15 provide State, local, or private matching funds in an
16 amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the
17 amount of funds awarded under the grant, which
18 may be provided in cash or in kind, to support the
19 demonstration project, except if the Secretary grants
20 a waiver of such requirement upon the petition of
21 the eligible entity due to the eligible entity dem-
22 onstrating financial need;

23 (6) a description of how the eligible entity will
24 coordinate services with those provided by—

1 (A) the State educational agency, the State
2 Coordinator for the Education of Homeless
3 Children and Youths, other local educational
4 agencies, and the local educational agencies'
5 homeless liaisons;

6 (B) the public and private child health and
7 welfare systems and Federal housing, early
8 childhood, education, juvenile justice, and child
9 health and welfare programs, such as—

10 (i) the Runaway and Homeless Youth
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

12 (ii) programs authorized under the
13 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.),
14 the Child Care and Development Block
15 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et
16 seq.), and the Elementary and Secondary
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et
18 seq.); and

19 (C) the local collaborative applicant; and

20 (7) an assurance that the eligible entity will
21 participate in the evaluation described in section
22 8(a).

23 **SEC. 6. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

24 In selecting among applications to receive grants
25 under this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-

1 retary of Housing and Urban Development and the Sec-
2 retary of Health and Human Services, shall take into ac-
3 count—

4 (1) the potential of each eligible entity to plan
5 and carry out a demonstration project that meets
6 the goals described in section 5(a)(3);

7 (2) the relative performance of the public hous-
8 ing agency that is a partner in the eligible entity, as
9 measured by the Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development Public Housing Assessment System;

11 (3) the capacity of the eligible entity to share
12 relevant data between partner entities, as described
13 in the memorandum of understanding under section
14 7(a)(1);

15 (4) the evidence-based practices—

16 (A) the eligible entity will investigate under
17 a planning grant; and

18 (B) to promote housing and educational
19 stability if the eligible entity chooses to use
20 such evidence-based practices under an imple-
21 mentation grant; and

22 (5) the degree to which the eligible entity has
23 conducted sufficient outreach described in section
24 5(a)(2)(A) within the community to be served by the
25 implementation grant.

1 **SEC. 7. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 (a) PLANNING GRANTS.—An eligible entity that re-
3 ceives a planning grant under section 4(a)(1) shall use the
4 grant funds—

5 (1) to develop a memorandum of understanding
6 (which may be an existing or amended memorandum
7 of understanding) between all partners of the eligible
8 entity describing the demonstration project that the
9 eligible entity plans to conduct, including—

10 (A) the roles and responsibilities of each
11 partner agency;

12 (B) the intended outcomes of the dem-
13 onstration project;

14 (C) how each partner agency will share rel-
15 evant data, if applicable, consistent with the re-
16 quirements of section 444 of the General Edu-
17 cation Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (com-
18 monly referred to as the “Family Educational
19 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”); and

20 (D) a timeline for the demonstration
21 project;

22 (2) to conduct planning, collaboration activities,
23 stakeholder and community outreach, public hear-
24 ings, and listening sessions, including engagement
25 with the community, students, parents, teachers, and
26 principals and other school leaders;

1 (3) to increase the capacity of the eligible entity
2 to share relevant data; and

3 (4) to investigate innovative approaches and
4 evidence-based practices to meeting the goals under
5 section 5(a)(3).

6 (b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An eligible entity
7 that receives an implementation grant under section
8 4(a)(2) shall use the grant funds to implement a dem-
9 onstration project that meets the goals identified in sec-
10 tion 5(a)(3), which shall include for one or more of the
11 following activities:

12 (1) To increase educational support for home-
13 less children and youths or for children living in
14 public or subsidized housing, such as through pro-
15 viding academic instruction or mentorship, offering
16 afterschool programs, facilitating credit accrual to
17 promote on-time high school graduation, or sup-
18 porting students to access supplies or assistance
19 needed for attendance and participation in school.

20 (2) To facilitate family engagement in edu-
21 cation for families of homeless children and youths,
22 or families living in public or subsidized housing.

23 (3) To provide housing assistance that pro-
24 motes educational stability and success.

1 (4) To hire personnel to assist families in ad-
2 dressing housing needs, such as through housing
3 counselors, client advocates, or housing and edu-
4 cation navigators.

5 (5) To conduct outreach and collaborate with
6 local entities that provide educational and housing
7 supports for unaccompanied youths who are home-
8 less, including entities funded by the Runaway and
9 Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

10 (6) To improve access to high-quality early
11 childhood education programs for homeless children
12 or children living in public or subsidized housing,
13 such as through providing transportation to access
14 early childhood programs or helping families access
15 child care during nontraditional hours.

16 (7) To provide school-based or community-
17 based services for low-income children and their
18 families, which may include case management,
19 health, mental health, employment, or other social
20 services.

21 (8) To promote access to and success in post-
22 secondary education and workforce training opportu-
23 nities for homeless children and youths or students
24 living in public or subsidized housing, or to increase
25 higher education, job training, workforce, adult edu-

1 cation, parenting, and employment supports for fam-
2 ilies of homeless children and youths or families liv-
3 ing in public or subsidized housing.

4 (9) To provide professional development oppor-
5 tunities for teachers, principals, and other school
6 leaders, housing and homeless providers, or other so-
7 cial service providers, including training on best
8 practices for meeting the needs of homeless children
9 and youths and their families, or for supporting
10 socioeconomically and racially diverse classrooms.

11 (10) To promote housing stability for youth
12 who leave foster care after the age of 18 or who
13 have left foster care after the age of 16 to adoption
14 or guardianship, which may include intensive case
15 management or coordination with the family unifica-
16 tion program described in section 8(x) of the United
17 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(x)).

18 (11) To support programs that focus on build-
19 ing self-sufficiency skills, permanent connections,
20 and social and emotional well-being for youth at risk
21 of homelessness.

22 **SEC. 8. EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.**

23 (a) **EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary, in consultation
24 with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
25 and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall

1 conduct a rigorous, independent evaluation of each imple-
2 mentation grant awarded under section 4 and report the
3 findings of each such evaluation to Congress. Such an
4 evaluation shall examine the results of the demonstration
5 project on the following outcomes for children:

6 (1) Achievement outcomes, as measured under
7 clauses (i) and (iii) of section 1111(c)(4)(B) of the
8 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(4)(B)(i) and (iii)).

10 (2) Housing and educational stability.

11 (3) Other measures of child well-being and
12 neighborhood opportunity, as determined by the Sec-
13 retary.

14 (b) REPORTS.—Each eligible entity receiving an im-
15 plementation grant under section 4 shall submit to the
16 Secretary, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
17 ment, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
18 a report detailing the effects of the demonstration project
19 on the outcomes for children described in subsection (a).

20 Such reports shall be made publicly available on the De-
21 partment of Education’s website, and shall be submitted—

22 (1) at the end of the third year of the 5-year
23 grant period; and

24 (2) at the end of such grant period.

1 **SEC. 9. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

2 An eligible entity shall use Federal funds received
3 under this Act only to supplement the funds that would,
4 in the absence of such Federal funds, be made available
5 from State and local sources for activities described in this
6 Act, and not to supplant such funds.

7 **SEC. 10. NONDISCRIMINATION.**

8 No individual in the United States may, on the basis
9 of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin,
10 sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age,
11 or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied
12 the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under
13 any program or activity that is funded in whole or in part
14 with funds made available under this Act.

15 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
17 priated \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and such sums
18 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2021 through
19 2026 in order to carry out this Act.

20 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVALUATION.—

21 From the amount appropriated to carry out this Act for
22 any fiscal year, the Secretary may reserve not more than
23 5 percent of funds to provide technical assistance, conduct
24 an evaluation of a demonstration project under section
25 8(a), and disseminate best practices.