

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7029

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2026

Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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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”.

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

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ings:

4 (1) In the United States, according to the Cen-  
5 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, there are  
6 more than 70,000,000 adults who are individuals  
7 with disabilities and, according to the Bureau of the  
8 Census, there are more than 54,000,000 adults age  
9 65 or older.

10 (2) There have been nearly 400 emergencies de-  
11 clared under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford  
12 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 5191) related to hurricanes and tropical cy-  
14 clones during the period beginning January 2000  
15 and ending December 2024. These declared emer-  
16 gencies have directly resulted in at least 1,442  
17 deaths in the United States.

18 (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
19 ministration estimates that—

20 (A) the cumulative damage from weather-  
21 and climate-related disasters in 2022 cost the  
22 United States over \$182,700,000,000; and

23 (B) 27 of the disasters in 2024 cost over  
24 \$1,000,000,000 each.

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

4           (5) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
5 agement Agency, in 2024, the United States experi-  
6 enced a total of 108 major disaster and emergency  
7 declarations under sections 401 and 501, respec-  
8 tively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
9 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191),  
10 which resulted in more than 4,000,000 individuals  
11 applying for assistance through the Agency.

12           (6) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
13 agement Agency, in 2022, the United States experi-  
14 enced 90 major disasters declared under section 401  
15 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
16 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) affecting  
17 more than 54,000,000 people, and more than  
18 16,000,000 of those people were adults with disabil-  
19 ities.

20           (7) Failure to provide accessibility for, or plan  
21 for accommodating, individuals with physical or sen-  
22 sory disabilities, chronic illness, or mental disabilities  
23 decreases the ability of those individuals to evacuate  
24 prior to or during a disaster.

1           (8) Households of individuals with disabilities  
2           are more likely to need assistance and are less likely  
3           to be able to evacuate in advance of disasters.

4           (9) Less than a third of individuals with intel-  
5           lectual disabilities and individuals needing personal  
6           care attendants have planned with their personal  
7           care providers what to do in a disaster.

8           (10) Evacuation information, including orders,  
9           is not uniformly communicated in ways and via  
10          media that are accessible to individuals with disabili-  
11          ties, including being communicated in ways that  
12          lack use of American Sign Language, captions, and  
13          plain language on websites, instructional materials,  
14          and television and radio announcements.

15          (11) Displaced individuals with disabilities  
16          served in general population shelters have better ac-  
17          cess to information and material resources than indi-  
18          viduals with disabilities in specially designed shel-  
19          ters.

20          (12) Despite the better access to information  
21          and resources provided at general population shel-  
22          ters, personnel in general population shelters often  
23          do not have the resources or training to address the  
24          needs of individuals with disabilities and older  
25          adults.

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

6           (14) Households with individuals with disabil-  
7           ities sustain more costly property damage from dis-  
8           asters than households without individuals with dis-  
9           abilities.

10          (15) Historically, disaster-related recommenda-  
11          tions for individuals with disabilities and older  
12          adults have been typically aimed at caregivers and  
13          service providers, not individuals with disabilities  
14          and older adults themselves.

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

18                 (A) of spoken instructions via phone or  
19                 video; or

20                 (B) of instructions regarding evacuations,  
21                 sheltering, and other procedures during disas-  
22                 ters.

23          (17) Disaster shelters and services do not rou-  
24          tinely have American Sign Language interpreters

1 nor procedures written or presented in plain lan-  
2 guage.

3 (18) Individuals with disabilities and older  
4 adults are more at risk for loss of life, loss of inde-  
5 pendence, or violation of civil rights than the general  
6 population during times of disasters, response, and  
7 recovery.

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

10 (1) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
11 should be supported during times of disasters, and  
12 during disaster preparedness, response, recovery,  
13 and mitigation, in order to—

14 (A) ensure maintenance of and access to  
15 services and supports; and

16 (B) enable those individuals and adults to  
17 return to their communities in a timely manner  
18 as compared with the general population;

19 (2) during the recovery and mitigation phases  
20 of disaster response, all buildings and services  
21 should be designed, and constructed or recon-  
22 structed, according to principles of universal design  
23 and to the standards established by the Architec-  
24 tural and Transportation Barriers Compliance

1 Board in order to ensure access for individuals with  
2 disabilities, older adults, and all individuals;

3 (3) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
4 should have access to shelters and other services  
5 during disasters in the same locations and settings  
6 as the general population;

7 (4) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
8 should receive information about preparation for, re-  
9 sponse to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters  
10 in formats accessible to them, including in American  
11 Sign Language, Braille, and plain language, as well  
12 as captioned video messages;

13 (5) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
14 must be included as key speakers, essential stake-  
15 holders, and decisionmakers in the preparation (in-  
16 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
17 phases of disasters;

18 (6) local, State (including territorial), Tribal,  
19 and Federal disaster planning must include robust  
20 representation of individuals with disabilities and  
21 older adults; and

22 (7) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
23 must be included in the evaluation of governmental,  
24 VOAD, and other nongovernmental preparation (in-

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

3 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

4 The purposes of this Act are to—

5 (1) improve the inclusion of individuals with  
6 disabilities and older adults in the preparation for,  
7 response to, recovery from, and mitigation of disas-  
8 ters;

9 (2) ensure that individuals with disabilities and  
10 older adults with disabilities are free from discrimi-  
11 nation on the basis of disability or age in programs  
12 and activities and are protected during, and included  
13 in, all phases of disaster preparation, response, re-  
14 covery, and mitigation;

15 (3) ensure compliance with the Americans with  
16 Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of  
17 1973, and other disability laws during preparation  
18 for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation of  
19 disasters;

20 (4) improve coordination among the commu-  
21 nities of individuals with disabilities and older  
22 adults, including multiply marginalized BIPOC and  
23 LGBTQ+ communities, government agencies, cen-  
24 ters for independent living, VOADs, and other non-  
25 governmental organizations, including organizations

1 that represent and are comprised of covered individ-  
2 uals, in preparing (including planning) for, respond-  
3 ing to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters;

4 (5) improve outcomes for all individuals, includ-  
5 ing individuals with disabilities and older adults, who  
6 are affected by disasters, and increase community  
7 resilience in responding to disasters;

8 (6) establish dedicated Federal funding for ca-  
9 pacity-building and rapid response to support Fed-  
10 eral, State (including territorial), Tribal, and local  
11 entities, and public and private human services enti-  
12 ties, to support activities to address the needs of at-  
13 risk individuals before, during, and after a disaster;  
14 and

15 (7) enact into Federal law standards of care  
16 and standards for protection of civil rights, for older  
17 adults and people with disabilities, to be applied for  
18 disasters and public health emergencies.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

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

25 (A) an individual with a disability;

1 (B) an older adult;

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

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

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

12 (2) AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS.—The term “at-risk  
13 individuals”—

14 (A) has the meaning given the term in sec-  
15 tion 2802(b)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service  
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–1(b)(4)(B)); and

17 (B) includes—

18 (i) older individuals, individuals with  
19 disabilities, and children; and

20 (ii) members of families that include  
21 individuals described in clause (i) or sub-  
22 paragraph (A).

23 (3) CIVIL RIGHTS.—The term “civil rights”,  
24 used with respect to an individual, means the exist-  
25 ing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) legal

1 rights of an individual to be free from discrimination  
2 on the basis of disability or age in programs and ac-  
3 tivities.

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

8 (5) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
9 means the Department of Health and Human Serv-  
10 ices.

11 (6) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the  
12 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
13 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
14 12102).

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

19 (A) means an individual or entity that  
20 has—

21 (i) demonstrated disability leadership  
22 experience, including working with non-  
23 governmental entities; and

24 (ii) subject matter expertise in leading  
25 disability inclusive preparedness, response,

1 recovery, and mitigation initiatives that  
2 focus on meeting the civil rights of covered  
3 individuals who are affected by disasters,  
4 to be free from discrimination on the basis  
5 of disability or age in programs and activi-  
6 ties; and

7 (B) includes an individual or entity that  
8 has demonstrated favorable outcomes that  
9 measure the effective communication access,  
10 physical access, program access, health, safety,  
11 and independence of individuals affected by dis-  
12 asters and their communities.

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

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

23 (10) DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED.—The  
24 term “disproportionately affected”, used with re-  
25 spect to a group, means a group of individuals with

1 protected status, including individuals with disabil-  
2 ities or older adults, who are excessively adversely  
3 affected by disaster-related harms.

4 (11) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Dis-  
5 aster Human Services Emergency Fund established  
6 under section 7.

7 (12) HUMAN SERVICES.—The term “human  
8 services”—

9 (A) means programs and activities de-  
10 signed to aid individuals, families, and commu-  
11 nities to prevent or remediate problems or  
12 events that destabilize lives and undermine the  
13 ability to meet basic needs in the immediate  
14 aftermath of a disaster and medium- and long-  
15 term needs after a disaster; and

16 (B) includes—

17 (i) preparedness training and capac-  
18 ity-building;

19 (ii) peer support;

20 (iii) child care;

21 (iv) nutritional services;

22 (v) home and community-based sup-  
23 ports and services;

24 (vi) personal care;

25 (vii) case management;

- 1 (viii) behavioral health and psycho-  
2 social support;
- 3 (ix) assistance with accessing home  
4 repair and modifications;
- 5 (x) accessible housing;
- 6 (xi) food, home, transportation, com-  
7 munication, and language access;
- 8 (xii) helping prevent institutionaliza-  
9 tion or helping transition individuals to  
10 community living;
- 11 (xiii) helping with evacuation; and
- 12 (xiv) supporting at-risk individuals in  
13 accessing durable medical equipment or  
14 other equipment.

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

20 (14) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The  
21 term “individuals with disabilities” means more than  
22 one individual with a disability.

23 (15) OLDER ADULT.—The term “older adult”  
24 has the meaning given the term ‘older individual’ in

1 section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42  
2 U.S.C. 3002).

3 (16) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term  
4 “public health emergency” means a public health  
5 emergency declared under section 319 of the Public  
6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

7 (17) RESIDENT.—The term “resident”  
8 means—

9 (A) in the case of an individual receiving  
10 assistance through an Indian Tribal government  
11 or other Indian entity, a resident of an area or  
12 member of a community governed by an Indian  
13 Tribal government; and

14 (B) in the case of an individual not de-  
15 scribed in subparagraph (A), a resident of a  
16 State that is not an Indian Tribal government.

17 (18) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
18 means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

19 (19) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
20 the 50 States, an Indian Tribal government, the  
21 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
22 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,  
23 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
24 Northern Mariana Islands.

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

7           (21) VOAD.—The term “VOAD” means a non-  
8           governmental organization assisting in disaster prep-  
9           aration, recovery, response, or mitigation.

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

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

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

16           “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17           “(1) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The  
18           term ‘access and functional needs’, used with respect  
19           to an individual, means an individual with needs  
20           such as—

21                   “(A) an individual with a disability;

22                   “(B) an older adult;

23                   “(C) an individual with limited English  
24           proficiency;

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

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

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

14          “(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—

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

19                 “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘covered re-  
20                 cipient’ does not include individuals or house-  
21                 holds.

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

1 “(5) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

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

6 “(B) PLURAL.—The term ‘individuals with  
7 disabilities’ means more than 1 individual with  
8 a disability, as defined in subparagraph (A).

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

11 “(7) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
12 ‘visitability standards’ means standards for Type C  
13 (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
14 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
15 2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
16 National Standards Institutes.

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

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

20 “(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—A covered recipient  
21 shall ensure that an advisory committee that includes indi-  
22 viduals with disabilities, older adults, and other individuals  
23 with access and functional needs shall oversee the use of  
24 funds made available under this title to the covered recipi-  
25 ent.

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

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

9               “(1) prepare for hazards;

10              “(2) provide personal assistance services during  
11 response and recovery periods;

12              “(3) identify accessible emergency shelters and  
13 adapt emergency shelters to be accessible;

14              “(4) develop accessible media, including media  
15 using American Sign Language; and

16              “(5) meet other needs for individuals with dis-  
17 abilities, older adults, and individuals with access  
18 and functional needs.

19       “(f) CONTRACTORS.—A nongovernmental organiza-  
20 tion that enters into a contract with a covered recipient  
21 relating to a covered use of funds shall comply with the  
22 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and  
23 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
24 12101 et seq.) in providing property or services under the  
25 contract.

1       “(g) COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications relating  
2 to a covered use of funds by a covered recipient shall be  
3 made available in languages, including American Sign  
4 Language and other sign languages, used in the commu-  
5 nities receiving the communications.

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

11               “(1) notifications relating to a hazard;

12               “(2) evacuation notifications;

13               “(3) notifications relating to disaster services;

14       and

15               “(4) emergency shelters.

16       “(i) VISITABILITY.—A covered recipient that, as part  
17 of a covered use of funds, constructs or prepares dwelling  
18 units (including sleeping units) shall ensure that the dwell-  
19 ing units meet visitability standards.”.

20 **SEC. 6. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RE-**  
21 **SEARCH DISABILITY AND DISASTER CEN-**  
22 **TERS.**

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

1           (1) provide training and technical assistance to  
2           State, local, Tribal, and territorial disaster relief,  
3           public health, and social service agencies in the im-  
4           plementation and enhancement of systemic and ef-  
5           fective engagement policies, programs, and activities  
6           that ensure—

7                   (A) that the needs and civil rights of cov-  
8                   ered individuals are addressed and implemented  
9                   throughout all phases of disaster preparation,  
10                  response, recovery, and mitigation; and

11                   (B) the inclusion of covered individuals in  
12                  the development of all State, local, Tribal, and  
13                  territorial disaster preparation plans;

14           (2) assist Federal, State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
15           ritorial disaster relief agencies in the coordination  
16           and integration of Federal, State (including terri-  
17           torial), local, and Tribal services and programs to  
18           serve covered individuals in the least restrictive envi-  
19           ronment appropriate to their needs during a dis-  
20           aster;

21           (3) conduct research and expand knowledge  
22           about covered individuals and their experiences dur-  
23           ing the preparation, response, recovery, and mitiga-  
24           tion phases of disasters; and

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

3           (A) protecting the civil rights of covered  
4 individuals during times of disasters;

5           (B) including covered individuals in all  
6 phases of disaster preparation, response, recov-  
7 ery, and mitigation;

8           (C) reducing their deaths, injuries and  
9 losses from disasters;

10           (D) reducing the displacement and dis-  
11 proportionate effects of relocation after a dis-  
12 aster, including financial and social effects, on  
13 covered individuals; and

14           (E) ensuring covered individuals are par-  
15 ticipants in the research, development, and dis-  
16 tribution of evidence-based information regard-  
17 ing disasters.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

23           (B) is or includes an institution (which  
24 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 rights 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 51  
3 percent 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 101(a) of the  
7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

8 (3) STAKEHOLDER GROUP.—The term “stake-  
9 holder group” means a group of individuals and or-  
10 ganizations that—

11 (A) is committed to disability inclusive and  
12 older adult inclusive disaster management;

13 (B) includes covered individuals through-  
14 out preparedness, response, recovery, and miti-  
15 gation activities;

16 (C) has leaders that include covered indi-  
17 viduals;

18 (D) has a governing or advisory board, of  
19 which at least half of the members are covered  
20 individuals; and

21 (E) has a mission to inclusively serve cov-  
22 ered individuals.

23 (c) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may  
24 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities,  
25 to provide for—

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

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

6           (d) AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF GRANTS.—

7           (1) AMOUNT.—In awarding grants under this  
8 section, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
9 ticable, award a grant to an eligible entity in an  
10 amount that is not less than \$2,500,000 and not  
11 more than \$10,000,000.

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

19           (3) PERIODS.—The Secretary shall award the  
20 grants for periods of 5 years, through an open com-  
21 petition held at the end of each 5-year period. Eligi-  
22 ble entities that receive grants under this section  
23 may reapply for such grants at the end of the peri-  
24 ods.

25           (e) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

7                   (A) A description of the applicant’s dem-  
8 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
9 formation, and support to individuals with dis-  
10 abilities in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
11 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

12                   (B) A description of the applicant’s dem-  
13 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
14 formation, and support to older adults in pre-  
15 paring for, responding to, recovering from, and  
16 mitigating disasters.

17                   (C) A description of the applicant’s dem-  
18 onstrated experience in working with Federal,  
19 State, local, Tribal, and territorial government  
20 agencies in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
21 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

22                   (D) A description of the steps the appli-  
23 cant, acting through the center, will take to tar-  
24 get services to low-income individuals and indi-  
25 viduals identified as disproportionately affected

1 in disasters, including those individuals at  
2 greatest risk of institutionalization.

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

5 (i) work with State, local, Tribal, and  
6 territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
7 social service agencies to determine the  
8 best means for delivery of services to ad-  
9 dress the needs of covered individuals;

10 (ii) assist in establishing State, local,  
11 Tribal, and territorial disaster plans to ad-  
12 dress the needs of both rural and urban  
13 populations;

14 (iii) in carrying out activities under  
15 the grant, conduct sufficient outreach to  
16 centers for independent living, VOADs,  
17 and other nongovernmental organizations,  
18 including organizations that represent and  
19 are comprised of covered individuals;

20 (iv) include covered individuals in a  
21 meaningful way in the development and  
22 execution of activities carried out under  
23 the grant;

24 (v) provide adequate staff, including  
25 staff who are individuals with disabilities,

1 to carry out the activities under the grant;  
2 and

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

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

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

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

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

21 (4) includes covered individuals in positions of  
22 leadership in the planning, management, and oper-  
23 ation of the activities carried out under this section;

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

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

3 (6) 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 (7) 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 (8) demonstrate that the eligible entity will use  
18 measurable disaster outcomes strategies in carrying  
19 out grant activities;

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

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

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

4           (12) 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           (13) demonstrate expertise in promoting the  
9 use of universal design (as defined in section 103 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 haz-  
8 ard mitigation and disaster resilience activities;

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

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

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

19 (ii) create inclusive disaster prepared-  
20 ness, recovery, response, and mitigation  
21 strategies for State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
22 ritorial agencies, centers for independent  
23 living, VOADs, and other nongovernmental  
24 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 2026 and 2028, 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 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

16 **SEC. 7. DISASTER HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

18 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the  
19 term “eligible entity” means—

20 (A) a State or local government agency;

21 (B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-  
22 tion; or

23 (C) a nonprofit organization, including a  
24 public or nonprofit provider of services.

1           (2) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-  
2           aster” means a disaster that the President has de-  
3           clared is a major disaster or emergency under sec-  
4           tion 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Staf-  
5           ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
6           (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191).

7           (b) DISASTERS HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY  
8           FUND.—

9           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in  
10          the general fund of the Treasury an account, to be  
11          known as the “Disaster Human Services Emergency  
12          Fund”. The Fund shall be administered by the Sec-  
13          retary, in accordance with this section, to rapidly re-  
14          spond to the immediate human services needs result-  
15          ing when—

16                 (A) a public health emergency or major  
17                 disaster has been declared; or

18                 (B) the Secretary determines there is sig-  
19                 nificant potential for a major disaster or public  
20                 health emergency.

21           (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts available in the  
22          Fund shall remain available until expended.

23           (3) USES.—The Secretary may use amounts in  
24          the Fund to—

1 (A) facilitate coordination between and  
2 among—

3 (i) Federal, State (including terri-  
4 torial), Tribal, and local entities; and

5 (ii) public and private human services  
6 entities that the Secretary determines—

7 (I) may be affected by a major  
8 disaster, public health emergency, or  
9 potential major disaster or public  
10 health emergency; and

11 (II) serve at-risk individuals;

12 (B) make grants or awards to, or enter  
13 into contracts and cooperative agreements with,  
14 eligible entities for projects that provide human  
15 services to at-risk individuals impacted by a  
16 major disaster or public health emergency, or  
17 prevent impacts from a potential major disaster  
18 or public health emergency, including through  
19 peer-to-peer support and person-centered case  
20 management services to address the needs of  
21 disaster survivors from preparedness and re-  
22 sponse through recovery, in accordance with  
23 subsection (c);

24 (C) carry out activities of the Department  
25 that support the provision of the services de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (B) to at-risk individ-  
2 uals, including—

3 (i) the costs of necessary staff salaries  
4 and expenses and other administrative ex-  
5 penses, including information technology;  
6 and

7 (ii) preparation costs that are not  
8 readily attributable to a single major dis-  
9 aster or public health emergency; and

10 (D) carry out other activities, as the Sec-  
11 retary determines applicable and appropriate, to  
12 address the needs of at-risk individuals during  
13 public health emergencies, major disasters, and  
14 potential public health emergencies and major  
15 disasters.

16 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
18 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through  
19 2030.

20 (c) GRANTS, AWARDS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERA-  
21 TIVE AGREEMENTS.—

22 (1) PRIORITY.—In making grants or awards to,  
23 or entering into contracts or cooperative agreements  
24 with, eligible entities using amounts in the Fund,

1 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that, di-  
2 rectly or through a contractual arrangement, will—

3 (A) provide accessible human services to  
4 at-risk individuals and communities to prepare  
5 for and mitigate the impacts of a potential  
6 major disaster or public health emergency;

7 (B) provide accessible human services to  
8 at-risk individuals impacted by a major disaster  
9 or public health emergency; and

10 (C) restore human services agency func-  
11 tions that were diminished or lost due to a dis-  
12 aster or public health emergency.

13 (2) EXPEDITED DELIVERY.—The Secretary  
14 shall plan and take such steps as are necessary to  
15 enable the Secretary to expedite the delivery of  
16 funds under this section to appropriate agencies and  
17 entities that support at-risk individuals due to a  
18 major disaster, public health emergency, or a poten-  
19 tial major disaster or public health emergency.

20 (3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity  
21 receiving a grant or award, or entering into a con-  
22 tract or cooperative agreement, under this sub-  
23 section shall carry out 1 or more of the following ac-  
24 tivities:

- 1 (A) Case management assistance for at-  
2 risk individuals, including—
- 3 (i) providing disaster-related applica-  
4 tion assistance, including—
- 5 (I) eligibility pre-screening;  
6 (II) assistance completing an ap-  
7 plication for disaster-related assist-  
8 ance;
- 9 (III) translation services for such  
10 application; and
- 11 (IV) ensuring that applications  
12 for disaster-related assistance are ac-  
13 cessible;
- 14 (ii) providing person-centered case  
15 management services to address the needs  
16 of disaster survivors from response  
17 through recovery; or
- 18 (iii) providing other case management  
19 services and activities approved by the Sec-  
20 retary that address the human and social  
21 service needs of the impacted population.
- 22 (B) Targeted efforts to support community  
23 living options for at-risk individuals before, dur-  
24 ing, and after a disaster or emergency, includ-  
25 ing—

- 1 (i) providing services and engaging in  
2 activities to prevent individuals from enter-  
3 ing or relocating to institutional settings;
- 4 (ii) identifying individuals who have  
5 been relocated to acute care and institu-  
6 tional settings because of a major disaster  
7 or public health emergency;
- 8 (iii) providing services for individuals  
9 who were relocated to acute care and insti-  
10 tutional settings because of a disaster or  
11 public health emergency and engaging in  
12 activities to return such individuals to a  
13 home or a community-based setting;
- 14 (iv) coordinating among emergency  
15 management services and human services  
16 providers to ensure the accessibility of  
17 emergency responses, including the estab-  
18 lishment of accessible emergency shelters;
- 19 (v) providing legal assistance to sup-  
20 port at-risk individuals in their recovery  
21 from a major disaster or public health  
22 emergency;
- 23 (vi) engaging in activities that im-  
24 prove accessibility of disaster recovery and  
25 response efforts for at-risk individuals, in-

1 cluding by providing accessible information  
2 and communications;

3 (vii) replacing, repairing, or acquiring  
4 equipment, materials, or supplies to sup-  
5 port community living, including such  
6 items that were lost or damaged due to a  
7 disaster or emergency; or

8 (viii) providing other disaster relief or  
9 public health emergency services approved  
10 by the Secretary that address the human  
11 and social service needs of the population  
12 impacted by the major disaster or public  
13 health emergency.

14 (C) Accessible home and community-based  
15 services and supports for at-risk individuals in  
16 connection with a major disaster, public health  
17 emergency, or potential major disaster or emer-  
18 gency, including—

19 (i) providing accessible transportation  
20 services to support at-risk individuals be-  
21 fore, during, and after a major disaster or  
22 public health emergency in obtaining nec-  
23 essary supports and services;

24 (ii) providing accessible and tailored  
25 nutritional services during a major dis-

1           aster, public health emergency, or potential  
2           major disaster or public health emergency;

3           (iii) providing accessible housing be-  
4           fore, during, and after a major disaster or  
5           public health emergency;

6           (iv) providing trauma-informed coun-  
7           seling and support before, during, and  
8           after a major disaster or public health  
9           emergency;

10          (v) providing personal care before,  
11          during, and after a major disaster or pub-  
12          lic health emergency;

13          (vi) supporting at-risk individuals in  
14          accessing durable medical equipment or  
15          other equipment; or

16          (vii) other major disaster relief and  
17          public health emergency services approved  
18          by the Secretary that address the human  
19          service and social service needs of the im-  
20          pacted population of at-risk individuals  
21          during a major disaster, public health  
22          emergency, or potential major disaster or  
23          public health emergency.

24           (4) REPORTING.—

1 (A) DATA COLLECTION.—Each eligible en-  
2 tity receiving a grant, award, contract, or coop-  
3 erative agreement under this subsection shall  
4 participate in data collection and reporting, as  
5 required by this subsection and other law and  
6 in the manner required by the Secretary.

7 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATION.—

8 (i) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Each  
9 eligible entity shall reserve not less than 5  
10 percent and not more than 10 percent of  
11 the total award amount for an inde-  
12 pendent, third-party evaluation of the ac-  
13 tivities carried out with funds made avail-  
14 able under this subsection.

15 (ii) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—  
16 An evaluation described in clause (i) shall  
17 be conducted by an individual or organiza-  
18 tion that—

19 (I) is independent of the recipient  
20 entity; and

21 (II) possesses demonstrated ex-  
22 pertise in program evaluation, cost-  
23 benefit analysis, and community-based  
24 human services delivery.

1 (iii) EVALUATION SCOPE.—The eval-  
2 uation shall, at a minimum—

3 (I) measure the program outputs  
4 and outcomes of the activities sup-  
5 ported under the grant, award, con-  
6 tract, or cooperative agreement, in-  
7 cluding the ability of varying groups  
8 of at-risk individuals to access serv-  
9 ices;

10 (II) quantify the cost savings or  
11 cost avoidance attributable to such ac-  
12 tivities; and

13 (III) assess the community im-  
14 pact of the activities and the sustain-  
15 ability of the activities when the  
16 grant, award, contract, or cooperative  
17 agreement ends.

18 (iv) REPORTING TO THE SEC-  
19 RETARY.—The recipient shall submit the  
20 final evaluation report to the Secretary not  
21 later than 90 days after the end of the  
22 project period.

23 (v) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-  
24 retary shall make evaluation reports re-  
25 ceived under clause (iv) publicly available

1                   in an accessible format within 60 days of  
2                   receipt.

3 **SEC. 8. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GRANTS.**

4           (a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the disaster pre-  
5           paredness grants and related technical assistance sup-  
6           ported under this section are—

7                   (1) to establish authority to award capacity-  
8           building grants for accessible disaster preparedness  
9           and response efforts; and

10                   (2) to foster multi-sectoral approaches and  
11           partnerships across human services networks to en-  
12           sure coordinated and accessible disaster prepared-  
13           ness and response efforts for the public, including  
14           among at-risk individuals.

15           (b) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this sec-  
16           tion, the term “eligible entity” means—

17                   (1) a State or local government agency;

18                   (2) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization; or

19                   (3) a nonprofit organization, including a public  
20           or nonprofit provider of services.

21           (c) **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GRANTS AUTHOR-**  
22           **IZED.**—From amounts made available under this section,  
23           the Secretary may award grants or contracts to, or enter  
24           into cooperative agreements with, eligible entities in order  
25           to provide for—

1           (1) activities that prepare for disasters or pub-  
2           lic health emergencies;

3           (2) the development of partnerships among  
4           human service public and nonprofit organizations  
5           and public health and emergency management agen-  
6           cies at the State (including territorial), Tribal, and  
7           local levels;

8           (3) activities that improve the ability of human  
9           service agencies and organizations to mitigate and  
10          respond to disasters and public health emergencies  
11          and support the accessible human service needs of  
12          at-risk individuals impacted by disasters and public  
13          health emergencies; and

14          (4) dedicated staff or staffing salaries and ex-  
15          penses for State (including territorial), Tribal, or  
16          local organizations that have demonstrated expertise  
17          in the disaster and public health emergency needs of  
18          at-risk individuals, to enable such organizations to  
19          work with, and be part of, State and local emergency  
20          management efforts.

21          (d) APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS.—To be eligible to  
22          receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under  
23          this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application  
24          to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
25          taining such information as the Secretary may require.

1 (e) AWARD BASIS.—The Secretary shall carry out  
2 subsection (e) in a manner that distributes funds to appro-  
3 priate agencies and entities that support at-risk individ-  
4 uals and can support disaster preparedness capacity-build-  
5 ing initiatives.

6 (f) RESERVATION.—For each fiscal year, the Sec-  
7 retary shall reserve not more than 3 percent of the funds  
8 made available under this section for such year for the  
9 administration of this section.

10 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are  
11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
12 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

13 **SEC. 9. PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

21 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
22 may be an institution of higher education), or  
23 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
24 on—

1 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
2 with disabilities; or

3 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

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

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

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

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

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

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

4           (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
5 AGREEMENTS.—

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

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

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

21                   (C) support research that—

22                           (i) tracks, in the short-term and long-  
23 term, the effects of disasters on individuals  
24 with disabilities and older adults;

1 (ii) identifies evidence-based practices  
2 that enhance inclusion of individuals with  
3 disabilities and older adults to participate  
4 in and lead preparation for disasters at  
5 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
6 levels;

7 (iii) leads to the creation of strategies  
8 and procedures to implement community  
9 level practices that decrease deaths, inju-  
10 ries, and harm resulting from disasters to  
11 individuals with disabilities and older  
12 adults;

13 (iv) contributes to the protection of  
14 the civil right of covered individuals with  
15 disabilities and older adults to be free from  
16 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
17 age in programs and activities, and self-de-  
18 termination of those individuals and  
19 adults, while also promoting their safety  
20 and well-being during and following disas-  
21 ters;

22 (v) contributes to the development of  
23 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
24 policies that enhance collaboration among  
25 governmental entities, centers for inde-

1           pendent living, VOADs, and other non-  
2           governmental organizations, including or-  
3           ganizations that represent and are com-  
4           prised of covered individuals, to improve  
5           the inclusion of covered individuals in  
6           preparation for, response to, recovery from,  
7           and mitigation of disasters; and

8                   (vi) contributes to other efforts, as de-  
9                   termined by the Secretary, to advance the  
10                  purposes of this section.

11           (2) AMOUNT, QUANTITY, AND DURATION.—In  
12           awarding grants or entering into contracts or coop-  
13           erative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
14           shall—

15                   (A) to the extent practicable, ensure that  
16                   each such grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
17                   ment is for an amount that is not less than  
18                   \$2,500,000 and not more than \$10,000,000;

19                   (B) award or enter into not less than 4  
20                   grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;  
21                   and

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

1 **SEC. 10. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

2 **LAWS.**

3 (a) **STANDARDS OF CARE.**—States and local govern-  
4 mental entities shall develop crisis standards of care for  
5 implementation during the period of a disaster or public  
6 health emergency pursuant to the nondiscrimination re-  
7 quirements under—

8 (1) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of  
9 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

10 (2) section 1557 of the Patient Protection and  
11 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116).

12 (b) **INCLUSIONS.**—In developing and implementing  
13 crisis standards of care in accordance with subsection (a),  
14 States and local governmental entities shall comply with:

15 (1) The crisis standards of care described in the  
16 guidance issued by the Office for Civil Rights of the  
17 Department of Health and Human Services entitled  
18 “Bulletin: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus  
19 Disease 2019 (COVID–19)” and dated March 28,  
20 2020 and any best practices developed by the Office  
21 of Civil Rights pursuant to such guidance.

22 (2) The following requirements:

23 (A) States and local governmental entities  
24 may not develop or implement potentially dis-  
25 criminatory policies that negatively affect cov-  
26 ered individuals or children. Such policies may

1 address the application of crisis standards of  
2 care in resource-constrained settings during dis-  
3 asters and public health emergencies.

4 (B) During disasters and public health  
5 emergencies, civil rights may not be suspended  
6 or waived.

7 (C) Crisis standards of care shall reflect  
8 that every human being has fundamental and  
9 inherent dignity, equity, and worth, and has a  
10 right to be treated equally and fairly in the pro-  
11 vision of health care services under Federal civil  
12 rights laws.

13 (D) Crisis standards of care shall be suffi-  
14 ciently clear to allow practitioners to apply such  
15 standards of care, especially when stewarding of  
16 scarce resources means withholding or with-  
17 drawing critical care services. Such standards  
18 of care shall reflect the values, wishes, and in-  
19 terest of all patients, especially covered individ-  
20 uals and children.

21 (E) States and local governmental entities  
22 shall partner with, and work to ensure strong  
23 public engagement of, community and provider  
24 stakeholders, with particular attention to the  
25 needs of covered individuals and children.

1 (F) States and local governmental entities  
2 shall use ethically and clinically sound planning  
3 to secure equitable allocation of resources and  
4 fair protections for covered individuals and chil-  
5 dren.

6 (G) States and local governmental entities  
7 shall develop specific response measures to meet  
8 the needs of covered individuals and children.

9 (H) States and local governmental entities  
10 shall seek to eliminate the use of class, race,  
11 ethnicity, neighborhood, disability, and age in  
12 decisions relating to access of care.

13 **SEC. 11. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIVID-**  
14 **UALS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS.**

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

17 (1) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence,  
19 by striking “17 members” and inserting “45  
20 members”;

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(N) 11 members, representing the dis-  
24 ability community and reflecting the diverse  
25 characteristics of its members, who shall—

- 1 “(i) represent individuals with disabili-  
2 ties with a wide variety of disaster experi-  
3 ences, including cross-disability representa-  
4 tion;
- 5 “(ii) be geographically diverse;
- 6 “(iii) be ethnically and racially di-  
7 verse;
- 8 “(iv) be of diverse ages, and include  
9 older adults;
- 10 “(v) represent both genders, and in-  
11 clude members that represent a variety of  
12 sexual orientations and gender identities;
- 13 “(vi) include veterans; and
- 14 “(vii) be linguistically diverse.
- 15 “(O) 1 representative from each of—
- 16 “(i) a coastal State emergency man-  
17 agement agency with an employee in a po-  
18 sition with established duties relating to in-  
19 tegration of individuals with disabilities or  
20 to addressing access and functional needs;
- 21 “(ii) a noncoastal State emergency  
22 management agency with an employee in a  
23 position described in clause (i);

1           “(iii) a Tribal emergency management  
2 agency with an employee in a position de-  
3 scribed in clause (i);

4           “(iv) a territorial emergency manage-  
5 ment agency with an employee in a posi-  
6 tion described in clause (i);

7           “(v) a nongovernmental organization  
8 providing disaster preparedness and re-  
9 sponse services;

10           “(vi) a local urban disaster manage-  
11 ment entity, which representative has dis-  
12 ability inclusive emergency management  
13 experience;

14           “(vii) a local rural disaster manage-  
15 ment entity, which representative has dis-  
16 ability inclusive emergency management  
17 experience;

18           “(viii) a local disability organization  
19 with a cross-disability focus;

20           “(ix) a State disability organization  
21 with a cross-disability focus;

22           “(x) a national disability organization  
23 with a cross-disability focus;

24           “(xi) a national older adults organiza-  
25 tion;

1           “(xii) the Council of the Inspectors  
2           General on Integrity and Efficiency;

3           “(xiii) a low-income housing organiza-  
4           tion, who has expertise in the civil rights  
5           of disaster-affected covered individuals;  
6           and

7           “(xiv) a representative of a legal serv-  
8           ices agency with expertise in the civil  
9           rights of disaster-affected covered individ-  
10          uals.

11          “(P) The Secretary of Transportation.

12          “(Q) The Director of Disability Policy for  
13          the Domestic Policy Council.”; and

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

15          “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the  
16          terms ‘access and functional needs’, ‘civil rights’,  
17          ‘covered individual’, ‘disability inclusive emergency  
18          management experience’, ‘disaster’, ‘individuals with  
19          disabilities’, ‘older adult’, and ‘State’ have the mean-  
20          ings given the terms in section 4 of the REAADI for  
21          Disasters Act.”;

22          (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
23          section (h);

24          (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
25          lowing:

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.”;  
4 and

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

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “on Sep-  
7 tember 30, 2025” and inserting “4 years after  
8 the date of enactment of the REAADI for Dis-  
9 asters Act”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “October  
11 1, 2022” and inserting “2 years after the date  
12 of enactment of the REAADI for Disasters  
13 Act”.

14 **SEC. 12. REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATED**  
15 **TO DISASTERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-**  
16 **ABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) CHIEF OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS SEC-  
19 TION.—The term “Chief of the Disability Rights  
20 Section” means the Chief of the Disability Rights  
21 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-  
22 ment of Justice.

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

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

3           (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
4 Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on  
5 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
6 of the Senate; and

7           (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
8 Infrastructure, the Committee on Education  
9 and Workforce, and the Committee on Energy  
10 and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

11          (4) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The  
12 term “covered settlement agreement” means a set-  
13 tlement agreement—

14           (A) entered into by the United States dur-  
15 ing the period beginning on January 1, 2005,  
16 and ending on the first December 31 after the  
17 date of enactment of this Act; and

18           (B) that relates to a potential violation of  
19 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701  
20 et seq.) or the Americans with Disabilities Act  
21 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) in connec-  
22 tion with the preparation for, response to, re-  
23 covery from, or mitigation of a disaster.

24          (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—There is es-  
25 tablished an advisory committee, to be known as the “Dis-

1 ability and Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee”,  
2 to review covered settlement agreements.

3 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-  
6 eral shall appoint the members of the Committee,  
7 which shall include—

8 (A) employees of the Department of Jus-  
9 tice; and

10 (B) not less than 3 disability rights advo-  
11 cates who—

12 (i) are not employees of the Federal  
13 Government;

14 (ii) are individuals with disabilities;  
15 and

16 (iii) have disability inclusive emer-  
17 gency management experience.

18 (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
20 mittee shall be appointed for the life of the  
21 Committee.

22 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
23 Committee—

24 (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
25 Committee; and

1 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
2 as the original appointment.

3 (3) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

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

8 (4) MEETINGS.—

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

11 (B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members  
12 of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but  
13 a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

14 (d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

15 (1) conduct a review of each covered settlement  
16 agreement;

17 (2) review annual reports and recommendations  
18 provided to each covered committee of Congress re-  
19 lating to addressing the needs of covered individuals  
20 in the preparation for, response to, recovery from, or  
21 mitigation of a disaster;

22 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
23 actment of this Act, submit a report containing the  
24 findings and recommendations of the Committee  
25 to—

1 (A) each covered committee of Congress;

2 (B) any other entity of Congress with ju-  
3 risdiction over matters relating to addressing  
4 the needs of covered individuals in the prepara-  
5 tion for, response to, recovery from, or mitiga-  
6 tion of a disaster;

7 (C) the Attorney General;

8 (D) the Secretary of Education;

9 (E) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

10 (F) the Secretary of Health and Human  
11 Services;

12 (G) the Secretary of Transportation; and

13 (H) the President, through the Director of  
14 Disability Policy for the Domestic Policy Coun-  
15 cil; and

16 (4) provide the comments and recommendations  
17 described in section 13(b)(2).

18 (e) POWERS OF COMMITTEE.—

19 (1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such  
20 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take  
21 such testimony, and receive such evidence as the  
22 Committee considers advisable to carry out this sec-  
23 tion.

24 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may  
2           secure directly from any Federal department or  
3           agency such information as the Committee con-  
4           siders necessary to carry out this section.

5           (B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On re-  
6           quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the  
7           head of the department or agency shall furnish  
8           the information to the Committee.

9           (C) DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—The  
10          Chief of the Disability Rights Section shall sub-  
11          mit to the Committee a report on the oversight  
12          of covered settlement agreements a sufficient  
13          period of time before the date specified in sub-  
14          section (d)(3) to allow the Committee to review  
15          the report and include the report of the Chief  
16          of the Disability Rights Section in the report of  
17          the Committee under subsection (d)(3).

18          (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may  
19          use the United States mails in the same manner and  
20          under the same conditions as other departments and  
21          agencies of the Federal Government.

22          (f) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

23                  (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

24                          (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
25                          mittee who is not an officer or employee of the

1 Federal Government shall be compensated at a  
2 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual  
3 rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the  
4 Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title  
5 5, United States Code, for each day (including  
6 travel time) during which the member is en-  
7 gaged in the performance of the duties of the  
8 Committee.

9 (B) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—A member of  
10 the Committee who is an officer or employee of  
11 the United States shall serve without compensa-  
12 tion in addition to that received for service as  
13 an officer or employee of the United States.

14 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
15 Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
16 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
17 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of  
18 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
19 away from their home or regular places of business  
20 in the performance of services for the Committee.

21 (3) STAFF.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
23 Committee may, without regard to the civil  
24 service laws (including regulations), appoint  
25 and terminate an executive director and such

1 other additional personnel as may be necessary  
2 to enable the Committee to perform the duties  
3 of the Committee, except that the employment  
4 of an executive director shall be subject to con-  
5 firmation by the Committee.

6 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of  
7 the Committee may fix the compensation of the  
8 executive director and other personnel without  
9 regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of  
10 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relat-  
11 ing to classification of positions and General  
12 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay  
13 for the executive director and other personnel  
14 may not exceed the rate payable for level V of  
15 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
16 that title.

17 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—  
18 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed  
19 to the Committee without reimbursement, and such  
20 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
21 service status or privilege.

22 (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-  
23 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
24 mittee may procure temporary and intermittent serv-  
25 ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States

1 Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed  
2 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay  
3 prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule  
4 under section 5316 of that title.

5 (g) TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee  
6 shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Com-  
7 mittee submits the report required under subsection  
8 (d)(3).

9 (h) REPORTS BY DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—On  
10 and after the date on which the Committee submits the  
11 report required under subsection (d)(3), the Chief of the  
12 Disability Rights Section shall publish an annual report  
13 on the oversight of settlement agreements relating to dis-  
14 aster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation ac-  
15 tivities.

16 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PAST USE OF DISASTER FUNDS.**

17 (a) INVESTIGATION.—Not later than 60 days after  
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
19 of the United States shall begin to conduct an investiga-  
20 tion of whether, on or after January 1, 2005, Federal  
21 agencies have complied with the Americans with Disabil-  
22 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and the Reha-  
23 bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), in expend-  
24 ing Federal funds to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
25 or mitigate disasters, including whether and, if so, how

1 such funds were used to ensure accessibility to services  
2 and supports for individuals with disabilities and older  
3 adults.

4 (b) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
7 General shall, in accordance with paragraph (2),  
8 issue a report on the investigation conducted under  
9 subsection (a), along with recommendations for re-  
10 mediation of any misexpenditures identified.

11 (2) REVIEW.—

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

1                   (B) COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
2                   ADDITIONAL SOURCES.—The recommendations  
3                   obtained under subparagraph (A) shall include  
4                   recommendations from the Committees regard-  
5                   ing additional sources the Comptroller General  
6                   may interview for purposes of the investigation  
7                   under subsection (a).

○