

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9303

To amend subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act to establish supplemental severe weather emergency solutions grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2026

Mr. THANEDAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act to establish supplemental severe weather emergency solutions grants, 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 “Building Local Access
5 for Needs in Key Emergency Temperatures Act” or the
6 “BLANKET Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Severe weather events including severe
2 storms, heat waves, severe winter storms, flooding,
3 wildfires, and cold snaps present serious risks to
4 people experiencing homelessness.

5 (2) Temporarily increasing emergency shelter
6 capacity during severe weather periods will prevent
7 injury, reduce harm, and reduce strain on emergency
8 medical services and hospitals.

9 (3) Targeted Federal funding is necessary to
10 protect life, prevent illness, and support State and
11 local efforts to respond to emergencies.

12 **SEC. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY**
13 **SOLUTIONS GRANTS.**

14 Subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Home-
15 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.) is amended
16 by adding at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 419. SUPPLEMENTAL SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY**
18 **SOLUTIONS GRANTS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not later
20 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section
21 establish a competitive grant program to award supple-
22 mental severe weather emergency solutions grants (in this
23 section referred to as ‘grants’) to eligible entities to ex-
24 pand and improve the capacity of emergency shelters
25 available during periods of severe weather.

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

5 “(1) a description of the population to be
6 served by the grant project and anticipated severe
7 weather events, including past weather patterns and
8 any relevant research data;

9 “(2) data demonstrating a need for expanded
10 emergency shelter services related to severe weather
11 events, including the extent of unsheltered homeless-
12 ness and weather-related risks in the area to be
13 served by the eligible entity;

14 “(3) a plan to expand shelter capacity in the
15 area to be served by the eligible entity during severe
16 weather events; and

17 “(4) a plan to coordinate with emergency man-
18 agement, public health, and local service providers to
19 make use of grant funds to provide emergency shel-
20 ter and related services to homeless individuals dur-
21 ing severe weather events.

22 “(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—When awarding grants
23 under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

24 “(1) the degree of need for emergency home-
25 lessness shelter and related services in the area to

1 be served by the eligible entity, including the extent
2 of unsheltered homelessness in such area;

3 “(2) the demonstrated capacity, if any, of the
4 eligible entity to deploy emergency shelters during
5 severe weather;

6 “(3) past performance of the eligible entity
7 under programs authorized under this title;

8 “(4) past coordination with local emergency re-
9 sponse systems by the eligible entity; and

10 “(5) expected measurable benefits in health ex-
11 penditures, injury, and loss of life to the community
12 served by the eligible entity relative to costs of the
13 activities proposed to be undertaken with grant
14 amounts by the eligible entity.

15 “(d) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts from grants pro-
16 vided under this section may be used—

17 “(1) to temporarily expand emergency shelter
18 capacity, including seasonal warming and cooling
19 centers;

20 “(2) to finance vouchers for non-congregate
21 shelter at hotels, motels, and comparable facilities;

22 “(3) to finance shelter staffing, shelter security
23 personnel, overtime compensation, sanitation, utili-
24 ties, and necessary transportation involved in severe
25 weather response;

1 “(4) to purchase emergency supplies and equip-
2 ment, including water, heating and cooling equip-
3 ment, generators, air filtration, and emergency med-
4 ical support; and

5 “(5) such other uses as determined appropriate
6 by the Secretary.

7 “(e) APPLICATION OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Any
8 recipient of amounts under this section shall be required
9 to comply with all requirements established under this
10 subtitle, or any rule issued under this subtitle, that apply
11 to recipients to recipients of grants under this subtitle.

12 “(f) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
13 United States shall, not later than 5 years after the date
14 of the enactment of this section, submit a report to Con-
15 gress that evaluates the effectiveness of the grants pro-
16 vided under this section and shall include information
17 about—

18 “(1) people served by emergency shelters fund-
19 ed using amounts provided under this section;

20 “(2) barriers to implementation of the grant
21 program established under this section; and

22 “(3) services used by people requiring emer-
23 gency homeless shelter and related services during
24 periods of severe weather during which amounts pro-
25 vided under this section are utilized.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
2 dition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized
3 to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for each of fiscal years
4 2027 through 2029 for the purpose of offering supple-
5 mental Emergency Solutions Grants addressing severe
6 weather emergencies.

7 “(h) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
8 the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

- 9 “(1) a State;
10 “(2) a unit of general local government;
11 “(3) a nonprofit organization;
12 “(4) a public housing agency;
13 “(5) or any combination of the types of entities
14 listed in paragraphs (1) through (6).”.

○