

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6368

To establish a Housing Assistance Fund.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2020

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a Housing Assistance Fund.

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 “State Housing Relief
5 Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Treasury.

10 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means any
11 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
12 any territory of the United States, Puerto Rico,

1 Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the
2 Northern Mariana Islands.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is estab-
4 lished at the Department of the Treasury a Housing As-
5 sistance Fund to provide such funds as are allocated in
6 subsection (f) to State housing finance agencies for the
7 purpose of preventing homeowner mortgage defaults, fore-
8 closures, and displacements of individuals and families ex-
9 periencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020.

10 (c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
12 ury shall establish such criteria as are necessary to
13 allocate the funds available within the Housing As-
14 sistance Fund to each State. The Secretary shall al-
15 locate such funds among all States taking into con-
16 sideration the number of unemployment claims with-
17 in a State relative to the nationwide number of un-
18 employment claims.

19 (2) SMALL STATE MINIMUM.—Each State shall
20 receive no less than \$125,000,000 for the purposes
21 established in subsection (b).

22 (d) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—

23 (1) INITIAL DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
24 shall disburse to the State housing finance agencies
25 not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount made available pur-

1 suant to this section, and in accordance with the al-
2 locations established under subsection (c), not later
3 than 120 days after the date of enactment of this
4 Act. The Secretary or designee shall enter into a
5 contract with each State housing finance agency,
6 which may be amended from time to time, estab-
7 lishing the terms of the use of such funds prior to
8 the disbursement of such funds.

9 (2) SECOND DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
10 shall disburse all funds made available pursuant to
11 this section, and in accordance with the allocations
12 established under subsection (c), not later than 180
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 (e) PERMISSIBLE USES OF FUND.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to
16 State housing finance agencies pursuant to this sec-
17 tion may be used for the purposes established under
18 subsection (b), which may include—

19 (A) mortgage payment assistance;

20 (B) financial assistance to allow a bor-
21 rower to reinstate their mortgage following a
22 period of forbearance;

23 (C) principal reduction;

24 (D) utility payment assistance, including
25 electric, gas, and water payment assistance;

1 (E) any program established under the
2 Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund for
3 the Hardest Hit Housing Markets;

4 (F) reimbursement of funds expended by a
5 State or local government during the period be-
6 ginning on January 21, 2020, and ending on
7 the date that the first funds are disbursed by
8 the State under the Housing Assistance Fund,
9 for the purpose of providing housing or utility
10 assistance to individuals or otherwise providing
11 funds to prevent foreclosure or eviction of a
12 homeowner or prevent mortgage delinquency or
13 loss of housing or critical utilities as a response
14 to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19)
15 pandemic; and

16 (G) any other assistance to prevent evic-
17 tion, mortgage delinquency or default, fore-
18 closure, or the loss of essential utility services.

19 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not greater
20 than 10 percent of the amount allocated to a State
21 pursuant to subsection (c) may be used by a State
22 housing financing agency for administrative ex-
23 penses. Any amounts allocated to administrative ex-
24 penses that are no longer necessary for administra-

1 tive expenses may be used in accordance with para-
2 graph (1).

3 (f) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated, out of
4 amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for
5 the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, to remain
6 available until expended or transferred or credited under
7 subsection (h), \$35,000,000,000 to the Housing Assist-
8 ance Fund established under subsection (b).

9 (g) USE OF HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY INNOVATION
10 FUND FOR THE HARDEST HIT HOUSING MARKETS
11 FUNDS.—A State housing finance agency may reallocate
12 any administrative or programmatic funds it has received
13 as an allocation from the Housing Finance Agency Inno-
14 vation Fund for the Hardest Hit Housing Markets created
15 pursuant to section 101(a) of the Emergency Economic
16 Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5211(a)) that have
17 not been otherwise allocated or disbursed as of the date
18 of enactment of this Act to supplement any administrative
19 or programmatic funds received from the Housing Assist-
20 ance Fund. Such reallocated funds shall not be considered
21 when allocating resources from the Housing Assistance
22 Fund using the process established under subsection (c)
23 and shall remain available for the uses permitted and
24 under the terms and conditions established by the contract

1 with Secretary created pursuant to subsection (d)(1) and
2 the terms of subsection (h).

3 (h) RESCISSION OF FUNDS.—Any funds that have
4 not been allocated by a State housing finance agency to
5 provide assistance as described under subsection (e) by
6 December 31, 2030, shall be reallocated by the Secretary
7 in the following manner:

8 (1) Sixty-five percent shall be transferred or
9 credited to the Housing Trust Fund established
10 under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enter-
11 prises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992
12 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

13 (2) Thirty-five percent shall be transferred or
14 credited to the Capital Magnet Fund under section
15 1339 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial
16 Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C.
17 4569).

18 (i) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
19 shall provide public reports not less frequently than quar-
20 terly regarding the use of funds provided by the Housing
21 Assistance Funds. Such reports shall include the following
22 data by State and by program within each State, both for
23 the past quarter and throughout the life of the program—

24 (1) the amount of funds allocated;

25 (2) the amount of funds disbursed;

- 1 (3) the number of households and individuals
- 2 assisted;
- 3 (4) the acceptance rate of applicants;
- 4 (5) the average amount of assistance provided
- 5 per household receiving assistance;
- 6 (6) the average length of assistance provided
- 7 per household receiving assistance;
- 8 (7) the income ranges of households for each
- 9 household receiving assistance; and
- 10 (8) the outcome 12 months after the household
- 11 has received assistance.

○