

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish, in the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Destination Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board and to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible arrivals in destination States and localities to promote their self-sufficiency, reduce costs of extended emergency service provision, maximize benefit to new arrivals and host communities, provide diversion from homelessness, and promote the effective navigation and compliance of the immigration process.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish, in the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Destination Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board and to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible arrivals in destination States and localities to promote their self-sufficiency, reduce costs of extended emergency service provision, maximize benefit to new arrivals and host communities, provide diversion from homelessness, and promote the effective navigation and compliance of the immigration process.

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 “Destination Reception  
5 Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF DESTINATION RECEPTION**  
7 **SERVICES PROGRAM.**

8       Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
9 (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing:

11       “(g) DESTINATION RECEPTION SERVICES PRO-  
12 GRAM.—

13               “(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the  
14 term ‘eligible arrival’ means an individual who—

15                       “(A) has been granted parole;

16                       “(B) have been placed in removal pro-  
17 ceedings; or

18                       “(C) has a pending application for asylum.

19               “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established,  
20 in the Office, the Destination Reception Services  
21 Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Pro-  
22 gram’), which shall carry out the provisions of this  
23 subsection under the direction of the New Arrival  
24 Services Board (referred to in this subsection as the  
25 ‘Board’). The Program shall coordinate with the Un-

1 accompanied Children Program and the Refugee  
2 Program to ensure that eligible arrivals receive all of  
3 the services for which they are eligible.

4 “(3) NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARD.—

5 “(A) APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 30  
6 days after the date of the enactment of the  
7 Destination Reception Assistance Act, the Di-  
8 rector, who shall act as chairperson of the  
9 Board, shall appoint 8 additional members to  
10 the Board who represent nongovernmental or-  
11 ganizations with experience providing, evalu-  
12 ating, and offering technical assistance on eligi-  
13 ble services provided through the Program, in-  
14 cluding organizations representing individuals  
15 with lived experience of forced migration.

16 “(B) FUNCTIONS.—The Board shall—

17 “(i) identify communities in which  
18 concentrations of eligible arrivals in need  
19 of assistance reside; and

20 “(ii) recommend the amount of fund-  
21 ing to be allocated to such communities in  
22 accordance with formulas, policies, proce-  
23 dures, and guidelines established by the  
24 Office.

1           “(C) CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUND-  
2           ING.—In determining the allocation of Federal  
3           funding to communities under this subsection,  
4           the Board shall prioritize funding for commu-  
5           nities with—

6                   “(i) a higher ratio of eligible arrivals  
7                   compared to other communities;

8                   “(ii) higher housing and transpor-  
9                   tation costs; or

10                   “(iii) the most significant medium-  
11                   term reception needs (in per capita or ab-  
12                   solute terms) in which the level of direct  
13                   services provided by nonprofit, faith-based,  
14                   or governmental organizations to families  
15                   and individuals released by the Depart-  
16                   ment of Homeland Security is most acute.

17           “(4) PROGRAM STRUCTURE.—

18                   “(A) FRAMEWORK.—The framework of the  
19                   Program shall be similar to the framework of  
20                   the Emergency Food and Shelter Program of  
21                   the Federal Emergency Management Agency to  
22                   facilitate the timely delivery of Federal funding  
23                   in support of eligible arrivals.

24                   “(B) DISTINCTION FROM ALTERNATIVES  
25                   TO DETENTION.—The Program is not an alter-

1 natives to detention program. Prior participa-  
2 tion in an alternatives to detention program is  
3 not an eligibility requirement for eligible arriv-  
4 als to receive Program services, nor is partici-  
5 pating in monitoring or surveillance practices a  
6 condition while receiving Program services.

7 “(C) RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS.—The  
8 Program shall provide funding to local govern-  
9 ment entities and private nonprofit organiza-  
10 tions to provide medium-term services to eligi-  
11 ble arrivals who have been processed and re-  
12 leased into the United States by the Depart-  
13 ment of Homeland Security, including—

14 “(i) housing transition, rental, and  
15 utility assistance programs;

16 “(ii) medical and mental health care  
17 or insurance for such care;

18 “(iii) child care, child care assistance  
19 programs, and out-of-school programming;

20 “(iv) workforce development, job  
21 training, English language training, paid  
22 apprenticeships, work study, and loan pro-  
23 grams;

24 “(v) local public transportation sup-  
25 port;

1 “(vi) interpretation and translation  
2 services;

3 “(vii) legal services, particularly serv-  
4 ices supporting applications for work au-  
5 thorization, asylum, and other types of hu-  
6 manitarian relief;

7 “(viii) programs, including case man-  
8 agement and social work services, to pro-  
9 vide support to individuals accessing and  
10 navigating available assistance and serv-  
11 ices;

12 “(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation  
13 service; and

14 “(x) other eligible services, as deter-  
15 mined by the Director.

16 “(5) LOCAL NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARDS.—

17 “(A) COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION.—The  
18 Board shall identify, in accordance with criteria  
19 to be established by the Board, communities  
20 throughout the United States where eligible ar-  
21 rivals are residing.

22 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT; DESIGNATION.—  
23 Each community designated pursuant to sub-  
24 paragraph (A) desiring a grant under para-  
25 graph (7) shall—

1                   “(i) establish a local new arrival serv-  
2                   ices board (referred to in this paragraph as  
3                   a ‘local board’); or

4                   “(ii) at the discretion of the Board,  
5                   appoint an existing substantially similar  
6                   board to carry out the functions of a local  
7                   board.

8                   “(C) MEMBERSHIP.—Each local board  
9                   shall consist of—

10                   “(i) the head of a unit of local govern-  
11                   ment within such community, or of a rel-  
12                   evant department of such local govern-  
13                   ment;

14                   “(ii) to the extent practicable, rep-  
15                   resentatives of the organizations that are  
16                   represented on the Board;

17                   “(iii) representatives of other local,  
18                   private nonprofit organizations, as appro-  
19                   priate;

20                   “(iv) representatives of ethnic and  
21                   community-based organizations; and

22                   “(v) an asylum seeker or parolee  
23                   being served by the Program.

1           “(D) CHAIRPERSON.—Each local board es-  
2           tablished pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall  
3           elect a chairperson from among its members.

4           “(E) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each local  
5           board established pursuant to subparagraph  
6           (B) shall—

7                   “(i) determine which local government  
8                   entities or private nonprofit organizations  
9                   are eligible to receive grants to provide the  
10                  services referred to in paragraph (4)(C);

11                   “(ii) allocate available Federal fund-  
12                  ing among the entities and organizations  
13                  referred to in clause (i);

14                   “(iii) monitor recipient service pro-  
15                  viders for Program compliance;

16                   “(iv) reallocate Federal funding  
17                  among service providers whenever a par-  
18                  ticular service provider fails to substan-  
19                  tially comply with Program requirements;

20                   “(v) ensure proper reporting to the  
21                  Board; and

22                   “(vi) coordinate with other Federal,  
23                  State, and local government assistance pro-  
24                  grams available in the community.

25           “(6) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.—



1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in con-  
2           sultation with the Board, shall annually estab-  
3           lish guidelines specifying which services for eli-  
4           gible arrivals may be funded under the Pro-  
5           gram, which may include—

6                   “(i) noncustodial housing services, in-  
7                   cluding rental and utility assistance;

8                   “(ii) cultural orientation training;

9                   “(iii) culturally competent interpreta-  
10                  tion and translation services;

11                  “(iv) workforce development services,  
12                  including education, employment, and  
13                  training services, work study, loan pro-  
14                  grams, and childcare support;

15                  “(v) immigration-related legal serv-  
16                  ices, including preparation and practice;

17                  “(vi) referral and case management  
18                  services;

19                  “(vii) medical and mental health serv-  
20                  ices or insurance for such services;

21                  “(viii) local public transportation sup-  
22                  port;

23                  “(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation  
24                  services; and

1                   “(x) other eligible services, as deter-  
2                   mined by the Director.

3                   “(B) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall  
4                   annually publish the guidelines established pur-  
5                   suant to subparagraph (A) in the Federal Reg-  
6                   ister before the first day of the fiscal year dur-  
7                   ing which they will take effect.

8                   “(7) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

9                   “(A) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Direc-  
10                  tor, working through the Board, may award  
11                  competitive grants to communities identified  
12                  pursuant to paragraph (5)(A) which have estab-  
13                  lished a local new arrival services board to pro-  
14                  vide services to eligible arrivals who are residing  
15                  in such communities. The allocation of available  
16                  Federal funding among such communities shall  
17                  be based on a formula developed by the Office.  
18                  Grant funds allocated to a community pursuant  
19                  to this subparagraph shall be disbursed to gov-  
20                  ernment human services agencies and local non-  
21                  profit organizations that have successfully pro-  
22                  vided human and social services in accordance  
23                  with Federal, State, and local requirements, as  
24                  applicable.

1           “(B) FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS.—A por-  
2           tion of the Federal funding made available to  
3           carry out this subsection shall be reserved for  
4           Federal block grants to communities. Commu-  
5           nities receiving funding under this subpara-  
6           graph shall match every \$1 of Federal funding  
7           with \$1 of non-Federal funding.

8           “(C) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The primary  
9           purpose of the grants awarded pursuant to sub-  
10          paragraph (A) or (B) shall be to increase the  
11          capacity of grant recipients to provide medium-  
12          term services and other service navigation as-  
13          sistance to new arrivals to attain self-suffi-  
14          ciency.

15          “(D) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is el-  
16          igible to receive a grant under this subsection  
17          if the entity is—

18                 “(i) a local government, an Indian  
19                 Tribe, or a nonprofit organization (as such  
20                 terms are defined in section 200.1 of title  
21                 2, Code of Federal Regulations);

22                 “(ii) a State of the United States, the  
23                 District of Columbia, or the Common-  
24                 wealth of Puerto Rico;

1                   “(iii) any agency or instrumentality of  
2                   a governmental entity listed in clause (ii)  
3                   (excluding local governments); or

4                   “(iv) physically located in a State, the  
5                   District of Columbia, or a territory of the  
6                   United States.

7                   “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—  
8                   When issuing guidelines to carry out this subsection,  
9                   including setting eligibility requirements and making  
10                  program changes, the Director shall not be subject  
11                  to the procedural rulemaking requirements set forth  
12                  in subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title  
13                  5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Ad-  
14                  ministrative Procedures Act’).

15                  “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
16                  There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of  
17                  the fiscal years 2025 through 2028, \$3,000,000,000  
18                  to carry out the Program established by this sub-  
19                  section.”.