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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a competitive grant program supporting affordable housing
planning and implementation activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TLAIB introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program supporting afford-
able housing planning and implementation activities, 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 “Housing Our Commu-
5 nities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION AS-**
2 **SOCIATED WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and
4 Urban Development shall, not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, establish a program to
6 award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to
7 assist planning and implementation activities associated
8 with affordable housing.

9 (b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

10 (1) BY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES.—If an
11 eligible entity that receives amounts under this Act
12 is a regional planning agency or consortia of re-
13 gional planning agencies, such eligible entity shall
14 use such amounts to assist planning activities with
15 respect to affordable housing, including—

16 (A) the development of housing plans;

17 (B) the substantial improvement of State
18 or local housing strategies;

19 (C) the development of new regulatory re-
20 quirements and processes;

21 (D) updating zoning codes;

22 (E) increasing the capacity to conduct
23 housing inspections;

24 (F) increasing the capacity to reduce bar-
25 riers to housing supply elasticity and housing
26 affordability;

1 (G) the development of local or regional
2 plans for community development; and

3 (H) the substantial improvement of com-
4 munity development strategies, including strate-
5 gies designed to—

6 (i) increase the availability of afford-
7 able housing and access to affordable hous-
8 ing;

9 (ii) increase access to public transpor-
10 tation; and

11 (iii) advance sustainable or location-
12 efficient community development goals.

13 (2) BY STATES, INSULAR AREAS, METROPOLI-
14 TAN CITIES, AND URBAN COUNTIES.—If an eligible
15 entity that receives amounts under this Act is a
16 State, insular area, metropolitan city, or urban
17 county, such eligible entity shall use such amounts
18 to—

19 (A) implement and administer housing
20 strategies and housing plans;

21 (B) implement and administer any plans to
22 increase housing choice, address disparities in
23 housing needs, and provide greater access to
24 opportunity;

1 (C) fund any community investments that
2 support goals identified in a housing strategy or
3 housing plan;

4 (D) implement and administer regulatory
5 requirements and processes with respect to re-
6 formed zoning codes;

7 (E) increase the capacity to conduct hous-
8 ing inspections;

9 (F) increase the capacity to reduce bar-
10 riers to housing supply elasticity and housing
11 affordability;

12 (G) implement and administer local or re-
13 gional plans for community development; and

14 (H) fund any planning to increase—

15 (i) the availability of affordable hous-
16 ing and access to affordable housing;

17 (ii) access to public transportation;

18 and

19 (iii) any location-efficient community
20 development goals.

21 (3) USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A eligi-
22 ble entity that receives amounts under this Act may
23 not use more than 10-percent of such amounts for
24 administrative costs.

1 (c) COORDINATION.—To the extent practicable, the
2 Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Transit Ad-
3 ministrator in carrying out this Act.

4 (d) ADDITIONAL USES OF AMOUNTS.—

5 (1) HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.—Expenditures
6 on new construction of housing shall be an eligible
7 expense under this Act.

8 (2) BUILDINGS FOR GENERAL CONDUCT OF
9 GOVERNMENT.—Expenditures on building for the
10 general conduct of government, other than the Fed-
11 eral Government, shall be eligible under this Act
12 when necessary and appropriate as a part of a nat-
13 ural hazard mitigation project.

14 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means—

17 (A) a State, insular area, metropolitan
18 city, or urban county, as such terms are defined
19 in section 102 of the Housing and Community
20 Development Act of 1974; or

21 (B) a regional planning agencies or con-
22 sortia of regional planning agencies.

23 (2) HOUSING PLAN.—The term “housing plan”
24 means a plan to, with respect to an area within the
25 jurisdiction of an eligible entity—

1 (A) increase the amount of available hous-
2 ing to meet the demand for such housing and
3 any projected increase in the demand for such
4 housing;

5 (B) increase the affordability of housing;

6 (C) increase the accessibility of housing for
7 people with disabilities, including location-effi-
8 cient housing;

9 (D) preserve or improve the quality of
10 housing;

11 (E) reduce barriers to housing develop-
12 ment; and

13 (F) coordinate with transportation-related
14 agencies.

15 (3) HOUSING STRATEGY.—The term “housing
16 strategy” means a housing strategy required under
17 section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Af-
18 fordable Housing Act.