

“(4) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Commission.

“(5) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

“(6) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this section.

“(7) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may contract with and compensate Government and private agencies or persons for services, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes [former] 41 U.S.C. 5 [see 41 U.S.C. 6101].

“(f) REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services [now Committee on Financial Services] and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate, a final report not later than December 31, 2001. The report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission with respect to the study conducted under subsection (b), together with its recommendations for legislation, administrative actions, and any other actions the Commission considers appropriate.

“(g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on June 30, 2002. Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.; relating to the termination of advisory committees) shall not apply to the Commission.”

§ 12702. Objective of national housing policy

The objective of national housing policy shall be to reaffirm the long-established national commitment to decent, safe, and sanitary housing for every American by strengthening a nationwide partnership of public and private institutions able—

- (1) to ensure that every resident of the United States has access to decent shelter or assistance in avoiding homelessness;
- (2) to increase the Nation's supply of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income families and accessible to job opportunities;
- (3) to improve housing opportunities for all residents of the United States, particularly members of disadvantaged minorities, on a nondiscriminatory basis;
- (4) to help make neighborhoods safe and livable;
- (5) to expand opportunities for homeownership;
- (6) to provide every American community with a reliable, readily available supply of mortgage finance at the lowest possible interest rates; and
- (7) to encourage tenant empowerment and reduce generational poverty in federally assisted and public housing by improving the means by which self-sufficiency may be achieved.

(Pub. L. 101-625, title I, §102, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4085.)

§ 12703. Purposes of Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to help families not owning a home to save for a down payment for the purchase of a home;
- (2) to retain wherever feasible as housing affordable to low-income families those dwelling units produced for such purpose with Federal assistance;
- (3) to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations, in the production and operation of housing affordable to low-income and moderate-income families;
- (4) to expand and improve Federal rental assistance for very low-income families; and
- (5) to increase the supply of supportive housing, which combines structural features and services needed to enable persons with special needs to live with dignity and independence.

(Pub. L. 101-625, title I, §103, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4085.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 101-625, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4079, known as the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 12701 of this title and Tables.

§ 12704. Definitions

As used in this subchapter and in subchapter II of this chapter:

(1) The term “unit of general local government” means a city, town, township, county, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State; the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, the Marshall Islands, or a general purpose political subdivision thereof; a consortium of such political subdivisions recognized by the Secretary in accordance with section 12746(2) of this title; and any agency or instrumentality thereof that is established pursuant to legislation and designated by the chief executive to act on behalf of the jurisdiction with regard to provisions of this Act.

(2) The term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any agency or instrumentality thereof that is established pursuant to legislation and designated by the chief executive officer to act on behalf of the State with regard to the provisions of this Act.

(3) The term “jurisdiction” means a State or unit of general local government.

(4) The term “participating jurisdiction” means any State or unit of general local government that has been so designated in accordance with section 12746 of this title.

(5) The term “nonprofit organization” means any private, nonprofit organization (including a State or locally chartered, nonprofit organization) that—

- (A) is organized under State or local laws,
- (B) has no part of its net earnings inuring to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual,

(C) complies with standards of financial accountability acceptable to the Secretary, and

(D) has among its purposes significant activities related to the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons.

(6) The term “community housing development organization” means a nonprofit organization as defined in paragraph (5), that—

(A) has among its purposes the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons;

(B) maintains, through significant representation on the organization’s governing board and otherwise, accountability to low-income community residents and, to the extent practicable, low-income beneficiaries with regard to decisions on the design, siting, development, and management of affordable housing;

(C) has a demonstrated capacity for carrying out activities assisted under this Act; and

(D) has a history of serving the local community or communities within which housing to be assisted under this Act is to be located.

In the case of an organization serving more than one county, the Secretary may not require that such organization, to be considered a community housing development organization for purposes of this Act, include as members on the organization’s governing board low-income persons residing in each county served.

(7) The term “government-sponsored mortgage finance corporations” means the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

(8) The term “housing” includes manufactured housing and manufactured housing lots and elder cottage housing opportunity units that are small, free-standing, barrier-free, energy-efficient, removable, and designed to be installed adjacent to existing 1- to 4-family dwellings.

(9) The term “very low-income families” means low-income families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median family income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 percent of the median for the area on the basis of the Secretary’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

(10) The term “low-income families” means families whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 percent of the median for the area on the basis of the Secretary’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs

or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

(11) The term “families” has the same meaning given that term by section 1437a of this title.

(12) The term “security” has the same meaning as in section 77b of title 15.

(13) The term “displaced homemaker” means an individual who—

(A) is an adult;

(B) has not worked full-time full-year in the labor force for a number of years but has, during such years, worked primarily without remuneration to care for the home and family; and

(C) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

(14) The term “first-time homebuyer” means an individual and his or her spouse who have not owned a home during the 3-year period prior to purchase of a home with assistance under subchapter II of this chapter, except that—

(A) any individual who is a displaced homemaker may not be excluded from consideration as a first-time homebuyer under this paragraph on the basis that the individual, while a homemaker, owned a home with his or her spouse or resided in a home owned by the spouse;

(B) any individual who is a single parent may not be excluded from consideration as a first-time homebuyer under this paragraph on the basis that the individual, while married, owned a home with his or her spouse or resided in a home owned by the spouse; and

(C) an individual shall not be excluded from consideration as a first-time homebuyer under this paragraph on the basis that the individual owns or owned, as a principal residence during such 3-year period, a dwelling unit whose structure is—

(i) not permanently affixed to a permanent foundation in accordance with local or other applicable regulations, or

(ii) not in compliance with State, local, or model building codes, or other applicable codes, and cannot be brought into compliance with such codes for less than the cost of constructing a permanent structure.

(15) The term “single parent” means an individual who—

(A) is unmarried or legally separated from a spouse; and

(B)(i) has 1 or more minor children for whom the individual has custody or joint custody; or

(ii) is pregnant.

(16) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, unless otherwise specified in this Act.

(17) The term “substantial rehabilitation” means the rehabilitation of residential property at an average cost in excess of \$25,000 per dwelling unit.

(18) The term “public housing agency” has the meaning given the term in section 1437a(b) of this title.

(19) The term “metropolitan city” has the meaning given the term in section 5302(a)(4) of this title.

(20) The term “urban county” has the meaning given the term in section 5302(a)(6) of this title.

(21) The term “certification” means a written assertion, based on supporting evidence, which shall be kept available for inspection by the Secretary, the Inspector General and the public, which assertion shall be deemed to be accurate for purposes of this Act, unless the Secretary determines otherwise after inspecting the evidence and providing due notice and opportunity for comment.

(23)¹ The term “to demonstrate to the Secretary” means to submit to the Secretary a written assertion together with supporting evidence that, in the determination of the Secretary, supports the accuracy of the assertion.

(24)² The term “insular area” means any of the following: Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

(24)² The term “energy efficient mortgage” means a mortgage that provides financing incentives for the purchase of energy efficient homes, or that provides financing incentives to make energy efficiency improvements in existing homes by incorporating the cost of such improvements in the mortgage.

(25) The term “energy efficient mortgage” means a mortgage that provides financing incentives for the purchase of energy efficient homes, or that provides financing incentives to make energy efficiency improvements in existing homes by incorporating the cost of such improvements in the mortgage.

(Pub. L. 101-625, title I, §104, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4085; Pub. L. 102-229, title I, Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1709; Pub. L. 101-230, §2, Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1720; Pub. L. 102-486, title I, §105(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2792; Pub. L. 102-550, title II, §§211(a)(1), 217(a), 218, 219, title IX, §914(a), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3756, 3760, 3761, 3877; Pub. L. 103-233, title II, §201, Apr. 11, 1994, 108 Stat. 363.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in pars. (1), (2), (6), (16), and (21), is Pub. L. 101-625, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4079, as amended, known as the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 12701 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Par. (2). Pub. L. 103-233 struck out “and” after “Columbia,” and inserted before period at end “, or any agency or instrumentality thereof that is established pursuant to legislation and designated by the chief executive officer to act on behalf of the State with regard to the provisions of this Act”.

1992—Par. (1). Pub. L. 102-550, §211(a)(1), amended this section to read as if amendment made by Pub. L. 102-230, §2(1), had not been enacted. See 1991 Amendment note below.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 102-550, §217(a), inserted concluding provisions.

Par. (8). Pub. L. 102-550, §218, inserted before period at end “and elder cottage housing opportunity units that

are small, free-standing, barrier-free, energy-efficient, removable, and designed to be installed adjacent to existing 1- to 4-family dwellings”.

Par. (14)(C). Pub. L. 102-550, §219, added subpar. (C).

Par. (24). Pub. L. 102-550, §211(a)(1), amended this section to read as if amendment made by Pub. L. 102-230, §2(2), had not been enacted. See 1991 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 102-486 added par. (24) defining “energy efficient mortgage”.

Par. (25). Pub. L. 102-550, §914(a), added par. (25).

1991—Par. (1). Pub. L. 102-230, §2(1), directed the substitution of “the insular areas” for “Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, the Marshall Islands”. See 1992 Amendment note above.

Pub. L. 102-229 struck out “Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa,” after “of a State;”.

Par. (24). Pub. L. 102-230, §2(2), directed the addition of a par. (24) to read as follows: “(24) The term ‘insular areas’ means Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.” See 1992 Amendment note above.

Pub. L. 102-229 added par. (24) defining “insular area”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-233 applicable with respect to any amounts made available to carry out subchapter II (§12721 et seq.) of this chapter after Apr. 11, 1994, and any amounts made available to carry out that subchapter before that date that remain uncommitted on that date, with Secretary to issue any regulations necessary to carry out such amendment not later than end of 45-day period beginning on that date, see section 209 of Pub. L. 103-233, set out as a note under section 5301 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Section 211(b) of Pub. L. 102-550 provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section and section 12747 of this title] shall apply with respect to fiscal year 1993 and thereafter.”

Section 223 of title II of Pub. L. 102-550 provided that: “The amendments made by this title [enacting section 12810 of this title and amending this section and sections 12705, 12724, 12742, 12745 to 12748, 12750, 12771, 12773, 12774, 12782, and 12784 of this title] shall apply to unexpended funds allocated under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.] in fiscal year 1992, except as otherwise specifically provided.”

REGULATIONS

Section 222 of title II of Pub. L. 102-550 provided that: “The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue any final regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this title [enacting section 12810 of this title, amending this section and sections 12705, 12724, 12742, 12745 to 12748, 12750, 12771, 12773, 12774, 12782, and 12784 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 12746, 12747, and 12750 of this title] and the amendments made by this title not later than the expiration of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 1992], except as expressly provided otherwise in this title and the amendments made by this title. Such regulations shall be issued after notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code (notwithstanding subsections (a)(2), (b)(B), and (d)(3) of such section).”

TRANSITION RULE

Section 217(b) of Pub. L. 102-550 provided that: “For the purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of section 104(6) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [42 U.S.C. 12704(6)], the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may provide an exception for organizations that meet the

¹ So in original. Probably should be “(22)”.

² So in original. Two pars. (24) have been enacted.

definition of community housing development organization, except for significant representation of low-income community residents on the board, if such organization fulfills such requirement within 6 months of receiving funds under title II of such Act [42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.] or September 30, 1993, whichever is sooner.’’

§ 12705. State and local housing strategies

(a) In general

The Secretary shall provide assistance directly to a jurisdiction only if—

- (1) the jurisdiction submits to the Secretary a comprehensive housing affordability strategy (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘‘housing strategy’’);
- (2) the jurisdiction submits annual updates of the housing strategy; and
- (3) the housing strategy, and any annual update of such strategy, is approved by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall establish such dates and manner for the submission and approval of housing strategies under this section that the Secretary determines will facilitate orderly program management by jurisdictions and provide for timely investment or other use of funds made available under subchapter II of this chapter and other programs requiring submission of a housing strategy. If the Secretary finds there is good cause, the Secretary may provide reasonable extensions of any deadlines for submission of a jurisdiction’s housing strategy.

(b) Contents

A housing strategy submitted under this section shall be in a form that the Secretary determines to be appropriate for the assistance the jurisdiction may be provided and shall—

- (1) describe the jurisdiction’s estimated housing needs projected for the ensuing 5-year period, and the jurisdiction’s need for assistance for very low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, specifying such needs for different types of tenure and for different categories of residents, such as very low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, the elderly, persons with disabilities, single persons, large families, residents of non-metropolitan areas, families who are participating in an organized program to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and other categories of persons residing in or expected to reside in the jurisdiction that the Secretary determines to be appropriate;
- (2) describe the nature and extent of homelessness, including rural homelessness, within the jurisdiction, providing an estimate of the special needs of various categories of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, including tabular representation of such information, and a description of the jurisdiction’s strategy for (A) helping low-income families avoid becoming homeless; (B) addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons (including a brief inventory of facilities and services that meet such needs within that jurisdiction); and (C) helping homeless persons make

the transition to permanent housing and independent living;

(3) describe the significant characteristics of the jurisdiction’s housing market, indicating how those characteristics will influence the use of funds made available for rental assistance, production of new units, rehabilitation of old units, or acquisition of existing units;

(4) explain whether the cost of housing or the incentives to develop, maintain, or improve affordable housing in the jurisdiction are affected by public policies, particularly by policies of the jurisdiction, including tax policies affecting land and other property, land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limits, and policies that affect the return on residential investment, and describe the jurisdiction’s strategy to remove or ameliorate negative effects, if any, of such policies, except that, if a State requires a unit of general local government to submit a regulatory barrier assessment that is substantially equivalent to the information required under this paragraph, as determined by the Secretary, the unit of general local government may submit its assessment submitted to the State to the Secretary and shall be considered to have complied with this paragraph;

(5) explain the institutional structure, including private industry, nonprofit organizations, and public institutions, through which the jurisdiction will carry out its housing strategy, assessing the strengths and gaps in that delivery system and describing what the jurisdiction will do to overcome those gaps;

(6) indicate resources from private and non-Federal public sources that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the purposes of this Act, explaining how funds made available will leverage those additional resources and identifying, where the jurisdiction deems it appropriate, publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be utilized to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(7) set forth the jurisdiction’s plan for investment or other use of housing funds made available under subchapter II of this chapter, the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.], the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.], during the ensuing year or such longer period as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, indicating the general priorities for allocating investment geographically within the jurisdiction and among different activities and housing needs;

(8) describe how the jurisdiction’s plan will address the housing needs identified pursuant to subparagraphs¹ (1) and (2), describe the reasons for allocation priorities, and identify any obstacles to addressing underserved needs;

(9) describe the means of cooperation and coordination among the State and any units of general local government in the development, submission, and implementation of their housing strategies;

¹ So in original. Probably should be ‘‘paragraphs’’.