

**HR 5735 The Transitional Housing for Recovery in Viable Environments
Demonstration Program (THRIVE) Act**
Sponsored by Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)

- Creates a 5-year demonstration program in which Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers are assigned to eligible non-profit organizations that meet certain standards specific to addressing substance abuse and housing:
 - Must be a not-for-profit organization
 - Must provide temporary housing paired with a rehabilitation and job training program that lasts between 12 to 24 months
 - Must treat individuals that are recovering from opioid or other substance abuse addiction
 - Individuals that enter the program must have already completed a comprehensive rehabilitation program (in-patient, etc.). Transitional housing will serve as the next step to transition into individuals back into the workforce and maintain sobriety.

- The service/housing provider is required to develop an evidenced-based treatment program and is awarded vouchers based on certain metrics:
 - Program's success at helping participants to maintain sobriety
 - Participation in job skills training
 - Percentage of program participants that gain and maintain employment
 - Success rate of program graduates that do not relapse and become independent of government assistance

- The Section 8 Voucher stays with the service/housing provider for the duration of the eligible recipient. Upon graduation, the service/housing provider can transfer the voucher to a newly selected eligible recipient and follow the same protocol and treatment metrics.

- The demonstration program is authorized for no more than 5 years and includes a sunset provision for individuals to transition out of the program before the end of the demonstration.
 - Organizations must submit an interim progress report at the end of the second year and a final report at the end of the fourth year, with recommendations to HUD and Congress on what worked and what parts of the demonstration needs improvement.
 - At the conclusion of the program, Congress can decide to extend the demonstration or create an authorized program based on the report.

- The scope of the demonstration program includes:
 - National geographic diverse participation, with focus on regions of the country that have high rates of opioid related death.
 - Appropriate balance between rural and urban areas
 - Diverse group of non-profit service/housing providers to include faith-based, and community-oriented organizations.
 - Limited to 1% of housing choice vouchers. [There are approximately 2.2 million vouchers; 1% = 22,000 vouchers.]