

Public Law 108–146
108th Congress

An Act

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks.

Dec. 3, 2003
[H.R. 23]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Tornado Shelters
Act.
42 USC 5301
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tornado Shelters Act”.

SEC. 2. CDBG ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (22), by striking “and” at the end;
- (2) in paragraph (23), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (23) the following new paragraph:

“(24) the construction or improvement of tornado-safe shelters for residents of manufactured housing, and the provision of assistance (including loans and grants) to nonprofit and for-profit entities (including owners of manufactured housing parks) for such construction or improvement, except that—

“(A) a shelter assisted with amounts provided pursuant to this paragraph may be located only in a neighborhood (including a manufactured housing park) that—

“(i) contains not less than 20 manufactured housing units that are within such proximity to the shelter that the shelter is available to the residents of such units in the event of a tornado;

“(ii) consists predominantly of persons of low and moderate income; and

“(iii) is located within a State in which a tornado has occurred during the fiscal year for which the amounts to be used under this paragraph were made available or any of the 3 preceding fiscal years, as determined by the Secretary after consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(B) such a shelter shall comply with standards for construction and safety as the Secretary, after consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall provide to ensure protection from tornadoes;

“(C) such a shelter shall be of a size sufficient to accommodate, at a single time, all occupants of manufactured housing units located within the neighborhood in which the shelter is located; and

“(D) amounts may not be used for a shelter as provided under this paragraph unless there is located, within the neighborhood in which the shelter is located (or, in the case of a shelter located in a manufactured housing park, within 1,500 feet of such park), a warning siren that is operated in accordance with such local, regional, or national disaster warning programs or systems as the Secretary, after consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, considers appropriate to ensure adequate notice of occupants of manufactured housing located in such neighborhood or park of a tornado; and”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

In addition to any amounts otherwise made available for grants under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), there is authorized to be appropriated for assistance only for activities pursuant to section 105(a)(24) of such Act \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

Approved December 3, 2003.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 23:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 108-151 (Comm. on Financial Services).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 149 (2003):

July 21, considered and passed House.

Nov. 18, considered and passed Senate.