

any difficulties or issues in establishing the Center or completing the cooperative agreements described in subsection (b)(3)(K).

(Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, § 689b, Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1449.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 689b of Pub. L. 109-295. Subsec. (c) of section 689b of Pub. L. 109-295 amended section 5772 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

**§ 775. National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section—

(1) the term “displaced individual” means an individual displaced by an emergency or major disaster; and

(2) the term “National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System” means the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System established under subsection (b).

**(b) Establishment**

Not later than 180 days after October 4, 2006, the Administrator shall establish a National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System to help reunify families separated after an emergency or major disaster.

**(c) Operation of System**

The National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System shall—

(1) allow a displaced adult (including medical patients) to voluntarily register (and allow an adult that is the parent or guardian of a displaced child to register such child), by submitting personal information to be entered into a database (such as the name, current location of residence, and any other relevant information that could be used by others seeking to locate that individual);

(2) ensure that information submitted under paragraph (1) is accessible to those individuals named by a displaced individual and to those law enforcement officials;

(3) be accessible through the Internet and through a toll-free number, to receive reports of displaced individuals; and

(4) include a means of referring displaced children to the National Emergency Child Locator Center established under section 774 of this title.

**(d) Publication of information**

Not later than 210 days after October 4, 2006, the Administrator shall establish a mechanism to inform the public about the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System and its potential usefulness for assisting to reunite displaced individuals with their families.

**(e) Coordination**

Not later than 90 days after October 4, 2006, the Administrator shall enter a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Justice, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the American Red Cross and other relevant private organizations that will enhance the sharing of information to facilitate reuniting displaced individuals (including medical patients) with their families.

**(f) Report**

Not later than 270 days after October 4, 2006, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing in detail the status of the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System, including any difficulties or issues in establishing the System, including funding issues.

(Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, § 689c, Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1451.)

**§ 776. Individuals and households pilot program**

**(a) Pilot program**

**(1) In general**

The President, acting through the Administrator, in coordination with State, local, and tribal governments, shall establish and conduct a pilot program. The pilot program shall be designed to make better use of existing rental housing, located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration, in order to provide timely and cost-effective temporary housing assistance to individuals and households eligible for assistance under section 5174 of title 42 where alternative housing options are less available or less cost-effective.

**(2) Administration**

**(A) In general**

For the purposes of the pilot program under this section, the Administrator may—

(i) enter into lease agreements with owners of multi-family rental property located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration to house individuals and households eligible for assistance under section 5174 of title 42;

(ii) make improvements to properties under such lease agreements;

(iii) use the pilot program where the program is cost effective in that the cost to the Government for the lease agreements is in proportion to the savings to the Government by not providing alternative housing; and

(iv) limit repairs to those required to ensure that the housing units shall meet Federal housing quality standards.

**(B) Improvements to leased properties**

Under the terms of any lease agreement for a property described under subparagraph (A)(ii), the value of the contribution of the Agency to such improvements—

(i) shall be deducted from the value of the lease agreement; and

(ii) may not exceed the value of the lease agreement.

**(3) Consultation**

In administering the pilot program under this section, the Administrator may consult with State, local, and tribal governments.

**(4) Report**

**(A) In general**

Not later than March 31, 2009, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program.

**(B) Contents**

The Administrator shall include in the report—

- (i) an assessment of the effectiveness of the pilot program under this section, including an assessment of cost-savings to the Federal Government and any benefits to individuals and households eligible for assistance under section 5174 of title 42 under the pilot program;
- (ii) findings and conclusions of the Administrator with respect to the pilot program;
- (iii) an assessment of additional authorities needed to aid the Agency in its mission of providing disaster housing assistance to individuals and households eligible for assistance under section 5174 of title 42, either under the pilot program under this section or other potential housing programs; and
- (iv) any recommendations of the Administrator for additional authority to continue or make permanent the pilot program.

**(b) Pilot program project approval**

The Administrator shall not approve a project under the pilot program after December 31, 2008. (Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, § 689i, Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1454.)

**§ 777. Public assistance pilot program****(a) Pilot program****(1) In general**

The President, acting through the Administrator, and in coordination with State and local governments, shall establish and conduct a pilot program to—

- (A) reduce the costs to the Federal Government of providing assistance to States and local governments under sections 5170b(a)(3)(A), 5172, and 5173 of title 42;
- (B) increase flexibility in the administration of sections 5170b(a)(3)(A), 5172, and 5173 of title 42; and
- (C) expedite the provision of assistance to States and local governments provided under sections 5170b(a)(3)(A), 5172, and 5173 of title 42.

**(2) Participation**

Only States and local governments that elect to participate in the pilot program may participate in the pilot program for a particular project.

**(3) Innovative administration****(A) In general**

For purposes of the pilot program, the Administrator shall establish new procedures to administer assistance provided under the sections referred to in paragraph (1).

**(B) New procedures**

The new procedures established under subparagraph (A) may include 1 or more of the following:

- (i) Notwithstanding section 5172(c)(1)(A) of title 42, providing an option for a State

or local government to elect to receive an in-lieu contribution in an amount equal to 90 percent of the Federal share of the Federal estimate of the cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility owned or controlled by the State or local government and of management expenses.

(ii) Making grants on the basis of estimates agreed to by the local government (or where no local government is involved, by the State government) and the Administrator to provide financial incentives and disincentives for the local government (or where no local government is involved, for the State government) for the timely or cost effective completion of projects under sections 5170b(a)(3)(A), 5172, and 5173 of title 42.

(iii) Increasing the Federal share for removal of debris and wreckage for States and local governments that have a debris management plan approved by the Administrator and have pre-qualified 1 or more debris and wreckage removal contractors before the date of declaration of the major disaster.

(iv) Using a sliding scale for the Federal share for removal of debris and wreckage based on the time it takes to complete debris and wreckage removal.

(v) Using a financial incentive to recycle debris.

(vi) Reimbursing base wages for employees and extra hires of a State or local government involved in or administering debris and wreckage removal.

**(4) Waiver**

The Administrator may waive such regulations or rules applicable to the provisions of assistance under the sections referred to in paragraph (1) as the Administrator determines are necessary to carry out the pilot program under this section.

**(b) Report****(1) In general**

Not later than March 31, 2009, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program under this section.

**(2) Contents**

The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

- (A) an assessment by the Administrator of any administrative or financial benefits of the pilot program;
- (B) an assessment by the Administrator of the effect, including any savings in time and cost, of the pilot program;
- (C) any identified legal or other obstacles to increasing the amount of debris recycled after a major disaster;
- (D) any other findings and conclusions of the Administrator with respect to the pilot program; and
- (E) any recommendations of the Administrator for additional authority to continue or make permanent the pilot program.