

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities are prepared for disasters, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities are prepared for disasters, 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 “Real Emergency Ac-  
5 cess for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act”  
6 or the “REAADI for Disasters Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
9 ings:

1           (1) In the United States, according to the Cen-  
2           ters for Disease Control and Prevention, there are  
3           more than 61,000,000 adults who are individuals  
4           with disabilities and, according to the Bureau of the  
5           Census, there are more than 54,000,000 adults age  
6           65 or older.

7           (2) There have been more than 145 hurricanes,  
8           resulting in over 2,000 deaths, in the United States  
9           since 2000.

10          (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
11          ministration estimates that—

12                 (A) the cumulative damage from weather-  
13                 and climate-related disasters in 2022 cost the  
14                 United States over \$165,000,000,000; and

15                 (B) 18 of the disasters in 2022 cost over  
16                 \$1,000,000,000 each.

17          (4) Individuals with disabilities and older adults  
18          have been found to die at higher rates, compared to  
19          the general population, during disasters.

20          (5) According to the Federal Emergency Man-  
21          agement Agency, in 2022—

22                 (A) the United States experienced 90 de-  
23                 clared disasters affecting more than 54,000,000  
24                 people; and

1 (B) more than 16,000,000 of those people  
2 were adults who were individuals with disabili-  
3 ties.

4 (6) Failure to provide accessibility for, or plan  
5 for accommodating, individuals with physical or sen-  
6 sory disabilities, chronic illness, or mental disabilities  
7 decreases the ability of those individuals to evacuate  
8 prior to or during a disaster.

9 (7) Households of individuals with disabilities  
10 are more likely to need assistance and are less likely  
11 to be able to evacuate in advance of disasters.

12 (8) Less than a third of individuals with intel-  
13 lectual disabilities and individuals needing personal  
14 care attendants have planned with their personal  
15 care providers what to do in a disaster.

16 (9) Evacuation information, including orders, is  
17 not uniformly communicated in ways and via media  
18 that are accessible to individuals with disabilities, in-  
19 cluding being communicated in ways that lack use of  
20 American Sign Language, captions, and plain lan-  
21 guage on websites, instructional materials, and tele-  
22 vision and radio announcements.

23 (10) Displaced individuals with disabilities  
24 served in general population shelters have better ac-  
25 cess to information and material resources than indi-

1 individuals with disabilities in specially designed shel-  
2 ters.

3 (11) Despite better access to information and  
4 resources, personnel in general population shelters  
5 often do not have the resources or training to ad-  
6 dress the needs of individuals with disabilities and  
7 older adults.

8 (12) Public shelters often do not have dis-  
9 ability-related accommodations, often forcing individ-  
10 uals with disabilities and older adults to be seg-  
11 regated, sometimes apart from their families and  
12 natural supports during disasters.

13 (13) Households with individuals with disabil-  
14 ities sustain more costly property damage from dis-  
15 asters than households without individuals with dis-  
16 abilities.

17 (14) Historically, disaster-related recommenda-  
18 tions for individuals with disabilities and older  
19 adults have been typically aimed at caregivers and  
20 service providers, not individuals with disabilities  
21 and older adults themselves.

22 (15) Thousands of individuals with disabilities  
23 have been denied their civil rights because they do  
24 not receive accessible notice during disasters—

1 (A) of spoken instructions via phone or  
2 video; or

3 (B) of instructions regarding evacuations,  
4 sheltering, and other procedures during disas-  
5 ters.

6 (16) Disaster shelters and services do not rou-  
7 tinely have American Sign Language interpreters  
8 nor procedures written or presented in plain lan-  
9 guage.

10 (17) Individuals with disabilities and older  
11 adults are more at risk for loss of life, loss of inde-  
12 pendence, or violation of civil rights than the general  
13 population during times of disasters, response, and  
14 recovery.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
16 gress that—

17 (1) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
18 should be supported during times of disasters, and  
19 during disaster preparedness, response, recovery,  
20 and mitigation in order to—

21 (A) ensure maintenance of and access to  
22 services and supports; and

23 (B) enable those individuals and adults to  
24 return to their communities in a timely manner  
25 as compared with the general population;

1           (2) during the recovery and mitigation phases  
2 of disaster response, all buildings and services  
3 should be designed, and constructed or recon-  
4 structed, according to principles of universal design  
5 and to the standards established by the Architec-  
6 tural and Transportation Barriers Compliance  
7 Board in order to ensure access for individuals with  
8 disabilities, older adults, and all individuals;

9           (3) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
10 should have access to shelters and other services  
11 during disasters in the same locations and settings  
12 as the general population;

13           (4) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
14 should receive information about preparation for, re-  
15 sponse to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters  
16 in formats accessible to them, including in American  
17 Sign Language, Braille, and plain language, as well  
18 as captioned video messages;

19           (5) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
20 must be included as key speakers, essential stake-  
21 holders, and decisionmakers in the preparation (in-  
22 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
23 phases of disasters;

24           (6) local, State (including territorial), Tribal,  
25 and Federal disaster planning must include robust

1 representation of individuals with disabilities and  
2 older adults; and

3 (7) individuals with disabilities and older adults  
4 must be included in the evaluation of governmental,  
5 VOAD, and other nongovernmental preparation (in-  
6 cluding planning), response, recovery, and mitigation  
7 of disasters.

8 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

9 The purposes of this Act are to—

10 (1) improve the inclusion of individuals with  
11 disabilities and older adults in the preparation for,  
12 response to, recovery from, and mitigation of disas-  
13 ters;

14 (2) ensure that individuals with disabilities and  
15 older adults with disabilities are free from discrimi-  
16 nation on the basis of disability or age in programs  
17 and activities, are protected during and included in  
18 all phases of disaster preparation, response, recov-  
19 ery, and mitigation;

20 (3) ensure compliance with the Americans with  
21 Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of  
22 1973, and other disability laws during preparation  
23 for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation of  
24 disasters;

1           (4) improve coordination among the commu-  
2           nities of individuals with disabilities and older  
3           adults, including multiply marginalized BIPOC and  
4           LGBTQ+ communities, government agencies, cen-  
5           ters for independent living, VOADs, and other non-  
6           governmental organizations, including organizations  
7           that represent and are comprised of covered individ-  
8           uals; in preparing (including planning) for, respond-  
9           ing to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters;

10           (5) improve outcomes for all individuals, includ-  
11           ing individuals with disabilities and older adults, who  
12           are affected by disasters, and increase community  
13           resilience in responding to disasters; and

14           (6) enact into Federal law standards of care  
15           and standards for protection of civil rights, for older  
16           adults and people with disabilities, to be applied for  
17           disasters and public health emergencies.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19           In this Act:

20           (1) **ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.**—The  
21           term “access and functional needs”, used with re-  
22           spect to an individual, means an individual with  
23           needs such as—

24                   (A) an individual with a disability;

25                   (B) an older adult;



1 (C) an individual with limited English pro-  
2 ficiency;

3 (D) an individual with limited access to  
4 transportation that would enable the individual  
5 to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and  
6 mitigate a disaster; or

7 (E) an individual with limited access to the  
8 financial resources that would enable the indi-  
9 vidual to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
10 and mitigate a disaster.

11 (2) ALL HAZARDS APPROACH.—The term “all  
12 hazards approach” means planning for natural,  
13 technological, or human-caused incidents that war-  
14 rant action to—

15 (A) protect life, property, the environment,  
16 or the public health or safety; and

17 (B) minimize disruptions of school activi-  
18 ties.

19 (3) CIVIL RIGHTS.—The term “civil rights”,  
20 used with respect to an individual, means the exist-  
21 ing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) legal  
22 rights of an individual to be free from discrimination  
23 on the basis of disability or age in programs and ac-  
24 tivities.

1           (4) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
2 individual” means an individual with a disability, an  
3 older adult, and an individual with access and func-  
4 tional needs.

5           (5) DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY MAN-  
6 AGEMENT EXPERIENCE.—The term “disability inclu-  
7 sive emergency management experience”, used with  
8 respect to an individual or entity—

9           (A) means an individual or entity that  
10 has—

11           (i) demonstrated disability leadership  
12 experience, including working with non-  
13 governmental entities; and

14           (ii) subject matter expertise in leading  
15 disability inclusive preparedness, response,  
16 recovery, and mitigation initiatives that  
17 focus on meeting the civil rights of covered  
18 individuals who are affected by disasters,  
19 to be free from discrimination on the basis  
20 of disability or age in programs and activi-  
21 ties; and

22           (B) includes an individual or entity that  
23 has demonstrated favorable outcomes that  
24 measure the effective communication access,  
25 physical access, program access, health, safety,

1           and independence of individuals affected by dis-  
2           asters and their communities.

3           (6) DISASTER.—The term “disaster” means an  
4           emergency or major disaster (as such terms are de-  
5           fined under section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford  
6           Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
7           U.S.C. 5122)) that results in severe property dam-  
8           age, deaths, or multiple injuries.

9           (7) DISASTER SERVICES.—The term “disaster  
10          services” means the process of responding to a dis-  
11          aster and providing humanitarian aid to individuals  
12          and communities who are affected by a disaster.

13          (8) DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED.—The  
14          term “disproportionately affected”, used with re-  
15          spect to a group, means a group of individuals with  
16          protected status, including individuals with disabil-  
17          ities or older adults, who are excessively adversely  
18          affected by disaster-related harms.

19          (9) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
20          “Indian Tribal government” has the meaning given  
21          the term “Indian tribal government” in section 102  
22          of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
23          gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

24          (10) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

1 (A) SINGLE.—The term “individual with a  
2 disability” means an individual with a dis-  
3 ability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans  
4 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 12102).

6 (B) PLURAL.—The term “individuals with  
7 disabilities” means more than one individual  
8 with a disability, as defined in subparagraph  
9 (A).

10 (11) OLDER ADULT.—The term “older adult”  
11 means a resident who is age 50 or older.

12 (12) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term  
13 “public health emergency” means a public health  
14 emergency declared under section 319 of the Public  
15 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

16 (13) RESIDENT.—The term “resident”  
17 means—

18 (A) in the case of an individual receiving  
19 assistance through an Indian Tribal Govern-  
20 ment or other Indian entity, a resident of an  
21 area or member of a community governed by an  
22 Indian Tribal Government; and

23 (B) in the case of an individual not de-  
24 scribed in subparagraph (A), a resident of a  
25 State that is not an Indian Tribal Government.

1           (14) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
2 means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

3           (15) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
4 the 50 States, an Indian Tribal Government, the  
5 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
6 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,  
7 American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
8 Northern Mariana Islands.

9           (16) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
10 “visitability standards” means standards for Type C  
11 (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
12 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–  
13 2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
14 National Standards Institute.

15           (17) VOAD.—The term “VOAD” means a non-  
16 governmental organization assisting in disaster prep-  
17 aration, recovery, response, or mitigation.

18 **SEC. 5. USE OF DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDS.**

19           Section 615 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
20 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196d) is  
21 amended—

22           (1) by striking “Funds made available” and in-  
23 serting the following:

24           “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS.—The  
2 term ‘access and functional needs’, used with respect  
3 to an individual, means an individual with needs  
4 such as—

5                   “(A) an individual with a disability;

6                   “(B) an older adult;

7                   “(C) an individual with limited English  
8 proficiency;

9                   “(D) an individual with limited access to  
10 transportation that would enable the individual  
11 to prepare for, respond to, or recover from, and  
12 mitigate an emergency or major disaster; or

13                   “(E) an individual with limited access to  
14 the financial resources that would enable the in-  
15 dividual to prepare for, respond to, recover  
16 from, or mitigate an emergency or major dis-  
17 aster.

18           “(2) CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—The  
19 term ‘center for independent living’ has the meaning  
20 given that term in section 702 of the Rehabilitation  
21 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a).

22           “(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—

23                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered re-  
24 cipient’ means a direct or indirect recipient of

1 funds made available under this title for a cov-  
2 ered use of funds.

3 “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘covered re-  
4 cipient’ does not include individuals or house-  
5 holds.

6 “(4) COVERED USE OF FUNDS.—The term ‘cov-  
7 ered use of funds’ means the use of funds for the  
8 preparation for, response to, recovery from, or miti-  
9 gation of hazards.

10 “(5) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—

11 “(A) SINGLE.—The term ‘individual with a  
12 disability’ means an individual with a disability,  
13 as defined in section 3 of the Americans with  
14 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

15 “(B) PLURAL.—The term ‘individuals with  
16 disabilities’ means more than one individual  
17 with a disability, as defined in subparagraph  
18 (A).

19 “(6) OLDER ADULT.—The term ‘older adult’  
20 means an individual who is age 50 or older.

21 “(7) VISITABILITY STANDARDS.—The term  
22 ‘visitability standards’ means standards for Type C  
23 (Visitable) Units under the Standards for Accessible  
24 and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ICC A117.1–

1       2009), or any successor standards, of the American  
2       National Standards Institutes.

3       “(b) USE OF FUNDS GENERALLY.—Funds made  
4 available”; and

5               (2) by adding at the end the following:

6       “(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—A covered recipient  
7 shall ensure that an advisory committee that includes indi-  
8 viduals with disabilities, older adults, and other individuals  
9 with access and functional needs shall oversee the use of  
10 funds made available under this title to the covered recipi-  
11 ent.

12       “(d) COMPLIANCE WITH DISABILITY LAWS.—A cov-  
13 ered recipient shall use funds made available under this  
14 title in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
15 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities  
16 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

17       “(e) CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.—A cov-  
18 ered recipient may contract with 1 or more centers for  
19 independent living to—

20               “(1) prepare for hazards;

21               “(2) provide personal assistance services during  
22 response and recovery periods;

23               “(3) identify accessible emergency shelters and  
24 adapt emergency shelters to be accessible;



1           “(4) develop accessible media, including media  
2           using American Sign Language; and

3           “(5) meet other needs for individuals with dis-  
4           abilities, older adults, and individuals with access  
5           and functional needs.

6           “(f) CONTRACTORS.—A nongovernmental organiza-  
7           tion that enters into a contract with a covered recipient  
8           relating to a covered use of funds shall comply with the  
9           Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and  
10          the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
11          12101 et seq.) in providing property or services under the  
12          contract.

13          “(g) COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications relating  
14          to a covered use of funds by a covered recipient shall be  
15          made available in languages, including American Sign  
16          Language and other sign languages, used in the commu-  
17          nities receiving the communications.

18          “(h) ACCESSIBILITY.—A covered recipient shall en-  
19          sure each facility or service made available in connection  
20          with a covered use of funds is accessible to individuals with  
21          disabilities, older adults, and other individuals with access  
22          and functional needs, including—

23                  “(1) notifications relating to a hazard;

24                  “(2) evacuation notifications;

1           “(3) notifications relating to disaster services;

2           and

3           “(4) emergency shelters.

4           “(i) VISITABILITY.—A covered recipient that, as part  
5 of a covered use of funds, constructs or prepares dwelling  
6 units (including sleeping units) shall ensure that the dwell-  
7 ing units meet visitability standards.”.

8 **SEC. 6. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RE-**  
9                                   **SEARCH DISABILITY AND DISASTER CEN-**  
10                                   **TERS.**

11           (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
12 vide financial support to eligible entities to create centers  
13 through which the eligible entities will—

14                   (1) provide training and technical assistance to  
15 State, local, Tribal, and territorial disaster relief,  
16 public health, and social service agencies in the im-  
17 plementation and enhancement of systemic and ef-  
18 fective engagement policies, programs, and activities  
19 that ensure—

20                                   (A) that the needs and civil rights of cov-  
21 ered individuals are addressed and implemented  
22 throughout all phases of disaster preparation,  
23 response, recovery, and mitigation; and

1 (B) the inclusion of covered individuals in  
2 the development of all State, local, Tribal, and  
3 territorial disaster preparation plans;

4 (2) assist Federal, State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
5 ritorial disaster relief agencies in the coordination  
6 and integration of Federal, State (including terri-  
7 torial), local, and Tribal services and programs to  
8 serve covered individuals in the least restrictive envi-  
9 ronment appropriate to their needs during a dis-  
10 aster;

11 (3) conduct research and expand knowledge  
12 about covered individuals and their experiences dur-  
13 ing the preparation, response, recovery, and mitiga-  
14 tion phases of disasters; and

15 (4) discover, through research, and disseminate  
16 knowledge about, the most effective methods for—

17 (A) protecting the civil rights of covered  
18 individuals during times of disasters;

19 (B) including covered individuals in all  
20 phases of disaster preparation, response, recov-  
21 ery, and mitigation;

22 (C) reducing their deaths, injuries and  
23 losses from disasters;

24 (D) reducing the displacement and dis-  
25 proportionate effects of relocation after a dis-

1 aster, including financial and social effects, on  
2 covered individuals; and

3 (E) ensuring covered individuals are par-  
4 ticipants in the research, development, and dis-  
5 tribution of evidence-based information regard-  
6 ing disasters.

7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
9 ty” means an entity or partnership of entities that—

10 (A) submits an application to the Sec-  
11 retary in accordance with subsection (e);

12 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
13 may be an institution of higher education), or  
14 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
15 on—

16 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
17 with disabilities; or

18 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

19 (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
20 with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
21 service focus;

22 (D) has experience in conducting training,  
23 technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
24 consumer-directed community support services  
25 for covered individuals;

1 (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
2 tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
3 ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
4 ing, technical assistance, and research;

5 (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
6 taining to the implementation and enhancement  
7 of systemic and effective engagement policies,  
8 programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
9 sion, needs, and civil rights of covered individ-  
10 uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
11 from, and mitigation of disasters; and

12 (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
13 council or similar entity, of which at least 51  
14 percent of the members are covered individuals.

15 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
16 term “institution of higher education” has the  
17 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the  
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

19 (3) STAKEHOLDER GROUP.—The term “stake-  
20 holder group” means a group of individuals and or-  
21 ganizations that—

22 (A) is committed to disability inclusive and  
23 older adult inclusive disaster management;

1 (B) includes covered individuals through-  
2 out preparedness, response, recovery, and miti-  
3 gation activities;

4 (C) has leaders that include covered indi-  
5 viduals;

6 (D) has a governing or advisory board, of  
7 which at least half of the members are covered  
8 individuals; and

9 (E) has a mission to inclusively serve cov-  
10 ered individuals.

11 (c) **AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.**—The Secretary may  
12 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities,  
13 to provide for—

14 (1) activities that include covered individuals in  
15 the preparation (including planning) for, response  
16 to, recovery from, and mitigation of disasters; and

17 (2) except as described in subsection (d)(2), re-  
18 search related to disasters and covered individuals.

19 (d) **AMOUNT AND PERIOD OF GRANTS.**—

20 (1) **AMOUNT.**—In awarding grants under this  
21 section, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
22 ticable, award a grant to an eligible entity in an  
23 amount that is not less than \$2,500,000 and not  
24 more than \$10,000,000.

1           (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall award  
2 not fewer than 2 of the grants in each of the 10  
3 Federal regions of the Department of Health and  
4 Human Services. At least 1 grant in each region  
5 shall be awarded to an eligible entity exclusively to  
6 conduct training and technical assistance described  
7 in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

8           (3) PERIODS.—The Secretary shall award the  
9 grants for periods of 5 years, through an open com-  
10 petition held at the end of each 5-year period. Eligi-  
11 ble entities that receive grants under this section  
12 may reapply for such grants at the end of the peri-  
13 ods.

14 (e) APPLICATIONS.—

15           (1) SUBMISSIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
16 grant under this section, an entity shall submit an  
17 application to the Secretary at such time and in  
18 such manner as the Secretary may require.

19           (2) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall  
20 include, at a minimum, the following:

21           (A) A description of the applicant's dem-  
22 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
23 formation, and support to individuals with dis-  
24 abilities in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
25 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

1 (B) A description of the applicant’s dem-  
2 onstrated experience in providing training, in-  
3 formation, and support to older adults in pre-  
4 paring for, responding to, recovering from, and  
5 mitigating disasters.

6 (C) A description of the applicant’s dem-  
7 onstrated experience in working with Federal,  
8 State, local, Tribal, and territorial government  
9 agencies in preparing for, responding to, recov-  
10 ering from, and mitigating disasters.

11 (D) A description of the steps the appli-  
12 cant, acting through the center, will take to tar-  
13 get services to low-income individuals and indi-  
14 viduals identified as disproportionately affected  
15 in disasters, including those individuals at  
16 greatest risk of institutionalization.

17 (E) An assurance that the applicant, act-  
18 ing through the center, will—

19 (i) work with State, local, Tribal, and  
20 territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
21 social service agencies to determine the  
22 best means for delivery of services to ad-  
23 dress the needs of covered individuals;

24 (ii) assist in establishing State, local,  
25 Tribal, and territorial disaster plans to ad-



1 dress the needs of both rural and urban  
2 populations;

3 (iii) in carrying out activities under  
4 the grant, conduct sufficient outreach to  
5 centers for independent living, VOADs,  
6 and other nongovernmental organizations,  
7 including organizations that represent and  
8 are comprised of covered individuals;

9 (iv) include covered individuals in a  
10 meaningful way in the development and  
11 execution of activities carried out under  
12 the grant;

13 (v) provide adequate staff, including  
14 staff who are individuals with disabilities,  
15 to carry out the activities under the grant;  
16 and

17 (vi) communicate information on the  
18 programs and systems developed under the  
19 grant, in accessible formats and languages,  
20 including American Sign Language, of the  
21 communities being served.

22 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants for activities de-  
23 scribed in this section, the Secretary shall give priority to  
24 eligible entities that—

1           (1) demonstrate a minimum of 3 years of expe-  
2           rience in actively conducting disability inclusive and  
3           older adult inclusive disaster management;

4           (2) propose activities to address the prepared-  
5           ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of  
6           covered individuals;

7           (3) propose activities to address leadership de-  
8           velopment in State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
9           agencies and covered individual advocacy organiza-  
10          tions;

11          (4) includes covered individuals in positions of  
12          leadership in the planning, management, and oper-  
13          ation of the activities carried out under this section;

14          (5) demonstrate ability to provide training that  
15          prevents bias due to disability or age, and that uses  
16          experiential approaches and does not rely on simula-  
17          tions;

18          (6) demonstrate expertise concerning the obliga-  
19          tion to prevent discrimination against covered indi-  
20          viduals on the basis of disability and age in pro-  
21          grams and provide activities and specific plans for  
22          achieving and maintaining physical access, program  
23          access, and effective communication for covered indi-  
24          viduals throughout all grant activities;

1           (7) demonstrate that the eligible entity involved  
2 will use measurable collaboration and partnership  
3 strategies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
4 agencies, centers for independent living, VOADs,  
5 and other nongovernmental organizations, including  
6 organizations that represent and are comprised of  
7 covered individuals;

8           (8) demonstrate that the eligible entity will use  
9 measurable disaster outcomes strategies in carrying  
10 out grant activities;

11          (9) demonstrate the ability to quickly create  
12 products, such as videos, fact sheets, guidelines, and  
13 checklists, to be used in disaster management;

14          (10) employ constituents of the entity in deci-  
15 sionmaking positions;

16          (11) provide disability inclusive and older adult  
17 inclusive disaster management leadership skills de-  
18 velopment;

19          (12) demonstrate awareness of available re-  
20 sources in the community for meeting the prepared-  
21 ness, response, recovery, and mitigation needs of  
22 covered individuals; and

23          (13) demonstrate expertise in promoting the  
24 use of universal design (as defined in section 103 of  
25 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

1       1003)), the philosophy of independent living (within  
2       the meaning of that philosophy in title VII of the  
3       Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.)),  
4       intersectionality imperatives, and the social model of  
5       disability.

6       (g) USE OF FUNDS.—

7             (1) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds made available  
8       under this section shall be used only for activities  
9       described in and approved by the Secretary as a part  
10      of an application submitted under subsection (e), to  
11      carry out—

12             (A) a strategy designed to ensure the in-  
13      clusion of covered individuals in the preparation  
14      (including planning) for, response to, recovery  
15      from, and mitigation of disasters; and

16             (B) research to enhance the activities de-  
17      scribed in subparagraph (A), using not more  
18      than 25 percent of the grant funds to carry out  
19      that research.

20             (2) ACTIVITIES.—Such activities may include  
21      initiatives that provide comprehensive training, tech-  
22      nical assistance, development of funding sources,  
23      and support to State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
24      disaster relief, public health, and social service agen-  
25      cies and stakeholder groups, in order to ensure that,

1 in carrying out disaster management planning and  
2 programs, the agencies and groups address the in-  
3 clusion, civil rights, and needs of covered individuals  
4 by—

5 (A) hiring personnel with direct knowledge  
6 of and experience with meeting the civil rights  
7 of covered individuals to be free from discrimi-  
8 nation on the basis of disability or age in pro-  
9 grams and activities;

10 (B) training staff of State, local, Tribal,  
11 and territorial disaster relief, public health, and  
12 social service agencies on the needs and civil  
13 right of covered individuals, preferably through  
14 training by experts who are, collectively, indi-  
15 viduals with disabilities and older adults;

16 (C) creating partnerships between eligible  
17 entities, State, local, Tribal, and territorial dis-  
18 aster relief, public health, and social service  
19 agencies, centers for independent living,  
20 VOADs, and other nongovernmental organiza-  
21 tions, including organizations that represent  
22 and are comprised of covered individuals;

23 (D) assisting in the development and im-  
24 plementation, in partnership with State, local,  
25 Tribal, and territorial disaster relief, public

1 health, and social service agencies, of plans that  
2 will provide for a continuum of services to re-  
3 move barriers to full engagement for covered in-  
4 dividuals during a disaster and in preparedness  
5 (including planning) for, response to, recovery  
6 from, and mitigation of a disaster;

7 (E) assisting in the creation of standards  
8 and identification of funding sources for re-  
9 building disaster-damaged housing and new  
10 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
11 aster-resilient;

12 (F) assisting in the creation of standards  
13 for homeowner and flood insurance coverage for  
14 rebuilding disaster-damaged housing and new  
15 housing that is accessible, affordable, and dis-  
16 aster-resilient;

17 (G) establishing universal design and ac-  
18 cessibility standards, and establishing specifica-  
19 tions for visitability (based on the visitability  
20 standards), for achieving and maintaining equal  
21 access for covered individuals throughout all  
22 hazard mitigation and disaster resilience activi-  
23 ties;

24 (H) establishing initiatives to increase new  
25 and transferred technology and innovations to

1 solve notification, evacuation, health mainte-  
2 nance, and other barriers for covered individ-  
3 uals before, during, and after disasters; and

4 (I) conducting research, in partnership  
5 with covered individuals, that will contribute to  
6 knowledge and strategies to—

7 (i) decrease injuries, deaths, and harm  
8 to covered individuals;

9 (ii) create inclusive disaster prepared-  
10 ness, recovery, response, and mitigation  
11 strategies for State, local, Tribal, and ter-  
12 ritorial agencies, centers for independent  
13 living, VOADs, and other nongovernmental  
14 organizations, including organizations that  
15 represent and are comprised of covered in-  
16 dividuals;

17 (iii) preserve community living options  
18 and access to needed services and supports  
19 for covered individuals during post-disaster  
20 periods; and

21 (iv) conduct longitudinal studies that  
22 create and maintain datasets to assist in  
23 the understanding of Federal, State, local,  
24 Tribal, and territorial policies designed to  
25 reduce the negative impact of disasters on

1 covered individuals and protect the civil  
2 right of covered individuals to be free from  
3 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
4 age in programs and activities.

5 (3) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Sec-  
6 retary shall establish standards and guidelines for  
7 activities supported by a grant under this section.  
8 Such standards and guidelines shall be developed  
9 with the input of stakeholder groups. In a situation  
10 in which a refinement or adaptation of the standards  
11 or guidelines is made necessary by a local cir-  
12 cumstance, the Secretary shall enter into negotia-  
13 tions with an eligible entity applying for such a  
14 grant for a project in the affected area, to refine or  
15 adapt the standards and guidelines for the project.

16 (h) INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any  
17 other provision of this section, no entity, agency, or group  
18 assisted under this section shall take any action that in-  
19 fringes in any manner on the civil right of covered individ-  
20 uals to be free from discrimination on the basis of dis-  
21 ability or age in programs and activities.

22 (i) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of fiscal  
23 years 2026 and 2028, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
24 gress a report describing the activities carried out under  
25 this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years.



1 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

4 **SEC. 7. PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
7 ty” means an entity or partnership of entities that—

8 (A) submits an application to the Sec-  
9 retary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
10 taining such information as the Secretary may  
11 reasonably require;

12 (B) is or includes an institution (which  
13 may be an institution of higher education), or  
14 a nongovernmental organization, that focuses  
15 on—

16 (i) serving the needs of individuals  
17 with disabilities; or

18 (ii) serving the needs of older adults;

19 (C) in the case of an entity or partnership  
20 with a disability focus, has a cross-disability  
21 service focus;

22 (D) has experience in conducting training,  
23 technical assistance, and research pertaining to  
24 consumer-directed community support services  
25 for covered individuals;

1           (E) includes covered individuals in posi-  
2           tions of leadership in the planning, manage-  
3           ment, and operation of the programs of train-  
4           ing, technical assistance, and research;

5           (F) has knowledge and experience per-  
6           taining to the implementation and enhancement  
7           of systemic and effective engagement policies,  
8           programs, and activities that promote the inclu-  
9           sion, needs, and civil right of covered individ-  
10          uals in preparation for, response to, recovery  
11          from, and mitigation of disasters; and

12          (G) has, or will establish, an advisory  
13          council or similar entity, of which at least 51  
14          percent of the members are covered individuals.

15          (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
16          term “institution of higher education” has the  
17          meaning given the term in section 6(b).

18          (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
19          AGREEMENTS.—

20          (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
21          grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative  
22          agreements with, eligible entities on a competitive  
23          basis to carry out projects of national significance  
24          that—

1 (A) create opportunities for individuals  
2 with disabilities and older adults to directly con-  
3 tribute to improving preparation for, recovery  
4 from, response to, and mitigation of disasters;

5 (B) support the development of State,  
6 local, Tribal, and territorial policies that rein-  
7 force and promote the inclusion of individuals  
8 with disabilities and older adults in Federal,  
9 State, local, Tribal, and territorial community  
10 preparation for disasters; and

11 (C) support research that—

12 (i) tracks, in the short-term and long-  
13 term, the effects of disasters on individuals  
14 with disabilities and older adults;

15 (ii) identifies evidence-based practices  
16 that enhance inclusion of individuals with  
17 disabilities and older adults to participate  
18 in and lead preparation for disasters at  
19 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
20 levels;

21 (iii) leads to the creation of strategies  
22 and procedures to implement community  
23 level practices that decrease deaths, inju-  
24 ries, and harm resulting from disasters to

1 individuals with disabilities and older  
2 adults;

3 (iv) contributes to the protection of  
4 the civil right of covered individuals with  
5 disabilities and older adults to be free from  
6 discrimination on the basis of disability or  
7 age in programs and activities, and self-de-  
8 termination of those individuals and  
9 adults, while also promoting their safety  
10 and well-being during and following disas-  
11 ters;

12 (v) contributes to the development of  
13 Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial  
14 policies that enhance collaboration among  
15 governmental entities, centers for inde-  
16 pendent living, VOADs, and other non-  
17 governmental organizations, including or-  
18 ganizations that represent and are com-  
19 prised of covered individuals, to improve  
20 the inclusion of covered individuals in  
21 preparation for, response to, recovery from,  
22 and mitigation of disasters; and

23 (vi) contributes to other efforts, as de-  
24 termined by the Secretary, to advance the  
25 purposes of this section.

1           (2) AMOUNT, QUANTITY, AND DURATION.—In  
2           awarding grants or entering into contracts or coop-  
3           erative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
4           shall—

5                   (A) to the extent practicable, ensure that  
6           each such grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
7           ment is for an amount that is not less than  
8           \$2,500,000 and not more than \$10,000,000;

9                   (B) award or enter into not less than 4  
10          grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;  
11          and

12                   (C) ensure that each such grant, contract,  
13          or cooperative agreement is for a period of not  
14          less than 3 years and not more than 5 years.

15 **SEC. 8. CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

16                   **LAWS.**

17          (a) STANDARDS OF CARE.—States and local govern-  
18          mental entities shall develop crisis standards of care for  
19          implementation during the period of a disaster or public  
20          health emergency pursuant to the nondiscrimination re-  
21          quirements under—

22                   (1) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of  
23           1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

24                   (2) section 1557 of the Patient Protection and  
25           Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116).

1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—In developing and implementing  
2 crisis standards of care in accordance with subsection (a),  
3 States and local governmental entities shall comply with:

4 (1) The crisis standards of care described in the  
5 guidance issued by the Office for Civil Rights of the  
6 Department of Health and Human Services entitled  
7 “Bulletin: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus  
8 Disease 2019 (COVID–19)” and dated March 28,  
9 2020 and any best practices developed by the Office  
10 of Civil Rights pursuant to such guidance.

11 (2) The following requirements:

12 (A) States and local governmental entities  
13 may not develop or implement potentially dis-  
14 criminatory policies that negatively affect cov-  
15 ered individuals or children. Such policies may  
16 address the application of crisis standards of  
17 care in resource-constrained settings during dis-  
18 asters and public health emergencies.

19 (B) During disasters and public health  
20 emergencies, civil rights may not be suspended  
21 or waived.

22 (C) Crisis standards of care shall reflect  
23 that every human being has fundamental and  
24 inherent dignity, equity, and worth, and has a  
25 right to be treated equally and fairly in the pro-

1 vision of health care services under Federal civil  
2 rights laws.

3 (D) Crisis standards of care shall be suffi-  
4 ciently clear to allow practitioners to apply such  
5 standards of care, especially when stewarding of  
6 scarce resources means withholding or with-  
7 drawing critical care services. Such standards  
8 of care shall reflect the values, wishes, and in-  
9 terest of all patients, especially covered individ-  
10 uals and children.

11 (E) States and local governmental entities  
12 shall partner with, and work to ensure strong  
13 public engagement of, community and provider  
14 stakeholders, with particular attention to the  
15 needs of covered individuals and children.

16 (F) States and local governmental entities  
17 shall use ethically and clinically sound planning  
18 to secure equitable allocation of resources and  
19 fair protections for covered individuals and chil-  
20 dren.

21 (G) States and local governmental entities  
22 shall develop specific response measures to meet  
23 the needs of covered individuals and children.

24 (H) States and local governmental entities  
25 shall seek to eliminate the use of class, race,

1 ethnicity, neighborhood, disability, and age in  
2 decisions relating to access of care.

3 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIVIDUALS**  
4 **WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS.**

5 Section 2811C of the Public Health Service Act (42  
6 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence,  
9 by striking “17 members” and inserting “45  
10 members”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
12 the following:

13 “(N) 11 members, representing the dis-  
14 ability community and reflecting the diverse  
15 characteristics of its members, who shall—

16 “(i) represent individuals with disabil-  
17 ities with a wide variety of disaster experi-  
18 ences, including cross-disability representa-  
19 tion;

20 “(ii) be geographically diverse;

21 “(iii) be ethnically and racially di-  
22 verse;

23 “(iv) be of diverse ages, and include  
24 older adults;



1           “(v) represent both genders, and in-  
2           clude members that represent a variety of  
3           sexual orientations and gender identities;

4           “(vi) include veterans; and

5           “(vii) be linguistically diverse.

6           “(O) 1 representative from each of—

7           “(i) a coastal State emergency man-  
8           agement agency with an employee in a po-  
9           sition with established duties relating to in-  
10          tegration of individuals with disabilities or  
11          to addressing access and functional needs;

12          “(ii) a noncoastal State emergency  
13          management agency with an employee in a  
14          position described in clause (i);

15          “(iii) a Tribal emergency management  
16          agency with an employee in a position de-  
17          scribed in clause (i);

18          “(iv) a territorial emergency manage-  
19          ment agency with an employee in a posi-  
20          tion described in clause (i);

21          “(v) a nongovernmental organization  
22          providing disaster preparedness and re-  
23          sponse services;

24          “(vi) a local urban disaster manage-  
25          ment entity, which representative has dis-

1 ability inclusive emergency management  
2 experience;

3 “(vii) a local rural disaster manage-  
4 ment entity, which representative has dis-  
5 ability inclusive emergency management  
6 experience;

7 “(viii) a local disability organization  
8 with a cross-disability focus;

9 “(ix) a State disability organization  
10 with a cross-disability focus;

11 “(x) a national disability organization  
12 with a cross-disability focus;

13 “(xi) a national older adults organiza-  
14 tion;

15 “(xii) the Council of the Inspectors  
16 General on Integrity and Efficiency;

17 “(xiii) a low-income housing organiza-  
18 tion, who has expertise in the civil rights  
19 of disaster-affected covered individuals;  
20 and

21 “(xiv) a representative of a legal serv-  
22 ices agency with expertise in the civil  
23 rights of disaster-affected covered individ-  
24 uals.

25 “(P) The Secretary of Transportation.

1                   “(Q) The Director of Disability Policy for  
2                   the Domestic Policy Council.”; and

3                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

4                   “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the  
5                   terms ‘access and functional needs’, ‘civil rights’,  
6                   ‘covered individual’, ‘disability inclusive emergency  
7                   management experience’, ‘disaster’, ‘individuals with  
8                   disabilities’, ‘older adult’, and ‘State’ have the mean-  
9                   ings given the terms in section 4 of the REAADI for  
10                  Disasters Act.”;

11                  (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
12                  section (h);

13                  (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
14                  lowing

15                  “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16                  is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
17                  \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027.”;  
18                  and

19                  (4) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

20                         (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “on Sep-  
21                         tember 30, 2023” and inserting “4 years after  
22                         the date of enactment of the REAADI for Dis-  
23                         asters Act”; and

24                         (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “October  
25                         1, 2022” and inserting “2 years after the date

1 of enactment of the REAADI for Disasters  
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 10. REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATED**  
4 **TO DISASTERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-**  
5 **ABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CHIEF OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS SEC-  
8 TION.—The term “Chief of the Disability Rights  
9 Section” means the Chief of the Disability Rights  
10 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-  
11 ment of Justice.

12 (2) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee”  
13 means the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Ad-  
14 visory Committee established under subsection (b).

15 (3) COVERED COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The  
16 term “covered committee of Congress” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
18 Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on  
19 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
20 of the Senate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Transportation and  
22 Infrastructure, the Committee on Education  
23 and the Workforce, and the Committee on En-  
24 ergy and Commerce of the House of Represent-  
25 atives.

1           (4) COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The  
2           term “covered settlement agreement” means a set-  
3           tlement agreement—

4                   (A) entered into by the United States dur-  
5           ing the period beginning on January 1, 2005,  
6           and ending on the first December 31 after the  
7           date of enactment of this Act; and

8                   (B) that relates to a potential violation of  
9           the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701  
10          et seq.) or the Americans with Disabilities Act  
11          of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) in connec-  
12          tion with the preparation for, response to, re-  
13          covery from, or mitigation of a disaster.

14          (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—There is es-  
15          tablished an advisory committee, to be known as the “Dis-  
16          ability and Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee” to  
17          review covered settlement agreements.

18          (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

19                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
20          the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-  
21          eral shall appoint the members of the Committee,  
22          which shall include—

23                           (A) employees of the Department of Jus-  
24                           tice; and

1 (B) not less than 3 disability rights advo-  
2 cates who—

3 (i) are not employees of the Federal  
4 Government;

5 (ii) are individuals with disabilities;  
6 and

7 (iii) have disability inclusive emer-  
8 gency management experience.

9 (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
11 mittee shall be appointed for the life of the  
12 Committee.

13 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
14 Committee—

15 (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
16 Committee; and

17 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
18 as the original appointment.

19 (3) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

20 The members of the Committee shall elect a Chair-  
21 person and a Vice Chairperson from among the  
22 members, not less than 1 of whom shall be a mem-  
23 ber appointed under paragraph (1)(B).

24 (4) MEETINGS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
2 meet at the call of the Chairperson.

3 (B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members  
4 of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but  
5 a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

6 (d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

7 (1) conduct a review of each covered settlement  
8 agreement;

9 (2) review annual reports and recommendations  
10 provided to each covered committee of Congress re-  
11 lating to addressing the needs of covered individuals  
12 in the preparation for, response to, recovery from, or  
13 mitigation of a disaster;

14 (3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
15 actment of this Act, submit a report containing the  
16 findings and recommendations of the Committee  
17 to—

18 (A) each covered committee of Congress;

19 (B) any other entity of Congress with ju-  
20 risdiction over matters relating to addressing  
21 the needs of covered individuals in the prepara-  
22 tion for, response to, recovery from, or mitiga-  
23 tion of a disaster;

24 (C) the Attorney General;

25 (D) the Secretary of Education;

- 1 (E) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- 2 (F) the Secretary of Health and Human
- 3 Services;
- 4 (G) the Secretary of Transportation;
- 5 (H) the President, through the Director of
- 6 Disability Policy for the Domestic Policy Coun-
- 7 cil; and
- 8 (4) provide the comments and recommendations
- 9 described in section 10(b)(2).

10 (e) POWERS OF COMMITTEE.—

11 (1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such

12 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take

13 such testimony, and receive such evidence as the

14 Committee considers advisable to carry out this sec-

15 tion.

16 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may

18 secure directly from any Federal department or

19 agency such information as the Committee con-

20 siders necessary to carry out this section.

21 (B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On re-

22 quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the

23 head of the department or agency shall furnish

24 the information to the Committee.



1           (C) DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—The  
2 Chief of the Disability Rights Section shall sub-  
3 mit to the Committee a report on the oversight  
4 of covered settlement agreements a sufficient  
5 period of time before the date specified in sub-  
6 section (d)(3) to allow the Committee to review  
7 the report and include the report of the Chief  
8 of the Disability Rights Section in the report of  
9 the Committee under subsection (d)(3).

10          (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may  
11 use the United States mails in the same manner and  
12 under the same conditions as other departments and  
13 agencies of the Federal Government.

14          (f) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

15           (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

16           (A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Com-  
17 mittee who is not an officer or employee of the  
18 Federal Government shall be compensated at a  
19 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual  
20 rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the  
21 Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title  
22 5, United States Code, for each day (including  
23 travel time) during which the member is en-  
24 gaged in the performance of the duties of the  
25 Committee.

1           (B) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—A member of  
2           the Committee who is an officer or employee of  
3           the United States shall serve without compensa-  
4           tion in addition to that received for service as  
5           an officer or employee of the United States.

6           (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
7           Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
8           ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
9           ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of  
10          chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
11          away from their home or regular places of business  
12          in the performance of services for the Committee.

13          (3) STAFF.—

14               (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
15               Committee may, without regard to the civil  
16               service laws (including regulations), appoint  
17               and terminate an executive director and such  
18               other additional personnel as may be necessary  
19               to enable the Committee to perform the duties  
20               of the Committee, except that the employment  
21               of an executive director shall be subject to con-  
22               firmation by the Committee.

23               (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of  
24               the Committee may fix the compensation of the  
25               executive director and other personnel without

1           regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of  
2           chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relat-  
3           ing to classification of positions and General  
4           Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay  
5           for the executive director and other personnel  
6           may not exceed the rate payable for level V of  
7           the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
8           that title.

9           (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—  
10          Any Federal Government employee may be detailed  
11          to the Committee without reimbursement, and such  
12          detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
13          service status or privilege.

14          (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-  
15          MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
16          mittee may procure temporary and intermittent serv-  
17          ices under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States  
18          Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed  
19          the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay  
20          prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule  
21          under section 5316 of that title.

22          (g) TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee  
23          shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Com-  
24          mittee submits the report required under subsection  
25          (d)(3).

1 (h) REPORTS BY DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION.—On  
2 and after the date on which the Committee submits the  
3 report required under subsection (d)(3), the Chief of the  
4 Disability Rights Section shall publish an annual report  
5 on the oversight of settlement agreements relating to dis-  
6 aster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation ac-  
7 tivities.

8 **SEC. 11. GAO REPORT ON PAST USE OF DISASTER FUNDS.**

9 (a) INVESTIGATION.—Not later than 60 days after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
11 of the United States shall begin to conduct an investiga-  
12 tion of whether, on or after January 1, 2005, Federal  
13 agencies have complied with the Americans with Disabil-  
14 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and the Reha-  
15 bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), in expend-  
16 ing Federal funds to prepare for, respond to, recover from,  
17 or mitigate disasters, including whether and, if so, how  
18 such funds were used to ensure accessibility to services  
19 and supports for individuals with disabilities and older  
20 adults.

21 (b) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
24 General shall, in accordance with paragraph (2),  
25 issue a report on the investigation conducted under

1 subsection (a), along with recommendations for re-  
2 mediation of any misexpenditures identified.

3 (2) REVIEW.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to issuing the re-  
5 port under paragraph (1), the Comptroller Gen-  
6 eral shall obtain comments and recommenda-  
7 tions on a draft version of the report, including  
8 the recommendations described in subparagraph  
9 (B), from the National Advisory Committee on  
10 Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters es-  
11 tablished under section 2811C of the Public  
12 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10d) and  
13 the Disability and Disaster Preparedness Advi-  
14 sory Committee established under section 9(b)  
15 (referred to in this paragraph as the “Commit-  
16 tees”), and any other agency determined appro-  
17 priate by the Secretary.

18 (B) COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
19 ADDITIONAL SOURCES.—The recommendations  
20 obtained under subparagraph (A) shall include  
21 recommendations from the Committees regard-  
22 ing additional sources the Comptroller General  
23 may interview for purposes of the investigation  
24 under subsection (a).