



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 15, 2010

### **H.R. 4810** **End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on March 10, 2010*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 4810 would authorize several programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for homeless veterans. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$612 million over the 2010-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 4810 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4810 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

#### **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2010, that the authorized amounts will be provided in 2010 and near the start of each subsequent fiscal year, and that outlays will follow historical patterns for similar and existing programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2010-2015
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Supportive Services for Low-Income Families							
Authorization Level	0	0	51	76	101	101	329
Estimated Outlays	0	0	46	73	98	100	317
Grants and Per Diem Payments							
Authorization Level	50	50	50	50	50	50	300
Estimated Outlays	11	70	64	50	50	50	295
Promoting Programs for the Homeless							
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Costs							
Estimated Authorization Level	50	50	101	126	151	151	629
Estimated Outlays	11	70	110	123	148	150	612

Note: \* = less than \$500,000.

### Supportive Services for Low-Income Families

Section 5 would permanently extend an existing VA program that provides grants to entities serving certain low-income families and authorize the appropriation of \$329 million over the 2012-2015 period.

The program, which expires in 2011, provides grants to entities that help low-income families that are homeless, transitioning to permanent housing, or already in permanent housing. Those entities provide a variety of services including outreach, case management, and assistance accessing VA or other public benefits. CBO estimates that implementing that provision would cost \$317 million over the 2012-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

### Grants and Per Diem Payments

Section 2 would increase the annual amounts authorized for the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem program (GPD) from \$150 million to \$200 million. That program provides capital grants for constructing, renovating, or acquiring buildings and per diem payments to fund operating costs.

In addition, section 3 would make the following changes to the GPD program:

- Funding for operating costs would be based on the entity's annual cost of care and payments would be made each quarter, and
- Payments could be adjusted for geographical differences in the cost of care, capped by VA, and used by the entity to match other payments or grants for which they might be eligible.

CBO estimates that implementing those sections would cost \$295 million over the 2010-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

### **Promoting Programs for the Homeless**

Section 6 would encourage VA to expand its promotion of programs for homeless veterans to include programs for homeless veterans that are female or have children. Assuming availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing this section would cost less than \$500,000 each year and over the 2010-2015 period.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4810 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments that provide assistance to veterans would benefit from grant and program activities authorized in the bill.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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