

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5581

To amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants for demonstration projects to support mothers and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period by increasing access to short-term child care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN (for herself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants for demonstration projects to support mothers and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period by increasing access to short-term child care, 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 “Child Care Assistance
5 for Maternal Health Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR CHILD CARE TO**
2 **IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH.**

3 Subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
5 2009 the following:

6 **“SEC. 2009A. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR CHILD CARE**
7 **TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall
10 carry out a program of awarding grants, on a com-
11 petitive basis, to eligible entities to conduct dem-
12 onstration projects designed to support mothers and
13 families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the
14 postpartum period by increasing access to short-
15 term child care (such as through crisis nurseries) in
16 order to improve the physical health, mental health,
17 and wellness of the mother and her family.

18 “(2) ADVISORY GROUP.—The Secretary shall
19 establish an advisory group to advise the Secretary
20 on carrying out the program established under para-
21 graph (1). The advisory group shall be composed of
22 the following members:

23 “(A) At least 1 representative of the Ad-
24 ministration for Children and Families.

25 “(B) At least 1 representative of the Ad-
26 ministration for Native Americans.

1 “(C) At least 1 representative of the Cen-
2 ters for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

3 “(D) At least 1 representative of the
4 Health Resources and Services Administration.

5 “(E) At least 1 representative of the Sub-
6 stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Ad-
7 ministration.

8 “(F) Representatives of such other Federal
9 entities, as the Secretary determines appro-
10 priate.

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
12 a grant under this section, an entity shall be—

13 “(1) a State, a territory, or the District of Co-
14 lumbia;

15 “(2) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization;

16 “(3) an Urban Indian organization;

17 “(4) a public health department;

18 “(5) a nonprofit community-based organization;

19 or

20 “(6) a consortium of entities described in any
21 of paragraphs (1) through (5).

22 “(c) PRIORITY FOR AWARDING GRANTS.—In select-
23 ing grant recipients under this section, the Secretary
24 shall—

25 “(1) give priority to—

1 “(A) eligible entities that, in addition to
2 the activities proposed to be funded through the
3 grant, will provide families with assistance in
4 attaining a long-term child care option;

5 “(B) eligible entities proposing to serve an
6 area with high rates of maternal mortality and
7 poverty; and

8 “(C) eligible entities proposing to serve a
9 maternity care health professional target area
10 identified under section 332(k) of the Public
11 Health Service Act; and

12 “(2) award at least 1 grant to an Indian Tribe,
13 a Tribal organization, or an Urban Indian organiza-
14 tion.

15 “(d) NUMBER.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
17 the Secretary shall award at least 10 grants under
18 this section.

19 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR INSUFFICIENT APPRO-
20 PRIATIONS.—The Secretary may award fewer than
21 10 grants if the Secretary determines that the
22 amounts made available to carry out this section are
23 less than the total amounts authorized to be appro-
24 priated by subsection (i).

25 “(e) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under
2 this section may be used—

3 “(A) to conduct a demonstration project
4 described in subsection (a);

5 “(B) to assess community needs in prepa-
6 ration for such demonstration project; and

7 “(C) to fund outreach related to such dem-
8 onstration project.

9 “(2) DURATION.—A demonstration project
10 under this section shall be for a period of not less
11 than 3 years.

12 “(3) REPORTS BY GRANTEES.—

13 “(A) INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS.—A
14 grantee under this section shall agree to submit
15 to the Secretary—

16 “(i) interim reports on the demonstra-
17 tion project funded through the grant; and

18 “(ii) a final report on such dem-
19 onstration project.

20 “(B) CONTENTS.—The interim and final
21 reports of a grantee under subparagraph (A)
22 shall include assessments of the effectiveness of
23 the grantee’s demonstration project with re-
24 spect to—

1 “(i) maternal and child health out-
2 comes;

3 “(ii) child care quality; and

4 “(iii) such other metrics as may be
5 determined by the Secretary.

6 “(4) PRIORITY FOR PROVIDING SERVICES.—In
7 providing services through a demonstration project
8 under this section, a grantee shall give priority to
9 vulnerable populations, such as—

10 “(A) low-income families;

11 “(B) families experiencing homelessness;

12 “(C) single-parent households;

13 “(D) families who have children with dis-
14 abilities or special health care needs; and

15 “(E) other vulnerable populations as may
16 be determined by the Secretary.

17 “(5) SUBGRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this
19 section may coordinate with entities described
20 in subparagraph (B) in carrying out a dem-
21 onstration project under this section, including
22 by awarding subgrants to, or entering into con-
23 tracts with, such entities.

24 “(B) ENTITIES.—The entities described in
25 this subparagraph are the following:

1 “(i) State or local child care resource
2 and referral agencies.

3 “(ii) Prenatal, perinatal, pediatric,
4 family medicine, and other relevant health
5 care providers.

6 “(iii) Doula support services.

7 “(6) STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
9 graph (B), services provided through a dem-
10 onstration project under this section shall meet
11 the applicable requirements of State and local
12 law in the jurisdiction in which such services
13 are provided, including any applicable licensure
14 and quality of care requirements.

15 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Child care may be pro-
16 vided through a demonstration project under
17 this section to children younger than the min-
18 imum age allowed under applicable State or
19 local licensing requirements, so long as the
20 grantee providing such child care (either di-
21 rectly or through a subgrant or contract under
22 paragraph (5)) coordinates with the applicable
23 jurisdiction to ensure appropriate quality of
24 care standards.

25 “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(1) evaluate the demonstration projects funded
2 under this section; and

3 “(2) as part of such evaluation—

4 “(A) identify successful activities for im-
5 proving maternal health outcomes and health
6 outcomes for the birthed child and any other
7 children in the family; and

8 “(B) formulate recommendations for reau-
9 thorizing the program under this section.

10 “(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
11 submit reports to the Congress on the program under this
12 section, including—

13 “(1) interim reports; and

14 “(2) based on the evaluation under subsection
15 (f), a final report.

16 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) IHCLA TERMS.—The terms ‘Indian Tribe’,
18 ‘Tribal organization’, and ‘Urban Indian organiza-
19 tion’ have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian
20 tribe’, ‘tribal organization’, and ‘Urban Indian orga-
21 nization’, respectively, in section 4 of the Indian
22 Health Care Improvement Act.

23 “(2) POSTPARTUM PERIOD.—The term
24 ‘postpartum period’ means the first year after an in-
25 dividual has given birth.

1 “(3) SHORT-TERM CHILD CARE.—The term
2 ‘short-term child care’—

3 “(A) means child care provided during
4 pregnancy, childbirth, or the postpartum pe-
5 riod—

6 “(i) for a limited duration; and

7 “(ii) for the birthed child or any other
8 child in the family; and

9 “(B) includes respite child care.

10 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
12 there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
14 through 2026.

15 “(2) EVALUATION.—Of the funds appropriated
16 to carry out this section under paragraph (1), not
17 more than 5 percent may be used to fund the eval-
18 uation under subsection (f).”.

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