

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6783

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BACON, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Autism Family Care-
3 givers Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. CAREGIVER SKILLS TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the
7 Health Resources and Services Administration, shall carry
8 out a program, to be known as the Caregiver Skills Train-
9 ing Pilot Program, under which the Secretary shall award
10 grants to eligible entities to provide evidence-based care-
11 giver skills training to caregivers, including family care-
12 givers, of children with autism spectrum disorder or other
13 developmental disabilities or delays, for the purposes of—

14 (1) improving the health outcomes and quality
15 of life of such children and their caregivers; and

16 (2) teaching caregivers of such children evi-
17 denced-based intervention strategies to promote—

18 (A) improvement in the mental and phys-
19 ical well-being of such children and their care-
20 givers; and

21 (B) the greater inclusion of such children
22 in family and community life.

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive an award
24 under subsection (a), an entity shall be—

25 (1) a nonprofit or other community-based orga-
26 nization;

- 1 (2) a Federally qualified health center;
- 2 (3) an academic health center;
- 3 (4) a health system; or
- 4 (5) a collaboration or consortium of 2 or more
- 5 entities listed in paragraphs (1) through (4).

6 (c) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this sec-
7 tion, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an
8 application that includes—

9 (1) a description of—

10 (A) the applicant’s experience delivering
11 evidence-based caregiver skills training to care-
12 givers, including family caregivers, of children
13 with autism spectrum disorder or other develop-
14 mental disabilities or delays;

15 (B) the activities that the applicant pro-
16 poses to carry out through the grant; and

17 (C) how such activities will achieve the
18 purposes described in subsection (a); and

19 (2) a plan for—

20 (A) coordination with community-based or-
21 ganizations, State and local early intervention
22 providers, Medicaid systems, schools, and other
23 providers of early intervening services;

24 (B) collaboration with health care payors
25 (including public and private insurance), State

1 departments of insurance, health plans, and
2 other relevant payors;

3 (C) expanding the skills training program
4 proposed to be carried out through the grant;
5 and

6 (D) achieving sustainability of such pro-
7 gram.

8 (d) SELECTION OF GRANTEES.—

9 (1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding a
10 grant to an eligible entity or a collaboration or con-
11 sortium of 2 or more entities described in subsection
12 (b), the Secretary shall require at least one of the
13 recipients to—

14 (A) have at least 3 years of demonstrated
15 experience—

16 (i) delivering evidence-based, cul-
17 turally competent caregivers skills training
18 programs described in subsection (a), in-
19 cluding in medically underserved commu-
20 nities;

21 (ii) providing services to children with
22 autism spectrum disorder or other develop-
23 mental delays and disabilities, as well as
24 collaborating directly with their families;

1 (iii) providing individual caregiver
2 coaching as part of skills training to care-
3 givers of children with autism spectrum
4 disorder or other developmental delays and
5 disabilities; and

6 (iv) working with self-advocates or
7 adults with autism spectrum disorder or
8 other developmental delays and disabilities;
9 and

10 (B) demonstrate the ability to access re-
11 sources from and collaborate with—

12 (i) health care providers;

13 (ii) allied health professionals;

14 (iii) educators;

15 (iv) social workers; and

16 (v) nonprofessional family caregivers
17 who assist with daily living and develop-
18 mental activities, including for children
19 with autism spectrum disorder or other de-
20 velopmental delays and disabilities.

21 (2) REDUCING DISPARITIES.—In awarding
22 grants under this section, the Secretary may con-
23 sider, as appropriate, the extent to which an eligible
24 entity can deliver evidence-based, culturally com-
25 petent caregivers skills training programs for chil-

1 dren with autism spectrum disorder or other devel-
2 opmental delays and disabilities from diverse racial,
3 ethnic, geographic, or linguistic backgrounds.

4 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under
5 this section shall use the grant to provide—

6 (1) evidence-based caregiver skills training to
7 caregivers of children with autism spectrum dis-
8 orders or other developmental delays and disabilities;
9 and

10 (2) such training in areas related to children’s
11 learning and development, including—

12 (A) communication skills;

13 (B) social engagement;

14 (C) daily living skills; and

15 (D) caregiver response strategies to ag-
16 gressive behavior.

17 (f) REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS AND STATES.—

19 The Secretary shall award grants under subsection
20 (a) to not fewer than 25 eligible entities in not fewer
21 than 15 States.

22 (2) AMOUNT.—The total amount of each grant
23 awarded under subsection (a) shall be not less than
24 \$500,000 over a 5-year period.

1 (g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made
2 available to carry out this section shall be in addition to
3 amounts made available to provide for—

4 (1) behavioral, medical, habilitative, and other
5 services covered by the Medicaid program or private
6 health insurance;

7 (2) services provided under the Individuals with
8 Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);
9 or

10 (3) adaptations of a training program using evi-
11 dence-based approaches to serve children of different
12 ages, communities, and underrepresented groups.

13 (h) CAREGIVER SKILLS TRAINING NATIONAL TECH-
14 NICAL ASSISTANCE AND EVALUATION CENTER.—The
15 Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health
16 Resources and Services Administration, shall establish and
17 operate a center, to be known as the Caregiver Skills
18 Training National Technical Assistance and Evaluation
19 Center, to—

20 (1) assist recipients of grants under subsection
21 (a) in the implementation of caregiver skills training
22 programs using lessons learned from other evi-
23 denced-based activities or caregiver programs con-
24 ducted or supported by the Health Resources and
25 Services Administration;

1 (2) assist such grant recipients in ensuring
2 their programs assist medically underserved commu-
3 nities, when possible;

4 (3) assist such grant recipients in developing
5 plans for achieving sustainability of their programs;

6 (4) collect and report on the effectiveness of
7 practices adopted pursuant to grants under sub-
8 section (a);

9 (5) conduct an annual evaluation of activities
10 funded through grants under subsection (a), in con-
11 sultation with the grant recipients, including evalua-
12 tion of the effectiveness of such grants at improving
13 health outcomes and quality of life for children with
14 autism spectrum disorder or other developmental
15 delays and disabilities and their family caregivers;

16 (6) convene national or regional meetings of
17 such grant recipients to discuss best practices; and

18 (7) provide other assistance as needed to im-
19 prove or carry out the program under this section.

20 (i) REPORTS.—

21 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 months
22 after awarding the first grant under subsection (a),
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Ap-
24 propriations of the House of Representatives and the
25 Senate, and to other appropriate congressional com-

1 mittees, a report on the implementation of this sec-
2 tion. Such report shall include—

3 (A) how many grants have been awarded;

4 (B) the name and location of the grant re-
5 ipients;

6 (C) the communities impacted by the
7 grants;

8 (D) a description of the kind of activities
9 to be carried out with the grants;

10 (E) an analysis, conducted by the Care-
11 giver Skills Training National Technical Assist-
12 ance and Evaluation Center in consultation
13 with the recipients of grants under subsection
14 (a), of the effectiveness of such grants at im-
15 proving health outcomes and quality of life for
16 children with autism or other developmental
17 disabilities or delays and their family care-
18 givers; and

19 (F) best practices, developed in consulta-
20 tion with the Caregiver Skills Training National
21 Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center, to
22 increase access to caregiver skills training pro-
23 grams described in subsection (a) in medically
24 underserved communities.

1 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the end of
2 fiscal year 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the
3 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives and the Senate, and to other appro-
5 priate congressional committees, a final report on
6 the implementation of this section, including—

7 (A) the information, analysis, and best
8 practices listed in subparagraphs (A) through
9 (F) of paragraph (1); and

10 (B) recommendations on how to expand
11 and extend the program under this section.

12 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “family caregiver” means an
14 adult family member or other individual who has a
15 significant relationship with, and who provides a
16 broad range of assistance to, a child between the
17 ages of 0 and 9 diagnosed with autism spectrum dis-
18 order or other developmental disabilities or delays.

19 (2) The term “Federally qualified health cen-
20 ter” has the meaning given the term in section
21 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
22 1395x(aa)).

23 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
24 of Health and Human Services.

25 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
2 there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000
3 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

4 (2) ALLOCATION FOR CENTER.—Of the amount
5 authorized by paragraph (1) to be appropriated to
6 carry out this section for a fiscal year, \$450,000
7 shall be for establishing or operating the Caregiver
8 Skills Training National Technical Assistance and
9 Evaluation Center.

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