

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8423

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2024

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. JAYAPAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, 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 “Elder Pride Act of
5 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965
3 (42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 423. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
8 tity’ means an entity that submits an application to
9 the Assistant Secretary in accordance with sub-
10 section (c) and is—

11 “(A) a State;

12 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
13 tion; or

14 “(C) an agency, nonprofit organization, or
15 institution that—

16 “(i) focuses on serving the needs of
17 older individuals, LGBTQI individuals,
18 older LGBTQI individuals, or individuals
19 of another protected class; or

20 “(ii) focuses on providing sexual
21 health services to all older individuals, in-
22 cluding services for individuals with HIV;
23 and

24 “(D) may include an area agency on aging
25 for a rural area or a multipurpose senior cen-
26 ter.

1 “(2) LGBTQI.—The term ‘LGBTQI’, used
2 with respect to an individual, means a lesbian, gay,
3 bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex individual.

4 “(3) PROTECTED CLASS.—The term ‘protected
5 class’ means a group of individuals sharing a com-
6 mon characteristic or identity who are legally pro-
7 tected against discrimination.

8 “(4) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
9 means an area that is not designated by the United
10 States Census Bureau as an urbanized area or
11 urban cluster.

12 “(b) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Assistant Sec-
13 retary may make grants to eligible entities to carry out
14 activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—

15 “(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part-
16 nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older
17 individuals of a protected class, residing in rural
18 areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;

19 “(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1); and

21 “(3) to provide comprehensive sexual health
22 services to all older individuals residing in rural
23 areas.

24 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a
2 grant under this section shall submit an application
3 to the Assistant Secretary at such time, in such
4 manner, and containing such information as the As-
5 sistant Secretary may reasonably require, including
6 the contents described in paragraph (2).

7 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application for a grant
8 under this section shall contain—

9 “(A) a description of the proposed activi-
10 ties to be supported by the grant;

11 “(B) a description of the size and charac-
12 teristics of the population in a rural area to be
13 served by such proposed activities;

14 “(C) a description of the public and private
15 resources expected to be made available in con-
16 nection with such activities;

17 “(D) a demonstrated intent to partner
18 with local organizations in rural areas in car-
19 rying out such activities;

20 “(E) evidence in a form acceptable to the
21 Assistant Secretary that such activities will
22 meet urgent needs that are not met by available
23 public and private sources; and

24 “(F) such other information or certifi-
25 cations that the Assistant Secretary determines

1 necessary to achieve the purposes described in
2 paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b).

3 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
4 funds made available by a grant under this section to
5 carry out activities that include initiatives that—

6 “(1) engage in education and training relating
7 to community outreach to LGBTQI older individ-
8 uals, or older individuals of a protected class, resid-
9 ing in rural areas;

10 “(2) reduce isolation and improve access to care
11 for LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals
12 of a protected class, residing in rural areas by build-
13 ing relationships between such individuals and the
14 local community;

15 “(3) foster relationships between local service
16 providers and LGBTQI older individuals, or older
17 individuals of a protected class, residing in rural
18 areas;

19 “(4) improve cultural competency with respect
20 to LGBTQI individuals, and older individuals of a
21 protected class, among organizations and personnel
22 providing services to older individuals residing in
23 rural areas;

24 “(5) expand the use of nondiscrimination poli-
25 cies that—

1 “(A) prohibit discrimination on the basis
2 of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex
3 characteristics (including intersex traits); and

4 “(B) create community spaces that are in-
5 clusive to LGBTQI older individuals and older
6 individuals of a protected class; and

7 “(6) focus on providing sexual health services to
8 older individuals residing in rural areas, including
9 services for individuals with HIV.

10 “(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—As a condition
11 of receiving funds under this section, an eligible entity
12 shall use such funds received under this section only to
13 supplement the level of state or local funds that would,
14 in the absence of the receipt of funds under this section,
15 be made available for related LGBTQI services.

16 “(f) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Assistant
17 Secretary shall establish standards and guidelines for ac-
18 tivities supported by grants under this section. Such
19 standards and guidelines shall permit an eligible entity re-
20 ceiving such grant to refine or adapt the standards and
21 guidelines for an individual project if the refinement or
22 adaptation is made necessary by a local circumstance.

23 “(g) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES.—

24 “(1) COOPERATION.—An eligible entity that re-
25 ceives a grant under this section shall, in carrying

1 out activities supported by the grant, agree to co-
2 operate and coordinate with—

3 “(A) the agencies of the relevant State and
4 local governments responsible for providing
5 services to LGBTQI older individuals, or older
6 individuals of a protected class, in the area
7 served by such activities; and

8 “(B) other public and private organizations
9 and agencies providing services to LGBTQI
10 older individuals, or older individuals of a pro-
11 tected class, in such area.

12 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity re-
13 ceiving a grant under this section shall prioritize co-
14 operating and coordinating with public and private
15 organizations and agencies that primarily serve pop-
16 ulations of older individuals with the greatest social
17 need.

18 “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the ef-
19 fective date of this section, and annually thereafter, the
20 Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Congress and
21 make available to the public a report describing the activi-
22 ties carried out under this section during the then pre-
23 ceding 2-year period.

24 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 to be authorized for rural outreach grant activities under

1 section 423, \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and
2 2029.”.

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