

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8669

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2022

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs.

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 “Community Mentors
5 for Moms Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL MEN-**
7 **TORING PROGRAMS.**

8 Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701
9 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 514. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL**
2 **MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other pay-
4 ments made under this title to a State, the Secretary shall
5 make grants to eligible entities to conduct demonstration
6 projects for, and enable such entities to deliver services
7 under, community-based mentoring programs that satisfy
8 the requirements of subsection (c) to eligible mothers in
9 order to promote improvements in maternal and child well-
10 being, financial stewardship, child development, parenting,
11 and access to social services and other community re-
12 sources.

13 “(b) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not award
14 funds made available under this subsection on a non-
15 competitive basis, and may not provide any such funds to
16 an entity for the purpose of carrying out a community-
17 based mentoring program unless the entity has submitted
18 an application to the Secretary that includes—

19 “(1) a description of how the programs or ac-
20 tivities proposed in the application will improve ma-
21 ternal mental and physical health outcomes in a
22 service area identified by the entity, substantially in-
23 crease the number of eligible mothers in a service
24 area with access to a community-based mentoring
25 relationship, utilize community volunteer mentors,
26 and supplement, including by avoiding duplication

1 with, existing social services and community re-
2 sources;

3 “(2) a description of how the program will part-
4 ner with other community institutions, including pri-
5 vate institutions, in identifying eligible mothers in
6 need of a mentor and, as applicable, creating sup-
7 port communities among eligible mothers;

8 “(3) a description of the populations to be
9 served by the entity, including specific information
10 on how the entity will serve eligible mothers who be-
11 long to high-risk populations as identified in sub-
12 section (d);

13 “(4) a description of the maternal and child
14 health indicators, financial well-being, and other
15 needs of populations to be served by the entity as
16 described in paragraph (3), including, to the extent
17 practicable, the prevalence of mentoring opportuni-
18 ties for such populations;

19 “(5) the quantifiable benchmarks that will be
20 used to measure program success;

21 “(6) a commitment by the entity to consult
22 with experts with a demonstrated history of men-
23 toring and case management success in achieving
24 the outcomes described in subsection (c)(2)(A) in de-
25 veloping the programs and activities; and

1 “(7) such other application information as the
2 Secretary may deem necessary, with the goal of
3 minimizing the application burden on small non-
4 governmental organizations that would otherwise
5 qualify for the grant.

6 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

7 “(1) CORE COMPONENTS.—A community ma-
8 ternal mentoring program conducted with a grant
9 made under this section shall include the following
10 core components:

11 “(A) Provision of community-based men-
12 toring relationships for eligible mothers, which
13 may include dedicated individual mentors and
14 networks of peer and community support
15 groups.

16 “(B) An individualized needs assessment
17 for each eligible mother participating in the
18 program, to be administered at the outset of
19 the program.

20 “(C) Recruitment and utilization of com-
21 munity-based, volunteer mentors.

22 “(D) Provision of training to participating
23 mentors to equip them with mentoring best
24 practices and knowledge of public and private

1 resources available to eligible mothers (includ-
2 ing public social services).

3 “(2) MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN BENCH-
4 MARK AREAS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The eligible entity
6 shall establish, subject to the approval of the
7 Secretary, quantifiable, measurable 3- and 5-
8 year benchmarks demonstrating the program
9 results in improvements for eligible mothers
10 participating in the program in the following
11 areas:

12 “(i) The number of eligible mothers in
13 the eligible entity’s service area with access
14 to a community-based mentoring relation-
15 ship.

16 “(ii) Improved maternal and child
17 health, including mental and behavioral
18 health.

19 “(iii) Improved financial literacy.

20 “(iv) Improved family economic self-
21 sufficiency.

22 “(v) Improved coordination and refer-
23 rals for other community resources and
24 supports, including public and private re-
25 sources.

1 “(B) DEMONSTRATION OF IMPROVE-
2 MENT.—

3 “(i) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—
4 Not later than 30 days after the end of the
5 third year in which the eligible entity con-
6 ducts the program, the entity shall submit
7 to the Secretary a report describing the
8 program’s results in the areas specified in
9 subparagraph (A).

10 “(ii) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the re-
11 port submitted to the Secretary fails to
12 demonstrate improvements in at least 3 of
13 the areas outlined in subparagraph (A),
14 the eligible entity shall develop and imple-
15 ment a plan to improve outcomes in each
16 of the areas specified in subparagraph (A),
17 subject to approval by the Secretary.

18 “(iii) NO IMPROVEMENT OR FAILURE
19 TO SUBMIT REPORT.—If, 1 year after an
20 eligible entity submits an improvement
21 plan under clause (ii), the Secretary deter-
22 mines that the entity has failed to dem-
23 onstrate any improvement in the areas
24 specified in subparagraph (A), or if the
25 Secretary determines that an eligible entity

1 has failed to submit the report required
2 under clause (i), and has not agreed to a
3 reasonable timeline to submit such report
4 under such conditions as may be deter-
5 mined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall
6 terminate the entity’s grant and may re-
7 allocate any unpaid grant funds toward fu-
8 ture grants provided under this section.

9 “(3) IMPROVEMENTS IN PARTICIPANT OUT-
10 COMES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program is de-
12 signed, with respect to an eligible mother par-
13 ticipating in the program, to result in the par-
14 ticipant outcomes described in subparagraph
15 (B) that are relevant to the mother (as deter-
16 mined pursuant to an individualized needs as-
17 sessment administered to the mother).

18 “(B) PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES.—The par-
19 ticipant outcomes described in this subpara-
20 graph are the following:

21 “(i) Improvements in prenatal and
22 maternal health, including mental and be-
23 havioral health and improved pregnancy
24 outcomes.

1 “(ii) Improvements in child health
2 and development, including the prevention
3 of child injuries and maltreatment.

4 “(iii) Higher levels of engagement be-
5 tween mothers, children, and their health
6 providers.

7 “(iv) Reductions in mother’s stress
8 and anxiety.

9 “(v) Improvements in parenting skills.

10 “(vi) Improvement in financial literacy
11 skills.

12 “(vii) Improvements in child’s school
13 readiness and academic achievement.

14 “(viii) Improvements in family eco-
15 nomic self-sufficiency.

16 “(ix) Improvements in the coordina-
17 tion of referrals for, and the provision of,
18 other community resources, including pri-
19 vate and public resources, and supports for
20 eligible families.

21 “(d) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity receiving a
22 grant under this section shall identify and prioritize high-
23 risk populations in provision of services, including—

24 “(1) low-income eligible mothers;

1 “(2) eligible mothers who are pregnant women
2 who have not attained the age of 21;

3 “(3) eligible mothers from populations with a
4 high risk of maternal morbidity;

5 “(4) eligible mothers with a history of sub-
6 stance abuse or victims of domestic abuse;

7 “(5) eligible mothers with children with develop-
8 mental disabilities; and

9 “(6) eligible mothers residing in a qualified op-
10 portunity zone, as designated under section 1400Z-
11 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 “(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds provided to
13 an eligible entity under a grant awarded under subsection
14 (a) shall supplement, and not supplant, funds from other
15 sources for maternal mentorship or case management
16 services.

17 “(f)(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall engage in
18 ongoing research and evaluation activities in order to in-
19 crease knowledge about the implementation and effective-
20 ness of community maternal mentoring programs. The
21 Secretary may carry out such activities directly, or
22 through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and
23 shall submit a report to Congress not less than annually
24 on the research and evaluation steps being taken to meas-
25 ure the impact and effectiveness of programs funded

1 under this subchapter, as well as any interim outcomes
2 that may be available.

3 “(2) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 3
4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit a report to Congress on the effective-
6 ness of programs funded with grants under subsection (a)
7 in producing the outcomes described in subsection
8 (c)(3)(B), which shall include recommendations for im-
9 proving program design and implementation.

10 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
11 provide an eligible entity required to develop and imple-
12 ment an improvement plan under clause (c)(2)(B) with
13 technical assistance to develop and implement the plan.
14 The Secretary may provide the technical assistance di-
15 rectly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
16 ments.

17 “(h) NO FUNDS TO PROHIBITED ENTITIES.—No
18 prohibited entity shall be eligible to receive a grant under
19 subsection (a), or any other funds made available by this
20 section.

21 “(i) PROTECTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS
22 ORGANIZATIONS.—A religious organization shall be eligi-
23 ble to apply for and receive funding for a program under
24 this section on the same basis as a nonreligious organiza-
25 tion, and a religious organization’s exemptions, in title VII

1 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (including exemption from
2 prohibitions in employment discrimination in section
3 702(a) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000e–1(a))), title VIII of
4 the Civil rights Act of 1968, title IX of the Educational
5 Amendments of 1987, the Americans with Disabilities Act,
6 the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Religious
7 Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, or any other
8 provision in law providing an exemption for a religious or-
9 ganization, shall not be waived by its participation in, or
10 receipt of funds from, a grant provided by this section.

11 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
12 purposes of carrying out this section, there are authorized
13 to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
14 2023 through 2025.

15 “(1) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-
16 priated under this subsection for a fiscal year (or
17 portion of a fiscal year), the Secretary shall reserve
18 3 percent for purposes of carrying out subsections
19 (f) and (g).

20 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available to
21 an eligible entity under this section for a fiscal year
22 (or portion of a fiscal year) shall remain available
23 for expenditure by the eligible entity through the end
24 of the third succeeding fiscal year after award.

25 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
2 tity’ means a local government, Indian Tribe (or a
3 consortium of Indian Tribes), Tribal Organization,
4 Urban Indian Organization, or nonprofit organiza-
5 tion, including religious organizations, with a dem-
6 onstrated history of serving eligible mothers.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE MOTHER.—The term ‘eligible
8 mother’ means—

9 “(A) a woman who is pregnant; or

10 “(B) a woman who has primary caregiving
11 responsibilities for a child under the age of 6.

12 “(3) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term ‘prohib-
13 ited entity’ means an entity, including its affiliates,
14 subsidiaries, successors, and clinics that, as of the
15 date of enactment of this section, performs, induces,
16 refers for, or counsels in favor of abortions, or pro-
17 vides financial support to any other organization
18 that conducts such activities.

19 “(4) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING RELA-
20 TIONSHIP.—The term ‘community-based mentoring
21 relationship’ means a dedicated mentor and, as ap-
22 plicable, group of mentors or a peer support group,
23 that meet regularly with an eligible mother and help
24 that mother address barriers to care, mental, behav-
25 ioral, and physical well-being, and economic mobility

1 by providing support services and linkages to com-
2 munity resources. A community-based mentoring re-
3 lationship should, to the extent practicable, have an
4 understanding of the barriers and lived experience of
5 that community, which may include shared lived ex-
6 perience.”.

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