

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 639

To establish a National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and
Kinship Families

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2021

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a National Technical Assistance Center on
Grandfamilies and Kinship Families

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 “Grandfamilies Tech-
5 nical Assistance Center Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER ON**
7 **GRANDFAMILIES AND KINSHIP FAMILIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise
9 available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health
10 and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of

1 the Administration for Community Living, out of any
 2 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
 3 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain available
 4 through September 30, 2025, to establish, directly or
 5 through grants or contracts, a National Technical Assist-
 6 ance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families (in
 7 this section referred to as the “Center”) to provide train-
 8 ing, technical assistance, and resources for government
 9 programs, nonprofit and other community-based organiza-
 10 tions, and Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban
 11 Indian organizations, that serve grandfamilies and kinship
 12 families to support the health and well-being of members
 13 of grandfamilies and kinship families, including care-
 14 givers, children, and their parents. The Center shall focus
 15 primarily on serving grandfamilies and kinship families in
 16 which the primary caregiver is an adult age 55 or older,
 17 or the child has one or more disabilities.

18 (b) ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER.—The Center
 19 shall—

20 (1) engage experts to stimulate the development
 21 of new and identify existing evidence-based, evi-
 22 dence-informed, and exemplary practices or pro-
 23 grams related to health promotion (including mental
 24 health and substance use disorder treatment), edu-
 25 cation, nutrition, housing, financial needs, legal

1 issues, disability self-determination, caregiver sup-
2 port, and other issues to help serve caregivers, chil-
3 dren, and their parents in grandfamilies and kinship
4 families;

5 (2) encourage and support the implementation
6 of the evidence-based, evidence-informed, and exem-
7 plary practices or programs identified under para-
8 graph (1) to support grandfamilies and kinship fam-
9 ilies and to promote coordination of services for
10 grandfamilies and kinship families across systems
11 that support them;

12 (3) facilitate learning across States, territories,
13 Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban In-
14 dian organizations for providing technical assistance,
15 resources, and training related to issues described in
16 paragraph (1) to individuals and entities across sys-
17 tems that directly work with grandfamilies and kin-
18 ship families;

19 (4) help government programs, nonprofit and
20 other community-based organizations, and Indian
21 Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian orga-
22 nizations, serving grandfamilies and kinship families,
23 to plan and coordinate responses to assist
24 grandfamilies and kinship families during national,

1 State, Tribal, territorial, and local emergencies and
2 disasters; and

3 (5) assist government programs, and nonprofit
4 and other community-based organizations, in pro-
5 moting equity and implementing culturally and lin-
6 guistically appropriate approaches as the programs
7 and organizations serve grandfamilies and kinship
8 families.

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