

115 TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 4167

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to provide coordinated case management services for TANF recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 27, 2017

Mrs. Walorski introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to provide coordinated case management services for TANF recipients.

- 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 "Coordinating Assist-
- 5 ance for TANF Recipients Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. COORDINATED CASE MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRA-
- 7 TION PROJECTS.
- 8 Section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
- 9 603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1	"(c) Coordinated Case Management Dem-
2	ONSTRATION PROJECTS.—
3	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
4	grants to States to conduct demonstration projects
5	designed to implement and evaluate strategies to
6	provide coordinated case management to help indi-
7	viduals receiving assistance under a State program
8	funded under this part or any other State program
9	funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined
10	in section $409(a)(7)(B)(i)$ increase their employ-
11	ment and self-sufficiency.
12	"(2) Application requirements.—The Sec-
13	retary shall require each State that applies for a
14	grant under this paragraph to do the following:
15	"(A) Describe how, using the funds pro-
16	vided under this paragraph, the State or its
17	designee will ensure an individual responsibility
18	plan is developed in accordance with section
19	408(b) for each recipient referred to in para-
20	graph (1) of this subsection.
21	"(B) Describe how the State or its des-
22	ignee will ensure the development of this plan
23	is coordinated with other programs and agen-
24	cies providing benefits and services to the indi-

1	vidual to help the recipient increase the employ-
2	ment and self-sufficiency of the recipient.
3	"(C) Describe how the State or its des-
4	ignee will ensure the delivery of the benefits
5	and services to the recipient (which may include
6	the use of home visiting models).
7	"(D) Describe how the State or its des-
8	ignee will meet with the recipient at least
9	monthly to review the employment status of the
10	recipient and status of the participation of the
11	recipient in other activities, the benefits and
12	services the recipient is receiving, and the
13	progress of the recipient toward meeting the
14	goals specified in the individual responsibility
15	plan of the recipient.
16	"(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State to which a grant
17	is made under this subsection may use the grant for
18	the following purposes:
19	"(A) To support coordinated case man-
20	agers in completing the activities specified in
21	paragraph (2).
22	"(B) To provide short-term transitional
23	benefits and services to individuals who, due to
24	increased employment or earnings, may face

1 disincentives to increasing work or earnings due 2 to the phase-out or loss of certain benefits.

- "(C) To ensure that recipients of services under the demonstration project have a choice between two or more coordinated case management service providers (which may include managed care organizations) that demonstrate experience and expertise in case management, including the development of individual assessment plans and coordinated service management across various programs.
- "(D) To improve coordination between programs serving recipients who are part of the demonstration project.
- "(E) To improve coordination between information technology and other systems to deliver better benefits or services to the recipient, except that not more than 10 percent of the grant amount may be used for this purpose.
- "(4) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with each State conducting a demonstration project under this subsection, shall conduct a highquality evaluation of the demonstration project in accordance with the following:

- "(A) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract with an evaluator unless the evaluator has demonstrated experience in conducting rigorous evaluations of program effectiveness including, where available and appropriate, well-implemented randomized controlled trials.
 - "(B) METHODOLOGIES TO BE USED.—The evaluation of a demonstration project shall use experimental designs using random assignment or other reliable, evidence-based research methodologies that allow for the strongest possible causal inferences when random assignment is not feasible.
 - "(C) Public disclosure.—The Secretary shall publish the results of the evaluation on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services in a location easily accessible by the public.
 - "(D) Limitation on cost of evaluations.—For evaluations under this paragraph, the Secretary may not obligate more than 20 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph (6) for each fiscal year.

1	"(5) Recommendations to congress.—The
2	Secretary shall submit recommendations to the Con-
3	gress on ways to improve case management and bet-
4	ter coordinate benefits and services across programs.
5	"(6) Funding.—Of the amounts made avail-
6	able to carry out subsection (b) for fiscal year 2019
7	and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall
8	reserve \$300,000,000 to carry out this subsection.
9	"(7) Availability of funds.—Funds pro-
10	vided to a State under this subsection for a fiscal
11	year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year
12	or in the succeeding fiscal year.".

13 SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2018.

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