

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2555

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish a grant program to provide grants to local agencies and clinics to improve the health of mothers and infants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 2021

Ms. Adams (for herself and Mr. Scott of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish a grant program to provide grants to local agencies and clinics to improve the health of mothers and infants, 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 "Community Access,
- 5 Resources, and Education for Families Act" or the
- 6 "CARE for Families Act".

1	SEC. 2. FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
2	OUTREACH.
3	Section 17(h) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
4	U.S.C. 1786(h)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5	lowing:
6	"(15) Community Health Partnerships
7	GRANTS.—
8	"(A) Program established.—Not later
9	than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
10	this paragraph, the Secretary shall carry out a
11	grant program to make grants to local agencies
12	and clinics to carry out the activities described
13	in subparagraph (B).
14	"(B) Grant Program activities.—A
15	local agency or clinic that receives a grant
16	under this paragraph shall use the grant funds
17	to carry out activities to enhance collaboration
18	between—
19	"(i) local agencies, clinics, and com-
20	munity health partners, including other
21	health care providers, social services pro-
22	grams, and early childhood learning and
23	care providers, for the purposes of—
24	"(I) establishing linkages be-
25	tween such entities, such as through
26	participation in community coalitions;

1	"(II) facilitating referrals be-
2	tween such entities;
3	"(III) implementing evidence-
4	based strategies to—
5	"(aa) improve the health of
6	communities;
7	"(bb) conduct outreach to
8	potential program participants;
9	and
10	"(cc) promote breastfeeding
11	and access to healthy foods; and
12	"(IV) increasing awareness
13	among such entities and program par-
14	ticipants (including potential program
15	participants) of the eligibility require-
16	ments for, and health benefits of, the
17	program; and
18	"(ii) local agencies, clinics, and health
19	care entities for the purposes of—
20	"(I) facilitating and improving
21	access to comprehensive prenatal,
22	postnatal, and postpartum care for
23	program participants;
24	$``(\Pi)$ facilitating certification of
25	eligibility of persons for participation

1	in the program and provision of pro-
2	gram benefits at the hospital bedside
3	for eligible postpartum women and in-
4	fants;
5	"(III) improving the coordina-
6	tion, quality, and cost effectiveness of
7	health care services; and
8	"(IV) ensuring consistent nutri-
9	tion education and breastfeeding mes-
10	sages are provided to program partici-
11	pants.
12	"(C) Application.—To be eligible to re-
13	ceive a grant under this paragraph, a local
14	agency or clinic shall submit an application to
15	the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
16	and containing such information as the Sec-
17	retary may require.
18	"(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
19	TIONS.—
20	"(i) In General.—From amounts
21	appropriated under subsection (g),
22	\$15,000,000 may be made available to
23	carry out this paragraph for each of fiscal
24	years 2020 through 2025.

1	"(ii) Adjustment.—The amount
2	specified in clause (i) shall be adjusted an-
3	nually for inflation by the same factor used
4	to determine the national average per par-
5	ticipant grant for nutrition services and
6	administration for the fiscal year under
7	paragraph (1)(B).
8	"(E) Definitions.—In this paragraph:
9	"(i) Program.—The term 'program'
10	means the special supplemental nutrition
11	program under this section.
12	"(ii) Program Participant.—The
13	term 'program participant' means a partic-
14	ipant in the program.
15	"(iii) Health care entities.—The
16	term 'health care entities' includes pedia-
17	tricians, obstetricians-gynecologists, family
18	physicians, advance practice nurses, nurse
19	midwives, community health centers,
20	health departments, hospitals, facilities
21	funded by the Indian Health Service and
22	rural health clinics.
23	"(16) Initiative for coordinating health
24	INFORMATION EXCHANGE.—

1	"(A) In general.—Not later than 120
2	days after the date of the enactment of this
3	paragraph, the Secretary shall establish an ini-
4	tiative to improve communication between State
5	agencies and local agencies and medical pro-
6	viders with respect to program participant
7	health information related to services provided
8	under the program.
9	"(B) Requirements.—In carrying out
10	the initiative established under subparagraph
11	(A), the Secretary—
12	"(i) may only disclose program partic-
13	ipant health information if the disclosure
14	of such information is permitted under the
15	Federal regulations (concerning the privacy
16	of individually identifiable health informa-
17	tion) promulgated under section 26(c) of
18	the Health Insurance Portability and Ac-
19	countability Act of 1996; and
20	"(ii) shall—
21	"(I) consult with the Director of
22	the Office for Civil Rights of the
23	Health and Human Services Depart-
24	ment, the National Coordinator for
25	Health Information Technology, the

1	Administrator for the Health Re-
2	sources and Services Administration,
3	the Administrator of the Centers for
4	Medicare & Medicaid Services, and
5	the Director of the Indian Health
6	Service;
7	"(II) promote bidirectional inter-
8	operability between management in-
9	formation systems and electronic
10	health record systems of health care
11	providers; and
12	"(III) support development of
13	model software or systems that could
14	be utilized by multiple State agencies
15	for the communication described in
16	subparagraph (A).
17	"(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
18	TIONS.—From amounts appropriated under
19	subsection (g), \$50,000,000 may be made avail-
20	able to carry out this paragraph for fiscal year
21	2022, to be available until expended.
22	"(D) Definitions.—In this paragraph:
23	"(i) Program.—The term 'program'
24	means the special supplemental nutrition
25	program under this section.

1	"(ii) Program participant.—The
2	term 'program participant' means a partic-
3	ipant in the program.".

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