

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 135

To establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, 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 “Coronavirus Mental
5 Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. CORONAVIRUS MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION**
7 **ASSISTANCE NETWORK.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
10 retary”), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Men-

1 tal Health and Substance Use, shall make competitive
2 grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to es-
3 tablish a Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assist-
4 ance Network that provides programs for assisting individ-
5 uals in managing mental health and substance use dis-
6 orders during or in connection to the COVID-19 pan-
7 demic.

8 (b) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—Grants awarded under
9 subsection (a) may be used—

10 (1) to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that
11 provide professional mental health and substance use
12 disorder counseling and referral for other forms of
13 assistance as necessary to assist in the management
14 of mental health and substance use disorders during
15 or in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic,
16 through—

17 (A) telephone helplines and websites;

18 (B) training, including training programs
19 and workshops;

20 (C) support groups;

21 (D) outreach and support activities, includ-
22 ing the dissemination of information, materials,
23 and equipment to clients for remote access to
24 mental health and substance use disorder serv-
25 ices; and

1 (E) telehealth services; or

2 (2) to enter into contracts, on a multiyear
3 basis, with community-based, direct-service organiza-
4 tions to initiate, expand, or sustain programs de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) and subsection (a).

6 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award
7 a grant under this section to an entity that provides evi-
8 dence-based services and is—

9 (1) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of
10 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
11 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) or an urban Indian or-
12 ganization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
13 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603));

14 (2) a qualified nonprofit organization, as deter-
15 mined by the Secretary;

16 (3) an entity providing appropriate services, as
17 determined by the Secretary, in 1 or more States; or

18 (4) a partnership carried out by 2 or more enti-
19 ties described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3).

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$100,000,000, for the fiscal year ending September 30,
23 2021, to remain available until expended, or until the date
24 that is 1 year after the conclusion of the public health
25 emergency declared by the Secretary under section 319

1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on Jan-
2 uary 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19, whichever is
3 earlier.

4 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS, AGENCIES, AND PUB-
5 LIC.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
7 the amount appropriated under subsection (d) is no
8 longer available, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
9 gress and any other relevant Federal department or
10 agency, and make publicly available, a report de-
11 scribing the success of the Coronavirus Mental
12 Health and Addiction Assistance Network under this
13 section in assisting in managing mental health and
14 substance use disorders during or in connection to
15 the COVID–19 pandemic.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph
17 (1) shall include—

18 (A) an inventory and assessment of efforts,
19 to support individuals seeking to manage men-
20 tal health and substance use disorders during
21 or in connection to the COVID–19 pandemic,
22 by—

23 (i) the Federal Government, States,
24 and units of local government;

1 (ii) communities comprised of individ-
2 uals seeking to manage mental health and
3 substance use disorders during or in con-
4 nection to the COVID–19 pandemic;

5 (iii) health care providers; and

6 (iv) other appropriate entities, as de-
7 termined by the Secretary;

8 (B) a description of the challenges faced
9 by individuals seeking to manage mental health
10 and substance use disorders during or in con-
11 nection to the COVID–19 pandemic;

12 (C) a description of how the Secretary can
13 improve coordination and cooperation with
14 other Federal health departments and agencies,
15 including other subagencies of the Department
16 of Health and Human Services such as the
17 Health Resources and Services Administration,
18 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
19 and the National Institutes of Health, to best
20 address the mental health and substance use
21 disorders of individuals who are seeking to
22 manage mental health and substance use dis-
23 orders during or in connection to the COVID–
24 19 pandemic; and

1 (D) an evaluation of the impact that men-
2 tal health and substance use disorder challenges
3 and health outcomes (including suicide) experi-
4 enced during or in connection to the COVID-
5 19 pandemic have on—

6 (i) the health care workforce and oc-
7 cupations related to pandemic prepared-
8 ness and response;

9 (ii) workforce readiness in new occu-
10 pations for employees whose jobs became
11 obsolete; and

12 (iii) community resilience.

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