

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5456

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize rural residency planning and development grant programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize rural residency planning and development grant programs, 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 “Rural Residency Plan-
5 ning and Development Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
 2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 4 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 330A—
 5 2 the following:

6 **“SEC. 330A-3. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-**
 7 **MENT PROGRAM AND RURAL RESIDENCY**
 8 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL**
 9 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL RESIDENCY PRO-
 11 GRAM.—In this section, the term ‘rural residency pro-
 12 gram’ means a physician residency program, including a
 13 rural track program, accredited by the Accreditation
 14 Council for Graduate Medical Education (or a similar
 15 body) that—

16 “(1) trains residents in rural areas (as defined
 17 by the Secretary) for more than 50 percent of the
 18 total time of their residency; and

19 “(2) primarily focuses on producing physicians
 20 who will practice in rural areas, as defined by the
 21 Secretary.

22 “(b) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-
 23 MENT PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
 25 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’—

26 “(A) means—

1 “(i) a domestic public or private non-
2 profit or for-profit entity; or

3 “(ii) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organi-
4 zation; and

5 “(B) may include faith-based or commu-
6 nity-based organizations, rural hospitals, rural
7 community-based ambulatory patient care cen-
8 ters (including rural health clinics), health cen-
9 ters operated by an Indian Tribe, Tribal organi-
10 zation, or urban Indian organization, graduate
11 medical education consortiums (including insti-
12 tutions of higher education, such as schools of
13 allopathic medicine, schools of osteopathic medi-
14 cine, or historically Black colleges or univer-
15 sities), or other organizations as determined ap-
16 propriate by the Secretary.

17 “(2) GRANTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
19 award grants to eligible entities to create new
20 rural residency programs (including adding new
21 rural training sites to existing rural track pro-
22 grams).

23 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
24 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
25 of the award.

1 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
2 this subsection shall be 3 years and may be ex-
3 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

4 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
6 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible
7 entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary
8 an application at such time, in such manner,
9 and containing such information as the Sec-
10 retary may require, including a description of
11 the pathway of the rural residency program as
12 described in subparagraph (B).

13 “(B) PATHWAY.—A pathway of a rural
14 residency program supported under this sub-
15 section shall be for—

16 “(i) general primary care and high-
17 need specialty care, including family medi-
18 cine, internal medicine, preventive medi-
19 cine, psychiatry, pediatrics, or general sur-
20 gery;

21 “(ii) maternal health and obstetrics,
22 which may be obstetrics and gynecology or
23 family medicine with enhanced obstetrical
24 training; or

1 “(iii) any other pathway as deter-
 2 mined appropriate by the Secretary.

3 “(c) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-
 4 MENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

5 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
 6 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

7 “(A) a domestic public or private nonprofit
 8 or for-profit entity; or

9 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
 10 tion.

11 “(2) GRANTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
 13 award grants to eligible entities to provide tech-
 14 nical assistance to awardees of and potential
 15 applicants of the program described in sub-
 16 section (b).

17 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
 18 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
 19 of the award.

20 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
 21 this subsection shall be 4 years and may be ex-
 22 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

23 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
 24 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
 25 prepare and submit to the Secretary an application

1 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
2 information as the Secretary may require.

3 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
5 appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000
6 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

7 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appro-
8 priated under paragraph (1) shall remain available
9 to the Secretary until expended.”.

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