

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5412

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to assist in the establishment and operation of healthy food pharmacies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Ms. BYNUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to assist in the establishment and operation of healthy food pharmacies, 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 “Food Farmacy Act
5 of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that the goal of healthy food phar-
8 macies (also known as “food farmacies”) is to improve the

1 health outcomes of their patrons by expanding access to
2 nutritious foods and providing nutritional guidance.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR HEALTHY FOOD PHARMACIES.**

4 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 320C. GRANTS FOR HEALTHY FOOD PHARMACIES.**

8 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Sec-
9 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,
10 may make grants to eligible entities to assist in the estab-
11 lishment and operation of healthy food pharmacies.

12 “(b) **USE OF GRANTS.**—A grant received by an eligi-
13 ble entity under this section shall be used for costs related
14 to—

15 “(1) construction, conversion, or renovation of a
16 healthy food pharmacy;

17 “(2) the acquisition of equipment for a healthy
18 food pharmacy, including for a mobile food phar-
19 macy;

20 “(3) staffing to operate a healthy food phar-
21 macy and help connect patients to other programs
22 that support health outcomes and combat food inse-
23 curity; and

1 “(4) the acquisition of food and materials nec-
2 essary for food distribution by a healthy food phar-
3 macy.

4 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

5 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following enti-
6 ties shall be eligible to receive a grant under this
7 section:

8 “(A) A non-profit qualified health care
9 provider.

10 “(B) A State or local government entity.

11 “(C) A Tribal organization.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE HEALTHY FOOD PHARMACIES.—
13 The Secretary may make a grant under this section
14 with respect to a healthy food pharmacy if the
15 healthy food pharmacy—

16 “(A) offers a range of services to its pa-
17 trons, including access to healthy foods and nu-
18 tritional guidance from a qualified health care
19 professional;

20 “(B) is operated in a manner that
21 prioritizes the provision of services to commu-
22 nities that are low income, rural, or facing food
23 insecurity (as such terms may be defined by the
24 Secretary);

1 “(C) provides food and nutritional guid-
2 ance free of charge to individuals receiving ben-
3 efits under Medicaid or the Supplemental Nu-
4 trition Assistance Program; and

5 “(D) is operated in a manner that sup-
6 ports the ‘Food is Medicine’ initiative of the
7 Department of Health and Human Services.

8 “(d) APPLICATION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
10 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
11 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
12 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
13 retary may require.

14 “(2) PLAN FOR CONTINUATION OF GRANT AC-
15 TIVITIES.—As part of such an application, the Sec-
16 retary shall require an eligible entity to submit a
17 plan for continuing to carry out activities described
18 in subsection (b) after the eligible entity is no longer
19 receiving grant funds under this section, including a
20 plan to retain staff hired using the grant funds.

21 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity that receives
22 a grant under this section may carry out activities using
23 the amounts of the grant in partnership with other organi-
24 zations seeking to reduce food insecurity and improve
25 health outcomes.

1 “(f) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Sec-
2 retary may not award to an eligible entity more than
3 \$500,000 in grants under this section for a fiscal year.

4 “(g) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CERTAIN REQUIRE-
5 MENTS.—The Secretary may waive requirements of title
6 XI of the Social Security Act as may be necessary solely
7 for the purposes of carrying out a program under this sec-
8 tion.

9 “(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—The Secretary
11 may make a grant to an eligible entity under this
12 section with respect to a healthy food pharmacy only
13 if the eligible entity agrees to submit to the Sec-
14 retary, on an annual basis for such period as the
15 Secretary may prescribe, a report on the effective-
16 ness of the activities funded with the amounts of the
17 grant, including a description of—

18 “(A) the number of patrons served by the
19 healthy food pharmacy;

20 “(B) the health needs of such patrons;

21 “(C) the repeated use of the healthy food
22 pharmacy by such patrons;

23 “(D) the reported health outcomes of such
24 patrons;

1 “(E) the types of food acquired by such
2 patrons from the healthy food pharmacy; and

3 “(F) the assistance provided by the healthy
4 food pharmacy to connect such patrons with
5 other programs that address food insecurity
6 and improve health outcomes.

7 “(2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
8 2 years after the date of enactment of this section,
9 and biennially thereafter during the term of the
10 grant program under this section, the Secretary
11 shall submit to Congress a report that summarizes
12 the reports received by the Secretary under para-
13 graph (1).

14 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

15 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’ means an entity described in subsection (c)(1).

17 “(2) HEALTHY FOOD PHARMACY.—The term
18 ‘healthy food pharmacy’ means an organization that
19 provides to its patrons services that include—

20 “(A) access to nutritious foods that are
21 representative of foods for a healthy diet, based
22 on the Dietary Guidelines of the Department of
23 Agriculture and guidance from the Secretary;
24 and

1 “(B) nutritional guidance from a qualified
2 health care professional.

3 “(3) QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFES-
4 SIONAL.—The term ‘qualified health care profes-
5 sional’ means—

6 “(A) a registered dietitian or nutrition pro-
7 fessional, as defined by section 1861(vv)(2) of
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1395x(vv)(2));

10 “(B) a physician, as defined by section
11 1861(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
12 1395x(r)); and

13 “(C) a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse
14 specialist, physician assistant, or other profes-
15 sional, as determined appropriate by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(4) QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—
18 The term ‘qualified health care provider’ means—

19 “(A) a provider of services, as defined by
20 section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act (42
21 U.S.C. 1395x(u));

22 “(B) a physician organization, as defined
23 by section 411.351 of title 42, Code of Federal
24 Regulations (or successor regulations);

1 “(C) a rural health clinic, as defined by
2 section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2));

4 “(D) a Federally qualified health center, as
5 defined by section 1887(aa)(4) of the Social Se-
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(4)); or

7 “(E) another provider, as determined ap-
8 propriate by the Secretary.

9 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
10 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
11 through the Assistant Secretary for Health.

12 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
14 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
15 through 2030.”.

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