

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5417

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to faith-or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to faith-or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

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 “Health Access Innova-  
5       tion Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-8. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PRO-**  
6 **GRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants  
8 to eligible entities to expand access to culturally and lin-  
9 guistically appropriate care, encourage innovation, and ad-  
10 dress persistent health inequities and chronic disease chal-  
11 lenges, including by—

12 “(1) paying the costs of necessary medical serv-  
13 ices, health screenings, tests, and other preventive  
14 services;

15 “(2) expanding access to care, such as by—

16 “(A) expanding access to health care and  
17 public health services;

18 “(B) expanding the diversity of types of  
19 health workers;

20 “(C) expanding the availability of cul-  
21 turally and linguistically appropriate services;  
22 and

23 “(D) addressing other social determinants  
24 of health and barriers to receiving timely and  
25 quality care;

26 “(3) supporting—

1 “(A) community health navigators;

2 “(B) community health workers (also  
3 known as ‘promotores de salud’);

4 “(C) peer support specialists;

5 “(D) community health representatives;

6 and

7 “(E) other health care professionals, in-  
8 cluding those who work with faith-or commu-  
9 nity-based organizations as trusted messengers  
10 with lived experiences to support access and  
11 connection to care;

12 “(4) expanding the capacity of the eligible enti-  
13 ty; and

14 “(5) carrying out other programs that address  
15 social determinants of health.

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant  
17 under this section, an entity shall be a faith-or community-  
18 based organization that—

19 “(1) has demonstrated an ability to address  
20 chronic health disparities and health conditions in  
21 communities disproportionately affected by such dis-  
22 parities and conditions; and

23 “(2) is located in a medically underserved com-  
24 munity or a designated health professional shortage  
25 area.

1       “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
 2       tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities  
 3       that established or operated one or more health workforce  
 4       or health care access programs during a public health  
 5       emergency.

6       “(d) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DE-  
 7       FINED.—In this section, the term ‘community-based orga-  
 8       nization’ has the meaning given the term in section 8101  
 9       of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

10      “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
 12       appropriated to carry out this section—

13                   “(A) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

14                   “(B) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

15                   “(C) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

16                   “(D) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

17                   and

18                   “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

19           “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds  
 20       appropriated to carry out this section, not more than  
 21       5 percent may be used by the Secretary for the ad-  
 22       ministrative costs of carrying out this section.”.

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