

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8916

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to jointly award grants for the purposes of improving access to, developing, or expanding services that provide an individual with transportation to or from substance use disorder treatment or supportive services.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2026

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to jointly award grants for the purposes of improving access to, developing, or expanding services that provide an individual with transportation to or from substance use disorder treatment or supportive services.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Connections to Health  
3 Infrastructure and Emergency Recovery Services Act of  
4 2026” or the “CHERS Act of 2026”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO SUBSTANCE**  
6 **USE DISORDER TREATMENT OR SUPPORTIVE**  
7 **SERVICES.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries  
10 shall jointly award grants to eligible entities for the pur-  
11 poses of improving access to, developing, or expanding  
12 services that provide a covered individual with transpor-  
13 tation, including first and last mile transportation, to or  
14 from substance use disorder treatment or supportive serv-  
15 ices at no cost to such individual.

16       (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this  
18 section may be used for the following purposes:

19           (A) To provide the transportation services  
20 described in subsection (a) on a prescheduled or  
21 on-demand basis.

22           (B) To acquire a motor vehicle for the  
23 transportation services described in subsection  
24 (a).

25           (C) To assist personnel who provide the  
26 transportation services described in subsection

1 (a) in obtaining any license that may be re-  
2 quired to provide such services.

3 (D) To provide training and professional  
4 development for personnel who provide the  
5 transportation services described in subsection  
6 (a).

7 (E) To raise awareness about the transpor-  
8 tation services described in subsection (a), in-  
9 cluding through expanding street outreach ac-  
10 tivities.

11 (F) For ridesharing or taxi services that  
12 provide the transportation services described in  
13 subsection (a) on an on-demand basis.

14 (G) For such other activities as the Secre-  
15 taries determine appropriate.

16 (2) EXCLUSIONS.—A grant awarded under this  
17 section may not be used—

18 (A) for transporting an individual to re-  
19 ceive involuntary inpatient treatment; or

20 (B) by law enforcement personnel.

21 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant  
22 under this section shall submit to the Secretaries an appli-  
23 cation including—

1           (1) a description of the activities the eligible en-  
2           tity plans to carry out using grant funds under this  
3           section;

4           (2) the identity of each entity that the eligible  
5           entity plans to partner with to conduct such activi-  
6           ties, including the activities the identified entity  
7           plans to carry out using grant funds under this sec-  
8           tion; and

9           (3) performance measures the eligible entity in-  
10          tends to use to measure the effectiveness of the ac-  
11          tivities carried out using grant funds under this sec-  
12          tion in reducing cancelled or missed appointments.

13          (d) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section  
14          shall be for a period of not less than 1 year.

15          (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—A recipient of a  
16          grant under this section shall use the grant to supplement,  
17          not supplant, the level of State or local funds that would  
18          be made available for the activities funded under this sec-  
19          tion in the absence of the receipt of a grant under this  
20          section.

21          (f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after receiving  
22          a grant under this section, a grantee shall submit to the  
23          Secretaries a report including such information as the Sec-  
24          retaries determine necessary to evaluate the performance  
25          of the grantee under the grant.

1 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries—

2 (1) shall jointly provide technical assistance,  
3 publish best practices, and conduct outreach to  
4 grantees and eligible entities under this section; and

5 (2) to the extent amounts are made available in  
6 advance in appropriation Acts, may make available  
7 not more than 2 percent of the funds made available  
8 pursuant to this section for the purposes of para-  
9 graph (1).

10 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
12 individual” means an individual with a substance  
13 use disorder who—

14 (A) is experiencing homelessness;

15 (B) resides in a low-income community, as  
16 such term is defined in section 45D of the In-  
17 ternal Revenue Code of 1986; or

18 (C) resides in a community in which trans-  
19 portation poses a barrier to health care access,  
20 as determined by the Secretaries.

21 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
22 ty” means—

23 (A) a nonprofit organization that has expe-  
24 rience in providing—

25 (i) substance use disorder treatment;

1 (ii) services to individuals experiencing  
2 homelessness; or

3 (iii) services to a population that ex-  
4periences disparities in health status and  
5health care access;

6 (B) a State or county governmental entity,  
7or any other local or regional governmental en-  
8tity, including a public health agency;

9 (C) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization,  
10as such terms are defined in section 4 of the  
11Indian Self-Determination and Education As-  
12sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304);

13 (D) a continuum of care established and  
14operating for a geographic area for purposes of  
15the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle  
16C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless  
17Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.);

18 (E) a Federally qualified health center, as  
19such term is defined in section 1861(aa) of the  
20Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa));

21 (F) a comprehensive opioid recovery center  
22funded by a grant under section 552 of the  
23Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–7);

24 (G) an entity conducting street outreach  
25funded by a grant under the emergency solu-

1           tions grants program authorized under subtitle  
2           B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless  
3           Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.);

4           (H) a consortium of 2 or more entities de-  
5           scribed in this paragraph; and

6           (I) such other entities as the Secretaries  
7           determine appropriate.

8           (3) FIRST AND LAST MILE TRANSPORTATION.—

9           The term “first and last mile transportation”  
10          means, for purposes of the travel of a covered indi-  
11          vidual to and from substance use disorder treatment  
12          or supportive services, the provision of such trans-  
13          portation services as may be necessary to ensure  
14          that the individual has transportation for the entire  
15          route to be traveled, including transportation to and  
16          from a source of public transit.

17          (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.—The  
18          term “law enforcement personnel” has the meaning  
19          given such term in section 884(g) of the Homeland  
20          Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 464(g)).

21          (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
22          “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
23          is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-  
24          enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under  
25          section 501(a) of such Code.

1           (6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
2 means—

3           (A) the Secretary of Health and Human  
4 Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary  
5 for Mental Health and Substance Use; and

6           (B) the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
7 Development, acting through the Director of  
8 the Office of Special Needs Assistance Pro-  
9 grams.

10          (7) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
11 the several States, the District of Columbia, and any  
12 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United  
13 States.

14          (8) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.—The term  
15 “substance use disorder” has the meaning given  
16 such term in section 1934 of the Public Health  
17 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–34).

18          (9) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT.—  
19 The term “substance use disorder treatment”—

20           (A) has the meaning given such term in  
21 section 702 of the Office of National Drug Con-  
22 trol Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21  
23 U.S.C. 1701); and

24           (B) includes—



1 (i) an overdose prevention program;

2 and

3 (ii) detoxification services.

4 (10) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term “sup-  
5 portive services” has the meaning given such term in  
6 section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-  
7 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).

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