

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9839

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to, through subgrants to eligible entities, improve certain impacts of participation in programs related to physical activity or youth sports and increase access to youth sports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. CAREY (for himself and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to, through subgrants to eligible entities, improve certain impacts of participation in programs related to physical activity or youth sports and increase access to youth sports, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sports Training,
3 Recreation, and Opportunities for the Next Generation
4 Act” or the “STRONG Kids Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM RELATED TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
6 **AND YOUTH SPORTS.**

7 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services, in conjunction with the Director of the
9 Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (in
10 this section referred to as the “Secretary”), shall establish
11 a program to make grants on a competitive basis to na-
12 tional nonprofits or government organizations, or regional
13 nonprofits or State-based government organizations, that
14 run youth sports programs to, through subgrants in ac-
15 cordance with subsection (b)—

16 (1) improve the impacts, with respect to health
17 and positive youth development, of participation in
18 programs related to physical activity or sports for
19 individuals under 18 years of age; and

20 (2) increase access to such programs.

21 (b) SUBGRANTS.—A nonprofit or organization that
22 receives a grant under subsection (a) shall make subgrants
23 on a competitive basis to eligible entities to—

24 (1) improve the effectiveness of a program re-
25 lated to physical activity or youth sports;

26 (2) increase participation in such a program;

1 (3) promote safety and health in such a pro-
2 gram; or

3 (4) support the prevention of and response to
4 physical, mental, and sexual abuse in youth sports
5 through background checks, education, training, and
6 mandatory reporting policies.

7 (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBGRANTS.—To be eligible to
8 receive a subgrant under subsection (b), an entity shall—

9 (1) be a local nonprofit or government organi-
10 zation; and

11 (2) have experience organizing youth sports.

12 (d) ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS FOR SUBGRANTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-
14 ceives a subgrant under subsection (b) shall use any
15 funds received through such subgrant to carry out
16 an activity that meets at least one requirement de-
17 scribed in subsection (b), including any of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (A) For the purpose of lowering barriers to
20 participation, implementing an activity focused
21 on increasing the rate of participation in youth
22 sports among populations less likely to partici-
23 pate due to disability or economic or geographic
24 limitation.

1 (B) Implementing a program or policy for
2 coaches related to training and voluntary cer-
3 tification, including with respect to—

4 (i) health benefits of youth sports and
5 physical activity;

6 (ii) youth development and character
7 development;

8 (iii) a code of conduct for coaches;

9 (iv) promoting positive lifestyle behav-
10 iors;

11 (v) promoting a positive sports experi-
12 ence, athletic development, teamwork, lead-
13 ership, and socialization skills;

14 (vi) implementing any applicable pro-
15 tocol issued by the United States Center
16 for SafeSport;

17 (vii) an injury prevention strategy, in-
18 cluding free online concussion training of-
19 fered by the Centers for Disease Control;
20 and

21 (viii) a risk management strategy, in-
22 cluding maintaining a safe venue for phys-
23 ical activity or youth sports.

24 (C) Implementing training related to youth
25 development and character development.

1 (D) Implementing an evaluation and re-
2 sults implementation process to measure phys-
3 ical, mental, and social health of athletes.

4 (E) Educating parents, caregivers, and
5 guardians and raising awareness about the im-
6 portance of participation in physical activity
7 and youth sports.

8 (F) Implementing an athlete code of con-
9 duct and instruction.

10 (G) Implementing an activity focused on
11 coach and volunteer retention.

12 (H) Implementing an activity that—

13 (i) focuses on fostering a positive
14 sport experience; and

15 (ii) emphasizes athlete development,
16 teamwork, leadership, and socialization
17 skills.

18 (I) Implementing an activity that promotes
19 positive lifestyle behaviors, including positive—

20 (i) nutrition practices;

21 (ii) academic performance;

22 (iii) life-long practices; or

23 (iv) self-image.

24 (J) For the purpose of lowering barriers to
25 participation—

1 (i) implementing a program or proce-
2 dure that enables participation regardless
3 of athletic ability;

4 (ii) acquiring or modifying any venue
5 used for physical activity or youth sports;

6 (iii) ensuring any such venue complies
7 with requirements under the Americans
8 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
9 12101 et seq.); or

10 (iv) enabling a league or team to re-
11 duce, waive, or cover the full amount of
12 any fee for participation, including through
13 providing scholarships.

14 (K) Implementing an activity focused on
15 increasing the capacity of such eligible entity to
16 organize youth sports, including increasing the
17 number of youth league teams organized by
18 such eligible entity to accommodate more youth.

19 (L) Establishing a procedure for imple-
20 menting any applicable prevention, reporting, or
21 training protocol issued by the United States
22 Center for SafeSport with respect to preventing
23 physical, mental, and sexual abuse of athletes,
24 including any protocol related to covering the

1 cost of a background check for a coach or vol-
2 unteer.

3 (M) Establishing a procedure to encour-
4 age—

5 (i) water drinking;

6 (ii) physical movement; and

7 (iii) consumption of nutritious snacks.

8 (N) Implementing a program for individ-
9 uals with a physical or mental disability.

10 (O) Implementing a parent code of conduct
11 and instruction.

12 (P) Encouraging and facilitating participa-
13 tion in—

14 (i) the Presidential Active Lifestyle
15 Award program carried out by the Presi-
16 dent's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nu-
17 trition; and

18 (ii) the Presidential Fitness Test ad-
19 ministered by the Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services in accordance with Execu-
21 tive Order 14327 (90 Fed. Reg. 37993; re-
22 lating to the President's Council on Sports,
23 Fitness, and Nutrition, and the reestab-
24 lishment of the Presidential Fitness Test).

1 (Q) With respect to such program and
2 such test, developing a strategy to ensure the
3 Council or Secretary, respectively, recognize
4 youth, regardless of their ability, for continued
5 improvement over time.

6 (R) Working with insurance providers or
7 other risk management experts to maintain a
8 safe environment.

9 (2) PRIORITIZATION OF CERTAIN YOUTH.—In
10 carrying out an activity described in paragraph (1),
11 an eligible entity shall prioritize youth with limited
12 resources.

13 (3) NATIONAL STRATEGY AND OTHER GUID-
14 ANCE.—In the case of an activity described in sub-
15 paragraph (A), (B), (J), (K), or (L) of paragraph
16 (1), an eligible entity shall carry out such activity in
17 accordance with—

18 (A) the national strategy established by the
19 Office of Disease Prevention and Health Pro-
20 motion in the Department of Health and
21 Human Services, entitled “National Youth
22 Sports Strategy”; or

23 (B) notwithstanding any policy or proce-
24 dure in such national strategy, such other guid-

1 ance issued by a governing body of a youth
2 sports league.

3 (e) APPLICATION AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR
4 GRANTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under sub-
5 section (a), a nonprofit or organization shall submit to the
6 Secretary an application that—

7 (1) includes a plan describing how such non-
8 profit or organization proposes to use any funds re-
9 ceived through such grant to—

10 (A) make subgrants in accordance with
11 subsection (b), including a description of how
12 the proposed use of funds received through such
13 subgrants will meet at least one requirement
14 described in subsection (b);

15 (B) use a managed application process to
16 make such subgrants;

17 (C) provide technical assistance in accord-
18 ance with subsection (g);

19 (D) serve youth with limited resources; and

20 (E) serve providers of adaptive sports pro-
21 gramming for individuals with physical, cog-
22 nitive, or other disabilities;

23 (2) demonstrates experience—

1 (A) working with eligible entities to carry
2 out an activity similar to an activity described
3 in subsection (b) or (d);

4 (B) serving low-income and under-
5 resourced communities; and

6 (C) providing adaptive sports program-
7 ming;

8 (3) describes any policy of such nonprofit or or-
9 ganization related to background checks of staff and
10 volunteers who engage with individuals under 18
11 years of age; and

12 (4) includes a plan for continuing any activity
13 proposed to be carried out using funds received
14 under this section after such nonprofit or organiza-
15 tion has expended all such funds.

16 (f) DEADLINE FOR MAKING FIRST GRANT.—The
17 Secretary shall make the first grant under subsection (a)
18 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
19 Act.

20 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUBGRANTS.—As
21 a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), a
22 nonprofit or organization shall agree to provide technical
23 assistance to an eligible entity that receives a subgrant
24 under subsection (b) with respect to the eligible uses of
25 funds described in subsection (d).

1 (h) AMOUNTS.—

2 (1) GRANTS.—

3 (A) NATIONAL.—The Secretary shall make
4 a grant to a national nonprofit or government
5 organization in an amount that is not more
6 than \$5,000,000.

7 (B) REGIONAL.—The Secretary shall make
8 a grant to a regional nonprofit or State-based
9 government organization in an amount that is
10 not more than \$2,500,000.

11 (2) SUBGRANTS.—A nonprofit or organization
12 shall make a subgrant to an eligible entity in an
13 amount that is not less than \$10,000 but not more
14 than \$50,000.

15 (i) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years
17 thereafter during the period in which funds are appro-
18 priated under subsection (j), the Secretary shall submit
19 to Congress a report evaluating, with respect to the period
20 covered by the report, the effectiveness and outcomes of
21 any activity carried out using funds received under this
22 section.

23 (j) FUNDING.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
25 appropriated to carry out this section—

1 (A) for fiscal year 2027, an amount that
2 is equal to 50 percent of the amounts received
3 by the Secretary of the Treasury under section
4 4401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26
5 U.S.C. 4401) with respect to the 2025 calendar
6 year; and

7 (B) for each of fiscal years 2028 through
8 2037, the amount described in paragraph (2).

9 (2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—For fiscal
10 years 2028 through 2037, the amount authorized by
11 this subsection shall be the amount under paragraph
12 (1)(A), adjusted by the percentage increase, if any,
13 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
14 sumers (CPI–U) published by the Bureau of Labor
15 Statistics of the Department of Labor for the 12-
16 month period ending June 30 of the preceding fiscal
17 year.

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