

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4417

To improve outreach and enrollment for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2010

Mr. SESTAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To improve outreach and enrollment for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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 “SNAP Education and
5 Outreach Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND ENROLL-**
7 **MENT FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
8 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT GRANTS; NA-
10 TIONAL CAMPAIGN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appro-
2 priated under subsection (g), subject to paragraph
3 (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall award grants
4 to eligible entities during the period of fiscal years
5 2010 through 2014 to conduct outreach, enrollment,
6 and renewal assistance efforts that are designed to
7 increase the enrollment and participation of eligible
8 individuals and families under the supplemental nu-
9 trition assistance program established under the
10 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

11 (2) TEN PERCENT SET ASIDE FOR NATIONAL
12 ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN.—An amount equal to 10
13 percent of such amounts shall be used by the Sec-
14 retary for expenditures during such period to carry
15 out a national enrollment campaign in accordance
16 with subsection (h).

17 (b) PRIORITY FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under
19 subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to el-
20 igible entities that—

21 (A) propose to target geographic areas
22 with high rates of—

23 (i) eligible but unenrolled individuals;

24 or

1 (ii) racial and ethnic minorities, in-
2 cluding those proposals that address cul-
3 tural and linguistic barriers to enrollment;
4 who are not participating in the supplemental
5 nutrition assistance program; or

6 (B) propose to target—

7 (i) households containing elderly or
8 disabled individuals to expand access to
9 nutrition;

10 (ii) families with children with special
11 coordination with both the special supple-
12 mental nutrition assistance program for
13 women, infants, and children (WIC) and
14 the school nutrition program to ensure
15 seamlessness;

16 (iii) homeless populations, including
17 both sheltered and nonsheltered families
18 and individuals;

19 (iv) persons applying for or receiving
20 unemployment benefits;

21 (v) families with physically or men-
22 tally disabled children in the household (in-
23 cluding families whose children receive
24 Medicaid under a State plan waiver);

1 (vi) special attention to working fami-
2 lies with children in the household who at-
3 tend day care programs;

4 (vii) recipients or applicants seeking
5 or receiving training for employment or ad-
6 vancement to reduce or eliminate depend-
7 ency; or

8 (viii) applicants and recipients of dis-
9 ability benefits from government agencies;

10 (C) encourage supplemental nutrition as-
11 sistance program enrollees participation in nu-
12 trition education programs; or

13 (D) provide case management assistance
14 through the application process; and

15 (2) OUTREACH.—Submit the most demon-
16 strable evidence required under paragraphs (1) and
17 (2) of subsection (c).

18 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to
19 receive a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an appli-
20 cation to the Secretary in such form and manner, and con-
21 taining such information, as the Secretary determines to
22 be appropriate. Such application shall include—

23 (1) evidence demonstrating that the entity in-
24 cludes members who have access to, and credibility
25 with, ethnic or low-income populations in the com-

1 communities in which activities funded under the grant
2 are to be conducted;

3 (2) evidence demonstrating that the entity has
4 the ability to address barriers to enrollment, includ-
5 ing a lack of knowledge of eligibility criteria, stigma
6 concerns, or other barriers to applying for and re-
7 ceiving governmental food assistance and nutrition
8 education;

9 (3) specific quality or outcomes performance
10 measures to evaluate the effectiveness of activities
11 funded by a grant awarded under this section; and

12 (4) an assurance that the eligible entity shall—

13 (A) conduct an assessment of the effective-
14 ness of such activities against the performance
15 measures;

16 (B) cooperate with the collection and re-
17 porting of enrollment data and other informa-
18 tion in order for the Secretary to conduct such
19 assessments;

20 (C) in the case of an eligible entity that is
21 not the State or a State agency, provide the
22 State with enrollment data and other informa-
23 tion as necessary for the State to make nec-
24 essary projections of eligible individuals and
25 families; and

1 (D) provide an assessment of legislative
2 and administrative barriers to increasing eligi-
3 ble enrollment and recommendations for im-
4 provement.

5 (d) DISSEMINATION OF ENROLLMENT DATA AND IN-
6 FORMATION DETERMINED FROM EFFECTIVENESS AS-
7 SESSMENTS; ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

8 (1) make publicly available the enrollment data
9 and information collected and reported in accordance
10 with subsection (c)(4)(B);

11 (2) make publicly available and provide to the
12 grantee the approval rate for applications submitted
13 by the targeted population (whether geographic and
14 or demographic in nature) and specifically those ap-
15 plications submitted through the grantee; and

16 (3) submit an annual report to Congress on the
17 outreach and enrollment activities conducted with
18 funds appropriated under this section.

19 This report shall also contain a compiling of the assess-
20 ments required under subsection (c)(4)(D) along with the
21 Secretary's findings and legislative suggestions to maxi-
22 mize eligible enrollment.

23 (e) NO MATCH REQUIRED FOR ANY ELIGIBLE ENTI-
24 TY AWARDED A GRANT.—No eligible entity awarded a

1 grant under subsection (a) shall be required to provide any
2 matching funds as a condition for receiving the grant.

3 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means any of the following:

6 (A) A State with an approved supple-
7 mental nutrition assistance plan under the
8 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

9 (B) A local government or State agency.

10 (C) An Indian tribe or tribal consortium, a
11 tribal organization, an urban Indian organiza-
12 tion receiving funds under title V of the Indian
13 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651
14 et seq.), or an Indian Health Service provider.

15 (D) A Federal health safety net organiza-
16 tion.

17 (E) A national, State, local, or community-
18 based public or nonprofit private organization,
19 including organizations that use community
20 health workers or community-based doula pro-
21 grams.

22 (F) A faith-based organization or
23 consortium, to the extent that a grant awarded
24 to such an entity is consistent with the require-
25 ments of section 1955 of the Public Health

1 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–65) relating to a
2 grant award to nongovernmental entities.

3 (2) FEDERAL HEALTH SAFETY NET ORGANIZA-
4 TION.—The term “Federal health safety net organi-
5 zation” means—

6 (A) a federally qualified health center (as
7 defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B)) of the Social
8 Security Act;

9 (B) a hospital defined as a dispropor-
10 tionate share hospital for purposes of section
11 1923 of the Social Security Act;

12 (C) a covered entity described in section
13 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)); and

15 (D) any other entity or consortium that
16 serves children under a federally funded pro-
17 gram, including the special supplemental nutri-
18 tion program for women, infants, and children
19 (WIC) established under section 17 of the Child
20 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), Head
21 Start and Early Head Start programs under
22 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.),
23 the school lunch program established under the
24 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act,
25 and an elementary or secondary school.

1 (3) INDIANS; INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZA-
2 TION; URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The terms
3 “Indian”, “Indian tribe”, “tribal organization”, and
4 “urban Indian organization” have the meanings
5 given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Health
6 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

7 (4) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.—The term
8 “community health worker” means an individual
9 who promotes health or nutrition within the commu-
10 nity in which the individual resides—

11 (A) by serving as a liaison between com-
12 munities and health care agencies;

13 (B) by providing guidance and social as-
14 sistance to community residents;

15 (C) by enhancing community residents’
16 ability to effectively communicate with health
17 care providers;

18 (D) by providing culturally and linguis-
19 tically appropriate health or nutrition edu-
20 cation;

21 (E) by advocating for individual and com-
22 munity health or nutrition needs; and

23 (F) by providing referral and followup
24 services.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture.

3 (g) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized
4 \$100,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2010 through
5 2014, for the purpose of awarding grants under this sec-
6 tion.

7 (h) NATIONAL ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN.—From the
8 amounts made available under subsection (a)(2), the Sec-
9 retary shall develop and implement a national enrollment
10 campaign to improve the eligible enrollment of under-
11 served populations in the supplemental nutrition assist-
12 ance program. Such campaign may include—

13 (1) the establishment of partnerships with the
14 Secretary and other Federal agencies that are con-
15 ducting similar national efforts that would contain
16 significant overlapping of target populations;

17 (2) the integration of this program and other
18 Department of Agriculture efforts to increase sup-
19 plemental nutrition assistance program enrollment
20 percentage;

21 (3) increased financial and technical support for
22 enrollment hotlines maintained by the Secretary to
23 ensure that all States participate in such hotlines;

1 (4) the development of special outreach mate-
2 rials for Native Americans or for individuals with
3 limited English proficiency; and

4 (5) such other outreach initiatives as the Sec-
5 retary determines would increase public awareness of
6 the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

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