

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 53

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to individuals that may be affected by a reported disease cluster.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to individuals that may be affected by a reported disease cluster.

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 “Community Disease
5 Cluster Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 3. COMMUNITY DISEASE CLUSTER TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
7 **ANCE GRANTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordina-
9 tion with the Secretary may award grants in accordance
10 with this Act to any individual or group of individuals that
11 may be affected by a reported community-based disease
12 cluster—

13 (1) to pay the Federal share of the technical as-
14 sistance described in subsection (d);

15 (2) to protect public health and the environ-
16 ment;

17 (3) to promote healthy and safe environments;
18 and

19 (4) to prevent and address harmful exposures
20 to hazardous substances.

21 (b) APPLICATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
23 under this Act, an individual or group of individuals
24 shall submit to the Administrator and the Secretary
25 an application that contains a description of the—

1 (A) need for technical assistance, including
2 the need to procure independent technical advi-
3 sors to help grant recipients interpret the infor-
4 mation described in subsection (d);

5 (B) expected outputs, including results, ef-
6 fects, or consequences that will occur from the
7 technical assistance; and

8 (C) expected outcomes, including activity,
9 effort, or associated work products that will be
10 produced or provided over a period of time or
11 by a specific date.

12 (2) RESPONSE.—Not later than 120 days after
13 the date on which an application is submitted under
14 paragraph (1), the Administrator and the Secretary
15 shall respond to each applicant in writing and de-
16 scribe whether the application is approved, denied,
17 or will be considered after the applicant modifies the
18 application.

19 (3) CRITERIA.—The Administrator, in coordi-
20 nation with the Secretary, shall develop criteria that,
21 if satisfied, would result in the Administrator and
22 the Secretary accepting an application submitted
23 under paragraph (1).

24 (c) AMOUNT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), each grant awarded under this Act shall
3 not exceed \$50,000.

4 (2) WAIVER.—The Administrator, in coordina-
5 tion with the Secretary, may waive the limitation de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1) if the waiver is necessary
7 to provide the technical assistance described in sub-
8 section (d).

9 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this Act
10 shall be used to obtain technical assistance in interpreting
11 information regarding—

12 (1) investigating reported community-based dis-
13 ease clusters associated with 1 or more hazardous
14 chemicals;

15 (2) the potential hazardous chemicals associated
16 with a reported community-based disease cluster;

17 (3) providing individuals or groups of individ-
18 uals with community-based tools to educate the indi-
19 viduals on the mitigation of hazardous chemicals as-
20 sociated with reported community-based disease
21 clusters; or

22 (4) other scientific and technical issues related
23 to reported community-based disease clusters.

1 (e) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—No individual or group of
2 individuals shall be awarded more than 1 grant under this
3 Act.

4 (f) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
6 graph (2), the non-Federal share for each grant
7 awarded under this Act is 20 percent.

8 (2) WAIVER.—The Administrator, in coordina-
9 tion with the Secretary, may waive the non-Federal
10 share described in paragraph (1) if—

11 (A) the recipient of the grant demonstrates
12 financial need; and

13 (B) the waiver is necessary to provide the
14 technical assistance described in subsection (d).

15 (g) RENEWAL OF GRANT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any grant awarded under
17 this Act may be renewed to facilitate technical as-
18 sistance to any group of individuals that may be af-
19 fected by a reported community-based disease clus-
20 ter.

21 (2) CONDITIONS.—Each renewal of a grant
22 awarded under this Act is subject to the same condi-
23 tions that apply to an initial grant.

24 (h) REPORTS.—Any recipient of a grant awarded
25 under this Act shall submit to the Administrator and the

1 Secretary a report that describes the progress in address-
2 ing the needs and achieving the outputs and outcomes de-
3 scribed in subsection (b).

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 For each of fiscal years 2013 through 2018, there
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
7 and the Secretary from any funds made available to the
8 Administrator and the Secretary for the purpose of pro-
9 viding community members with technical assistance and
10 engagement on environmental health issues from the Haz-
11 ardous Substance Superfund established under section
12 9507 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 such sums
13 as are necessary to carry out section 3.

14 **SEC. 5. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**

15 Nothing in this Act modifies, limits, or otherwise af-
16 fects the application of, or obligation to comply with, any
17 law, including any environmental or public health law.

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