

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3493

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for local care corps programs through which qualified volunteers provide care, companionship, and other services to seniors and individuals in need, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. EVANS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for local care corps programs through which qualified volunteers provide care, companionship, and other services to seniors and individuals in need, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Care Corps Dem-
5 onstration Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR LOCAL CARE CORPS PROGRAMS.**

2 Part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating the second subpart XI (re-
5 lating to a community-based collaborative care net-
6 work program) as subpart XII;

7 (2) by redesignating the second section 340H
8 (42 U.S.C. 256i) as section 340I; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 **“Subpart XIII—Local Care Corps Programs**

11 **“SEC. 340J. GRANTS FOR LOCAL CARE CORPS PROGRAMS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
13 to eligible entities described in subsection (b) to establish
14 and implement a local care corps program through which
15 eligible volunteers described in subsection (c) perform ap-
16 proved care services described in subsection (d).

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive
18 a grant under this section, an entity shall be a public or
19 private nonprofit entity that is—

20 “(1) part of an aging network, as defined in
21 section 102(5) of the Older Americans Act of 1965;

22 “(2) a time-banking or volunteer organizing
23 agency that has expertise in delivering home- and
24 community-based long-term services and supports to
25 older adults and people with disabilities;

26 “(3) a State, county, or local government; or

1 “(4) any other entity that has expertise in de-
2 livering home- and community-based long-term serv-
3 ices and supports to older adults and people with
4 disabilities, as determined to be appropriate by the
5 Secretary.

6 “(c) ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEERS.—

7 “(1) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to
8 serve as a volunteer in a local care corps program
9 funded through a grant under this section, an indi-
10 vidual shall—

11 “(A) be at least 18 years of age on or be-
12 fore December 31 of the calendar year in which
13 the individual begins participation in the pro-
14 gram;

15 “(B) agree to participate in the program
16 for a period of not more than 24 months, con-
17 sisting of not more than 2 terms of up to 12
18 months;

19 “(C) submit an application to the grantee
20 at such time, in such manner, and containing
21 such information as the grantee may require;

22 “(D) pass a criminal background check as
23 described in paragraph (2); and

24 “(E) agree to comply with such terms and
25 conditions as the grantee may require.

1 “(2) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Before selecting any
3 individual to serve as a volunteer in a local care
4 corps program funded through a grant under
5 this section, the grantee shall request a criminal
6 background check of such individual on a na-
7 tionwide basis.

8 “(B) VOLUNTEER PROHIBITIONS.—An in-
9 dividual shall be ineligible to be a volunteer in
10 such program if—

11 “(i) the individual refuses to consent
12 to the criminal background check; or

13 “(ii) the criminal background check
14 does not demonstrate to the grantee’s sat-
15 isfaction that the individual is fit for serv-
16 ice in such program.

17 “(d) APPROVED CARE SERVICES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a local care
19 corps program funded through a grant under this
20 section, the grantee shall assign volunteers only for
21 providing services—

22 “(A) that are approved care services de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2); and

24 “(B) within one or more populations
25 that—

1 “(i) have a shortage of such approved
2 care services; or

3 “(ii) consist primarily of low-income
4 or minority individuals.

5 “(2) APPROVED CARE SERVICES.—Approved
6 care services are services provided directly to individ-
7 uals in need (as defined in paragraph (5)) in home-
8 based or community-based settings that—

9 “(A) result in person-to-person, supportive
10 relationships with each individual served;

11 “(B) support the achievement and mainte-
12 nance of the highest level of independent living
13 for each individual in need;

14 “(C) are supported by appropriate orienta-
15 tion, training, and supervision; and

16 “(D) are provided in support of, or in co-
17 ordination with, a caregiver, if applicable.

18 “(3) PROHIBITED SERVICES.—In performing
19 duties as part of a local care corps program funded
20 through a grant under this section, no volunteer
21 shall provide—

22 “(A) professional medical services;

23 “(B) administrative support services of the
24 program;

25 “(C) care in an institutional setting;

1 “(D) care prohibited under State law;

2 “(E) financial services; or

3 “(F) any other services determined by the
4 Secretary to be inconsistent with the purposes
5 of local care corps programs funded under this
6 section.

7 “(4) GUIDANCE REGARDING SCOPE OF SERV-
8 ICES.—The Secretary shall issue guidance describing
9 the scope of services that may be provided by volun-
10 teers as part of a local care corps program funded
11 through a grant under this section. In issuing such
12 guidance, the Director shall provide for a public no-
13 tice and comment period of not less than 60 days
14 before issuing the guidance in final form.

15 “(5) INDIVIDUAL IN NEED.—In this paragraph,
16 the term ‘individual in need’ means an individual
17 who—

18 “(A) is at least 65 years of age or has a
19 disability as defined in section 3 of the Ameri-
20 cans With Disabilities Act of 1990;

21 “(B) has difficulty with self-care or living
22 independently; and

23 “(C) meets such other criteria as the
24 grantee determines to be appropriate.

25 “(e) TRAINING AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.—

1 “(1) PRE-ASSIGNMENT TRAINING PROGRAM.—

2 As a condition on receipt of a grant for a local care
3 corps program under this section, an eligible entity
4 shall agree to develop a training program that pro-
5 vides volunteers in such program with instruction in
6 the skills necessary to carry out an assignment in
7 the program. Such training shall include—

8 “(A) at least 40 hours of instruction for
9 each volunteer for each term (of 12 months or
10 less) to be served in such program;

11 “(B) additional training for volunteers
12 whose assignment requires further instruction;
13 and

14 “(C) any other training the grantee deter-
15 mines to be appropriate.

16 “(2) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.—As a condition
17 on receipt of a grant for a local care corps program
18 under this section, an eligible entity shall agree to
19 establish and enforce standards to promote proper
20 conduct and discipline within such program.

21 “(f) AUTHORIZED BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEERS.—As
22 a condition on receipt of a grant for a local care corps
23 program under this section, an eligible entity shall agree
24 to the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The eligible entity will pro-
 2 vide for volunteers participating in the program to
 3 receive allowances, health insurance, and post-service
 4 educational awards, in accordance with this sub-
 5 section.

6 “(2) ALLOWANCES.—The eligible entity will
 7 provide for each volunteer to receive such living,
 8 travel, and leave allowances, and such housing,
 9 transportation, supplies, equipment, and subsistence
 10 as the eligible entity determines to be necessary
 11 for—

12 “(A) the volunteer’s maintenance; and

13 “(B) to ensure the volunteer’s health and
 14 capacity to serve effectively.

15 “(3) HEALTH INSURANCE.—The eligible entity
 16 will provide for each volunteer to receive health in-
 17 surance coverage meeting the requirements of sec-
 18 tion 5000A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

19 “(4) POST-SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The eligible entity will
 21 establish an educational award for volunteers.

22 “(B) AMOUNTS.—

23 “(i) NUMBER OF AWARDS.—A volun-
 24 teer may receive up to 2 educational

1 awards under this subsection, one for each
2 term of service as a volunteer.

3 “(ii) AMOUNT FOR FULL TERM OF
4 SERVICE.—In the case of a volunteer who
5 completes a term of full-time service in the
6 program for a period of 12 months, as de-
7 termined by the eligible entity, such volun-
8 teer shall receive an educational award
9 having a value of \$6,000 for the award
10 year.

11 “(iii) INCENTIVE TO PURSUE A
12 HEALTH CARE PROFESSION.—In the case
13 of a volunteer who commits to using an
14 educational award (or awards, if applica-
15 ble) under this subsection for completion of
16 a degree, a certificate, or training in a
17 health care profession, or in a social serv-
18 ices profession related to the delivery of
19 long-term services and supports to older
20 adults and people with disabilities or to
21 their caregivers, the value of such awards
22 shall be \$10,000 for the award year.

23 “(iv) AMOUNT FOR OTHER PERIODS
24 OF SERVICE.—

1 “(I) FIRST 12 MONTHS.—In the
2 case of a volunteer who completes less
3 than a 12-month term of full-time
4 service in the program, as determined
5 by the eligible entity, such volunteer
6 may receive a portion of the edu-
7 cational award described in clause (ii)
8 or (iii) (as applicable) that cor-
9 responds to the quantity of service ac-
10 tually completed by the volunteer.

11 “(II) SECOND 12 MONTHS.—In
12 the case of a volunteer who completes
13 more than 12 months of full-time
14 service in the program, and less than
15 24 months of such service, as deter-
16 mined by the eligible entity, such vol-
17 unteer may receive, for the portion of
18 service exceeding 12 months, a por-
19 tion of the educational award de-
20 scribed in clause (ii) or (iii) (as appli-
21 cable) that corresponds to the quan-
22 tity of service actually completed by
23 the volunteer.

1 “(C) USES OF AWARD.—An educational
2 award under this subsection shall be used to
3 pay—

4 “(i) costs of attendance at an institu-
5 tion of higher education; or

6 “(ii) government or commercial loans
7 received by an individual for the cost of at-
8 tendance at an institution of higher edu-
9 cation.

10 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

11 “(i) The term ‘cost of attendance’ has
12 the meaning given such term by section
13 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

14 “(ii) The term ‘institution of higher
15 education’ has the meaning given such
16 term under subsection (a) or (b) of section
17 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

18 “(g) APPLICATION PROCESS.—To seek a grant under
19 this section, an eligible entity shall—

20 “(1) submit an application to the Secretary at
21 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
22 formation and assurances as the Secretary may re-
23 quire; and

1 “(2) include in such application a description of
2 the scope of the services proposed to be provided
3 through the entity’s local care corps program.

4 “(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—As a condition
6 of receipt of a grant under this section for a local
7 care corps program, an eligible entity shall agree to
8 submit annual reports to the Secretary including—

9 “(A) a description of the population served
10 by the eligible entity through the grant during
11 the preceding fiscal year, including—

12 “(i) an estimate of the number of in-
13 dividuals served, disaggregated by race,
14 ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, and
15 disability status; and

16 “(ii) identification of the type of set-
17 tings in which the services were provided;

18 “(B) an evaluation of program operations;

19 and

20 “(C) recommendations, if any, for improv-
21 ing programs funded under this section.

22 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
23 the end of fiscal year 2021, the Secretary shall sub-
24 mit a report to the Congress on local care corps pro-
25 grams funded under this section, including—

1 “(A) summaries of the information sub-
2 mitted to the Secretary pursuant to paragraph
3 (1); and

4 “(B) recommendations, if any, for improv-
5 ing programs funded under this section.

6 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022,
9 to remain available until expended.”.

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