

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2626

To clarify the requirements for receiving certain grants through the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2018

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To clarify the requirements for receiving certain grants through the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory.

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 “Testing, Evaluating,
5 and Strengthening Treatments Act” or the “TEST Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE**
7 **POLICY LABORATORY GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 Section 501A(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42
9 U.S.C. 290aa–0(e)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

3 (A)—

4 (i) by striking “organizations to de-
5 velop” and inserting “or private organiza-
6 tions to create, develop, implement, rep-
7 licate, or take to scale promising”; and

8 (ii) by striking “for—” and inserting
9 “to—”;

10 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B)
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(A) enhance the prevention, diagnosis,
13 intervention, and treatment of, and recovery
14 from, mental illness, serious emotional disturb-
15 ances, substance use disorders, and co-occur-
16 ring illness or disorders; or

17 “(B) integrate or coordinate physical
18 health services and mental and substance use
19 disorder services.”;

20 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
21 paragraphs (4) and (7), respectively;

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(2) DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS.—The grants
25 described in paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) early-phase grants to fund the development, implementation, and feasibility testing of an intervention, which prior research suggests has promise;

“(B) mid-phase grants to fund implementation and a rigorous evaluation of an intervention that has been successfully implemented under an early-phase grant described in subparagraph (A) or other effort meeting similar criteria, for the purpose of measuring the intervention’s impact on important outcomes, such as addiction and mental illness, as well as its cost effectiveness, if feasible, using existing administrative data; and

“(C) expansion grants to fund implementation and a rigorous replication evaluation of an intervention that has been found to produce statistically significant, sizable, and important impacts under a mid-phase grant described in subparagraph (B) or other effort meeting similar criteria, for the purposes of—

“(i) determining whether such impacts can be successfully reproduced and sustained over time; and

1 “(ii) identifying the conditions under
2 which the intervention is most effective.

3 “(3) CRITERIA.—In awarding grants under this
4 subsection, the Assistant Secretary shall employ
5 broad eligibility criteria regarding the content or ap-
6 proach of the proposed interventions, and use the
7 promise of the prior research or evidence as the
8 main factor in selecting interventions for award.”;

9 (4) by inserting after paragraph (4), as so re-
10 designated, the following:

11 “(5) EVALUATION.—Each recipient of a mid-
12 phase grant described in paragraph (2)(B) or an ex-
13 pansion grant described in paragraph (2)(C) shall
14 conduct a rigorous, third-party evaluation that em-
15 ploys experimental designs using random assign-
16 ment, when feasible, and other research methodolo-
17 gies that allow for the strongest possible causal in-
18 ferences when random assignment is not feasible, to
19 determine the effectiveness of the intervention car-
20 ried out under such grant.

21 “(6) MATCHING FUNDS.—In order to receive a
22 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
23 demonstrate that the eligible entity will provide
24 matching funds, in cash or through in-kind contribu-
25 tions, from Federal, State, local, or private sources

1 in an amount equal to 10 percent of the funds pro-
2 vided under such grant, except that the Assistant
3 Secretary may waive the matching funds require-
4 ment, on a case-by-case basis, upon a showing of ex-
5 ceptional circumstances, such as—

6 “(A) difficulty of raising matching funds
7 for a program to serve a rural area; or

8 “(B) difficulty of raising funds on tribal
9 land.”; and

10 (5) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by
11 striking “There are authorized to be appropriated—
12 ” and all that follows through the period at the end
13 and inserting “To carry out this section, there are
14 authorized to be appropriated \$14,000,000 for the
15 period of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.

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