

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1476

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to provide coordinated case management services for TANF recipients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. WENSTRUP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for the conduct of demonstration projects to provide coordinated case management services for TANF recipients.

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 “Coordinating Assist-
5 ance for TANF Recipients Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATED CASE MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRA-**
7 **TION PROJECTS.**

8 Section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) COORDINATED CASE MANAGEMENT DEM-
2 ONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
4 grants to States to conduct demonstration projects
5 designed to implement and evaluate strategies to
6 provide coordinated case management to help indi-
7 viduals receiving assistance under a State program
8 funded under this part or any other State program
9 funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined
10 in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) increase their employ-
11 ment and self-sufficiency.

12 “(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall require each State that applies for a
14 grant under this paragraph to do the following:

15 “(A) Describe how, using the funds pro-
16 vided under this paragraph, the State or its
17 designee will ensure an individual responsibility
18 plan is developed in accordance with section
19 408(b) for each recipient referred to in para-
20 graph (1) of this subsection.

21 “(B) Describe how the State or its des-
22 ignee will ensure the development of this plan
23 is coordinated with other programs and agen-
24 cies providing benefits and services to the indi-

1 vidual to help the recipient increase the employ-
2 ment and self-sufficiency of the recipient.

3 “(C) Describe how the State or its des-
4 ignee will ensure the delivery of the benefits
5 and services to the recipient (which may include
6 the use of home visiting models).

7 “(D) Describe how the State or its des-
8 ignee will meet with the recipient at least
9 monthly to review the employment status of the
10 recipient and status of the participation of the
11 recipient in other activities, the benefits and
12 services the recipient is receiving, and the
13 progress of the recipient toward meeting the
14 goals specified in the individual responsibility
15 plan of the recipient.

16 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State to which a grant
17 is made under this subsection may use the grant for
18 the following purposes:

19 “(A) To support coordinated case man-
20 agers in completing the activities specified in
21 paragraph (2).

22 “(B) To provide short-term transitional
23 benefits and services to individuals who, due to
24 increased employment or earnings, may face

1 disincentives to increasing work or earnings due
2 to the phase-out or loss of certain benefits.

3 “(C) To ensure that recipients of services
4 under the demonstration project have a choice
5 between two or more coordinated case manage-
6 ment service providers (which may include man-
7 aged care organizations) that demonstrate expe-
8 rience and expertise in case management, in-
9 cluding the development of individual assess-
10 ment plans and coordinated service manage-
11 ment across various programs.

12 “(D) To improve coordination between pro-
13 grams serving recipients who are part of the
14 demonstration project.

15 “(E) To improve coordination between in-
16 formation technology and other systems to de-
17 liver better benefits or services to the recipient,
18 except that not more than 10 percent of the
19 grant amount may be used for this purpose.

20 “(4) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in consulta-
21 tion with each State conducting a demonstration
22 project under this subsection, shall conduct a high-
23 quality evaluation of the demonstration project in
24 accordance with the following:

1 “(A) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The
2 Secretary may not enter into a contract with an
3 evaluator unless the evaluator has demonstrated
4 experience in conducting rigorous evaluations of
5 program effectiveness including, where available
6 and appropriate, well-implemented randomized
7 controlled trials.

8 “(B) METHODOLOGIES TO BE USED.—The
9 evaluation of a demonstration project shall use
10 experimental designs using random assignment
11 or other reliable, evidence-based research meth-
12 odologies that allow for the strongest possible
13 causal inferences when random assignment is
14 not feasible.

15 “(C) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary
16 shall publish the results of the evaluation on the
17 website of the Department of Health and
18 Human Services in a location easily accessible
19 by the public.

20 “(D) LIMITATION ON COST OF EVALUA-
21 TIONS.—For evaluations under this paragraph,
22 the Secretary may not obligate more than 20
23 percent of the funds reserved under paragraph
24 (6) for each fiscal year.

1 “(5) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—The
2 Secretary shall submit recommendations to the Con-
3 gress on ways to improve case management and bet-
4 ter coordinate benefits and services across programs.

5 “(6) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made avail-
6 able to carry out subsection (b) for fiscal year 2021
7 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall
8 reserve \$300,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

9 “(7) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds pro-
10 vided to a State under this subsection for a fiscal
11 year shall be expended by the State in the fiscal year
12 or in the succeeding fiscal year.”.

13 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
15 on October 1, 2020.

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