

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7893

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a COVID–19 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Response Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2020

Mr. STEIL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a COVID–19 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Response Grant Program, 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 “Mental Health and
5 Substance Abuse Support During COVID–19 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
2 **RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 520N. COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE**
7 **ABUSE RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, in co-
9 ordination with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health
10 and Substance Use, establish and carry out a program to
11 award grants to States (as defined in section 524) to as-
12 sist States in addressing the increased costs to States due
13 to an increase in mental health challenges and substance
14 abuse in such States as a result of, or co-occurring with,
15 the COVID-19 pandemic, to be known as the ‘COVID-
16 19 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Response Grant
17 Program’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Program’).

18 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State may use funds re-
19 ceived through the grant to support one or more of the
20 following activities, which may be conducted in coordina-
21 tion or partnership with local governments or community
22 organizations:

23 “(1) Enhanced public education to improve
24 community awareness, with respect to mental health
25 or substance abuse, including for children and youth.

1 “(2) Identification of, and outreach to, individ-
2 uals at risk of experiencing a mental health and sub-
3 stance abuse challenge, and referral of such individ-
4 uals to appropriate treatment, recover, or other re-
5 sources in the community.

6 “(3) Direct services to adults and children to
7 prevent or treat a mental health or substance abuse
8 problem.

9 “(4) Community and peer support programs,
10 including programs for veterans and underserved
11 communities.

12 “(5) Development of partnerships with entities
13 such as local healthcare providers, substance abuse
14 treatment organizations, schools, child welfare agen-
15 cies, social services organizations, mental health
16 treatment organizations, police departments, busi-
17 nesses, religious institutions, in order to coordinate
18 and expand resources available to addicted or at-risk
19 individuals and their family members.

20 “(6) Mental health and substance abuse train-
21 ing for relevant healthcare workforce and community
22 members.

23 “(7) Upgrading technology to support mental
24 health and substance abuse services through tele-
25 health.

1 “(8) Follow-up services and outpatient support.

2 “(9) Support programs for front line COVID–
3 19 health care workers.

4 “(10) 24/7 crisis call centers.

5 “(11) Grants to local governmental entities
6 within such State to offset the costs referred to in
7 subsection (a).

8 “(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, not later
9 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section,
10 issue a rule to establish, carry out, and administer the
11 Program.

12 “(d) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
14 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this section \$1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years
16 2020 through 2022.

17 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made
18 available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, each
19 State shall be allocated an amount based on the per-
20 centage constituted by the ratio of an amount equal
21 to the population of the State over an amount equal
22 to the total population of the States, as indicated by
23 the data collected by the Bureau of the Census for
24 2010.”.

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