

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8140

To address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of racial and ethnic minorities who experience trauma associated with law enforcement violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of racial and ethnic minorities who experience trauma associated with law enforcement violence, 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 “Investing in Commu-
5 nity Healing Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH, GRANTS, AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Health Serv-
 3 ice Act is amended by inserting after section 565 of such
 4 Act (42 U.S.C. 290ff–4) the following:

5 **“PART F—INVESTING IN COMMUNITY HEALING**

6 **“SEC. 571. RESEARCH ON ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS ASSO-**
 7 **CIATED WITH INTERACTIONS WITH LAW EN-**
 8 **FORCEMENT.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct re-
 10 search on the adverse health effects with respect to mental
 11 health conditions and substance use disorders associated
 12 with violent interactions with law enforcement.

13 “(b) EFFECTS AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORI-
 14 TIES.—The research under subsection (a) shall include re-
 15 search on—

16 “(1) the health consequences, both individual
 17 and community-wide, of trauma related to violence
 18 committed by law enforcement among racial and
 19 ethnic minorities;

20 “(2) the rates of mental health conditions and
 21 substance use disorders related to direct or indirect
 22 exposure to violence committed by law enforcement
 23 among racial and ethnic minorities; and

24 “(3) the disproportionate burden of morbidity
 25 and mortality associated with such violence.

1 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall—

3 “(1) complete the research under this section;
4 and

5 “(2) submit to the Congress a report on the
6 findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting
7 from such research.

8 **“SEC. 572. GRANTS FOR INCREASING RACIAL AND ETHNIC**
9 **MINORITY ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY TRAUMA**
10 **SUPPORT SERVICES AND MENTAL**
11 **HEALTH CARE.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
13 grants to eligible entities to establish or expand programs
14 for the purpose of increasing racial and ethnic minority
15 access to high-quality trauma support services, mental
16 health care, and substance use disorder treatment.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To seek a grant under
18 this section, an entity shall be a community-based pro-
19 gram or organization that—

20 “(1) provides culturally competent programs
21 and resources that are aligned with evidence-based
22 practices for trauma-informed care; and

23 “(2) has demonstrated expertise in serving com-
24 munities of color or can partner with a program that
25 has such demonstrated expertise.

1 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—As a condition on receipt of
2 a grant under this section, a grantee shall agree to use
3 the grant to increase racial and ethnic minority access to
4 high-quality trauma support services, mental health care,
5 and substance use disorder treatment, such as by—

6 “(1) establishing and maintaining community-
7 based programs providing evidence-based services in
8 trauma-informed care and culturally specific services
9 and other resources;

10 “(2) developing innovative culturally specific
11 strategies and projects to enhance access to trauma-
12 informed care and resources for racial and ethnic
13 minorities who face obstacles to using more tradi-
14 tional services and resources (such as obstacles in
15 geographic access to providers, lack of insurance
16 coverage, and access to audio and video tech-
17 nologies);

18 “(3) working with State and local governments
19 and social service agencies to develop and enhance
20 effective strategies to provide culturally specific serv-
21 ices to racial and ethnic minorities;

22 “(4) increasing communities’ capacity to pro-
23 vide culturally specific resources and support for
24 communities of color;

1 “(5) working in cooperation with the commu-
2 nity to develop education and prevention strategies
3 highlighting culturally specific issues and resources
4 regarding racial and ethnic minorities;

5 “(6) providing culturally specific programs for
6 racial and ethnic minorities exposed to law enforce-
7 ment violence; and

8 “(7) examining the dynamics of culture and its
9 impact on victimization and healing.

10 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
11 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
12 proposing to serve communities that have faced high rates
13 of community trauma, including from exposure to law en-
14 forcement violence, intergenerational poverty, civil unrest,
15 discrimination, or oppression.

16 “(e) GRANT PERIOD.—The period of a grant under
17 this section shall be 4 years.

18 “(f) EVALUATION.—Not later than 6 months after
19 the end of the period of all grants under this section, the
20 Secretary shall—

21 “(1) conduct an evaluation of the programs
22 funded by a grant under this section;

23 “(2) include in such evaluation an assessment
24 of the outcomes of each such program; and

1 “(3) submit a report on the results of such
2 evaluation to the Congress.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
4 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
5 priated \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
6 2025.

7 **“SEC. 573. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH**
8 **EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-
10 tion with advocacy and behavioral and mental health orga-
11 nizations serving racial and ethnic minority groups, de-
12 velop and implement an outreach and education strategy
13 to promote awareness of behavioral and mental health,
14 and reduce stigma associated with behavioral and mental
15 health conditions, among racial and ethnic minorities.

16 “(b) DESIGN.—The strategy under this section shall
17 be designed to—

18 “(1) meet the diverse cultural and language
19 needs of racial and ethnic minority groups;

20 “(2) provide information on evidence-based, cul-
21 turally and linguistically appropriate and adapted
22 interventions and treatments;

23 “(3) increase awareness of symptoms of mental
24 illness among racial and ethnic minority groups; and

1 “(4) ensure full participation of, and engage,
2 both consumers and community members in the de-
3 velopment and implementation of materials.

4 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall submit to
6 the Congress, and make publicly available, a report detail-
7 ing the outreach and education strategy that is developed
8 and implemented under this section and the results of
9 such implementation.”.

10 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Title V of the Public
11 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) is amended
12 by striking the designation and heading of part F relating
13 to a model comprehensive program for treatment of sub-
14 stance abuse.

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