

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5073

To establish a program to support county and municipal government entities in reducing the spread of COVID–19 through standardized testing and evaluation measures, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2020

Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a program to support county and municipal government entities in reducing the spread of COVID–19 through standardized testing and evaluation measures, 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 “Set Testing and Objec-
5 tives Plan for COVID–19 Act” or the “STOP COVID–
6 19 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM FOR COVID-19 TESTING, CONTACT TRAC-**
2 **ING, AND OTHER EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE**
3 **SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
6 retary”) shall establish a program to award grants to
7 county and municipal government entities, to support
8 COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and other efforts to
9 reduce the spread of COVID-19 in such counties and mu-
10 nicipalities.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
12 grant under this section, a county or municipal govern-
13 ment entity shall—

14 (1) have a public health department; and

15 (2) submit an application to the Secretary at
16 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
17 formation as the Secretary may require, including
18 the entity’s operational plan and proposed uses of
19 the grant funds.

20 (c) TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-
21 vide technical assistance to the public health department
22 of government entities awarded a grant under this section.

23 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
24 tion may be used in support of programs to increase
25 COVID-19 testing and to reduce the spread of COVID-
26 19, which may include hiring staff for COVID-19 testing

1 centers, funding mobile testing centers, hiring contact
2 tracers, purchasing IT equipment, conducting public
3 awareness campaigns, and paying for COVID–19 testing
4 or testing related equipment.

5 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each government entity re-
7 ceiving a grant under this section shall—

8 (A) develop a data-driven program for
9 COVID–19 testing, contact tracing, and other
10 efforts to stop the spread of COVID–19;

11 (B) operate a searchable, publicly available
12 website that lists every participating COVID–19
13 PCR testing center in the jurisdiction and, with
14 respect to each such center, state—

15 (i) whether testing is free or the cost
16 of such testing;

17 (ii) whether health insurance covers
18 the testing, and, if so, what information
19 health insurers will require before pro-
20 viding such coverage; and

21 (iii) the average time to obtain a test
22 result; and

23 (C) report weekly on the metrics described
24 in subsection (f)(1), for each neighborhood es-
25 tablished under paragraph (2)—

(i) identifying any neighborhood for which there is nonattainment on any such metric during the applicable reporting period; and

(ii) describing the specific mitigation measures planned for any such neighborhood to reach attainment, including a description of the measures required under subsection (g)(2).

(2) NEIGHBORHOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of meeting the requirements under paragraph (1), each government entity receiving a grant under this section shall divide its jurisdiction into neighborhoods, with each neighborhood being an area with approximately 10,000 residents.

(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON MAP.—Each government entity shall make available a map of the total jurisdiction that illustrates the neighborhoods established pursuant to subparagraph (A), and shall provide the information required under paragraph (1) by neighborhood.

(C) DESIGNATION OF PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOODS.—With respect to any neighborhood

1 that has not met the evaluation standards de-
2 scribed in subsection (f)(2) for a weekly report-
3 ing period under subsection (f)(1), the entity
4 shall highlight such nonattainment on the map,
5 in a manner to notify public users of areas not
6 meeting the evaluation standards.

7 (f) EVALUATION STANDARDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The standards for purposes
9 of determining compliance under paragraph (2) are
10 as follows:

11 (A) POSITIVITY RATE.—

12 (i) A positivity rate at or below 5 per-
13 cent for PCR testing.

14 (ii) A rate of newly infected residents
15 at or below 10 residents per 100,000 popu-
16 lation.

17 (iii) PCR testing at or above 750 resi-
18 dents per 100,000 population.

19 (iv) Rate of infection of less than 1.0.

20 (B) CONTACT TRACING.—

21 (i) Eighty percent of new cases of in-
22 fection are contacted by a contact tracer
23 within 24 hours.

24 (ii) Eighty percent of new cases of in-
25 fection identify contacts.

1 (iii) At least a median of 3 contacts
2 identified by a contact tracer per case.

3 (iv) Eighty percent of new cases fol-
4 lowed up on, on a daily basis, by a contact
5 tracer until the subject is out of isolation.

6 (v) Seventy percent of contacts re-
7 spond to the contact tracer.

8 (vi) Eighty-five percent of contacts
9 who are identified are tested.

10 (C) TEST RESULTS.—Eighty-five percent
11 of PCR tests have results within 48 hours.

12 (D) OTHER STANDARDS.—The Secretary
13 may modify or replace standards described in
14 subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), or add new
15 evaluation standards, provided such modifica-
16 tion, replacement, or addition is based on data-
17 driven research that demonstrates the basis of
18 the Secretary's determination.

19 (2) COMPLIANCE.—A government entity shall
20 be considered to be in compliance with the require-
21 ments of this section for a weekly reporting period
22 if each neighborhood in the entity has met 85 per-
23 cent of the standards under paragraph (1) for such
24 reporting period.

25 (g) EFFECTS OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

1 (1) GRANT REDUCTION.—

2 (A) INITIAL PERIOD.—For the 2-month
3 period immediately proceeding the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, there shall be no reduction
5 to the grant amount received by a government
6 entity as a result of non-compliance as de-
7 scribed in subsection (f)(2).

8 (B) SUBSEQUENT PERIODS.—Beginning 2
9 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
10 in the case of a government entity that is not
11 in compliance for a reporting period as de-
12 scribed in subsection (f)(2), the entity shall
13 remit to the Federal Government an amount
14 equal to 25 percent of the total Federal funds
15 expended for the government entity pursuant to
16 the grant under this section for the applicable
17 weekly reporting period.

18 (2) TESTING AVAILABILITY MITIGATION EF-
19 FORTS.—In the case of a government entity that is
20 not in compliance for a weekly reporting period as
21 described in subsection (f)(2), the entity shall ensure
22 that, in the subsequent week, in each neighborhood
23 within the jurisdiction that did not meet 85 percent
24 of the standards under subsection (f)(1), residents
25 have access to PCR testing sites as follows:

1 (A) In urban areas, 90 percent of residents
2 have access to a testing site within 2 miles of
3 their residence.

4 (B) In suburban areas, 90 percent of resi-
5 dents have access to a testing site within 5
6 miles of their residence.

7 (C) In rural areas, 70 percent of residents
8 have access to a testing site within 15 miles of
9 their residence.

10 (h) FUNDING.—The Secretary may use any unobli-
11 gated funds made available to the Public Health and So-
12 cial Services Emergency Fund to carry out this section.

13 (i) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have force
14 or effect on the earlier of the date on which all funds de-
15 scribed in subsection (h) are expended or 180 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act.

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