

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5083

To establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a pay for results pilot program to assist veterans, members of the Armed Forces on active duty, and their family members at risk of social isolation and loneliness, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 21, 2020

Mr. YOUNG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a pay for results pilot program to assist veterans, members of the Armed Forces on active duty, and their family members at risk of social isolation and loneliness, 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 “Volunteers Improving  
5 Social Isolation and loneliness Together Act of 2020” or  
6 the “VISIT Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **ACTIVE DUTY.**—The term “active duty” has  
4 the meaning given that term in section 101 of title  
5 38, United States Code.

6 (2) **ARMED FORCES.**—The term “Armed  
7 Forces” has the meaning given that term in section  
8 101 of title 38, United States Code.

9 (3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-  
10 ty” means an entity qualified to provide services  
11 under this Act, as determined by the Secretary.

12 (4) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “eligible  
13 individual” means—

14 (A) a veteran;

15 (B) a member of the Armed Forces on ac-  
16 tive duty;

17 (C) a member of the National Guard; or

18 (D) a family member of an individual de-  
19 scribed in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

20 (5) **INTERVENTION.**—The term “intervention”  
21 means a specific service delivered to achieve an im-  
22 pact through a VISIT pay for results project under  
23 the pilot program.

24 (6) **PARTICIPANT.**—The term “participant”  
25 means a staff member or volunteer of an eligible en-  
26 tity that receives assistance under the pilot program

1 to carry out a VISIT pay for results project who  
2 provides a service to eligible individuals under the  
3 project.

4 (7) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-  
5 gram” means the pilot program under section 4.

6 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

8 (9) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the  
9 meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38,  
10 United States Code.

11 (10) VISIT PAY FOR RESULTS PROJECT.—The  
12 term “VISIT pay for results project” means a  
13 project under the pilot program that uses a Volun-  
14 teers Improving Social Isolation and Loneliness To-  
15 gether (VISIT) pay for results model.

16 (11) VOLUNTEERS IMPROVING SOCIAL ISOLA-  
17 TION AND LONELINESS TOGETHER (VISIT) PAY FOR  
18 RESULTS MODEL.—The term “Volunteers Improving  
19 Social isolation and Loneliness Together (VISIT)  
20 pay for results model” means a method of financing  
21 national service programs in which—

22 (A) except as provided in section 5, Fed-  
23 eral funds are awarded to an eligible entity only  
24 if the eligible entity achieves certain outcomes  
25 agreed to by the entity and the Secretary, in

1 consultation with the Federal Interagency  
2 Council on Social Impact Partnerships and the  
3 Secretary of Defense;

4 (B) the eligible entity coordinates with the  
5 Secretary and the Federal Interagency Council  
6 on Social Impact Partnerships and the Sec-  
7 retary of Defense to identify an intervention ex-  
8 pected to produce the outcome or outcomes; and

9 (C) the eligible entity delivers the interven-  
10 tion to the target population of the intervention.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

12 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

13 (1) To mitigate the damage from the current  
14 social recession upon veterans, members of the  
15 Armed Forces, and their family members who are  
16 vulnerable to isolation and loneliness that has been  
17 found to impair physical and mental well-being, in-  
18 cluding causing premature death.

19 (2) To renew the spirit of community to aid  
20 veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their  
21 family members at risk of social isolation and loneli-  
22 ness, particularly those without robust social connec-  
23 tions.

24 (3) To facilitate the efforts of public-private  
25 partnerships to assist veterans, members of the

1       Armed Forces, and their family members at risk of  
2       social isolation and loneliness.

3   **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST VETERANS, MEMBERS**  
4                   **OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR FAMILY**  
5                   **MEMBERS WHO ARE AT RISK OF SOCIAL ISO-**  
6                   **LATION AND LONELINESS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out, in  
8       consultation with the Federal Interagency Council on So-  
9       cial Impact Partnerships and the Secretary of Defense,  
10      a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability  
11      of assisting eligible individuals at risk of social isolation  
12      and loneliness through the funding of VISIT pay for re-  
13      sults projects.

14      (b) TIERS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot  
15      program in two tiers (in this Act referred to as “Tier 1”  
16      and “Tier 2”).

17      (c) PARTICIPATION OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANI-  
18      ZATIONS.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall encour-  
20      age the participation of veterans service organiza-  
21      tions in the pilot program, including participation  
22      that involves partnerships between veterans service  
23      organizations and other organizations.

24           (2) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DE-  
25      FINED.—In this paragraph, the term “veterans serv-

1       ice organization” means an organization recognized  
2       by the Secretary for the representation of veterans  
3       under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

4       (d) FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible entity  
5       that seeks to participate in the pilot program may partner  
6       with investors or philanthropic entities for purposes of  
7       funding a VISIT pay for results project.

8       **SEC. 5. TIER 1 OF PILOT PROGRAM.**

9       (a) NOTICE.—Not later than 270 days after the date  
10      of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish  
11      in the Federal Register a request for proposals from eligi-  
12      ble entities to conduct VISIT pay for results projects  
13      under Tier 1 of the pilot program.

14      (b) QUALIFICATION OF VISIT PAY FOR RESULTS  
15      PROJECT.—To qualify as a VISIT pay for results project  
16      under Tier 1 of the pilot program, a project must effec-  
17      tively use participants to meet unmet social isolation or  
18      loneliness needs of eligible individuals through interven-  
19      tions described in the application and agreed upon by the  
20      Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Interagency  
21      Council on Social Impact Partnerships and the Secretary  
22      of Defense, to improve one or more measurable perform-  
23      ance indicators, including better mental or physical health  
24      outcomes that lower risk of mortality for the target popu-  
25      lation of the project.

1       (c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—The notice published  
2 under subsection (a) shall require an eligible entity seek-  
3 ing to participate in Tier 1 of the pilot program to submit  
4 to the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the date  
5 of such publication, an application for a VISIT pay for  
6 results project that addresses each of the following:

7           (1) A description of each proposed intervention  
8 under the project and anticipated outcomes of the  
9 intervention, including expected benefits to the tar-  
10 get population of the intervention, the participants  
11 working on the project, and other individuals who  
12 may be affected by the invention.

13          (2) A summary of the unmet need in the area  
14 where the intervention will be delivered or among the  
15 target population of the intervention.

16          (3) The criteria used to determine the eligibility  
17 of an individual to be served by the project, includ-  
18 ing how selected populations will be identified and  
19 referred to and enrolled in the project.

20          (4) The anticipated number of participants  
21 needed to implement the project.

22          (5) The criteria used to determine the eligibility  
23 of a participant for the project, including how the  
24 potential participants will be identified, recruited for  
25 the project, and trained for their roles in the project.

1           (6) A plan for implementing each intervention  
2 through the use of participants.

3           (7) Rigorous evidence demonstrating that the  
4 intervention can be expected to produce the desired  
5 outcome or outcomes or, if the eligible entity lacks  
6 such rigorous evidence but demonstrates promising  
7 evidence that the intervention can be expected to  
8 produce the desired outcome or outcomes, a plan de-  
9 scribed in subsection (d)(4)(B).

10          (8) The target population that will be served by  
11 the project.

12          (9) The projected cost to the eligible entity to  
13 carry out the project, and any costs to the Federal,  
14 State, or local government associated with the  
15 project.

16          (10) Projected costs avoided by the Federal  
17 Government and State and local governments if the  
18 project is implemented and the outcomes are  
19 achieved as a result of the intervention.

20          (11) A description of the expertise of the eligi-  
21 ble entity, including a summary of the experience of  
22 the eligible entity in delivering the proposed inter-  
23 vention or a similar intervention, or demonstrating  
24 the capacity of the eligible entity to deliver the inter-

1        vention to the number of eligible individuals the eli-  
2        gible entity proposes to serve under the project.

3            (12) The proposed payment terms, the method-  
4        ology used to calculate outcome payments, the pay-  
5        ment schedule, and performance thresholds.

6            (13) The budget for the project.

7            (14) Subject to subsection (g), the timeline for  
8        the project.

9            (15) The design for the evaluation required by  
10       subsection (i), including the metrics that will be used  
11       in the evaluation to determine whether the outcomes  
12       have been achieved as a result of the intervention  
13       and how the metrics will be measured.

14           (16) An explanation of how the metrics de-  
15       scribed in paragraph (15) are independent, objective  
16       indicators of impact and are not subject to manipu-  
17       lation by the eligible entity or any investor.

18           (17) An explanation of the independence of the  
19       evaluator who will conduct the evaluation required  
20       by subsection (i) from the other entities involved in  
21       the project and the experience of the evaluator in  
22       conducting rigorous evaluations of program effective-  
23       ness including, where available, well-implemented  
24       randomized controlled trials on the intervention or  
25       similar interventions.

1           (18) An explanation of how any potential pay-  
2           ment disputes related to the outcomes of the evalua-  
3           tion will be managed.

4           (d) AGREEMENTS ON PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PRO-  
5           GRAM.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
7           the deadline for applications under subsection (c)  
8           has expired, the Secretary, in consultation with the  
9           Federal Interagency Council on Social Impact Part-  
10          nerships and the Secretary of Defense, shall enter  
11          into an agreement with not fewer than eight eligible  
12          entities to participate in Tier 1 of the pilot program.

13          (2) FEWER APPLICANTS.—

14                (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
15               graph (1), if the Secretary determines that  
16               fewer than eight eligible entities meet the re-  
17               quirements for participation in Tier 1 of the  
18               pilot program, the Secretary, in consultation  
19               with the Federal Interagency Council on Social  
20               Impact Partnerships and the Secretary of De-  
21               fense, may enter into an agreement with fewer  
22               than eight eligible entities to participate in Tier  
23               1 of the pilot program.

24               (B) INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF APPLI-  
25               CANTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the

1 Secretary determines that an insufficient num-  
2 ber of eligible entities meet the requirements for  
3 participation in Tier 1 of the pilot program, the  
4 Secretary may—

5 (i)(I) publish in the Federal Register  
6 a second request for proposals from eligible  
7 entities to conduct VISIT pay for results  
8 projects under Tier 1 of the pilot program;  
9 and

10 (II) include in such request applica-  
11 tion requirements that are broader than  
12 the requirements under subsection (c); or

13 (ii) carry out Tier 2 of the pilot pro-  
14 gram, in accordance with section 6.

15 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether  
16 to enter into an agreement with an eligible entity  
17 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

18 (A) seek to ensure geographic diversity  
19 among selected entities, including by selecting  
20 not fewer than one eligible entity that plans to  
21 serve a rural community and not fewer than  
22 one eligible entity that plans to serve an urban  
23 community; and

24 (B) consider—

1 (i) the anticipated use of participants,  
2 and whether the eligible entity plans to use  
3 participants who come from a high-risk  
4 background;

5 (ii) the value to the Federal Govern-  
6 ment of the outcomes expected to be  
7 achieved by the eligible entity under the  
8 pilot program, which the Secretary shall  
9 define to include—

10 (I) measurable costs avoided; and

11 (II) other outcomes of intrinsic  
12 value such as the health, well-being,  
13 and prosperity of eligible individuals;

14 (iii) the likelihood, based on evidence  
15 provided in the application and other evi-  
16 dence, that the eligible entity will achieve  
17 those outcomes, balanced with the need to  
18 develop more rigorous evidence if the Sec-  
19 retary decides such evidence is necessary;

20 (iv) the value to State and local gov-  
21 ernments if those outcomes are achieved;  
22 and

23 (v) the expected quality of the evalua-  
24 tion that would be conducted with respect

1 to the VISIT pay for results project under  
2 subsection (i).

3 (4) REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING INTO  
4 AGREEMENTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
6 enter into an agreement with an eligible entity  
7 under paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-  
8 mines that each of the following requirements  
9 are met:

10 (i) Except as provided in subsection  
11 (f), the eligible entity agrees to achieve one  
12 or more outcomes as a result of the  
13 project, as specified in the agreement and  
14 validated by independent evaluation, in  
15 order to receive payment. Such outcomes  
16 shall be significant metrics closely cor-  
17 related with intervention under the project.

18 (ii) Except as provided in subsection  
19 (f), payment from the Federal Government  
20 to the eligible entity for each specified out-  
21 come achieved as a result of the project  
22 will be less than or equal to the value of  
23 the outcome to the Federal Government  
24 over a period not to exceed ten years, as

1 determined by the Secretary, in consulta-  
2 tion with the eligible entity.

3 (iii) The eligible entity meets the re-  
4 quirement under subparagraph (B).

5 (iv) The project will begin not later  
6 than one year after the eligible entity has  
7 entered into the agreement with the Sec-  
8 retary.

9 (v) The duration of the project will  
10 not exceed five years.

11 (vi) The eligible entity has shown that  
12 it has experience delivering the interven-  
13 tion used in the project, a similar interven-  
14 tion, or has otherwise demonstrated the ca-  
15 pability necessary to deliver the interven-  
16 tion.

17 (vii) The project will use participants  
18 to implement the project.

19 (viii) The eligible entity has made  
20 such other assurances as the Secretary  
21 may require.

22 (B) PLAN FOR EVALUATION.—The require-  
23 ment described in this subparagraph is that the  
24 eligible entity has demonstrated, through the

1 application submitted under subsection (c), that  
2 there is—

3 (i) a clear and feasible plan to evalu-  
4 ate the VISIT pay for results project with  
5 a rigorous experimental or quasi-experi-  
6 mental study or other rigorous method-  
7 ology that can establish a clear causal con-  
8 nection between the intervention and per-  
9 formance indicators; and

10 (ii) a strong circumstantial case,  
11 based on existing measurable outcomes as-  
12 sociated with the project, that the study or  
13 methodology is likely to establish such a  
14 connection.

15 (e) RAISING FUNDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that the eligi-  
17 ble entity does not have experience raising private or  
18 philanthropic capital to fund social service invest-  
19 ments or is unable to secure such capital prior to  
20 submittal of the application under subsection (c), the  
21 Secretary may assist the entity in attaining such  
22 funding.

23 (2) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF ELIGIBLE ENTI-  
24 TIES.—The Secretary—

1 (A) shall take all practicable steps to en-  
2 sure a pool of eligible entities enrolled in the  
3 pilot program that reflects the diversity of the  
4 population of eligible individuals; and

5 (B) shall not permit historical lack of ac-  
6 cess to private or philanthropic capital by any  
7 eligible entity to limit inclusion of the eligible  
8 entity in the pilot program.

9 (f) ABILITY TO FINANCE PROJECT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date on which an eligible entity enters into  
12 an agreement with the Secretary under subsection  
13 (d) for a VISIT pay for results project under Tier  
14 1 of the pilot program, the entity shall provide to  
15 the Secretary a plan demonstrating that the entity—

16 (A) has the capability to fund at least 50  
17 percent of the up-front costs of the project,  
18 with or without funds from partner investors or  
19 philanthropic entities; and

20 (B) will have the funds described in sub-  
21 paragraph (A) available and reserved for the  
22 project not later than one year after the date of  
23 such agreement.

24 (2) TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT.—The Sec-  
25 retary may terminate an agreement entered into

1 under subsection (d) with an eligible entity for a  
2 VISIT pay for results project under Tier 1 of the  
3 pilot program if—

4 (A) the Secretary determines that the eligi-  
5 ble entity is not likely to have the capability to  
6 fund at least 50 percent of the up-front costs  
7 of the project; or

8 (B) the eligible entity does not have the  
9 funds available and reserved to fund at least 50  
10 percent of the up-front costs of the project.

11 (g) DURATION.—Each VISIT pay for results project  
12 conducted under Tier 1 of the pilot program shall be lim-  
13 ited to a duration of not more than five years.

14 (h) PAYMENT.—

15 (1) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary  
16 shall have discretion in determining the amount of  
17 funds awarded for each VISIT pay for results  
18 project under Tier 1 of the pilot program, except  
19 that such amount shall be specified as part of the  
20 agreement with each eligible entity under subsection  
21 (d).

22 (2) UP-FRONT COSTS.—An eligible entity with  
23 which the Secretary enters into an agreement under  
24 subsection (d) for a VISIT pay for results project  
25 under Tier 1 of the pilot program shall pay for at

1       least 50 percent of the entire up-front costs of the  
2       project.

3           (3) OUTCOME PAYMENT.—

4           (A) IN GENERAL.—After completion of a  
5       VISIT pay for results project under the pilot  
6       program, the Secretary shall pay the remaining  
7       obligation of the Secretary under the agreement  
8       entered into between the Secretary and the eli-  
9       gible entity only if the independent evaluator  
10      described in subsection (i) determines that the  
11      project has—

12           (i) met the requirements specified in  
13      the agreement with respect to such project;  
14      and

15           (ii) has achieved an outcome as a re-  
16      sult of the intervention used in such  
17      project, as specified in the agreement and  
18      validated by the independent evaluator.

19           (B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-  
20      paragraph (A), the Secretary may pay up to 50  
21      percent of costs of a VISIT pay for results  
22      project under Tier 1 of the pilot program—

23           (i) before completion of the evaluation  
24      conducted by the independent evaluator  
25      under subsection (i); and

1 (ii) before the measurements of value  
2 described in subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii) are  
3 made.

4 (i) EVALUATIONS.—

5 (1) AGREEMENTS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
7 enter into an agreement with each eligible enti-  
8 ty carrying out a VISIT pay for results project  
9 under the pilot program to pay for all or part  
10 of an independent evaluation to determine  
11 whether the project has achieved a specific out-  
12 come in order for the entity to receive outcome  
13 payments under subsection (h)(3).

14 (B) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary  
15 may waive the requirement under subparagraph  
16 (A) for up to 20 percent of all VISIT pay for  
17 results projects under Tier 1 of the pilot pro-  
18 gram if the Secretary determines that such a  
19 waiver is necessary for ensuring robust diversity  
20 of project geography and focus.

21 (2) EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS.—The Sec-  
22 retary may not enter into an agreement with an eli-  
23 gible entity under paragraph (1) unless the Sec-  
24 retary determines that—

1 (A) the evaluator is independent of the  
2 other parties to the agreement; and

3 (B) the evaluator has demonstrated sub-  
4 stantial experience in conducting rigorous eval-  
5 uations of program effectiveness, including, as  
6 available and appropriate, well-implemented  
7 randomized controlled trials on the intervention  
8 used in the VISIT pay for results project cov-  
9 ered by the agreement or a similar intervention.

10 (3) METHODOLOGIES TO BE USED.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
12 graph (B), the evaluation used to determine  
13 whether an eligible entity will receive outcome  
14 payments under subsection (h)(3) shall use ex-  
15 perimental designs using random assignment,  
16 or other reliable, evidence-based research meth-  
17 odologies that allow for the strongest possible  
18 causal inferences when random assignment is  
19 not feasible.

20 (B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive  
21 the requirement under subparagraph (A) if—

22 (i) multiple evaluations or one large,  
23 multi-site evaluation have been conducted  
24 with respect to an intervention used in a  
25 VISIT pay for results project; and

1 (ii) such evaluations or evaluation es-  
2 tablished substantial and statistically sig-  
3 nificant effects of the intervention.

4 (4) PROGRESS REPORTS.—

5 (A) SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS.—An eligible  
6 entity shall ensure that the independent eval-  
7 uator conducting the evaluation under this sub-  
8 section with respect to a VISIT pay for results  
9 project conducted by the entity under the pilot  
10 program—

11 (i) not later than two years after the  
12 project has been approved by the Sec-  
13 retary, and annually thereafter until the  
14 project is concluded, submits to the Sec-  
15 retary and the Federal Interagency Council  
16 on Social Impact Partnerships a written  
17 report summarizing the progress that has  
18 been made in achieving each outcome spec-  
19 ified in the agreement under subsection  
20 (d); and

21 (ii) before the scheduled time of each  
22 payment under subsection (h)(3) to be  
23 made to the eligible entity with respect to  
24 such project, submits to the Secretary and  
25 the Federal Interagency Council on Social

1                   Impact Partnerships a written report that  
2                   includes—

3                               (I) the results of the evaluation  
4                               conducted to determine whether a  
5                               payment should be made; and

6                               (II) information on—

7                                       (aa) the unique factors that  
8                                       contributed to achieving or fail-  
9                                       ing to achieve the outcome;

10                                      (bb) the challenges faced in  
11                                      attempting to achieve the out-  
12                                      come; and

13                                      (cc) the improved future de-  
14                                      livery of the intervention used in  
15                                      the project or a similar interven-  
16                                      tion.

17                   (B) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not  
18                   later than 30 days after receipt of the written  
19                   report under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Sec-  
20                   retary shall transmit the report to Congress.

21                   (5) FINAL REPORT.—

22                               (A) SUBMITTAL OF REPORT.—An eligible  
23                               entity shall ensure that the independent eval-  
24                               uator conducting the evaluation under this sub-  
25                               section with respect to a VISIT pay for results

1 project conducted by the entity under the pilot  
2 program, not later than 180 days after the  
3 VISIT pay for results project is completed—

4 (i) evaluates the effects of the activi-  
5 ties undertaken pursuant to the agreement  
6 under subsection (d) with regard to each  
7 outcome specified in the agreement; and

8 (ii) submits to the President a written  
9 report that includes—

10 (I) the results of the evaluation  
11 and the conclusion of the evaluator as  
12 to whether the eligible entity has ful-  
13 filled each obligation of the agree-  
14 ment; and

15 (II) information on—

16 (aa) the unique factors that  
17 contributed to the success or fail-  
18 ure of the project;

19 (bb) the challenges faced in  
20 attempting to achieve the out-  
21 come; and

22 (cc) the improved future de-  
23 livery of the intervention used in  
24 the project or a similar interven-  
25 tion.

1 (B) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not  
2 later than 30 days after receipt of the written  
3 report under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Sec-  
4 retary shall transmit the report to Congress.

5 **SEC. 6. TIER 2 OF PILOT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) NOTICE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out  
8 Tier 2 of the pilot program, including by publishing  
9 in the Federal Register a request for proposals from  
10 eligible entities to conduct VISIT pay for results  
11 projects under Tier 2 of the pilot program, if the  
12 Secretary certifies that a reasonable number of eligi-  
13 ble entities could provide rigorous evidence dem-  
14 onstrating that the interventions of such projects  
15 can be expected to produce desired outcomes.

16 (2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION.—In  
17 making a certification under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
18 retary shall consider—

19 (A) an analysis of the number of eligible  
20 entities that could provide rigorous evidence de-  
21 scribed such paragraph; and

22 (B) whether an analysis of the final results  
23 of VISIT pay for results projects under Tier 1  
24 of the pilot program is necessary to inform such  
25 certification.

1 (b) QUALIFICATION FOR VISIT PAY FOR RESULTS  
2 PROJECT.—Section 5(b) shall apply with respect to Tier  
3 2 of the pilot program.

4 (c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—The notice published  
5 under subsection (a) shall require an eligible entity seek-  
6 ing to participate in Tier 2 of the pilot program to submit  
7 to the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the date  
8 of such publication, an application for a VISIT pay for  
9 results project under Tier 2 of the pilot program that ad-  
10 dresses each element under section 5(c), except that, with  
11 respect to paragraph (7) of such section, an application  
12 shall include rigorous evidence demonstrating that the  
13 intervention of the project can be expected to produce the  
14 desired outcome or outcomes.

15 (d) AGREEMENTS ON PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PRO-  
16 GRAM.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
18 the deadline for applications under subsection (c)  
19 has expired, the Secretary, in consultation with the  
20 Federal Interagency Council on Social Impact Part-  
21 nerships and the Secretary of Defense, shall enter  
22 into an agreement with one or more eligible entities  
23 to participate in Tier 2 of the pilot program.

24 (2) NUMBER.—The Secretary is encouraged to  
25 enter into agreements under paragraph (1) with a

1 number of eligible entities that is at least half of the  
2 number of eligible entities that participated under  
3 Tier 1 of the pilot program.

4 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether  
5 to enter into an agreement with an eligible entity  
6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

7 (A) seek to ensure geographic diversity  
8 among selected entities as described in subpara-  
9 graph (A) of section 5(d)(3); and

10 (B) consider the elements under subpara-  
11 graph (B) of such section.

12 (4) REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING INTO  
13 AGREEMENTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
15 enter into an agreement with an eligible entity  
16 under paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-  
17 mines that each of the following requirements  
18 are met:

19 (i) The eligible entity agrees to  
20 achieve one or more outcomes as a result  
21 of the project, as specified in the agree-  
22 ment and validated by independent evalua-  
23 tion, in order to receive payment. Such  
24 outcomes shall be significant metrics close-

1 ly correlated with intervention under the  
2 project.

3 (ii) Payment from the Federal Gov-  
4 ernment to the eligible entity for each  
5 specified outcome achieved as a result of  
6 the project will be less than or equal to the  
7 value of the outcome to the Federal Gov-  
8 ernment over a period not to exceed ten  
9 years, as determined by the Secretary, in  
10 consultation with the eligible entity.

11 (iii) Based on prior rigorous experi-  
12 mental evaluations or rigorous quasi-exper-  
13 imental studies, the project can be ex-  
14 pected to achieve each outcome specified in  
15 the agreement.

16 (iv) The project will begin not later  
17 than one year after the eligible entity has  
18 entered into the agreement with the Sec-  
19 retary.

20 (v) The duration of the project will  
21 not exceed seven years.

22 (vi) The eligible entity has shown that  
23 it has experience delivering the interven-  
24 tion used in the project, a similar interven-  
25 tion, or has otherwise demonstrated the ca-

1                   pability necessary to deliver the interven-  
2                   tion.

3                   (vii) The project will use participants  
4                   to implement the project.

5                   (viii) The eligible entity has made  
6                   such other assurances as the Secretary  
7                   may require.

8           (e) RAISING FUNDS.—Section 5(e) shall apply with  
9   respect to Tier 2 of the pilot program.

10          (f) ABILITY TO FINANCE PROJECT.—

11               (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
12               after the date on which an eligible entity enters into  
13               an agreement with the Secretary under subsection  
14               (a) for a VISIT pay for results project under Tier  
15               2 of the pilot program, the entity shall provide to  
16               the Secretary a plan demonstrating that the entity—

17                   (A) has the capability to fully fund the up-  
18                   front costs of the project, with or without funds  
19                   from partner investors or philanthropic entities;  
20                   and

21                   (B) will have the funds described in sub-  
22                   paragraph (A) available and reserved for the  
23                   project not later than one year after the date of  
24                   such agreement.

1           (2) TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT.—The Sec-  
2       retary may terminate an agreement entered into  
3       under subsection (a) with an eligible entity for a  
4       VISIT pay for results project under Tier 2 of the  
5       pilot program if—

6           (A) the Secretary determines that the eligi-  
7       ble entity is not likely to have the capability to  
8       fully fund the up-front costs of the project; or

9           (B) the eligible entity does not have the  
10      funds available and reserved to fully fund the  
11      up-front costs of the project.

12      (g) DURATION.—Each VISIT pay for results project  
13      conducted under Tier 2 of the pilot program shall be lim-  
14      ited to a duration of not more than seven years.

15      (h) PAYMENT.—

16           (1) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—Section 5(h)(1)  
17      shall apply with respect to Tier 2 of the pilot pro-  
18      gram.

19           (2) UP-FRONT COSTS.—An eligible entity with  
20      which the Secretary enters into an agreement under  
21      subsection (d) for a VISIT pay for results project  
22      under Tier 2 of the pilot program shall pay the en-  
23      tire up-front costs of the project.

24           (3) OUTCOME PAYMENTS.—Subparagraph (A)  
25      of section 5(h)(3) shall apply with respect to Tier 2

1 of the pilot program, except that the exception under  
 2 subparagraph (B) of such section shall not apply  
 3 with respect Tier 2 of the pilot program.

4 (i) EVALUATION.—Section 5(i) shall apply with re-  
 5 spect to Tier 2 of the pilot program, except that the waiver  
 6 authority under paragraph (1)(B) of such section shall not  
 7 apply with respect to Tier 2 of the pilot program.

8 **SEC. 7. TASK FORCE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
 10 a task force to support the pilot program through feedback  
 11 and engagement with relevant entities.

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The task force established  
 14 under subsection (a) shall be composed of members  
 15 selected by the Secretary from among experts de-  
 16 scribed in paragraph (2) who have some experi-  
 17 ence—

18 (A) working with veterans and family  
 19 members of veterans; or

20 (B) serving in the Armed Forces.

21 (2) EXPERTS DESCRIBED.—The experts de-  
 22 scribed in this paragraph are individuals with exper-  
 23 tise in—

24 (A) the social impact partnership model  
 25 under subtitle C of title XX of the Social Secu-

1           rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397n et seq.), or similar  
2           pay for results model;

3           (B) evaluation methodologies;

4           (C) relevant interventions and support  
5           available to eligible individuals; or

6           (D) health effects associated with social  
7           isolation and loneliness.

8       (c) DUTIES.—The task force established under sub-  
9       section (a) shall—

10           (1) proactively offer feedback, advice, and tech-  
11           nical assistance to State and local governments and  
12           other entities seeking to participate in the pilot pro-  
13           gram; and

14           (2) work to proactively engage such govern-  
15           ments and entities with the goal of ensuring that  
16           many strong proposals for such program are sub-  
17           mitted.

18       (d) INDEPENDENT OPERATION.—An employee of the  
19       Department of Veterans Affairs may not simultaneously  
20       serve on the Task Force and have responsibilities for se-  
21       lecting eligible entities for participation in the pilot pro-  
22       gram.

23       **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

24           (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
25       authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

1 out this Act \$50,000,000, to remain available for expendi-  
2 ture until 15 years after the date of the enactment of this  
3 Act.

4 (b) PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CRED-  
5 IT ENHANCEMENTS.—No amount appropriated to carry  
6 out this Act may be used to provide any insurance, guar-  
7 antee, or other credit enhancement to an eligible entity  
8 under which a Federal payment would be made to an eligi-  
9 ble entity as the result of such entity failing to achieve  
10 an outcome specified in an agreement under the pilot pro-  
11 gram.

12 (c) LIMITATION ON COST OF EVALUATIONS.—Of the  
13 amounts appropriated to carry out this Act in any fiscal  
14 year, the Secretary may not obligate more than 15 percent  
15 to evaluate under sections 5(i) and 6(i) the implementa-  
16 tion and outcomes of VISIT pay for results projects under  
17 the pilot program.

18 (d) TASK FORCE.—In any fiscal year, the Secretary  
19 may use not more than 5 percent of the amounts appro-  
20 priated or otherwise made available to carry out this Act  
21 for the task force under section 7.

22 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In any fiscal year,  
23 the Secretary may use not more than 5 percent of the

- 1 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to
- 2 carry out this Act for administrative expenses.

