

scribed in section 628a¹ of this title with such stipends and allowances as may be permitted by the Secretary; and

(2) for contracts or jointly financed cooperative arrangements with States and public and other organizations and agencies for the conduct of research, special projects, or demonstration projects relating to such matters.

(b) Payments; advances or reimbursements; installments; conditions

Payments of grants or under contracts or cooperative arrangements under this section may be made in advance or by way of reimbursement, and in such installments, as the Secretary may determine; and shall be made on such conditions as the Secretary finds necessary to carry out the purposes of the grants, contracts, or other arrangements.

(c) Child welfare traineeships

The Secretary may approve an application for a grant to a public or nonprofit institution for higher learning to provide traineeships with stipends under subsection (a)(1)(C) only if the application—

(1) provides assurances that each individual who receives a stipend with such traineeship (in this section referred to as a “recipient”) will enter into an agreement with the institution under which the recipient agrees—

(A) to participate in training at a public or private nonprofit child welfare agency on a regular basis (as determined by the Secretary) for the period of the traineeship;

(B) to be employed for a period of years equivalent to the period of the traineeship, in a public or private nonprofit child welfare agency in any State, within a period of time (determined by the Secretary in accordance with regulations) after completing the post-secondary education for which the traineeship was awarded;

(C) to furnish to the institution and the Secretary evidence of compliance with subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(D) if the recipient fails to comply with subparagraph (A) or (B) and does not qualify for any exception to this subparagraph which the Secretary may prescribe in regulations, to repay to the Secretary all (or an appropriately prorated part) of the amount of the stipend, plus interest, and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees (in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary);

(2) provides assurances that the institution will—

(A) enter into agreements with child welfare agencies for onsite training of recipients;

(B) permit an individual who is employed in the field of child welfare services to apply for a traineeship with a stipend if the traineeship furthers the progress of the individual toward the completion of degree requirements; and

(C) develop and implement a system that, for the 3-year period that begins on the date

any recipient completes a child welfare services program of study, tracks the employment record of the recipient, for the purpose of determining the percentage of recipients who secure employment in the field of child welfare services and remain employed in the field.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §426, as added Pub. L. 90-248, title II, §240(c), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 915; amended Pub. L. 100-203, title IX, §9137, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-319; Pub. L. 103-432, title II, §205(b), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4457; Pub. L. 109-288, §§6(f)(2), 11(b), Sept. 28, 2006, 120 Stat. 1247, 1255.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 628a of this title, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(C), was transferred and redesignated as subsec. (c) of this section by Pub. L. 109-288, §6(f)(2), Sept. 28, 2006, 120 Stat. 1247.

CODIFICATION

Section 628a of this title, which was transferred and redesignated as subsec. (c) of this section by Pub. L. 109-288, was based on act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §429, as added Pub. L. 103-432, title II, §205(a), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4456.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-288, §11(b), redesignated subsec. (c) as (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which related to appropriations for demonstration projects for development of alternate care arrangements for infants not requiring hospitalization.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-288, §6(f)(2), amended section as amended by Pub. L. 109-288, §11(b), by transferring section 628a of this title and redesignating it as subsec. (c) of this section. See Codification note above.

Pub. L. 109-288, §11(b), redesignated subsec. (c) as (b). 1994—Subsec. (a)(1)(C). Pub. L. 103-432 inserted “described in section 628a of this title” after “including traineeships”.

1987—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 100-203 added subsec. (b) and redesignated former subsec. (b) as (c).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-288 effective Oct. 1, 2006, and applicable to payments under this part and part E of this subchapter for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, without regard to whether implementing regulations have been promulgated, and with delay permitted if State legislation is required to meet additional requirements, see section 12(a), (b) of Pub. L. 109-288, set out as a note under section 621 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-432, title II, §205(c), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4457, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [enacting section 628a of this title and amending this section] shall apply to grants awarded on or after October 1, 1995.”

APPROPRIATIONS OR GRANTS

Pub. L. 90-248, title II, §240(g), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 916, provided that any appropriations or grants made pursuant to section 726 of this title, as in effect prior to Jan. 2, 1968, were to be deemed to have been appropriated or made under this section.

§ 627. Family connection grants

(a) In general

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may make matching grants to State, local, or

¹ See References in Text note below.

tribal child welfare agencies, private nonprofit organizations that have experience in working with foster children or children in kinship care arrangements, and institutions of higher education (as defined under section 1001 of title 20), for the purpose of helping children who are in, or at risk of entering, foster care reconnect with family members through the implementation of—

(1) a kinship navigator program to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs, and to promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served, which program—

(A) shall be coordinated with other State or local agencies that promote service coordination or provide information and referral services, including the entities that provide 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 information systems where available, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services to kinship care families;

(B) shall be planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies, and relevant community-based or faith-based organizations;

(C) shall establish information and referral systems that link (via toll-free access) kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers to—

- (i) each other;
- (ii) eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits;
- (iii) relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in caregiving and in obtaining benefits and services; and
- (iv) relevant legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services;

(D) shall provide outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website, or other relevant guides or outreach materials;

(E) shall promote partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies, to increase their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families and other individuals who are willing and able to be foster parents for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who are themselves parents to promote better services for those families;

(F) may establish and support a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services; and

(G) may support any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve their caregiving;

(2) intensive family-finding efforts that utilize search technology to find biological fam-

ily members for children in the child welfare system, and once identified, work to reestablish relationships and explore ways to find a permanent family placement for the children;

(3) family group decision-making meetings for children in the child welfare system, that—

(A) enable families to make decisions and develop plans that nurture children and protect them from abuse and neglect, and

(B) when appropriate, shall address domestic violence issues in a safe manner and facilitate connecting children exposed to domestic violence to appropriate services, including reconnection with the abused parent when appropriate; or

(4) residential family treatment programs that—

(A) enable parents and their children to live in a safe environment for a period of not less than 6 months; and

(B) provide, on-site or by referral, substance abuse treatment services, children's early intervention services, family counseling, medical, and mental health services, nursery and pre-school, and other services that are designed to provide comprehensive treatment that supports the family.

(b) Applications

An entity desiring to receive a matching grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) a description of how the grant will be used to implement 1 or more of the activities described in subsection (a);

(2) a description of the types of children and families to be served, including how the children and families will be identified and recruited, and an initial projection of the number of children and families to be served;

(3) if the entity is a private organization—

(A) documentation of support from the relevant local or State child welfare agency; or

(B) a description of how the organization plans to coordinate its services and activities with those offered by the relevant local or State child welfare agency; and

(4) an assurance that the entity will cooperate fully with any evaluation provided for by the Secretary under this section.

(c) Limitations

(1) Grant duration

The Secretary may award a grant under this section for a period of not less than 1 year and not more than 3 years.

(2) Number of new grantees per year

The Secretary may not award a grant under this section to more than 30 new grantees each fiscal year.

(d) Federal contribution

The amount of a grant payment to be made to a grantee under this section during each year in the grant period shall be the following percentage of the total expenditures proposed to be made by the grantee in the application approved by the Secretary under this section:

(1) 75 percent, if the payment is for the 1st or 2nd year of the grant period.

(2) 50 percent, if the payment is for the 3rd year of the grant period.

(e) Form of grantee contribution

A grantee under this section may provide not more than 50 percent of the amount which the grantee is required to expend to carry out the activities for which a grant is awarded under this section in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

(f) Use of grant

A grantee under this section shall use the grant in accordance with the approved application for the grant.

(g) Reservations of funds

(1) Evaluation

The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of the funds made available under subsection (h) for each fiscal year for the conduct of a rigorous evaluation of the activities funded with grants under this section.

(2) Technical assistance

The Secretary may reserve 2 percent of the funds made available under subsection (h) for each fiscal year to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants under this section.

(h) Appropriation

Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary for purposes of making grants under this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, § 427, as added Pub. L. 110-351, title I, § 102(a), Oct. 7, 2008, 122 Stat. 3953; amended Pub. L. 113-183, title II, § 221(a)-(d), Sept. 29, 2014, 128 Stat. 1942, 1943; Pub. L. 118-258, title I, § 110(b)(1), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2960.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

Pub. L. 118-258, title I, §§ 110(b)(1), 117, Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2960, 2969, made numerous amendments to this section, effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if either State legislation or tribal action is required to meet additional requirements. After such effective date, this section will read as follows:

§ 627. Kinship navigators

(a) In general

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may make matching grants to State, local, or tribal child welfare agencies, private nonprofit organizations that have experience in working with foster children or children in kinship care arrangements, and institutions of higher education (as defined under section 1001 of title 20), for the purpose of administering programs to help children who are in, or at risk of entering, foster care reconnect with family members through the implementation of a kinship navigator program to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs, and to promote effec-

tive partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served, which program—

(1) shall be coordinated with other State or local agencies that promote service coordination or provide information and referral services, including the entities that provide 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 information systems where available, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services to kinship care families;

(2) shall be planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies, and relevant community-based or faith-based organizations;

(3) shall establish information and referral systems that link (via toll-free access) kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers to—

(A) each other;

(B) eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits;

(C) relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in caregiving and in obtaining benefits and services;

(D) relevant legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services; and

(E) connections to individualized assistance, as needed;

(4) shall provide outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website, or other relevant guides or outreach materials;

(5) shall promote partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies, to increase their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families and other individuals who are willing and able to be foster parents for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who are themselves parents to promote better services for those families;

(6) may establish and support a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services; and

(7) may support any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve their caregiving.

(b) Applications

An entity desiring to receive a matching grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) a description of how the grant will be used to implement the activities described in subsection (a);

(2) a description of the types of children and families to be served, including how the children and families will be identified and recruited, and an initial projection of the number of children and families to be served;

(3) a description of how the entity will directly fund, or provide data to the Secretary for, an evaluation which will publish and submit information to the clearinghouse described in section 676(d)(2) of this title and which is designed to meet the requirements of section 671(e)(4)(C) of

this title, or a description of how the funds will be used to help the State transition to a program for which the State will seek reimbursement under section 674(a)(7) of this title;

(4) if the entity is a private organization—

(A) documentation of support from the relevant local or State child welfare agency; or

(B) a description of how the organization plans to coordinate its services and activities with those offered by the relevant local or State child welfare agency;

(5) an assurance that the entity will cooperate fully with any evaluation provided for by the Secretary under this section; and

(6) if the entity is a State, local or tribal child welfare agency—

(A) documentation of support from a relevant community-based organization with experience serving kinship families when applicable; or

(B) a description of how the organization plans to coordinate its services and activities with those offered by the relevant community-based organizations.

(c) Limitations

(1) Grant duration

The Secretary may award a grant under this section for a period of not less than 1 year and not more than 3 years.

(2) Number of new grantees per year

The Secretary may not award a grant under this section to more than 30 new grantees each fiscal year.

(d) Federal share

An entity to which a grant is made under this section may use the grant to pay not more than 75 percent of the cost of the activities to be carried out by the entity pursuant to this section.

(e) Form of grantee contribution

A grantee under this section may provide not more than 50 percent of the amount which the grantee is required to expend to carry out the activities for which a grant is awarded under this section in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

(f) Use of grant

A grantee under this section shall use the grant in accordance with the approved application for the grant.

(g) Reservation of funds for technical assistance

The Secretary may reserve 2 percent of the funds made available under section 629g(b)(6) of this title for each fiscal year to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants under this section.

See 2025 Amendment notes below.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 627, act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §427, as added June 17, 1980, Pub. L. 96-272, title I, §103(b), 94 Stat. 519; amended Dec. 19, 1989, Pub. L. 101-239, title X, §10401(a), 103 Stat. 2487, related to foster care protection required for additional payments, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-432, title II, §202(c), (e), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4454, effective with respect to fiscal years beginning on or after Apr. 1, 1996.

AMENDMENTS

2025—Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(A), substituted “Kinship navigators” for “Family connection grants” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(B)(ii), (iv)–(viii), struck out dash after “implementation of” and par. (1) designation before “a kinship navigator program”; redesignated subpars. (A) to (G) of former par. (1) as pars. (1) to (7), respectively; redesignated cls. (i) to (v) of former par. (1)(C) as subpars. (A) to (E), respectively, of par. (3); realigned margins; substituted “caregiving.” for “caregiving;” at end; and struck out former pars. (2) to (4) which related to implementation of intensive family-finding efforts, family group decision-making meetings, and residential family treatment programs, respectively.

Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(B)(i), substituted “administering programs to help” for “helping” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(C)(v). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(B)(iii), added cl. (v), which was subsequently redesignated subpar. (E) of par. (3).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(C)(i), struck out “1 or more of” after “used to implement”.

Subsec. (b)(3) to (5). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(C)(ii), added par. (3) and redesignated former pars. (3) and (4) as (4) and (5), respectively.

Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(C)(iii)–(v), added par. (6).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(D), added subsec. (d) and struck out former subsec. (d) which related to federal contribution of a grant payment.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(E), substituted “Reservation of funds for technical assistance” for “Reservations of funds” in heading, struck out par. (2) designation and heading “Technical assistance” before “The Secretary may reserve”, substituted “section 629g(b)(6) of this title” for “subsection (h)”, and struck out par. (1). Prior to amendment, text of par. (1) read as follows: “The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of the funds made available under subsection (h) for each fiscal year for the conduct of a rigorous evaluation of the activities funded with grants under this section.”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 118-258, §110(b)(1)(F), struck out subsec. (h). Text read as follows: “Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary for purposes of making grants under this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.”

2014—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-183, §221(b), struck out “and” before “private” and inserted “and institutions of higher education (as defined under section 1001 of title 20),” after “arrangements,” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 113-183, §221(c), inserted “and other individuals who are willing and able to be foster parents for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who are themselves parents” after “kinship care families”.

Subsec. (g)(1) to (3). Pub. L. 113-183, §221(d), redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (1) and (2), respectively, and struck out former par. (1). Prior to amendment, text of par. (1) read as follows: “The Secretary shall reserve \$5,000,000 of the funds made available under subsection (h) for each fiscal year for grants to implement kinship navigator programs described in subsection (a)(1).”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 113-183, §221(a), substituted “2014” for “2013”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2025 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 118-258 effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if either State legislation or tribal action is required to meet additional requirements, see section 117 of Pub. L. 118-258, set out as a note under section 622 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-183, title II, §221(e), Sept. 29, 2014, 128 Stat. 1943, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2013.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 7, 2008, and applicable to payments under this part and part E of this subchapter for quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if State legislation is required to meet additional requirements, see section 601 of Pub. L. 110-351, set out as an Effective Date of 2008 Amendment note under section 671 of this title.

§ 628. Payments to Indian tribal organizations**(a) Amounts**

The Secretary may, in appropriate cases (as determined by the Secretary) make payments under this subpart directly to an Indian tribal organization within any State which has a plan for child welfare services approved under this subpart. Such payments shall be made in such manner and in such amounts as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) Inclusion in State allotment

Amounts paid under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a part of the allotment (as determined under section 623 of this title) for the State in which such Indian tribal organization is located.

(c) “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization” defined

For purposes of this section, the terms “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization” shall have the meanings given such terms by subsections (e) and (f) of section 5304 of title 25, respectively.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §428, as added Pub. L. 96-272, title I, §103(b), June 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 520; amended Pub. L. 103-66, title XIII, §13711(b)(3), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 655; Pub. L. 104-193, title III, §375(d), Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2257; Pub. L. 109-288, §6(f)(1), Sept. 28, 2006, 120 Stat. 1247; Pub. L. 118-258, title I, §107(a)(1)(A), (C), (3)(A), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2953-2955.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

Pub. L. 118-258, title I, §§107(a)(1)(A), (C), (3)(A), 117, Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2953-2955, 2969, provided that, effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar quarters beginning on or after such date, with delay permitted if either State legislation or tribal action is required to meet additional requirements, this section is amended as follows:

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) Reservation of funds; direct payments

“Out of any amount appropriated pursuant to section 625 of this title for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 3 percent for grants to Indian tribes and tribal organizations, which shall be paid directly to Indian tribes and tribal organizations with a plan approved under this subpart, in accordance with section 629c(a) of this title.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “450b” and inserting “5304” (which appears in reference in original act); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and inserting before such subsection the following:

(b) Authority to streamline reporting requirements

The Secretary shall, in consultation with the affected Indian tribes, modify any reporting requirement imposed by or under this part on an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium if the total of the amounts allotted to the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium under this part for the fiscal year is not more than \$50,000, and in a manner that limits the administrative burden on any tribe to which not more than \$50,000 is allotted under this subpart for the fiscal year.

(c) Tribal authority to substitute the Federal negotiated indirect cost rate for administrative costs cap

For purposes of sections 622(b)(14) and 624(e) of this title, an Indian tribal organization may elect to have the weighted average of the indirect cost rates in effect under part 220 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations with respect to the administrative costs of the Indian tribal organization apply in lieu of the percentage specified in each such section.

See 2025 Amendment notes below.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2025—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 118-258, §107(a)(1)(A), (3)(A), added subsections (a) and (b) and struck out former subsections (a) and (b) which read as follows:

“(a) The Secretary may, in appropriate cases (as determined by the Secretary) make payments under this subpart directly to an Indian tribal organization within any State which has a plan for child welfare services approved under this subpart. Such payments shall be made in such manner and in such amounts as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(b) Amounts paid under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a part of the allotment (as determined under section 623 of this title) for the State in which such Indian tribal organization is located.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-258, §107(a)(3)(A), added subsec. (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Pub. L. 118-258, §107(a)(1)(C), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 5304 of title 25.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 118-258, §107(a)(3)(A), redesignated subsec. (c) as (d).

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-288 substituted “section 623” for “section 621”.

1996—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-193 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘tribal organization’ means the recognized governing body of any Indian tribe, or any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body; and

“(2) the term ‘Indian tribe’ means any tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians (including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Public Law 92-203; 85 Stat. 688)) which (A) is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians, or (B) is located on, or in proximity to, a Federal or State reservation or rancheria.”

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-66 substituted “under this subpart” for “under this part” in two places.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2025 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 118-258 effective Oct. 1, 2025, and applicable to payments under this part for calendar