

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3193

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2016

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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 “Childhood Outcomes  
5       Need New Efficient Community Teams” or the “CON-  
6       NECT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO AWARD COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO**  
2 **ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE**  
3 **CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**  
4 **SYSTEMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 436 of the Social Security  
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 629f) is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following new subsection:

8 “(c) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS TO STATES TO  
9 ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE CHILD  
10 WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection  
12 is to authorize the Secretary to make grants to State  
13 child welfare and juvenile justice agencies to collabo-  
14 rate in the collection of data relating to dual status  
15 youth and to develop practices, policies, and proto-  
16 cols to confront the challenges presented and experi-  
17 enced by dual status youth.

18 “(2) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
20 award competitive grants jointly to a State  
21 child welfare agency and a State juvenile justice  
22 agency to facilitate or enhance collaboration be-  
23 tween the child welfare and juvenile justice sys-  
24 tems of the State in order to carry out pro-  
25 grams to address the needs of dual status  
26 youth.

“(B) FUNDING.—Any grants awarded under this subsection shall be awarded from the amounts made available under subsection (a) of this section, after the application of subsection (b) of this section and before the determination of allotments under section 433.

“(C) LENGTH OF GRANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A grant shall be awarded under this subsection for a period of not less than 2, and not more than 5, fiscal years, subject to clause (ii).

“(ii) EXTENSION OF GRANT.—On application of the grantee, the Secretary may extend for not more than 2 fiscal years the period for which a grant is awarded under this subsection.

“(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) APPLICATION.—In order for a State to be eligible for a grant under this subsection, it shall submit an application, to be approved by the Secretary, that includes—

“(i) a description of the proposed leadership collaboration group (including the membership of such group), and how such group will manage and oversee a re-

1 view and analysis of current practices while  
2 working to jointly address enhanced prac-  
3 tices to improve outcomes for dual status  
4 youth;

5 “(ii) a description of how the State  
6 proposes to—

7 “(I) identify dual status youths;

8 “(II) identify individuals who are  
9 at risk of becoming dual status  
10 youths;

11 “(III) identify common charac-  
12 teristics shared by dual status youths  
13 in the State; and

14 “(IV) determine the prevalence of  
15 dual status youths in the State;

16 “(iii) a description of current and pro-  
17 posed practices and procedures that the  
18 State intends to use to—

19 “(I) screen and assess dual sta-  
20 tus youths for risks and treatment  
21 needs;

22 “(II) provide targeted and evi-  
23 dence-based services, including edu-  
24 cational, behavioral health, and pro-

1 social treatment interventions for dual  
2 status youths; and

3 “(III) provide for a lawful proc-  
4 ess to enhance or ensure the abilities  
5 of the State and any relevant agencies  
6 to share information and data about  
7 dual status youths while maintaining  
8 confidentiality and privacy protections  
9 under State and Federal law; and

10 “(iv) a certification that the State has  
11 involved local governments, as appropriate,  
12 in the development, expansion, modifica-  
13 tion, operation, or improvement of pro-  
14 posed policy and practice reforms to ad-  
15 dress the needs of dual status youths.

16 “(B) NO SUPPLANTATION OF OTHER  
17 FUNDS.—Any amounts paid to a State under a  
18 grant under this subsection shall be used to  
19 supplement and not supplant other State ex-  
20 penditures on dual status youths or children in-  
21 volved with either the child welfare or juvenile  
22 justice systems.

23 “(C) REPORT.—A State child welfare  
24 agency and a State juvenile justice agency re-  
25 ceiving a grant under this subsection shall

1 jointly submit to the Secretary and to the Ad-  
2 ministrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice  
3 and Delinquency Prevention of the Department  
4 of Justice a report on the activities carried out  
5 under the grant at the end of each fiscal year  
6 during the period of the grant. Such report  
7 shall include—

8 “(i) a description of the scope and na-  
9 ture of the dual status youth population in  
10 the State, including the number of dual  
11 status youth;

12 “(ii) a description of the evidence-  
13 based practices and procedures used by the  
14 agencies to carry out the activities de-  
15 scribed in subclauses (I) through (III) of  
16 subparagraph (A)(iii); and

17 “(iii) an analysis of the effects of such  
18 practices and procedures, including infor-  
19 mation regarding—

20 “(I) the collection of data related  
21 to individual dual status youths;

22 “(II) aggregate data related to  
23 the dual status youth population, in-  
24 cluding—

1 “(aa) characteristics of dual  
2 status youths in the State;

3 “(bb) case processing  
4 timelines; and

5 “(cc) information related to  
6 case management, the provision  
7 of targeted services, and place-  
8 ments within the foster care or  
9 juvenile justice system; and

10 “(III) the extent to which such  
11 practices and procedures have contrib-  
12 uted to—

13 “(aa) higher educational at-  
14 tainment for dual status youths;

15 “(bb) fewer delinquency re-  
16 ferrals for dual status youths;

17 “(cc) shorter stays in inten-  
18 sive restrictive placements for  
19 dual status youths; or

20 “(dd) such other outcomes  
21 for dual status youths as the  
22 State child welfare agency and  
23 State juvenile justice agency may  
24 identify.

1           “(4) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—  
2       The Secretary may support State child welfare agen-  
3       cies and State juvenile justice agencies by offering a  
4       program, developed in consultation with organiza-  
5       tions and agencies with subject matter expertise, of  
6       training and technical assistance to assist the agen-  
7       cies in developing programs and protocols—

8           “(A) to facilitate or enhance collaboration  
9       between State child welfare agencies and State  
10      juvenile justice agencies; and

11          “(B) for effectively working with Federal  
12      agencies and child welfare and juvenile justice  
13      agencies from other States.

14          “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the  
15      date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3  
16      years thereafter, the Secretary and the Attorney  
17      General of the Department of Justice shall jointly  
18      submit to the Committee on Finance and the Com-  
19      mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-  
20      mittee on Ways and Means and the Committee on  
21      Education and the Workforce of the House of Rep-  
22      resentatives, a report on the grants provided under  
23      this subsection.

24          “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:



1           “(A) DUAL STATUS YOUTH.—The term  
2           ‘dual status youth’ means a child who has come  
3           into contact with both the child welfare and ju-  
4           venile justice systems and occupies various  
5           statuses in terms of the individual’s relationship  
6           to such systems.

7           “(B) LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION  
8           GROUP.—The term ‘leadership collaboration  
9           group’ means a group composed of senior offi-  
10          cials from the State child welfare agency, the  
11          State juvenile justice agency, and other relevant  
12          youth and family-serving public agencies and  
13          private organizations, including, to the extent  
14          practicable, representatives from the State judi-  
15          ciary branch.

16          “(C) STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE AGENCY.—  
17          The term ‘State juvenile justice agency’ means  
18          the agency of the State or Indian tribe respon-  
19          sible for administering grant funds awarded  
20          under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
21          Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et  
22          seq.).

23          “(D) STATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY.—  
24          The term ‘State child welfare agency’ means  
25          the State agency responsible for administering

1           the program under subpart 1, or, in the case of  
2           a tribal organization that is receiving payments  
3           under section 428, the tribal agency responsible  
4           for administering such program.”.

5       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsections (b)  
6 and (c) of section 433 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 633) are  
7 each amended by striking “section 436(b)” and inserting  
8 “subsections (b) and (c) of section 436”.

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