

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5124

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a community action opioid response grant program.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Mr. SMUCKER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

---

## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a community action opioid response grant program.

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 The Act may be cited as the “Community Action  
5 Opioid Response Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY ACTION**  
7 **OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.**—The  
9 Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through  
10 the Office of Community Services established under sec-

1 tion 678 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42  
2 U.S.C. 9912), shall, subject to the subsequent provisions  
3 of this section, establish a grant program to enable Com-  
4 munity Action Agencies to respond to the needs of commu-  
5 nities and low-income families and individuals in crisis re-  
6 sulting from the opioid addiction epidemic.

7 (b) GOALS.—The goals of the grant program under  
8 this section are to expand and support effective commu-  
9 nity efforts to identify and respond to causes and con-  
10 sequences of opioid misuse and addiction experienced by  
11 low-income individuals, families, and communities.

12 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—Any Community Action Agency,  
13 as defined in subsection (i), is eligible to apply for a grant  
14 under this section by submitting an application in such  
15 form and manner as specified by the Secretary, in accord-  
16 ance with subsection (g)(1).

17 (d) ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded  
18 to a Community Action Agency under this section may  
19 be used to support one or more of the following activities,  
20 which may be conducted in coordination or partnership  
21 with other community organizations:

22 (1) Enhanced public education to improve indi-  
23 vidual and community awareness, with respect to  
24 opioid misuse or addiction, including for children  
25 and youth.

1           (2) Outreach and identification of individuals at  
2 risk of or experiencing opioid misuse or addiction,  
3 and referral of such individuals to appropriate treat-  
4 ment, recovery, or other resources in the community.

5           (3) Direct services to prevent, treat, or recover  
6 from opioid addiction.

7           (4) Services to stabilize the education, employ-  
8 ment, housing, transportation, or other needs of ad-  
9 dicted or at-risk individuals and their family mem-  
10 bers.

11          (5) Services to address and mitigate the impact  
12 of opioid addiction on children in the household.

13          (6) Support and assistance to children, and  
14 their caregivers, who are in foster care or at-risk of  
15 placement in foster care because of the opioid addic-  
16 tion of their parents.

17          (7) Development of partnerships with entities  
18 such as local healthcare providers, substance abuse  
19 treatment organizations, schools, child welfare agen-  
20 cies, social service organizations, police departments,  
21 prosecutors, courts, prisons, local governments, busi-  
22 nesses, and religious institutions, in order to coordi-  
23 nate or expand resources available to addicted or at-  
24 risk individuals and their family members.

1           (8) Training for agency personnel in issues re-  
2           lated to opioid addiction, including early identifica-  
3           tion of at-risk individuals and administration of  
4           overdose prevention medications.

5           (e) GRANT FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

6           (1) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant awarded  
7           under this section shall be in an amount that is not  
8           more than \$1,000,000 per year and not less than  
9           \$50,000 per year.

10          (2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this  
11          section shall be for not more than three years in du-  
12          ration unless otherwise approved by the Secretary  
13          based on outcome data or extenuating cir-  
14          cumstances.

15          (f) REPORTING.—Each Community Action Agency  
16          receiving a grant under this section shall submit an annual  
17          report to the Secretary detailing goals, interventions, out-  
18          comes, and expenditures, with respect to the program of  
19          such agency that is funded by such grant, and make each  
20          such report so submitted by the Community Action Agen-  
21          cy available on the public website of the Community Ac-  
22          tion Agency. The Secretary shall make each such report  
23          public on the public website of the Department of Health  
24          and Human Services. For each year of the grant program  
25          under this section, the Secretary shall compile all of such

1 reports so submitted to the Secretary for such year and  
2 submit to Congress the compilation with an annual sum-  
3 mary.

4 (g) EXPEDITED GRANT APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND  
5 AWARD PROCESS.—

6 (1) APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—

7 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-  
8 ment of this section, the Secretary shall publish in  
9 the Federal Register the application process and cri-  
10 teria for grants under this section. Such criteria  
11 shall require each application submitted for a grant  
12 under this section to include—

13 (A) a description of the objectives of the  
14 program and activities to be funded by the  
15 grant and how the grant will be used to achieve  
16 these objectives, including specific activities and  
17 services to be conducted, and specific popu-  
18 lations or areas to be served (including targeted  
19 subgroups such as incarcerated or homeless in-  
20 dividuals);

21 (B) a description of innovative approaches  
22 to be used and evidence of likely success;

23 (C) a plan for measuring progress in  
24 achieving such objectives specified in subpara-  
25 graph (A), including a strategy to collect data

1 that can be used to measure the project's effec-  
2 tiveness;

3 (D) identification of relevant community or  
4 other organizations with which the applicant  
5 will coordinate or partner and a description of  
6 the proposed coordination or partnership;

7 (E) assurances satisfactory to the Sec-  
8 retary that the applicant has conducted an as-  
9 sessment of community needs related to opioid  
10 misuse and addiction among low-income individ-  
11 uals and families, and that the proposed uses of  
12 the grant funds will address unmet needs iden-  
13 tified by the assessment;

14 (F) assurances satisfactory to the Sec-  
15 retary that funds awarded through the grant  
16 will not supplant other programs or resources  
17 in the community with similar objectives; and

18 (G) assurances satisfactory to the Sec-  
19 retary that evidence-based approaches will be  
20 used to the maximum extent practicable.

21 (2) COMMUNITY ACTION OPIOID RESPONSE  
22 GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
24 after the date of the enactment of this section,  
25 the Secretary shall establish a Community Ac-

1           tion Opioid Response Grant Application Review  
2           Panel of not less than 15 individuals, including  
3           not more than 5 employees from the Depart-  
4           ment of Health and Human Services and other  
5           Federal agencies, with expert knowledge of the  
6           opioid epidemic, drug treatment, community re-  
7           sponses to poverty prevention, child protection,  
8           or post-recovery employment and training.

9           (B) DUTIES.—Such review panel shall re-  
10          view and evaluate applications for grants under  
11          this section and recommend to the Secretary  
12          which of such applications should be awarded a  
13          grant under this section.

14          (C) GRANT SELECTION PRIORITIES.—In  
15          reviewing and recommending applications for a  
16          grant, such review panel shall consider and give  
17          priority to applications that demonstrate one or  
18          more of the following:

19                 (i) Evidence of coordination and part-  
20                 nership with agencies or entities with expe-  
21                 rience or expertise in addressing opioid-re-  
22                 lated issues.

23                 (ii) Evidence of leveraging non-Fed-  
24                 eral funds or in-kind resources to extend

1 the reach or duration (or both) of the pro-  
2 gram proposed by the application.

3 (iii) Quality of methodology proposed  
4 to monitor the outcomes of the program  
5 proposed by the application and effective-  
6 ness in achieving goals of the program and  
7 mitigating the harmful health and socio-  
8 economic impacts of opioid addiction.

9 (iv) Evidence of capacity-building and  
10 strengthening of community responses to  
11 the opioid crisis.

12 (v) Efforts to minimize the trauma  
13 and negative impact of foster care on chil-  
14 dren of addicted individuals.

15 (vi) The applicant has a demonstrated  
16 knowledge of opioid-related needs in the  
17 target community.

18 (vii) Use of innovative or evidence-  
19 based approaches to address unmet opioid-  
20 related needs, including to promote self-  
21 sufficiency and well-being for families with  
22 children impacted by opioid addiction.

23 (D) FUNDING.—The Secretary may use  
24 amounts appropriated to the Office of the Sec-  
25 retary of Health and Human Services to pay



1           for all expenses associated with the Community  
2           Action Opioid Response Grant Application Re-  
3           view Panel.

4           (3) TIMING FOR AWARDING GRANTS.—With re-  
5           spect to a year for which amounts are appropriated  
6           to carry out this section pursuant to subsection (h),  
7           not later than 120 days after such amounts are  
8           made available for such year, the Secretary shall  
9           award all such amounts for grants under this section  
10          for such year.

11          (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
13           appropriated for grants under this section  
14           \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through  
15           2022.

16           (2) TRIBAL SET ASIDE.—Of the amount appro-  
17           priated for a year pursuant to paragraph (1) to  
18           carry out this section, not more than 7 percent shall  
19           be designated for such year for grants to Indian  
20           tribes or tribal organizations that receive direct pay-  
21           ments under section 677 of the Community Services  
22           Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9911).

23          (i) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

24           (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25           the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1           (2) COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY.—The term  
2           “Community Action Agency” has the same meaning  
3           given the term “eligible entity” under section  
4           673(1)(A) of the Community Services Block Grant  
5           Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

○