

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6838

To provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services.

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 “Emergency Funding
5 for Child Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR THE STATE GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**
3 **PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) APPROPRIATION.—There are hereby appropriated
5 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred
6 to in this title as the “Secretary”), out of amounts in the
7 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$500,000,000 for
8 fiscal year 2020, for the purpose of providing additional
9 funding for the State grant program under section 106
10 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42
11 U.S.C. 5106a), in accordance with this section. Such
12 amounts shall be in addition to other amounts made avail-
13 able for such purpose, and shall remain available until ex-
14 pended.

15 (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided by
17 this section are designated as an emergency require-
18 ment pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-
19 As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

20 (2) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate,
21 this section is designated as an emergency require-
22 ment pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res.
23 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on
24 the budget for fiscal year 2018.

25 (c) ALLOTMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not
26 later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 the Secretary shall make allotments out of the amounts
2 appropriated under subsection (a) to each State and terri-
3 tory receiving an allotment under section 106(f) of the
4 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
5 5106a(f)) for fiscal year 2019, in the same manner that
6 amounts appropriated under section 112 of such Act (42
7 U.S.C. 5106(f)) are allotted to States in accordance with
8 section 106(f)(2) of such Act, except that, in allotting
9 amounts under this subsection, “\$50,000” shall be
10 deemed to be “\$1,000,000” each place such amount ap-
11 pears in such section 106(f)(2).

12 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by a State
13 or territory under subsection (c) may be used, consistent
14 with section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
15 ment Act, to—

16 (1) expand the ability of caseworkers to conduct
17 safe, remote and in-person, homes visits and family
18 visits to investigate and treat child abuse and ne-
19 glect, which may include—

20 (A) purchasing personal protective equip-
21 ment for caseworkers and families, such as
22 gloves, hand sanitizer, and face masks;

23 (B) providing premium pay for case-
24 workers conducting in-home visits;

1 (C) purchasing new technology and updat-
2 ing or improving existing technology infrastruc-
3 ture for child welfare agencies;

4 (D) purchasing technology, including inter-
5 net access, and prepaid telephone minutes for
6 families; and

7 (E) training on the use of such technology
8 for caseworkers, families, and child welfare
9 agencies;

10 (2) operating and expanding the national hot-
11 line, including by publicizing such helpline, hiring
12 more staff, and increasing hours of operation;

13 (3) access mental health consultation and serv-
14 ices, including with infant-early childhood mental
15 health providers, to train and support caseworkers in
16 the impacts of disasters and traumatic experience
17 for children (including very young children), youth,
18 and adults, to help caseworkers provide trauma-in-
19 formed services;

20 (4) enhance the ability of caseworkers to con-
21 nect families with, or facilitate access to, other serv-
22 ices, such as telebehavioral health care, in-person
23 well-child visits with pediatricians, substance abuse
24 treatment, and early intervention and special edu-
25 cation services under the Individuals with Disabil-

1 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) for
2 young children with developmental delays and dis-
3 abilities;

4 (5) address the needs, including mental health
5 needs, of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and
6 queer youth who are suspected victims of child abuse
7 or neglect;

8 (6) purchase emergency supplies for families
9 caring for children under protective services super-
10 vision (either at home, in kinship care, or in foster
11 care) and not able to afford them, which may in-
12 clude cleaning and sanitizing supplies, diapers, hy-
13 giene products, formula for infants and toddlers,
14 and reusable cloth face coverings that are consistent
15 with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Con-
16 trol and Prevention for preventing the spread of
17 COVID–19 among the general public;

18 (7) provide support, including assistance pay-
19 ments and access to legal representation, as needed,
20 to relatives or fictive kin to care for children whose
21 parents are diagnosed with COVID–19 until the par-
22 ents are recovered, in lieu of placing such children
23 in foster care; and

24 (8) carry out such other activities that enhance
25 the ability of the State or territory to protect chil-

1 dren and support families during the COVID–19
2 pandemic.

3 (e) NO STATE MATCH REQUIRED.—A State or terri-
4 tory shall not be required to provide any additional fund-
5 ing for the State program under section 106 of the Child
6 Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act as a condition for
7 receiving an allocation under subsection (e).

8 (f) REPORTS.—Each State or territory receiving an
9 allotment under this section shall submit to the Secretary,
10 every 6 months until the amount so allotted has been fully
11 expended, a report detailing how such State or territory
12 is using such allotment in accordance with the require-
13 ments of this section.

14 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED**
15 **GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD**
16 **ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

17 (a) APPROPRIATION.—There are hereby appropriated
18 to the Secretary, out of amounts in the Treasury not oth-
19 erwise appropriated, \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020,
20 for the purpose of providing additional funding for the
21 community-based grants for the prevention of child abuse
22 and neglect under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention
23 and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), in accord-
24 ance with this section. Such amounts shall be in addition

1 to other amounts made available for such purpose, and
2 shall remain available until expended.

3 (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided by
5 this section are designated as an emergency require-
6 ment pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-
7 As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

8 (2) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate,
9 this section is designated as an emergency require-
10 ment pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res.
11 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on
12 the budget for fiscal year 2018.

13 (c) ALLOTMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not
14 later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
15 the Secretary shall make allotments out of the amounts
16 appropriated under subsection (a) to each State receiving
17 an allotment under section 203 of the Child Abuse Preven-
18 tion and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b) for fiscal year
19 2019, in the same manner that amounts appropriated
20 under section 209 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5116i) are allot-
21 ted to States in accordance with section 203 of such Act,
22 except that, in allotting amounts under this subsection—

23 (1) in subsection (a) of such section 203, “1
24 percent” shall be deemed to be “5 percent”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section
2 203—

3 (A) “70 percent” shall be deemed to be
4 “100 percent”; and

5 (B) “\$175,000” shall be deemed to be
6 “\$1,000,000”; and

7 (3) subsections (b)(1)(B) and (c) of such sec-
8 tion 203 shall not apply.

9 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by a State
10 under subsection (c) may be used, consistent with title II
11 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, to—

12 (1) provide services and supports to help fami-
13 lies build protective factors linked to the prevention
14 of child abuse and neglect;

15 (2) purchase emergency supplies and basic ne-
16 cessities for families, which may include diapers and
17 infant hygiene products, formula, non-perishable
18 food, water, soap, hand sanitizer, and reusable cloth
19 face coverings that are consistent with the guidelines
20 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
21 for preventing the spread of COVID–19 among the
22 general public;

23 (3) maximize the participation of racial and
24 ethnic minorities; children and adults with disabil-
25 ities; families experiencing domestic violence; fami-

1 lies experiencing homelessness and those at risk of
2 homelessness; families with low-incomes and families
3 with caregivers recently unemployed; lesbian, gay, bi-
4 sexual, transgender, and queer youth; and young
5 parents in community-based and prevention-focused
6 programs designed to strengthen and support fami-
7 lies to prevent child abuse and neglect;

8 (4) bolster the efforts of the State hotlines by
9 publicizing such hotlines, hiring more staff, and in-
10 creasing hours of operation;

11 (5) establish satellite locations and mobile units
12 for community based nonprofit organizations and
13 family resource centers so families can access re-
14 sources and services in a safe manner;

15 (6) hire, and provide premium pay to, social
16 program navigators, parent coaches, and home visi-
17 tors to reach more families;

18 (7) purchase technology, including internet ac-
19 cess, for staff and families to support the prevention
20 of child abuse and neglect, and train staff and fami-
21 lies to facilitate usage of such technology;

22 (8) develop and distribute parenting tip sheets
23 and guides for families that address topics that may
24 include—

1 (A) children’s responses to trauma caused
2 by the COVID–19 pandemic;

3 (B) adult self-care and stress management;

4 (C) familial conflict resolution and de-escala-
5 tion;

6 (D) maintaining healthy attachments be-
7 tween caregivers and children, and where ap-
8 propriate, birth parents;

9 (E) understanding the intersection of trau-
10 ma with childhood development; and

11 (F) other tips and advice pertinent to
12 maintaining child and parent well-being during
13 the COVID–19 pandemic;

14 (9) access mental health services, including in-
15 fant-early childhood mental health services, through
16 mental health consultants to train and support staff
17 around the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic,
18 about the intersection of trauma with childhood de-
19 velopment, and establish or support local trauma re-
20 sponse teams and the procedures to connect via re-
21 mote technology;

22 (10) assist community-based organizations op-
23 erating programs and activities designed to strength-
24 en and support families to prevent child abuse and
25 neglect with operating costs to ensure that such or-

1 organizations can continue providing services during
2 the COVID–19 pandemic; and

3 (11) carry out other programs, services, and ac-
4 tivities that strengthen families and prevent child
5 abuse and neglect.

6 (e) NO STATE MATCH REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding
7 section 204(4) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
8 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d(4)), a State shall not be re-
9 quired to provide any additional funding for the program
10 under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treat-
11 ment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.) as a condition for re-
12 ceiving an allocation under subsection (c).

13 (f) REPORTS.—Each State receiving an allotment
14 under this section shall submit to the Secretary, every 6
15 months until the amount so allotted has been fully ex-
16 pended, a report detailing how such State is using such
17 allotment in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
18 tion.

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