

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6999

To establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. KATKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, 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 “Coronavirus Mental
5 Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. CORONAVIRUS MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION**
7 **ASSISTANCE NETWORK.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-

1 retary”), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Men-
2 tal Health and Substance Use, shall make competitive
3 grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to es-
4 tablish a Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assist-
5 ance Network that provides programs for assisting individ-
6 uals in managing mental health and substance use dis-
7 orders during or in connection to the COVID–19 pan-
8 demic.

9 (b) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—Grants awarded under
10 subsection (a) may be used—

11 (1) to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that
12 provide professional mental health and substance use
13 disorder counseling and referral for other forms of
14 assistance as necessary to assist in the management
15 of mental health and substance use disorders during
16 or in connection to the COVID–19 pandemic,
17 through—

18 (A) telephone helplines and websites;

19 (B) training, including training programs
20 and workshops;

21 (C) support groups;

22 (D) outreach and support activities, includ-
23 ing the dissemination of information, materials,
24 and equipment to clients for remote access to

1 mental health and substance use disorder serv-
2 ices; and

3 (E) telehealth services; or

4 (2) to enter into contracts, on a multiyear
5 basis, with community-based, direct-service organiza-
6 tions to initiate, expand, or sustain programs de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1) and subsection (a).

8 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award
9 a grant under this section to an entity that provides evi-
10 dence-based services and is—

11 (1) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of
12 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
13 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) or an urban Indian or-
14 ganization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
15 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603));

16 (2) a qualified nonprofit organization, as deter-
17 mined by the Secretary;

18 (3) an entity providing appropriate services, as
19 determined by the Secretary, in 1 or more States; or

20 (4) a partnership carried out by 2 or more enti-
21 ties described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3).

22 (d) FUNDING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out
24 of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
25 priated, \$100,000,000, for the fiscal year ending

1 September 30, 2020, to remain available until ex-
2 pended, or until the date that is 1 year after the
3 conclusion of the public health emergency declared
4 by the Secretary under section 319 of the Public
5 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January
6 30, 2020, with respect to COVID–19, whichever is
7 earlier, for the purpose of carrying out this section.

8 (2) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided
10 by paragraph (1) are designated as an emer-
11 gency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of
12 the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2
13 U.S.C. 933(g)).

14 (B) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the
15 Senate, this subsection is designated as an
16 emergency requirement pursuant to section
17 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress),
18 the concurrent resolution on the budget for fis-
19 cal year 2018.

20 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS, AGENCIES, AND PUB-
21 LIC.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
23 the amount appropriated under subsection (d) is no
24 longer available, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
25 gress and any other relevant Federal department or

1 agency, and make publicly available, a report de-
2 scribing the success of the Coronavirus Mental
3 Health and Addiction Assistance Network under this
4 section in assisting in managing mental health and
5 substance use disorders during or in connection to
6 the COVID–19 pandemic.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph
8 (1) shall include—

9 (A) an inventory and assessment of efforts,
10 to support individuals seeking to manage men-
11 tal health and substance use disorders during
12 or in connection to the COVID–19 pandemic,
13 by—

14 (i) the Federal Government, States,
15 and units of local government;

16 (ii) communities comprised of individ-
17 uals seeking to manage mental health and
18 substance use disorders during or in con-
19 nection to the COVID–19 pandemic;

20 (iii) health care providers; and

21 (iv) other appropriate entities, as de-
22 termined by the Secretary;

23 (B) a description of the challenges faced
24 by individuals seeking to manage mental health

1 and substance use disorders during or in con-
2 nection to the COVID–19 pandemic;

3 (C) a description of how the Secretary can
4 improve coordination and cooperation with
5 other Federal health departments and agencies,
6 including other subagencies of the Department
7 of Health and Human Services such as the
8 Health Resources and Services Administration,
9 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
10 and the National Institutes of Health, to best
11 address the mental health and substance use
12 disorders of individuals who are seeking to
13 manage mental health and substance use dis-
14 orders during or in connection to the COVID–
15 19 pandemic; and

16 (D) an evaluation of the impact that men-
17 tal health and substance use disorder challenges
18 and health outcomes (including suicide) experi-
19 enced during or in connection to the COVID–
20 19 pandemic have on—

21 (i) the health care workforce and oc-
22 cupations related to pandemic prepared-
23 ness and response;

- 1 (ii) workforce readiness in new occu-
- 2 pations for employees whose jobs became
- 3 obsolete; and
- 4 (iii) community resilience.

○