

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4315

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to conduct testing and contact tracing for COVID–19, and related activities such as supported isolation, through mobile health units and, as necessary, at individuals’ residences, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2020

Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to conduct testing and contact tracing for COVID–19, and related activities such as supported isolation, through mobile health units and, as necessary, at individuals’ residences, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Testing,
3 Reaching, And Contacting Everyone Act” or the “TRACE
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. COVID–19 TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING USING**
6 **MOBILE HEALTH UNITS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through
9 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
10 Prevention, may award grants to eligible entities to
11 conduct testing for COVID–19, to trace and monitor
12 the contacts of infected individuals, and to support
13 the quarantine and isolation of such contacts, and
14 by providing such services—

15 (A) through mobile health units;

16 (B) through community-based organiza-
17 tions; or

18 (C) with respect to quarantine and isola-
19 tion of contacts, at individuals’ residences or
20 another facility that a State, territorial, Tribal,
21 or local health authority has provided for such
22 purposes.

23 (2) USE OF EXISTING MECHANISMS AND PRO-
24 GRAMS.—The Secretary may use existing mecha-
25 nisms and programs to administer and distribute
26 grants under paragraph (1).

1 (b) PERMISSIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—A recipient of
2 a grant under this section may use the grant funds to—

3 (1) hire, train, and equip personnel to provide
4 services described in subsection (a)(1);

5 (2) cover other expenses related to carrying out
6 the activities described in subsection (a)(1), which
7 may include covering appropriate and related ex-
8 penses incurred by individuals receiving services de-
9 scribed in subsection (a)(1); or

10 (3) purchase personal protective equipment,
11 testing supplies and equipment, and other supplies
12 for persons carrying out the activities or receiving
13 services described in subsection (a)(1).

14 (c) APPLICANTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
16 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-
17 mit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in
18 such manner, and containing such information as
19 the Secretary may require, including the entity's
20 proposal for using evidence-based models for testing,
21 tracing, and supported isolation.

22 (2) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients
23 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
24 to applicants that meet one or more of the following

1 criteria, in proportion to the number of the following
2 criteria met:

3 (A) Proposing to conduct activities funded
4 under this section in hot spots and medically
5 underserved communities.

6 (B) For purposes of carrying out activities
7 funded under this section, proposing to hire
8 residents of the area or community where the
9 activities will primarily occur, with priority
10 among applicants described in this subpara-
11 graph given in proportion to the percentage of
12 individuals to be hired from such area or com-
13 munity.

14 (C) With respect to contact tracing activi-
15 ties, demonstrating experience or expertise in
16 training, conducting, participating in, or admin-
17 istering public health contact tracing programs.

18 (D) Committing to distributing at least 30
19 percent of grant funds received under this sec-
20 tion to county and other local governmental en-
21 tities within the State that do not receive funds
22 directly from the Department of Health and
23 Human Services for the programs supported by
24 an award under this section.

1 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—In selecting grant recipients
 2 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that grants
 3 are distributed across urban and rural areas.

4 (e) FEDERAL PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in
 5 this section shall be construed to supersede any Federal
 6 privacy or confidentiality requirement, including the regu-
 7 lations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health
 8 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
 9 (Public Law 104–191; 110 Stat. 2033) and section 543
 10 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd–2).

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) The term “eligible entity” means an entity
 13 that—

14 (A) is—

15 (i) a federally qualified health center
 16 (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the So-
 17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)));

18 (ii) a school-based health clinic;

19 (iii) a disproportionate share hospital
 20 (as defined under the applicable State plan
 21 under title XIX of the Social Security Act
 22 (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) pursuant to sec-
 23 tion 1923(a)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 24 1396r–4));

25 (iv) an academic medical center;

1 (v) a nonprofit organization (including
2 any such faith-based organization);

3 (vi) an institution of higher education
4 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

6 (vii) a high school (as defined in sec-
7 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
8 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 7801)); or

10 (viii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal Or-
11 ganization as defined in section 4 of the
12 Indian Self-Determination and Education
13 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); and

14 (B) is working in coordination with a
15 State, territorial, Tribal, county, or municipal
16 health department.

17 (2) The term “emergency period” has the
18 meaning given to that term in section 1135(g)(1)(B)
19 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-
20 5(g)(1)(B)).

21 (3) The term “hot spot” means a geographic
22 area where the prevalence or incidence of SARS-
23 CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) or of
24 COVID-19 exceeds the national or State average.

1 (4) The term “medically underserved commu-
2 nity” has the meaning given to that term in section
3 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
4 295p).

5 (5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
6 of Health and Human Services.

7 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
8 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
9 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
10 2020 and 2021, and for any subsequent fiscal year during
11 which the emergency period continues.

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