

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8209

To direct the Attorney General to establish a grant program with respect to 24-7 sobriety programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. BACON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to establish a grant program with respect to 24-7 sobriety programs, 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 “Supporting Opportuni-
5 ties to Build Everyday Responsibility Act of 2022” or the
6 “SOBER Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM WITH RESPECT TO 24-7 SOBRIETY**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
5 eral shall establish a grant program (in this Act referred
6 to as the “Program”), within the Office of Justice Pro-
7 grams, to provide funding to 24-7 sobriety programs.

8 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-
9 gram, the Attorney General may award a grant to an eligi-
10 ble recipient that submits an application for the Program.

11 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under the
13 Program may be awarded to a State, Tribal govern-
14 ment, or an agency, office, or a group of such agen-
15 cies or offices of the State or Tribal government for
16 the purpose of administering an eligible project
17 under subsection (e).

18 (2) SUBGRANT.—An eligible recipient awarded
19 a grant under the Program may distribute subgrant
20 of funds awarded under the program to any local
21 government office or agency, or group of offices or
22 agencies, for the purpose of administering an eligible
23 project under subsection (e).

24 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
25 the Program, an eligible recipient shall submit to the At-
26 torney General an application at such time, in such man-

1 ner, and containing or accompanied by such information
2 as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

3 (e) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Grant funds awarded
4 under the Program shall be used to defray administrative
5 costs of an existing 24-7 sobriety program, or costs associ-
6 ated with implementing a new 24-7 sobriety program.

7 Such costs may include—

8 (1) hiring staff;

9 (2) purchasing and maintaining equipment;

10 (3) data collection;

11 (4) helping a participant meet the financial ob-
12 ligations of being a participant in a 24-7 sobriety
13 program; and

14 (5) other administrative costs.

15 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
16 of a project assisted with a grant under the Program shall
17 not exceed 100 percent.

18 (g) REPORT BY ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—Not later
19 than 365 days after disbursement of funds to an eligible
20 recipient under the Program, an eligible recipient shall
21 submit to the Attorney General a report including, for
22 each 24-7 sobriety program funded by the eligible recipi-
23 ent—

24 (1) information on eligibility and participation
25 in the 24-7 sobriety program;

1 (2) data with respect to the consumption of al-
2 cohol or other controlled substances by 24-7 sobriety
3 program participants;

4 (3) data reflecting any criminal charges and
5 convictions among participants during and up to five
6 years after such participant participated in the 24-
7 7 sobriety program;

8 (4) data regarding programmatic outcomes, in-
9 cluding technical violations of the 24-7 sobriety pro-
10 gram and sanctions; and

11 (5) categorized expenses incurred for the ad-
12 ministration of a 24-7 sobriety program.

13 (h) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE EVALUATION
14 AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

15 (1) EVALUATION.—Not later than two years
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
17 every two years thereafter, the Director of the Na-
18 tional Institute of Justice shall conduct an evalua-
19 tion to identify policies and procedures used by eligi-
20 ble recipients to reduce crime, recidivism, and incar-
21 ceration attributed to use of alcohol or controlled
22 substances.

23 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL
24 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.—Not
25 later than 30 days after completion of the evaluation

1 under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall
2 submit to Congress and the Administrator of the
3 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a
4 report including—

5 (A) the results of the evaluation conducted
6 under paragraph (1) by the National Institute
7 of Justice; and

8 (B) information reported by each eligible
9 recipient under subsection (g).

10 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
12 appropriated to carry out the Program \$50,000,000
13 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

14 (2) NEW PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—At least 15 percent of
16 funds awarded under the Program, on an an-
17 nual basis, shall be awarded to an eligible re-
18 cipient to implement a new 24-7 sobriety pro-
19 gram.

20 (B) NEW PROGRAM.—An eligible recipient
21 awarded funds under subparagraph (A), shall
22 be ineligible for further grants under this Pro-
23 gram if no such 24-7 sobriety program has
24 been implemented two years after the distribu-
25 tion of Program funds under subparagraph (A).

1 (3) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

2 At least 1 percent of annual Program funds shall be
3 awarded to an eligible recipient under the Program
4 for training and technical assistance related to the
5 administration of 24-7 sobriety programs.

6 (j) 24-7 SOBRIETY PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “24-7 sobriety program” has the meaning
8 given such term in section 405(d)(7)(a) of title 23, United
9 States Code.

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