

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 477

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2023

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs.

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 “Community Mentors  
5 for Moms Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL MEN-**  
7 **TORING PROGRAMS.**

8 Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701  
9 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 514. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL**  
2 **MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other pay-  
4 ments made under this title to a State, the Secretary shall  
5 make grants to eligible entities to conduct demonstration  
6 projects for, and enable such entities to deliver services  
7 under, community-based mentoring programs that satisfy  
8 the requirements of subsection (c) to eligible mothers in  
9 order to promote improvements in maternal and child well-  
10 being, financial stewardship, child development, parenting,  
11 and access to social services and other community re-  
12 sources.

13 “(b) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not award  
14 funds made available under this subsection on a non-  
15 competitive basis, and may not provide any such funds to  
16 an entity for the purpose of carrying out a community-  
17 based mentoring program unless the entity has submitted  
18 an application to the Secretary that includes—

19 “(1) a description of how the programs or ac-  
20 tivities proposed in the application will improve ma-  
21 ternal mental and physical health outcomes in a  
22 service area identified by the entity, substantially in-  
23 crease the number of eligible mothers in a service  
24 area with access to a community-based mentoring  
25 relationship, utilize community volunteer mentors,  
26 and supplement, including by avoiding duplication

1 with, existing social services and community re-  
2 sources;

3 “(2) a description of how the program will part-  
4 ner with other community institutions, including pri-  
5 vate institutions, in identifying eligible mothers in  
6 need of a mentor and, as applicable, creating sup-  
7 port communities among eligible mothers;

8 “(3) a description of the populations to be  
9 served by the entity, including specific information  
10 on how the entity will serve eligible mothers who be-  
11 long to high-risk populations as identified in sub-  
12 section (d);

13 “(4) a description of the maternal and child  
14 health indicators, financial well-being, and other  
15 needs of populations to be served by the entity as  
16 described in paragraph (3), including, to the extent  
17 practicable, the prevalence of mentoring opportuni-  
18 ties for such populations;

19 “(5) the quantifiable benchmarks that will be  
20 used to measure program success;

21 “(6) a commitment by the entity to consult  
22 with experts with a demonstrated history of men-  
23 toring and case management success in achieving  
24 the outcomes described in subsection (c)(2)(A) in de-  
25 veloping the programs and activities; and

1           “(7) such other application information as the  
2 Secretary may deem necessary, with the goal of  
3 minimizing the application burden on small non-  
4 governmental organizations that would otherwise  
5 qualify for the grant.

6           “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

7           “(1) CORE COMPONENTS.—A community ma-  
8 ternal mentoring program conducted with a grant  
9 made under this section shall include the following  
10 core components:

11           “(A) Provision of community-based men-  
12 toring relationships for eligible mothers, which  
13 may include dedicated individual mentors and  
14 networks of peer and community support  
15 groups.

16           “(B) An individualized needs assessment  
17 for each eligible mother participating in the  
18 program, to be administered at the outset of  
19 the program.

20           “(C) Recruitment and utilization of com-  
21 munity-based, volunteer mentors.

22           “(D) Provision of training to participating  
23 mentors to equip them with mentoring best  
24 practices and knowledge of public and private

1 resources available to eligible mothers (includ-  
2 ing public social services).

3 “(2) MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN BENCH-  
4 MARK AREAS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The eligible entity  
6 shall establish, subject to the approval of the  
7 Secretary, quantifiable, measurable 3- and 5-  
8 year benchmarks demonstrating the program  
9 results in improvements for eligible mothers  
10 participating in the program in the following  
11 areas:

12 “(i) The number of eligible mothers in  
13 the eligible entity’s service area with access  
14 to a community-based mentoring relation-  
15 ship.

16 “(ii) Improved maternal and child  
17 health, including mental and behavioral  
18 health.

19 “(iii) Improved financial literacy.

20 “(iv) Improved family economic self-  
21 sufficiency.

22 “(v) Improved coordination and refer-  
23 rals for other community resources and  
24 supports, including public and private re-  
25 sources.

1           “(B) DEMONSTRATION OF IMPROVE-  
2           MENT.—

3           “(i) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—

4           Not later than 30 days after the end of the  
5           third year in which the eligible entity con-  
6           ducts the program, the entity shall submit  
7           to the Secretary a report describing the  
8           program’s results in the areas specified in  
9           subparagraph (A).

10          “(ii) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the re-  
11          port submitted to the Secretary fails to  
12          demonstrate improvements in at least 3 of  
13          the areas outlined in subparagraph (A),  
14          the eligible entity shall develop and imple-  
15          ment a plan to improve outcomes in each  
16          of the areas specified in subparagraph (A),  
17          subject to approval by the Secretary.

18          “(iii) NO IMPROVEMENT OR FAILURE  
19          TO SUBMIT REPORT.—If, 1 year after an  
20          eligible entity submits an improvement  
21          plan under clause (ii), the Secretary deter-  
22          mines that the entity has failed to dem-  
23          onstrate any improvement in the areas  
24          specified in subparagraph (A), or if the  
25          Secretary determines that an eligible entity

1           has failed to submit the report required  
2           under clause (i), and has not agreed to a  
3           reasonable timeline to submit such report  
4           under such conditions as may be deter-  
5           mined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall  
6           terminate the entity’s grant and may re-  
7           allocate any unpaid grant funds toward fu-  
8           ture grants provided under this section.

9           “(3) IMPROVEMENTS IN PARTICIPANT OUT-  
10          COMES.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program is de-  
12          signed, with respect to an eligible mother par-  
13          ticipating in the program, to result in the par-  
14          ticipant outcomes described in subparagraph  
15          (B) that are relevant to the mother (as deter-  
16          mined pursuant to an individualized needs as-  
17          sessment administered to the mother).

18           “(B) PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES.—The par-  
19          ticipant outcomes described in this subpara-  
20          graph are the following:

21           “(i) Improvements in prenatal and  
22          maternal health, including mental and be-  
23          havioral health and improved pregnancy  
24          outcomes.

1           “(ii) Improvements in child health  
2           and development, including the prevention  
3           of child injuries and maltreatment.

4           “(iii) Higher levels of engagement be-  
5           tween mothers, children, and their health  
6           providers.

7           “(iv) Reductions in mother’s stress  
8           and anxiety.

9           “(v) Improvements in parenting skills.

10          “(vi) Improvement in financial literacy  
11          skills.

12          “(vii) Improvements in child’s school  
13          readiness and academic achievement.

14          “(viii) Improvements in family eco-  
15          nomic self-sufficiency.

16          “(ix) Improvements in the coordina-  
17          tion of referrals for, and the provision of,  
18          other community resources, including pri-  
19          vate and public resources, and supports for  
20          eligible families.

21          “(d) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity receiving a  
22          grant under this section shall identify and prioritize high-  
23          risk populations in provision of services, including—

24                 “(1) low-income eligible mothers;



1           “(2) eligible mothers who are pregnant women  
2           who have not attained the age of 21;

3           “(3) eligible mothers from populations with a  
4           high risk of maternal morbidity;

5           “(4) eligible mothers with a history of sub-  
6           stance abuse or victims of domestic abuse;

7           “(5) eligible mothers with children with develop-  
8           mental disabilities; and

9           “(6) eligible mothers residing in a qualified op-  
10          portunity zone, as designated under section 1400Z-  
11          1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12          “(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds provided to  
13          an eligible entity under a grant awarded under subsection  
14          (a) shall supplement, and not supplant, funds from other  
15          sources for maternal mentorship or case management  
16          services.

17          “(f)(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall engage in  
18          ongoing research and evaluation activities in order to in-  
19          crease knowledge about the implementation and effective-  
20          ness of community maternal mentoring programs. The  
21          Secretary may carry out such activities directly, or  
22          through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and  
23          shall submit a report to Congress not less than annually  
24          on the research and evaluation steps being taken to meas-  
25          ure the impact and effectiveness of programs funded

1 under this subchapter, as well as any interim outcomes  
2 that may be available.

3 “(2) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 3  
4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
5 retary shall submit a report to Congress on the effective-  
6 ness of programs funded with grants under subsection (a)  
7 in producing the outcomes described in subsection  
8 (c)(3)(B), which shall include recommendations for im-  
9 proving program design and implementation.

10 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
11 provide an eligible entity required to develop and imple-  
12 ment an improvement plan under clause (c)(2)(B) with  
13 technical assistance to develop and implement the plan.  
14 The Secretary may provide the technical assistance di-  
15 rectly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-  
16 ments.

17 “(h) NO FUNDS TO PROHIBITED ENTITIES.—No  
18 prohibited entity shall be eligible to receive a grant under  
19 subsection (a), or any other funds made available by this  
20 section.

21 “(i) PROTECTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS  
22 ORGANIZATIONS.—A religious organization shall be eligi-  
23 ble to apply for and receive funding for a program under  
24 this section on the same basis as a nonreligious organiza-  
25 tion, and a religious organization’s exemptions, in title VII

1 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (including exemption from  
2 prohibitions in employment discrimination in section  
3 702(a) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000e–1(a))), title VIII of  
4 the Civil Rights Act of 1968, title IX of the Educational  
5 Amendments of 1987, the Americans with Disabilities Act,  
6 the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Religious  
7 Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, or any other  
8 provision in law providing an exemption for a religious or-  
9 ganization, shall not be waived by its participation in, or  
10 receipt of funds from, a grant provided by this section.

11 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
12 purposes of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
13 to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
14 2024 through 2026.

15 “(1) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-  
16 priated under this subsection for a fiscal year (or  
17 portion of a fiscal year), the Secretary shall reserve  
18 3 percent for purposes of carrying out subsections  
19 (f) and (g).

20 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available to  
21 an eligible entity under this section for a fiscal year  
22 (or portion of a fiscal year) shall remain available  
23 for expenditure by the eligible entity through the end  
24 of the third succeeding fiscal year after award.

25 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
2           tity’ means a local government, Indian Tribe (or a  
3           consortium of Indian Tribes), Tribal Organization,  
4           Urban Indian Organization, or nonprofit organiza-  
5           tion, including religious organizations, with a dem-  
6           onstrated history of serving eligible mothers.

7           “(2) ELIGIBLE MOTHER.—The term ‘eligible  
8           mother’ means—

9                   “(A) a woman who is pregnant; or

10                   “(B) a woman who has primary caregiving  
11           responsibilities for a child under the age of 6.

12           “(3) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term ‘prohib-  
13           ited entity’ means an entity, including its affiliates,  
14           subsidiaries, successors, and clinics that, as of the  
15           date of enactment of this section, performs, induces,  
16           refers for, or counsels in favor of abortions, or pro-  
17           vides financial support to any other organization  
18           that conducts such activities.

19           “(4) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING RELA-  
20           TIONSHIP.—The term ‘community-based mentoring  
21           relationship’ means a dedicated mentor and, as ap-  
22           plicable, group of mentors or a peer support group,  
23           that meet regularly with an eligible mother and help  
24           that mother address barriers to care, mental, behav-  
25           ioral, and physical well-being, and economic mobility

1 by providing support services and linkages to com-  
2 munity resources. A community-based mentoring re-  
3 lationship should, to the extent practicable, have an  
4 understanding of the barriers and lived experience of  
5 that community, which may include shared lived ex-  
6 perience.”.

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