

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4911

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 29, 2019

Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself and Ms. SÁNCHEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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 “Childhood Outcomes
5 Need New Efficient Community Teams” or the “CON-
6 NECT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO AWARD COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO**
2 **ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE**
3 **CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**
4 **SYSTEMS.**

5 Subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 429A. GRANTS TO STATES TO ENHANCE COLLABORA-**
9 **TION BETWEEN STATE CHILD WELFARE AND**
10 **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS.**

11 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to au-
12 thorize the Secretary, in collaboration with the Attorney
13 General and the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile
14 Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of
15 Justice, to make grants to State child welfare and juvenile
16 justice agencies to collaborate in the collection of data re-
17 lating to dual status youth and to develop practices, poli-
18 cies, and protocols to confront the challenges presented
19 and experienced by dual status youth.

20 “(b) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
22 competitive grants jointly to a State child welfare
23 agency and a State juvenile justice agency to facili-
24 tate or enhance collaboration between the child wel-
25 fare and juvenile justice systems of the State in

1 order to carry out programs to address the needs of
2 dual status youth and their families.

3 “(2) FUNDING.—Of the amount appropriated
4 under section 425 for a fiscal year that exceeds
5 \$270,000,000, the Secretary shall reserve up to
6 \$30,000,000 of such excess amount for grants under
7 this section.

8 “(3) LENGTH OF GRANTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant shall be
10 awarded under this section for a period of not
11 less than 2, and not more than 5, fiscal years,
12 subject to subparagraph (B).

13 “(B) EXTENSION OF GRANT.—On applica-
14 tion of the grantee, the Secretary may extend
15 for not more than 2 fiscal years the period for
16 which a grant is awarded under this section.

17 “(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(1) APPLICATION.—In order for a State to be
19 eligible for a grant under this section, it shall submit
20 an application, to be approved by the Secretary, that
21 includes—

22 “(A) a description of the proposed leader-
23 ship collaboration group (including the member-
24 ship of such group), and how such group will
25 manage and oversee a review and analysis of

1 current practices while working to jointly ad-
2 dress enhanced practices to improve outcomes
3 for dual status youth;

4 “(B) a description of how the State pro-
5 poses to—

6 “(i) identify dual status youths;

7 “(ii) identify individuals who are at
8 risk of becoming dual status youths;

9 “(iii) identify common characteristics
10 shared by dual status youths in the State;
11 and

12 “(iv) determine the prevalence of dual
13 status youths in the State;

14 “(C) a description of current and proposed
15 practices and procedures that the State intends
16 to use to—

17 “(i) screen and assess dual status
18 youths for risks and treatment needs;

19 “(ii) provide targeted and evidence-
20 based services, including educational, be-
21 havioral health, and pro-social treatment
22 interventions for dual status youths and
23 their families; and

24 “(iii) provide for a lawful process to
25 enhance or ensure the abilities of the State

1 and any relevant agencies to share infor-
2 mation and data about dual status youths
3 while maintaining confidentiality and pri-
4 vacy protections under State and Federal
5 law; and

6 “(D) a certification that the State has in-
7 volved local governments, as appropriate, in the
8 development, expansion, modification, oper-
9 ation, or improvement of proposed policy and
10 practice reforms to address the needs of dual
11 status youths.

12 “(2) NO SUPPLANTATION OF OTHER FUNDS.—

13 Any amounts paid to a State under a grant under
14 this section shall be used to supplement and not
15 supplant other State expenditures on dual status
16 youths or children involved with either the child wel-
17 fare or juvenile justice systems.

18 “(3) EVALUATION.—Up to 10 percent of the
19 amount made available to carry out this section for
20 a fiscal year shall be made available to the Secretary
21 to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects funded
22 under this section, using a methodology that—

23 “(A) includes random assignment when-
24 ever feasible, or other research methods that
25 allow for the strongest possible causal infer-

1 ences when random assignment is not feasible;
2 and

3 “(B) generates evidence on the impact of
4 specific projects, or groups of projects with
5 identical (or similar) practices and procedures.

6 “(4) REPORT.—A State child welfare agency
7 and a State juvenile justice agency receiving a grant
8 under this section shall jointly submit to the Sec-
9 retary, the Attorney General, and the Administrator
10 of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
11 Prevention of the Department of Justice, a report
12 on the evaluation of the activities carried out under
13 the grant at the end of each fiscal year during the
14 period of the grant. Such report shall include—

15 “(A) a description of the scope and nature
16 of the dual status youth population in the
17 State, including the number of dual status
18 youth;

19 “(B) a description of the evidence-based
20 practices and procedures used by the agencies
21 to carry out the activities described in clauses
22 (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(C); and

23 “(C) an analysis of the effects of such
24 practices and procedures, including information
25 regarding—

1 “(i) the collection of data related to
2 individual dual status youths;

3 “(ii) aggregate data related to the
4 dual status youth population, including—

5 “(I) characteristics of dual status
6 youths in the State;

7 “(II) case processing timelines;
8 and

9 “(III) information related to case
10 management, the provision of targeted
11 services, and placements within the
12 foster care or juvenile justice system;
13 and

14 “(iii) the extent to which such prac-
15 tices and procedures have contributed to—

16 “(I) improved educational out-
17 comes for dual status youths;

18 “(II) fewer delinquency referrals
19 for dual status youths;

20 “(III) shorter stays in intensive
21 restrictive placements for dual status
22 youths; or

23 “(IV) such other outcomes for
24 dual status youths as the State child

1 welfare agency and State juvenile jus-
2 tice agency may identify.

3 “(d) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
4 Secretary may support State child welfare agencies and
5 State juvenile justice agencies by offering a program, de-
6 veloped in consultation with organizations and agencies
7 with subject matter expertise, of training and technical as-
8 sistance to assist such agencies in developing programs
9 and protocols that draw on best practices for serving dual
10 status youth in order to facilitate or enhance—

11 “(1) collaboration between State child welfare
12 agencies and State juvenile justice agencies; and

13 “(2) the effectiveness of such agencies with re-
14 spect to working with Federal agencies and child
15 welfare and juvenile justice agencies from other
16 States.

17 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
18 of enactment of this section, and every 3 years thereafter,
19 the Secretary, the Attorney General, and the Adminis-
20 trator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
21 Prevention of the Department of Justice shall jointly sub-
22 mit to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on
23 the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Ways
24 and Means and the Committee on Education and Labor

1 of the House of Representatives, a report on the grants
2 provided under this section.

3 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) DUAL STATUS YOUTH.—The term ‘dual
5 status youth’ means a child who has come into con-
6 tact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice
7 systems and occupies various statuses in terms of
8 the individual’s relationship to such systems.

9 “(2) LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION GROUP.—
10 The term ‘leadership collaboration group’ means a
11 group composed of senior officials from the State
12 child welfare agency, the State juvenile justice agen-
13 cy, and other relevant youth and family-serving pub-
14 lic agencies and private organizations, including, to
15 the extent practicable, representatives from the
16 State judiciary branch.

17 “(3) STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE AGENCY.—The
18 term ‘State juvenile justice agency’ means the agen-
19 cy of the State or Indian tribe responsible for ad-
20 ministering grant funds awarded under the Juvenile
21 Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34
22 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.).

23 “(4) STATE CHILD WELFARE AGENCY.—The
24 term ‘State child welfare agency’ means the State
25 agency responsible for administering the program

1 under this subpart, or, in the case of a tribal organi-
2 zation that is receiving payments under section 428,
3 the tribal agency responsible for administering such
4 program.”.

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