

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish digital services in State and local governments, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish digital services in State and local governments, 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 “Digital Service Act  
5       of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act—

8               (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
9       ministrator of the United States Digital Service;

1           (2) the term “digital service grant” means a  
2 grant under section 3(a);

3           (3) the term “digital service team” means a  
4 team of technologists, designers, civil servants, and  
5 other relevant experts dedicated to modernizing the  
6 delivery of government services to the public through  
7 information technology;

8           (4) the term “eligible applicant” means a State,  
9 Indian Tribe, or unit of local government that has  
10 received not more than 1 digital service grant;

11           (5) the term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning  
12 given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4(e) of the  
13 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e));

15           (6) the term “State” has the meaning given  
16 that term in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus  
17 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34  
18 U.S.C. 10251); and

19           (7) the term “unit of local government” means  
20 a city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-  
21 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of  
22 a State.

1 **SEC. 3. DIGITAL SERVICE GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may make a  
3 grant to an eligible applicant to establish or support a dig-  
4 ital service team.

5 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible applicant desiring a  
6 digital service grant shall submit an application at such  
7 time, in such manner, and containing such information as  
8 the Administrator may specify.

9 (c) INITIAL GRANT PREFERENCE.—Among eligible  
10 applicants that have not previously received a digital serv-  
11 ice grant, the Administrator shall give preference to an  
12 eligible applicant if—

13 (1) the chief executive officer of the eligible en-  
14 tity has publicly demonstrated a commitment to  
15 modernizing government technology and service de-  
16 livery;

17 (2) the eligible entity has officially designated  
18 an officer of the eligible entity to have responsibility  
19 for functions relating to the digital services of the el-  
20 igible entity, such as a Chief Technology Officer,  
21 Chief Innovation Officer, or Chief Digital Services  
22 Officer, and such functions are recognized as dis-  
23 tinct from management and operations of traditional  
24 information technology; or

25 (3) the eligible entity demonstrates a rigorous  
26 commitment to digital delivery of government serv-

1       ices in such manner as the Administrator determines  
2       appropriate.

3       (d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Administrator may  
4       make not more than 1 additional digital service grant to  
5       an eligible applicant that has previously received a digital  
6       service grant if the eligible applicant—

7               (1) has a demonstrated record of successful dig-  
8       ital delivery of government services, including  
9       through the use of the first digital service grant; and  
10              (2) articulates clearly the government service  
11       delivery projects the eligible applicant would carry  
12       out with the grant.

13       (e) GRANT PERIOD.—The Administrator shall award  
14       digital service grants for a period of 2 years.

15       (f) CONTINUITY OF FUNDING.—To the maximum ex-  
16       tent practicable, the Administrator shall award digital  
17       service grants described in subsection (d) in a manner that  
18       ensures that there is not a break in funding between the  
19       initial digital service grant and the grant described in sub-  
20       section (d).

21       (g) GRANT AMOUNT.—The annual amount of a dig-  
22       ital service grant shall be equal to the lesser of—

23               (1) in dollars, the amount equal to the sum  
24       of—

1 (A) the population served by the eligible  
2 applicant; and

3 (B) 200,000; or  
4 (2) \$2,500,000.

5 (h) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 50 percent of the  
6 amount received under a digital service grant shall be used  
7 for salary and benefits of the members of the digital serv-  
8 ice team.

9 (i) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of  
10 an activity carried out using a digital service grant shall  
11 be not more than 80 percent.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

13 (a) BY RECIPIENTS.—Not later than the end of the  
14 period of a digital service grant, the recipient of the digital  
15 service grant shall submit to the Administrator and make  
16 publicly available on the website of the recipient a brief  
17 report describing—

18 (1) the skills and areas of expertise of the mem-  
19 bers of the digital service team established or sup-  
20 ported using amounts made available under the  
21 grant;

22 (2) projects undertaken using amounts made  
23 available under the grant, including a discussion of  
24 the impact of those projects;

1           (3) lessons learned from implementing the  
2       projects described in paragraph (2);

3           (4) the information technology projects the re-  
4       cipient intends to implement next; and

5           (5) any other information determined appro-  
6       priate by the Administrator

7       (b) TO CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.—Not later than Sep-  
8       tember 30, 2022, and every 2 years thereafter, the Admin-  
9       istrator shall submit to Congress and make publicly avail-  
10      able on the website of the United States Digital Service  
11      a report that summarizes—

12           (1) the digital service grants applied for and  
13      made; and

14           (2) the uses and impacts of digital service  
15      grants, based on the reports received under sub-  
16      section (a).

17   **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18       (a) AMOUNTS TO CARRY OUT THIS ACT.—There are  
19      authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to  
20      carry out this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
21      2020 through 2027.

22       (b) AMOUNTS TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF THE  
23      USDS.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be ap-  
24      propriated under subsection (a), there are authorized to  
25      be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the mis-

1 sion of the United States Digital Service \$50,000,000 for  
2 each of fiscal years 2020 through 2027.

3 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available pursu-  
4 ant to subsections (a) and (b) shall remain available until  
5 expended.