

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8914

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Ms. BUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, 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 “Helping Families Heal
3 Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. HELPING FAMILIES HEAL PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
7 retary”), acting through the Director of the Center for
8 Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Men-
9 tal Health Services Administration, shall carry out a pro-
10 gram, to be known as the Helping Families Heal Program,
11 consisting of awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative
12 agreements to eligible entities to—

13 (1) hire, train, and dispatch mental health pro-
14 fessionals to provide services to individuals who have
15 experienced or witnessed law enforcement personnel
16 violence and—

17 (A) are in a mental health crisis; or

18 (B) may have a mental illness;

19 (2) provide comprehensive mental and behav-
20 ioral health services and supports to assist individ-
21 uals who have suffered traumatic experiences or are
22 in grief, in bereavement, or at risk of suicide or vio-
23 lence, as a result of—

24 (A) the death of a family member due to
25 law enforcement personnel violence;

1 (B) the death of a colleague or neighbor
2 due to law enforcement personnel violence; or

3 (C) experiencing threats, violence, harm, or
4 brutality during an interaction with law en-
5 forcement personnel;

6 (3) implement community-based mental health
7 programs that—

8 (A) build awareness of individual, commu-
9 nity, and intergenerational trauma as a result
10 of witnessing or experience law enforcement
11 personnel violence;

12 (B) train staff and volunteers to identify,
13 and screen for, signs of trauma exposure, men-
14 tal health disorders, and risk of suicide in the
15 wake of law enforcement personnel violence;

16 (C) incorporate community interventions,
17 family engagement, and intergenerational coun-
18 seling that encourage the development of posi-
19 tive mental health, prevent mental health dis-
20 orders, and diminish the impact of trauma re-
21 sulting from law enforcement personnel vio-
22 lence;

23 (D) facilitate partnerships among families,
24 mental health and substance use disorder pro-
25 viders, family-based mental health and sub-

1 stance use disorder providers, child welfare pro-
2 viders, trauma networks, and health care pro-
3 viders (including mental health professionals
4 who specialize in pediatric services); and

5 (E) establish mechanisms for individuals,
6 families, and children who have witnessed or ex-
7 perienced law enforcement personnel violence to
8 report incidents of violence or plans to commit
9 violence; or

10 (4) provide technical assistance to community-
11 based organizations regarding the activities de-
12 scribed in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

13 (b) **ADDITIONAL AWARDS.**—Subject to the avail-
14 ability of funds, the Secretary shall make an additional
15 award of funds under subsection (a) each fiscal year
16 through fiscal year 2026 to each recipient of an award
17 under subsection (a) that demonstrates that its program
18 under such award resulted in a notable increase in the
19 number of individuals provided with mental health services
20 who have experienced, or been witness to, law enforcement
21 personnel violence.

22 (c) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants, contracts, and
23 cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary
24 shall give priority to eligible entities in communities
25 that—

1 (1) have high rates of interaction with law en-
2 forcement personnel for people of color or Black
3 residents;

4 (2) have high rates of arrest and incarceration
5 of persons with mental illness, intellectual disability,
6 or developmental disability; or

7 (3) commit to providing in-kind contributions
8 from non-Federal sources, or volunteer hours, for in-
9 dividuals served by recipients of awards under this
10 section.

11 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant, con-
12 tract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), an
13 entity shall be—

14 (1) a community-based mental health care pro-
15 vider, including a public or private mental health en-
16 tity, health care entity, family-based mental health
17 entity, or trauma network; or

18 (2) a community-based organization or non-
19 profit organization as determined appropriate by the
20 Secretary.

21 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion shall be construed to limit the applicability of the reg-
23 ulations under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance
24 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C.
25 1320d–2 note) to any patient records developed by covered

1 entities through activities funded through an award under
2 this section.

3 (f) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that recipients of grants, contracts, and coop-
5 erative agreements under subsection (a) are distributed
6 equitably among the regions of the country and among
7 urban and rural areas.

8 (g) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant, contract, or
9 cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall be for
10 a period of 1 year.

11 (h) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

12 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall develop a fiscally appropriate process for
14 evaluating activities carried out pursuant to an
15 award under this section. Such a process shall in-
16 clude—

17 (A) the development of guidelines for the
18 submission of program data by grant, contract,
19 and cooperative agreement recipients;

20 (B) the application by such recipients of
21 measures of outcomes developed under para-
22 graph (2) to the programs funded through such
23 awards; and

1 (C) the submission of annual reports by
2 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of
3 programs funded through such awards.

4 (2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Secretary
5 shall develop measures of outcomes to be applied by
6 recipients of awards under this section to evaluate
7 the effectiveness of activities funded through such
8 awards.

9 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

12 **SEC. 3. HEALING FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education (in
14 this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall carry out
15 a program, to be known as the Healing for Students Pro-
16 gram, consisting of awarding grants, contracts, or cooper-
17 ative agreements to eligible entities to—

18 (1) hire and dispatch mental health profes-
19 sionals to provide services to students and school
20 personnel who have experienced or witnessed law en-
21 forcement personnel violence and—

22 (A) are in a mental health crisis; or

23 (B) may have a mental illness;

24 (2) provide comprehensive mental and behav-
25 ioral health services and supports to assist students

1 and school personnel who have suffered traumatic
2 experiences or are in grief, in bereavement, or at
3 risk of suicide or violence, as a result of—

4 (A) the death of a family member due to
5 law enforcement personnel violence;

6 (B) the death of a classmate due to law
7 enforcement personnel violence;

8 (C) the death of a colleague or neighbor
9 due to law enforcement personnel violence; or

10 (D) experiencing threats, violence, harm,
11 or brutality during an interaction with law en-
12 forcement personnel;

13 (3) implement school-based mental health pro-
14 grams that—

15 (A) build awareness of individual, commu-
16 nity, and intergenerational trauma as a result
17 of witnessing or experience law enforcement
18 personnel violence;

19 (B) train school personnel to identify, and
20 screen for, signs of trauma exposure, mental
21 health disorders, and risk of suicide in the wake
22 of law enforcement personnel violence;

23 (C) incorporate family engagement, stu-
24 dent supports, and intergenerational counseling
25 that encourage the development of positive

1 mental health, prevent mental health disorders,
2 and diminish the impact of trauma resulting
3 from law enforcement personnel violence;

4 (D) educate students on the stigma sur-
5 rounding mental health;

6 (E) facilitate partnerships among families,
7 students, mental health and substance use dis-
8 order providers, family-based mental health and
9 substance use disorder providers, child welfare
10 providers, trauma networks, and health care
11 providers (including mental health professionals
12 who specialize in pediatric services); and

13 (F) establish mechanisms for students and
14 school personnel who have witnessed or experi-
15 enced law enforcement personnel violence to re-
16 port incidents of violence or plans to commit vi-
17 olence; or

18 (4) in the case of a grantee that is a local edu-
19 cational agency or a consortium of local educational
20 agencies, provide technical assistance to schools re-
21 garding the activities described in paragraphs (1),
22 (2), and (3).

23 (b) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—Subject to the avail-
24 ability of funds, the Secretary shall make an additional
25 award of funds under subsection (a) each fiscal year

1 through fiscal year 2026 to each recipient of an award
2 under subsection (a) that demonstrates that its program
3 under such award resulted in a notable increase in the
4 number of individuals provided with mental health services
5 who have experienced, or been witness to, law enforcement
6 personnel violence.

7 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, and
8 cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary
9 shall give priority to eligible entities serving communities
10 that—

11 (1) have high rates of interaction with law en-
12 forcement personnel for people of color or Black
13 residents;

14 (2) have high rates of arrest and incarceration
15 of persons with mental illness, intellectual disability,
16 or developmental disability; or

17 (3) commit to providing in-kind contributions
18 from non-Federal sources, or volunteer hours, for
19 students and school personnel served by recipients of
20 awards under this section.

21 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant, con-
22 tract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), an
23 entity shall be—

24 (1) a local educational agency serving elemen-
25 tary schools and secondary schools;

1 (2) a consortium of such local educational agen-
2 cies; or

3 (3) an elementary school or secondary school.

4 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall be construed to limit the applicability of the reg-
6 ulations under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance
7 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C.
8 1320d–2 note) to any patient records developed by covered
9 entities through activities funded through an award under
10 this section.

11 (f) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
12 shall ensure that recipients of grants, contracts, and coop-
13 erative agreements under subsection (a) are distributed
14 equitably among the regions of the country and among
15 urban and rural areas.

16 (g) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant, contract, or
17 cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall be for
18 a period of 1 year.

19 (h) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

20 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall develop a fiscally appropriate process for
22 evaluating activities carried out pursuant to an
23 award under this section. Such a process shall in-
24 clude—

1 (A) the development of guidelines for the
2 submission of program data by grant, contract,
3 and cooperative agreement recipients;

4 (B) the application by such recipients of
5 measures of outcomes developed under para-
6 graph (2) to the programs funded through such
7 awards; and

8 (C) the submission of annual reports by
9 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of
10 programs funded through such awards.

11 (2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Secretary
12 shall develop measures of outcomes to be applied by
13 recipients of awards under this section to evaluate
14 the effectiveness of activities funded through such
15 awards.

16 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “ele-
17 mentary school”, “local educational agency”, and “sec-
18 ondary school” have the meanings given to such terms in
19 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

1 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Education,
3 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the At-
4 torney General, acting jointly, shall establish a permanent
5 interagency task force (referred to in this section as the
6 “Task Force”) to coordinate and promote holistic, quali-
7 fied responses to adolescent victims of law enforcement
8 personnel violence.

9 (b) MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall be composed
10 of the following members:

11 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
12 ices (or the Secretary’s designee).

13 (2) The Secretary of Education (or the Sec-
14 retary’s designee).

15 (3) The Attorney General of the United States
16 (or the Attorney General’s designee).

17 (4) The heads of other Federal departments
18 and agencies (or their designees), as determined nec-
19 essary by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
20 ices.

21 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

22 (1) recommend criteria to be used by the De-
23 partment of Health and Human Services and the
24 Department of Education in allocating funds under
25 sections 2 and 3 among eligible entities;

1 (2) recommend mechanisms for the Department
2 of Health and Human Services, the Department of
3 Education, and the Department of Justice to collect
4 and review statistical data surrounding interactions
5 with law enforcement in an area;

6 (3) use such data to facilitate the prioritization
7 of awards under sections 2(c) and 3(c); and

8 (4) facilitate ongoing efforts to streamline the
9 application, monitoring, and reporting processes to
10 make Federal funds provided pursuant to awards
11 under this Act maximally accessible to small, grass-
12 roots organizations that house adolescents in areas
13 acutely impacted by high rates of law enforcement
14 personnel violence.

15 (d) MEETINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
16 section, the Task Force may hold such meetings, and sit
17 and act at such times and places, as the Task Force con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 (e) INFORMATION.—The Task Force may secure di-
20 rectly from any Federal agency such information as may
21 be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry out this
22 section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Task
23 Force, the head of such agency shall furnish such informa-
24 tion to the Task Force.

1 (f) REPORTS.—For the purpose of enabling the Task
2 Force to carry out this section, the Secretary of Edu-
3 cation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and
4 the Attorney General shall submit to the Congress a report
5 that contains with respect to each recipient of an award
6 under this Act—

7 (1) a profile of such recipient; and

8 (2) in the case of any such recipient that is a
9 State or unit of local government, the needs of
10 school mental health providers in the relevant juris-
11 diction.

12 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) The term “interaction with law enforcement
15 personnel” means an interaction in which—

16 (A) a law enforcement agent uses force or
17 threatens to use force;

18 (B) an individual is stopped by a law en-
19 forcement agent while such individual is—

20 (i) driving a motor vehicle; or

21 (ii) otherwise in public;

22 (C) an individual is a passenger in a motor
23 vehicle that is stopped by a law enforcement
24 agent;

25 (D) an individual is arrested; or

1 (E) an individual is otherwise stopped or
2 approached by a law enforcement agent.

3 (2) The terms “use force” and “uses force” in-
4 clude pushing, grabbing, handcuffing, hitting, kick-
5 ing, using chemical or pepper spray, using an elec-
6 troshock weapon, and pointing or shooting a gun.

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