

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7537

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to establish a program under which the Secretary will award grants to eligible entities to provide community-based mental health services in communities in which an active shooter event or incident of targeted violence occurred, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2022

Mrs. MCBATH (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to establish a program under which the Secretary will award grants to eligible entities to provide community-based mental health services in communities in which an active shooter event or incident of targeted violence occurred, 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 “Help for Healing Com-
3 munities Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
5 **FOR GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS.**

6 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by
8 inserting after section 520A (42 U.S.C. 290bb–32) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 **“SEC. 520A–1. COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERV-**
11 **ICES FOR GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
13 the Assistant Secretary (referred to in this section as the
14 ‘Secretary’), shall establish a program under which the
15 Secretary may award grants to eligible entities, to provide
16 a means for communities in which an active shooter event
17 or incident of targeted violence occurs—

18 “(1) to prioritize mental and behavioral health
19 of survivors of active shooter events and incidents of
20 targeted violence through establishing evidence-
21 based, violence prevention, and community engage-
22 ment programs to support survivors of such an event
23 or incident; and

24 “(2) to ensure equitable access to high-quality
25 trauma-informed behavioral health services through

1 the use of evidence-based materials, practices, pro-
2 grams and resources.

3 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to re-
4 ceive a grant under this section if such entity is—

5 “(1)(A) a State, political subdivision of a State,
6 an Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization (as such
7 terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-De-
8 termination and Education Assistance Act);

9 “(B) a health facility, or a program operated
10 by, or in accordance with, a contract or grant with
11 the Indian Health Service; or

12 “(C) another public or private nonprofit entity;
13 and

14 “(2) located in or serves a community in which
15 an active shooter event or incident of targeted vio-
16 lence has occurred in the preceding fiscal year.

17 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
18 a grant under this section may use funds received under
19 such grant to—

20 “(1) provide racially, culturally, linguistically,
21 and gender-appropriate, evidence-based, and trauma-
22 informed and trauma-competent psychological sup-
23 ports to individuals who have survived an active
24 shooter event or incident of targeted violence;

1 “(2) implement evidence-based violence preven-
2 tion and community engagement programs; and

3 “(3) implement programs to connect such sur-
4 vivors to the supports described in paragraph (1).

5 “(d) PRE-IMPLEMENTATION REPORT ON SELECTION
6 PROCESS.—Not later than 90 days before the date on
7 which the Secretary establishes the program under sub-
8 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
9 port detailing the selection process the Secretary shall use
10 in making grants under such program.

11 “(e) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
12 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
13 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
14 such information as the Secretary may require, includ-
15 ing—

16 “(1) an assessment of the need for mental and
17 behavioral health services for survivors of an active
18 shooter event or incident of targeted violence in the
19 community involved;

20 “(2) a plan to implement the activities de-
21 scribed in subsection (c) during the period of the
22 grant; and

23 “(3) a cost assessment with respect to imple-
24 menting such plan.

1 “(f) CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In estab-
2 lishing the program under subsection (a), the Secretary
3 shall—

4 “(1) consult with nationally recognized organi-
5 zations that identify, support, and advocate for evi-
6 dence-based, trauma-informed behavioral health
7 services;

8 “(2) consult with nationally recognized organi-
9 zations—

10 “(A) with expertise in trauma-informed be-
11 havioral health services, mental and behavioral
12 health, or violence interruption; and

13 “(B) that identify, support, and advocate
14 for evidence-based prevention of, and interven-
15 tion for, trauma; and

16 “(3) provide technical assistance to grant re-
17 cipients with respect to the implementation and exe-
18 cution of activities supported by a grant under this
19 section.

20 “(g) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

21 “(1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date on which the first grant is awarded and
23 each year thereafter, the Secretary shall coordinate
24 with the entities described in subsection (f)(2) to

1 provide an evaluation of the success of the grant
2 program.

3 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
4 the completion of each evaluation under paragraph
5 (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and
6 make publicly available on the website of the De-
7 partment of Health and Human Services, a report
8 on such evaluation, including a recommendation on
9 whether to continue or expand the program.

10 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) The term ‘active shooter event’ means an
12 event in which an individual is actively engaged in
13 the unauthorized killing or attempting to kill a per-
14 son or persons in a confined and populated area
15 using a firearm.

16 “(2) The term ‘incident of targeted violence’
17 means an incident of violence in which an assailant
18 identified a particular target prior to such incident
19 of violence, which may be one or more individuals,
20 a class or category of individuals, or an institution,
21 without regard to whether the chosen target was
22 harmed during such incident.

23 “(3) The term ‘State’ has the meaning given
24 such term in section 534.

1 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000, for the each of fiscal years 2023 through
4 2025.”.

○