

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3545

To amend section 2202 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to authorize States to expand the uses of the child care stabilization funds to include support for the creation or enhancement of family child care networks designed to increase, or to improve the quality of, child care provided by family child care providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. SMUCKER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend section 2202 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to authorize States to expand the uses of the child care stabilization funds to include support for the creation or enhancement of family child care networks designed to increase, or to improve the quality of, child care provided by family child care providers, 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 “Family Child Care
5 Networks Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

2 Section 2202 of the American Rescue Plan Act of
3 2021 (Public Law 117–2; March 11, 2021) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (e) by striking “such a
5 subgrant” and inserting “a subgrant under sub-
6 section (d)”,

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
8 section (h), and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(f) SUBGRANTS TO FAMILY CHILD CARE NET-
12 WORKS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
14 (d)(2)(A) and with the authorization of the State
15 under paragraph (6), the lead agency may use the
16 remainder of grant funds awarded pursuant to sub-
17 section (c) to make subgrants to be obligated before
18 October 1, 2024, and expended before October 1,
19 2025, to eligible entities to support the creation or
20 enhancement of family child care networks to pro-
21 vide core services to family child care providers for
22 the purpose of expanding the availability of family
23 child care services.

24 “(2) PRIORITY.—In making subgrants under
25 this subsection, the lead agency shall give priority to
26 eligible entities that will offer core services to family

1 childcare providers in geographical areas identified
2 by the State as having high needs, based on a com-
3 prehensive needs assessment of under-served areas
4 and rural areas.

5 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—

6 “(A) Core Services. Services provided to
7 family child care providers that include the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(i) Consolidated business practices or
10 administrative support.

11 “(ii) Startup support for new family
12 child care providers to reimburse the costs,
13 not to exceed \$10,000 per provider, to
14 make facility improvements or modifica-
15 tions to meet health and safety require-
16 ments, to form a small business, to sup-
17 port initial marketing and communications,
18 to purchase technology and supplies, and
19 to participate in professional development.

20 “(iii) Professional development of new
21 family child care providers, including sup-
22 port to obtain the advanced skills and cer-
23 tifications necessary to operate as a family
24 child care provider.

1 “(iv) Technical assistance, and health
2 and safety compliance assistance to sup-
3 port providers who seek to obtain a license;
4 or to support providers who seeking to pro-
5 vide services for which assistance is pro-
6 vided under the Child Care and Develop-
7 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
8 9857 et seq.) and the child and adult care
9 food program under section 17 of the
10 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 1766).

12 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities quali-
13 fied to receive a subgrant under this subsection
14 include community-based organizations, private
15 or public nonprofit organization, and workforce
16 development boards that will offer not fewer
17 than 2 of the core services.

18 “(C) FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—
19 The term ‘family child care provider’ has the
20 meaning given such term in section 658P of the
21 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
22 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

23 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that
24 receives funds through such a subgrant shall use
25 funds to provide at least 2 of the core services de-

scribed under paragraph (3) to family child care providers and may use funds to provide additional services, including—

“(A) monitoring support and improvement activities;

“(B) peer networking and support activities;

“(C) recruitment of new family child care providers;

“(D) technical assistance to increase family child care services to support specialized populations, including non-traditional hour care, children with disabilities, dual-language learners, infants, and toddlers;

“(E) community outreach to families and employers to increase awareness of family child care opportunities; and

“(F) collaborative purchasing of supplies and technology to increase cost savings.

“(5) REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PROVIDERS.—Any family child care provider seeking reimbursement for start-up expenses allowed pursuant to paragraph (3)(A)(ii) shall provide the following documentation to the eligible entity:

1 “(A) Invoices of each expense for which
2 the provider is seeking reimbursement.

3 “(B) An assurance such expenses are nec-
4 essary, one-time expenses to operate a family
5 child care center in accordance with local health
6 and safety requirements.

7 “(C) An assurance the provider cannot pay
8 for the work without assistance and that there
9 is not access to other Federal or State funding
10 to help with the costs.

11 “(6) AMENDED PLAN AND REPORT.—If a State
12 elects to authorize the lead agency to provide sub-
13 grants to eligible entities under this subsection the
14 State shall amend the State plan submitted under
15 section 658E of the Child Care and Development
16 Block Grant Act of 1990 to specify—

17 “(A) the goals and outcomes the State in-
18 tends to achieve to improve the availability of
19 services provided by family child care providers;

20 “(B) how the State will measure and
21 evaluate family child care networks in relation
22 to these goals;

23 “(C) how the State will continue to sup-
24 port family child care networks that are suc-
25 cessful at achieving such goals after the expend-

1 iture of such subgrants, including support of
2 such networks under of the Child Care and De-
3 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
4 9857); and

5 “(D) after the expenditure of such sub-
6 grants by such networks, the State shall submit
7 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services
8 a report that measures with respect to each
9 supported eligible entity—

10 “(i) the amount of the subgrant re-
11 ceived by such entity;

12 “(ii) the period of time during which
13 such subgrant was expended by such enti-
14 ty;

15 “(iii) which core services were offered
16 by such entity during such period;

17 “(iv) the number of family childcare
18 providers who received core services de-
19 scribed in subparagraphs provided by such
20 entity during such period;

21 “(v) the number of children who re-
22 ceived services during such period from the
23 supported family child care providers;

24 “(vi) the increase or decrease in the
25 number of family child care providers in

1 the geographical area served by such entity
2 during such period; and

3 “(vii) the extent to which such goals
4 and outcomes improved the quality and
5 availability of services provided by family
6 child care providers served by such net-
7 work.

8 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services, acting through the National
10 Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance of the Of-
11 fice of Child Care, shall disseminate best practices infor-
12 mation and offer technical assistance to States, Terri-
13 tories, Indian Tribes, and eligible entities to help imple-
14 ment family child care networks and to support family
15 child care providers, to carry out the purposes and meet
16 requirements of subsection (f). Information and technical
17 assistance provided under this subsection—

18 “(1) shall include supporting family child care
19 networks in offering the core services described in
20 subsection (f)(3)(A);

21 “(2) may include supporting family child care
22 networks to offer additional services described in
23 subsection (f)(4); and

24 “(3) may include any other topic the Secretary
25 identifies as important or necessary to fulfil the

- 1 goals of subsection (f), including topics requested by
- 2 States, family child care networks, and family child
- 3 care providers.”.

