H. R. 2973

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health and wellbeing of maltreated infants and toddlers through the implementation of infant-toddler court teams within States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 4, 2021

Ms. Delauro (for herself, Mr. Bilirakis, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Cooper, Ms. Norton, Mr. Suozzi, Mr. Rutherford, and Mr. San Nicolas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the implementation of infant-toddler court teams within States, 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 "Strengthening Amer-
- 5 ica's Families Act of 2021".

| 1 | SEC. 2. INFANT-TODDLER COURT TEAMS FOR CHILDREN |
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| 2 | EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF MALTREAT- |
| 3 | MENT. |
| 4 | Part Q of title III of the Public Health Service Act |
| 5 | (42 U.S.C. 280h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end |
| 6 | the following: |
| 7 | "SEC. 330Z-3. INFANT-TODDLER COURT TEAMS FOR CHIL- |
| 8 | DREN EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF MAL- |
| 9 | TREATMENT. |
| 10 | "(a) Continuation and Expansion of Infant- |
| 11 | Toddler Court Program.— |
| 12 | "(1) Continuation and expansion of pro- |
| 13 | GRAM.—The Secretary, acting through the Adminis- |
| 14 | trator of the Health Resources and Services Admin- |
| 15 | istration— |
| 16 | "(A) shall continue in effect the Infant- |
| 17 | Toddler Court Program; and |
| 18 | "(B) may, beginning with fiscal year 2022, |
| 19 | carry out such program on a national basis. |
| 20 | "(2) Infant-toddler court program de- |
| 21 | FINED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term |
| 22 | 'Infant-Toddler Court Program' refers to the pro- |
| 23 | gram carried out pursuant to section 501(a)(2) of |
| 24 | the Social Security Act that is designed— |
| 25 | "(A) to support research-based infant-tod- |
| 26 | dler court teams for purposes of changing child |

| 1 | welfare practices to improve well-being for in- |
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| 2 | fants, toddlers, and their families, including ef- |
| 3 | forts to build on, and continue the work of, |
| 4 | sites established through the Quality Improve- |
| 5 | ment Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler |
| 6 | Court Teams initiative funded by the Adminis- |
| 7 | tration for Children and Families; and |
| 8 | "(B) to provide training and technical as- |
| 9 | sistance in support of infant-toddler court |
| 10 | teams' efforts across the United States. |
| 11 | "(b) Grants to States for Implementation of |
| 12 | INFANT-TODDLER COURT TEAMS.— |
| 13 | "(1) In General.—The Secretary of Health |
| 14 | and Human Services, acting through the Adminis- |
| 15 | trator of the Health Resources and Services Admin- |
| 16 | istration, may make grants to States for purposes of |
| 17 | seeding the establishment of, or stabilizing and en- |
| 18 | hancing existing, infant-toddler court teams for chil- |
| 19 | dren experiencing or at risk of maltreatment. |
| 20 | "(2) Use of funds.—A State receiving a |
| 21 | grant under this subsection may only use funds re- |
| 22 | ceived through the grant to— |
| 23 | "(A) designate a State lead agency as a |
| 24 | focal point for statewide planning administra- |
| 25 | tion and coordination— |

| 1 | "(i) to identify sites and leadership |
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| 2 | for, and establish, enhance, or stabilize, |
| 3 | local community infant-toddler court |
| 4 | teams; and |
| 5 | "(ii) to promote collaboration among |
| 6 | State and local systems that address the |
| 7 | needs of— |
| 8 | "(I) infants and toddlers and |
| 9 | their families within the child welfare |
| 10 | system; and |
| 11 | "(II) individuals in need of pre- |
| 12 | ventive family strengthening services |
| 13 | to facilitate the provision of local serv- |
| 14 | ices; |
| 15 | "(B) provide funding to the sites identified |
| 16 | under subparagraph (A)(i) to establish, en- |
| 17 | hance, or stabilize local community infant-tod- |
| 18 | dler court teams that meet the criteria specified |
| 19 | in paragraph (8); and |
| 20 | "(C) ensure that local community court |
| 21 | team projects— |
| 22 | "(i) provide for improved communica- |
| 23 | tion and coordination among the courts, |
| 24 | child welfare agencies, and related child- |
| 25 | serving organizations— |

| 1 | "(I) to share information and ex- |
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| 2 | pedite appropriate high-quality serv- |
| 3 | ices for young children and their fami- |
| 4 | lies in the child welfare system; and |
| 5 | "(II) to prevent recurrence of |
| 6 | maltreatment, promote timely perma- |
| 7 | nency, and provide a community |
| 8 | structure to help prevent entry into |
| 9 | the child welfare system; |
| 10 | "(ii) protect young children in the |
| 11 | child welfare system and at risk of enter- |
| 12 | ing the child welfare system from further |
| 13 | maltreatment and developmental harm and |
| 14 | address the damage already done; and |
| 15 | "(iii) identify and address the struc- |
| 16 | tural issues in the child welfare system |
| 17 | that are harmful to infants and toddler de- |
| 18 | velopment and impede the ability to |
| 19 | strengthen and stabilize families. |
| 20 | "(3) TERM OF GRANT.—A grant under this |
| 21 | subsection shall be for a term of not less than 3 |
| 22 | years and may be renewed for a single term not to |
| 23 | exceed 8 years. |
| 24 | "(4) Application process.— |

| 1 | "(A) In General.—A State seeking a |
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| 2 | grant under this subsection shall submit an ap- |
| 3 | plication to the Secretary at such time, in such |
| 4 | manner, and containing such information as the |
| 5 | Secretary may require, including— |
| 6 | "(i) the information specified in para- |
| 7 | graph (5); and |
| 8 | "(ii) a plan for the establishment or |
| 9 | enhancement and ongoing support of local |
| 10 | community infant-toddler court teams in |
| 11 | the State. |
| 12 | "(B) LEAD STATE AGENCY.—The Gov- |
| 13 | ernor of a State submitting an application |
| 14 | under subparagraph (A) shall designate an ap- |
| 15 | propriate State lead agency, such as the State |
| 16 | Court Improvement Program or the State agen- |
| 17 | cy that administers child welfare services, with |
| 18 | the ability to carry out the activities specified in |
| 19 | paragraph (2). |
| 20 | "(5) Application contents.—The informa- |
| 21 | tion specified in this paragraph is— |
| 22 | "(A) a description of how the State lead |
| 23 | agency designated pursuant to paragraph |
| 24 | (4)(B) will implement infant-toddler court team |
| 25 | projects that meet the criteria specified in para- |

| 1 | graph (2)(C) and the communities in which |
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| 2 | local community infant-toddler court teams will |
| 3 | be established, enhanced, or stabilized; |
| 4 | "(B) an assurance that the State lead |
| 5 | agency will consult with representatives of State |
| 6 | agencies providing services to infants, toddlers, |
| 7 | and families, the State and local judiciary, and |
| 8 | local communities and stakeholders, to develop |
| 9 | a comprehensive plan for implementing infant- |
| 10 | toddler court teams in the State, that includes |
| 11 | a plan for determining how the court team |
| 12 | structure and approach will inform and support |
| 13 | building a family strengthening continuum, |
| 14 | which may include using the infant-toddler |
| 15 | court team structure in implementing preven- |
| 16 | tion and family services and programs under |
| 17 | section 471(e) of the Social Security Act (42 |
| 18 | U.S.C. 671(e)); and |
| 19 | "(C) a certification that any infant-toddler |
| 20 | court team established, enhanced, or imple- |
| 21 | mented using funds received through the grant |
| 22 | meet the criteria specified in paragraph (8). |
| 23 | "(6) Continuum requirements.—The con- |
| 24 | tinuum referred to in paragraph (5)(B) shall— |

| 1 | "(A) seek to ensure that children and their |
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| 2 | families, particularly families with histories of |
| 3 | trauma and adversity, receive effective, timely |
| 4 | services that strengthen protective factors; |
| 5 | "(B) begin as early as possible before fam- |
| 6 | ilies encounter the child welfare system— |
| 7 | "(i) to provide comprehensive sup- |
| 8 | portive community services to families with |
| 9 | very young children in need of such serv- |
| 10 | ices; and |
| 11 | "(ii) to emphasize the social deter- |
| 12 | minants of health to strengthen families |
| 13 | and prevent abuse and neglect; |
| 14 | "(C) for young children with substantiated |
| 15 | cases of maltreatment, including those whose |
| 16 | families have been placed in an alternative or |
| 17 | differential response program, include a com- |
| 18 | prehensive approach to stabilizing and strength- |
| 19 | ening families and preventing children from |
| 20 | being placed in foster care that provides serv- |
| 21 | ices and supports focused on in-home parent |
| 22 | education and specialized programs that ad- |
| 23 | dress the risk factors for removal of infants and |
| 24 | toddlers from the home; and |

| 1 | "(D) use the community structure com- |
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| 2 | bined with the judicial oversight within the in- |
| 3 | fant-toddler court team to improve outcomes for |
| 4 | infants and toddlers who have been placed in |
| 5 | foster care and their families through working |
| 6 | with communities to ensure that— |
| 7 | "(i) parents receive intensive services |
| 8 | and supports, including mental health and |
| 9 | substance use disorder treatment, to in- |
| 10 | crease the likelihood of reunification; and |
| 11 | "(ii) young children receive intensive |
| 12 | interventions that will address their devel- |
| 13 | opmental needs and heal the trauma of |
| 14 | abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and sepa- |
| 15 | ration from their caregiver and family. |
| 16 | "(7) CONDITIONS.—A State selected to receive |
| 17 | a grant under this subsection, shall, as a condition |
| 18 | on receipt of such grant— |
| 19 | "(A) agree to work with the National In- |
| 20 | fant-Toddler Court Team Resource Center es- |
| 21 | tablished under subsection (c) to design or en- |
| 22 | hance and implement local infant-toddler court |
| 23 | teams, including supporting data collection and |
| 24 | continuous quality improvement; |

| 1 | "(B) provide information to the National |
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| 2 | Infant-Toddler Court Team Resource Center on |
| 3 | the plan developed pursuant to paragraph |
| 4 | (5)(B), including the development of a con- |
| 5 | tinuum of family strengthening services that |
| 6 | meets the conditions specified in paragraph (6); |
| 7 | "(C) commit to building sustainability into |
| 8 | the State lead agency function and the plan re- |
| 9 | ferred to in subparagraph (B); and |
| 10 | "(D) ensure that any infant-toddler court |
| 11 | team established, enhanced, or implemented |
| 12 | using funds received through the grant meets |
| 13 | the criteria specified in paragraph (8). |
| 14 | "(8) Local community infant-toddler |
| 15 | COURT TEAM CRITERIA.—The criteria specified in |
| 16 | this paragraph with respect to a local community in- |
| 17 | fant-toddler court team established, enhanced, or im- |
| 18 | plemented using funds received through the grant |
| 19 | are that the team— |
| 20 | "(A) organizes and promotes collaboration, |
| 21 | with leadership from judges and the heads of |
| 22 | child welfare agencies, among community stake- |
| 23 | holders and service providers to address the |
| 24 | needs of families with infants and toddlers, |
| 25 | through implementing trauma-informed prac- |

| 1 | tices for infants and toddlers and their families |
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| 2 | in the child welfare system and for creating a |
| 3 | community structure that can provide a con- |
| 4 | tinuum of services; |
| 5 | "(B) works to strengthen families to pre- |
| 6 | vent foster care placement, promote timely per- |
| 7 | manency, prevent recurrence of maltreatment, |
| 8 | and promote positive early development; |
| 9 | "(C) is coordinated through a local com- |
| 10 | munity coordinator; |
| 11 | "(D) is composed of community stake- |
| 12 | holders that include legal and child welfare pro- |
| 13 | fessionals involved with families of infants and |
| 14 | toddlers and community service providers |
| 15 | that— |
| 16 | "(i) have experience solving problems |
| 17 | and filling gaps at the community systems |
| 18 | level, including with respect to evidence- |
| 19 | based interventions appropriate for infants |
| 20 | and toddlers and their families; |
| 21 | "(ii) receive training on the science of |
| 22 | early childhood development, the impact of |
| 23 | trauma, and the implications for child wel- |
| 24 | fare and family strengthening practice: |

| 1 | "(iii) work to build a community |
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| 2 | structure for strengthening families across |
| 3 | sectors, including work support, education, |
| 4 | health (including mental health), and social |
| 5 | supports; |
| 6 | "(iv) undergo a period of preparation |
| 7 | and training before taking families into the |
| 8 | infant-toddler court program; |
| 9 | "(v) provide a team of professionals |
| 10 | that provides support to an individual fam- |
| 11 | ily to ensure the needs of individual chil- |
| 12 | dren within such family and such family as |
| 13 | a whole are met; |
| 14 | "(vi) focus on infants and toddlers |
| 15 | under the court's jurisdiction or under in- |
| 16 | home supervision; and |
| 17 | "(vii) as resources and team structure |
| 18 | permit, work with families of infants and |
| 19 | toddlers outside the child welfare system to |
| 20 | provide preventive services to strengthen |
| 21 | families of young children and avoid child |
| 22 | welfare involvement; |
| 23 | "(E) supports parents' strengths and |
| 24 | needs in a compassionate, respectful, holistic, |
| 25 | and individualized way: |

| 1 | "(F) prevents children from entering and |
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| 2 | reentering the child welfare system; |
| 3 | "(G) addresses community service gaps |
| 4 | and disparities using evidence-based strategies; |
| 5 | "(H) commits to working toward sustain- |
| 6 | ability for the infant-toddler court team pro- |
| 7 | gram; |
| 8 | "(I) removes barriers to racial equity and |
| 9 | social justice, and prevents disparate outcomes |
| 10 | for racial and ethnic minorities, Tribes, and les- |
| 11 | bian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer indi- |
| 12 | viduals; |
| 13 | "(J) integrates family support services to |
| 14 | meet family needs in a comprehensive way, in- |
| 15 | cluding— |
| 16 | "(i) developmentally appropriate evi- |
| 17 | dence-based interventions for very young |
| 18 | children and their families, including devel- |
| 19 | opmental screening, early intervention |
| 20 | services, high-quality early care and learn- |
| 21 | ing programs such as Early Head Start, |
| 22 | and multigenerational mental health treat- |
| 23 | ment focused on the child-caregiver rela- |
| 24 | tionship; and |

| 1 | "(ii) assessments of parents' needs, |
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| 2 | including past trauma, high-quality health |
| 3 | services, including mental health services, |
| 4 | for parents, including prenatal and post- |
| 5 | natal care, screening for depression, well- |
| 6 | woman care, mental health treatment, and |
| 7 | evidence-based substance use disorder |
| 8 | treatment; |
| 9 | "(K) infuses a trauma-informed approach |
| 10 | in the delivery of family support services that |
| 11 | supports children, families, and professionals |
| 12 | across systems of care; |
| 13 | "(L) provides for a continuum of parenting |
| 14 | interventions and mental health and substances |
| 15 | use prevention and treatment services con- |
| 16 | sistent with paragraph (7); |
| 17 | "(M) uses continuous quality improvement |
| 18 | practices, including collecting project data ele- |
| 19 | ments established by the National Infant-Tod- |
| 20 | dler Court Team Resource Center under sub- |
| 21 | section (c) for case management and assessing |
| 22 | progress; and |
| 23 | "(N) where placement of an infant or tod- |
| 24 | dler in foster care is necessary, uses— |

| 1 | "(i) concurrent planning upon removal |
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| 2 | and limits the number of placements; |
| 3 | "(ii) mentoring and coparenting be- |
| 4 | tween birth and foster parents and kin |
| 5 | caregivers and supports; |
| 6 | "(iii) preremoval conferences and |
| 7 | monthly family team meetings to ensure |
| 8 | support for family and child from the be- |
| 9 | ginning as well as timely action and serv- |
| 10 | ices to address child and family needs; and |
| 11 | "(iv) frequent, quality family time |
| 12 | interaction or visitation in settings where |
| 13 | families normally interact and coaches to |
| 14 | support parent-child interactions. |
| 15 | "(c) National Infant-Toddler Court Team Re- |
| 16 | SOURCE CENTER GRANT.— |
| 17 | "(1) Grant authorized.—The Secretary shall |
| 18 | award to an eligible entity a grant to establish a na- |
| 19 | tional center to carry out the activities specified in |
| 20 | paragraph (3) to serve as a resource for infant-tod- |
| 21 | dler court teams (to be known as and referred to in |
| 22 | this section as the 'National Infant-Toddler Court |
| 23 | Team Resource Center'). The term of a grant under |
| 24 | this subsection shall be for not less than 3 years, re- |
| 25 | newable for up to 8 years. |

| 1 | "(2) Eligible entities.—An entity is eligible |
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| 2 | to receive a grant under this subsection if the entity |
| 3 | is a national early childhood development organiza- |
| 4 | tion with— |
| 5 | "(A) recognized experience as a training |
| 6 | organization in infant-toddler development, in- |
| 7 | fant-early childhood mental health, and other |
| 8 | related topics; |
| 9 | "(B) experience working in collaboration |
| 10 | with, and providing training to, court officials, |
| 11 | child welfare agencies, attorneys, guardians, |
| 12 | court-appointed special advocates, and other in- |
| 13 | dividuals and community organizations pro- |
| 14 | viding services to infants and toddlers in the |
| 15 | child welfare system, including— |
| 16 | "(i) specific expertise in educating |
| 17 | judges, attorneys, child welfare staff, and |
| 18 | community service providers about the im- |
| 19 | pacts of child maltreatment and trauma on |
| 20 | early development and family functioning; |
| 21 | and |
| 22 | "(ii) experience in incorporating the |
| 23 | expertise described in clause (i) into the |
| 24 | court and child-family service systems to |
| 25 | promote change in the way courts and |

| 1 | communities address cases involving mal- |
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| 2 | treated infants and toddlers and support |
| 3 | other families with infants and toddlers in |
| 4 | need of family strengthening services; |
| 5 | "(C) the capacity to carry out the activities |
| 6 | of the National Infant-Toddler Court Team Re- |
| 7 | source Center; |
| 8 | "(D) a proven ability to provide training |
| 9 | and technical assistance, collect data and sup- |
| 10 | port its use for continuous quality improvement |
| 11 | and evaluation, and other tasks; and |
| 12 | "(E) a demonstrated ability to bring the |
| 13 | collective impact of other national organizations |
| 14 | together to address the needs of infants and |
| 15 | toddlers that touch the child welfare system or |
| 16 | are in need of preventive services to strengthen |
| 17 | families and avoid the child welfare system. |
| 18 | "(3) ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INFANT-TOD- |
| 19 | DLER COURT TEAM RESOURCE CENTER.—The Na- |
| 20 | tional Infant-Toddler Court Team Resource Center |
| 21 | shall carry out the following activities: |
| 22 | "(A) Provide technical assistance to States |
| 23 | and communities with infant-toddler court |
| 24 | teams receiving funding under subsection (a) |
| 25 | established through the Infant-Toddler Court |

| 1 | Program, or through other means in building |
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| 2 | the systemic team structure to identify and ad- |
| 3 | dress the needs of at-risk children and families |
| 4 | before maltreatment occurs. |
| 5 | "(B) Provide technical assistance and |
| 6 | training to States and local jurisdictions— |
| 7 | "(i) in selecting sites, coordinating |
| 8 | systems, planning, and implementing, en- |
| 9 | hancing, or stabilizing evidence-based in- |
| 10 | fant-toddler court teams, including embed- |
| 11 | ding a child development approach to pro- |
| 12 | mote the healthy development and mitigate |
| 13 | trauma of infants and toddlers experi- |
| 14 | encing or at risk of experiencing maltreat- |
| 15 | ment and their families, so that such court |
| 16 | teams meet the criteria specified in sub- |
| 17 | section (b)(7); and |
| 18 | "(ii) in determining how to use the |
| 19 | court team community structure to inform |
| 20 | and support the continuum of family |
| 21 | strengthening services described in para- |
| 22 | graph (6). |
| 23 | "(C) Develop materials to guide judges in |
| 24 | the decision-making process regarding infants |
| 25 | and toddlers, and train members of local infant- |

| 1 | toddler court teams and others in the commu- |
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| 2 | nity regarding the appropriate care of infants |
| 3 | and toddlers, including the importance of— |
| 4 | "(i) understanding early brain devel- |
| 5 | opment, the impact of abuse and neglect |
| 6 | and placement in foster care, and the need |
| 7 | for preventing such occurrences; |
| 8 | "(ii) the social determinants of health; |
| 9 | "(iii) placement stability and caregiver |
| 10 | continuity for very young children; |
| 11 | "(iv) supporting the parent-child rela- |
| 12 | tionship; |
| 13 | "(v) comprehensive services for chil- |
| 14 | dren and parents to reduce the recurrence |
| 15 | of abuse and neglect; |
| 16 | "(vi) comprehensive services to mon- |
| 17 | itor and improve the health, development, |
| 18 | and well-being of infants and toddlers in |
| 19 | foster care or in in-home placements; |
| 20 | "(vii) for children placed in foster |
| 21 | care, timely permanent placement frequent |
| 22 | parent-child visitation, and concurrent |
| 23 | planning; and |
| 24 | "(viii) implementing a comprehensive |
| 25 | service delivery plan addressing the needs |

| 1 | of children and parents at the proximate |
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| 2 | time of a child's removal from the care of |
| 3 | the child's biological parents. |
| 4 | "(D) Provide information to States, com- |
| 5 | munities, and courts around the United States |
| 6 | seeking to adopt an infant-toddler court team |
| 7 | approach grounded in the science of early child- |
| 8 | hood development, including information related |
| 9 | to— |
| 10 | "(i) the incorporation of knowledge |
| 11 | about infant and toddler development into |
| 12 | the resolution of cases by judges with ju- |
| 13 | risdiction over children in foster care and |
| 14 | by child welfare agencies overseeing chil- |
| 15 | dren under in-home supervision; and |
| 16 | "(ii) methods to change State and |
| 17 | local government systems to better address |
| 18 | the needs of infants and toddlers in the |
| 19 | child welfare system and their families. |
| 20 | "(E) Coordinate and facilitate peer learn- |
| 21 | ing opportunities for judges, community coordi- |
| 22 | nators, and other personnel through commu- |
| 23 | nities of practice, learning communities, con- |
| 24 | ferences, and other means. |

| 1 | "(F) Ensure local infant-toddler court |
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| 2 | teams collect and report data specified under |
| 3 | subparagraph (H) and provide technical assist- |
| 4 | ance in— |
| 5 | "(i) ensuring quality data collection |
| 6 | and reporting; and |
| 7 | "(ii) using the data collected for case |
| 8 | and site monitoring, to establish a contin- |
| 9 | uous quality improvement process to iden- |
| 10 | tify areas that need strengthening, to de- |
| 11 | velop a plan for such improvements, and to |
| 12 | monitor progress. |
| 13 | "(G) Provide technical assistance to States |
| 14 | and communities— |
| 15 | "(i) in evidence-based methods to |
| 16 | change policies and practices to better ad- |
| 17 | dress the needs of infants and toddlers ex- |
| 18 | periencing maltreatment and their families |
| 19 | as well as infants, toddlers, and families in |
| 20 | need of services to strengthen families and |
| 21 | prevent the likelihood of entry into the |
| 22 | child welfare system; and |
| 23 | "(ii) through onsite implementation |
| 24 | assistance to local infant-toddler court |
| 25 | teams tailored to the needs of each unique |

| 1 | jurisdiction, using a process of assessing |
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| 2 | and building on community strengths. |
| 3 | "(H) Define key metrics and collect data |
| 4 | from local infant-toddler court teams related to |
| 5 | the operation and outcomes of the projects sup- |
| 6 | ported by States receiving a grant under sub- |
| 7 | section (b) and other existing infant-toddler |
| 8 | court team sites on elements that include— |
| 9 | "(i) data on child and parent demo- |
| 10 | graphics and relevant family history; |
| 11 | "(ii) adult health care services, includ- |
| 12 | ing prenatal and postnatal care, depression |
| 13 | screening, mental health services, sub- |
| 14 | stance use treatment, and well-woman |
| 15 | care; |
| 16 | "(iii) child services, including multi- |
| 17 | generational mental health treatment fo- |
| 18 | cused on the relationship, developmental |
| 19 | screening, early intervention services, well- |
| 20 | child care and medical homes, and early |
| 21 | childhood education; |
| 22 | "(iv) family engagement activities, |
| 23 | such as family team meetings and court |
| 24 | hearings; |

| 1 | "(v) family well-being, including |
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| 2 | health equity and health insurance; |
| 3 | "(vi) court practices, such as fre- |
| 4 | quency of hearings, family team meetings, |
| 5 | and stakeholder meetings; and |
| 6 | "(vii) foster care practices that sup- |
| 7 | port development and stable relationships, |
| 8 | including placement type, visitation fre- |
| 9 | quency, and permanency outcomes and |
| 10 | timeliness, with an emphasis on reunifica- |
| 11 | tion. |
| 12 | "(I) Compile such data annually and re- |
| 13 | port to the Secretary together with information |
| 14 | from State planning processes reported under |
| 15 | subsection $(b)(7)(B)$. |
| 16 | "(J) In developing data elements under |
| 17 | subparagraph (H), consult with the organiza- |
| 18 | tion awarded a contract under paragraph (4). |
| 19 | "(4) EVALUATION.—The National Infant-Tod- |
| 20 | dler Court Team Resource Center shall enter into a |
| 21 | contract with an organization experienced in con- |
| 22 | ducting a child welfare national evaluation over the |
| 23 | course of the grant period of the effectiveness of |
| 24 | local evidence-based infant-toddler court teams sup- |
| 25 | ported by States receiving a grant under subsection |

| 1 | (b) as well as other infant-toddler court team sites |
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| 2 | that may participate in such evaluation in— |
| 3 | "(A) linking children and families to ap- |
| 4 | propriate services and supports that prevent |
| 5 | foster care placements, expedite permanency |
| 6 | where placements occur, and strengthen fami- |
| 7 | lies in improving family well-being and support |
| 8 | for positive child development; |
| 9 | "(B) preventing, or reducing the recur- |
| 10 | rence of, abuse and neglect; |
| 11 | "(C) promoting access to timely, high-qual- |
| 12 | ity primary health care and oral health care in |
| 13 | a medical home for children and parents; |
| 14 | "(D) promoting quality parent education, |
| 15 | mentoring, and coaching to strengthen par- |
| 16 | enting skills; |
| 17 | "(E) promoting timely assessment, referral |
| 18 | to, and receipt of, mental health treatment and |
| 19 | substance use treatment for parents of infants |
| 20 | and toddlers; |
| 21 | "(F) promoting timely permanent place- |
| 22 | ments of maltreated infants and toddlers; and |
| 23 | "(G) reducing costs through system im- |
| 24 | provements. |
| 25 | "(d) Definitions.—In this section: |

| 1 | "(1) The term 'child welfare system' includes |
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| 2 | all services and supports provided through a State's |
| 3 | child welfare system. |
| 4 | "(2) The term 'State' means each State of the |
| 5 | United States, the District of Columbia, each terri- |
| 6 | tory or possession of the United States, and each |
| 7 | federally recognized Indian Tribe (as defined in sec- |
| 8 | tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu- |
| 9 | cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)). |
| 10 | "(e) Authorization of Appropriations.— |
| 11 | "(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be |
| 12 | appropriated to carry out this section, \$25,000,000 |
| 13 | for each of fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. |
| 14 | "(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the |
| 15 | amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a |
| 16 | fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve— |
| 17 | "(A) in the case of a fiscal year in which |
| 18 | the amount made available under paragraph (1) |
| 19 | does not exceed \$15,000,000, not less than |
| 20 | \$5,000,000 for the National Infant-Toddler |
| 21 | Court Team Resource Center established pursu- |
| 22 | ant to subsection (c); and |
| 23 | "(B) in the case of a fiscal year in which |
| 24 | the amount made available under paragraph (1) |
| 25 | equals or exceeds \$15,000,000 but does not ex- |

| 1 | ceed $$25,000,000$, not less than $$7,000,000$ for |
|----|---|
| 2 | such Center.". |
| 3 | SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS. |
| 4 | Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact |
| 5 | ment of this Act, and not later than 5 years after such |
| 6 | date of enactment, the Secretary shall submit to Congress |
| 7 | a report addressing the implementation and effectiveness |
| 8 | of the infant-toddler court teams pursuant to section |
| 9 | 330Z-3 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by sec |
| 10 | tion 2, including— |
| 11 | (1) a compilation of the data on local commu- |
| 12 | nity infant-toddler court teams included in the an- |
| 13 | nual report from the National Infant-Toddler Cour |
| 14 | Team Resource Center established pursuant to such |
| 15 | section; and |
| 16 | (2) interim or final results from the national |
| 17 | evaluation of infant-toddler court teams conducted |
| 18 | under such section. |

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