

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4675

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide grants to States to establish positions to minimize administrative burden on families seeking child care assistance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2022

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide grants to States to establish positions to minimize administrative burden on families seeking child care assistance.

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 “Improving Early Child-
5 hood Data Systems Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT.**

2 Section 658L of the Child Care and Development
3 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858j) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVI-
6 TIES.—

7 “(1) GRANTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 make grants to covered lead agencies—

10 “(i) to establish, or expand and im-
11 prove, activities to obtain existing or future
12 data collected by—

13 “(I) the covered lead agency in-
14 volved or a contractor of the agency,
15 such as a child care resource and re-
16 ferral agency; or

17 “(II) the agency administering a
18 related program referred to in para-
19 graph (4)(B), relating to the data sys-
20 tem for the program; and

21 “(ii) to use the data to inform and
22 improve administration of child care and
23 related programs, for the State, territory,
24 or Indian tribe involved.

1 “(B) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The Sec-
2 retary may make grants to not more than 10
3 covered lead agencies under this subsection.

4 “(C) DURATION AND AMOUNTS.—The Sec-
5 retary may make the grants for periods of 5
6 years, in amounts of not less than \$50,000, and
7 not more than \$500,000, for each year in the
8 grant period involved.

9 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
10 grant under this subsection, a covered lead agency
11 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
12 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
13 tion as the Secretary may require, including—

14 “(A) how the grant funds will be used to
15 improve data usage and processing;

16 “(B) how the grant funds will improve uti-
17 lization of child care assistance, by minimizing
18 the administrative burden on families seeking
19 child care assistance under this subchapter; and

20 “(C) if the covered lead agency intends to
21 work with other entities to carry out the activi-
22 ties described in this subsection, how the cov-
23 ered lead agency intends to work with such en-
24 tities.

1 “(3) PRIORITY.—In determining which covered
 2 lead agencies receive grants under this subsection,
 3 the Secretary shall give priority to the 1 covered
 4 lead agency that demonstrates, in the agency’s appli-
 5 cation submitted under paragraph (2), the most
 6 need for activities that are described in paragraph
 7 (4)(B) and are determined by the Secretary, in the
 8 discretion of the Secretary, to be appropriate.

9 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered lead agency
 11 that receives a grant under this section shall
 12 use the grant funds to analyze the existing or
 13 future data described in paragraph (1)(A)(i) to
 14 determine how the State, territory, or Indian
 15 tribe will improve, and to use the data to im-
 16 prove, one or more of the following:

17 “(i) Minimizing the administrative
 18 burden on families seeking child care as-
 19 sistance under this subchapter.

20 “(ii) Reducing barriers to access to
 21 the child care assistance.

22 “(iii) Improving equity and reducing
 23 disparities in distribution of that assist-
 24 ance.

1 “(iv) Improving related customer serv-
2 ices.

3 “(v) Decreasing processing time in
4 providing those services.

5 “(vi) Reducing temporary loss of child
6 care assistance by families of eligible chil-
7 dren, particularly during renewal periods.

8 “(B) DATA SYSTEMS.—The covered lead
9 agency shall use the grant funds—

10 “(i) to integrate, or make interoper-
11 able, data systems used to administer the
12 child care program (operated by the cov-
13 ered lead agency or a contractor of the
14 agency) with related public assistance pro-
15 grams; and

16 “(ii) to provide for a system upgrade
17 for the data system of the child care pro-
18 gram, including by purchasing new com-
19 puters and equipment.

20 “(5) REPORTS.—A covered lead agency that re-
21 ceives a grant under this subsection shall, not later
22 than the last day of the grant period, prepare and
23 submit to the Secretary a report that describes how
24 the grant funds have enabled the State, territory, or
25 Indian tribe involved to use data and data systems

1 more effectively and to carry out an activity de-
 2 scribed in paragraph (4)(A).

3 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 “(A) COVERED LEAD AGENCY.—The term
 5 ‘covered lead agency’ means—

6 “(i) with respect to a State, the
 7 State’s lead agency; and

8 “(ii) with respect to a territory or an
 9 Indian tribe, the analogous agency for the
 10 territory or tribe.

11 “(B) TERRITORY.—The term ‘territory’
 12 means a jurisdiction referred to in section
 13 658O(a)(1).”.

14 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

15 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section
 16 658E(c)(3)(C) of the Child Care and Development Block
 17 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e(c)(3)(C)) is amend-
 18 ed, in the second sentence, by inserting “or carrying out
 19 activities under section 658L(c)” before the period at the
 20 end.

21 (b) APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 658O(a) of the Child
 22 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
 23 U.S.C. 9858m(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4), by striking
2 “this subchapter” and inserting “section 658B”;
3 and
4 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “this sub-
5 chapter” the first place it appears and inserting
6 “section 658B”.

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