

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5520

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

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 “Health Equity Innova-
5 tion Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-8. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
8 the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (in
9 this section referred to as the ‘Secretary’), may award
10 grants to eligible entities to expand access to culturally
11 and linguistically appropriate care, encourage innovation,
12 and address persistent health inequities and chronic dis-
13 ease challenges, including by—

14 “(1) paying the costs of necessary medical serv-
15 ices, health screenings, tests, and other preventive
16 services;

17 “(2) expanding access to care, such as by—

18 “(A) expanding access to health care and
19 public health services;

20 “(B) expanding the diversity of types of
21 health workers;

22 “(C) expanding the availability of cul-
23 turally and linguistically appropriate services;
24 and

1 “(D) addressing other social determinants
2 of health and barriers to receiving timely and
3 quality care;

4 “(3) supporting—

5 “(A) community health navigators;

6 “(B) community health workers (also
7 known as ‘promotores de salud’);

8 “(C) peer support specialists;

9 “(D) community health representatives;
10 and

11 “(E) other health care professionals, who
12 work with faith- or community-based organiza-
13 tions as trusted messengers with lived experi-
14 ences to support access and connection to care;

15 “(4) expanding the capacity of the eligible enti-
16 ty; and

17 “(5) carrying out other programs that address
18 social determinants of health.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant
20 under this section, an entity shall be a faith- or commu-
21 nity-based organization that—

22 “(1) has demonstrated an ability to address
23 chronic health disparities and health conditions in
24 communities disproportionately affected by such dis-
25 parities and conditions; and

1 “(2) is located in a medically underserved com-
 2 munity or a designated health professional shortage
 3 area.

4 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
 5 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
 6 that created or operated one or more health workforce or
 7 health care access programs during the COVID–19 pan-
 8 demic.

9 “(d) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DE-
 10 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘community-based orga-
 11 nization’ has the meaning given the term in section 8101
 12 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

13 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 15 appropriated to carry out this section—

16 “(A) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

17 “(B) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

18 “(C) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

19 “(D) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

20 and

21 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.

22 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds
 23 appropriated to carry out this section, not more than

- 1 5 percent may be used by the Secretary for the ad-
- 2 ministrative costs of carrying out this section.”.

