

Carol D. Miller

(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program
for community-based maternal mentoring programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia introduced the following bill; which was
referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish
a grant program for community-based maternal men-
toring programs.

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 “Community Mentors
5 for Moms Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL MEN-**
2 **TORING PROGRAMS.**

3 Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701
4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 514. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MATERNAL**
6 **MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

7 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to any other pay-
8 ments made under this title to a State, the Secretary shall
9 make grants to eligible entities to conduct demonstration
10 projects for, and enable such entities to deliver services
11 under, community-based mentoring programs that satisfy
12 the requirements of subsection (c) to eligible mothers in
13 order to promote improvements in maternal and child well-
14 being, financial stewardship, child development, parenting,
15 and access to social services and other community re-
16 sources.

17 “(b) **APPLICATION.**—The Secretary may not award
18 funds made available under this subsection on a non-
19 competitive basis, and may not provide any such funds to
20 an entity for the purpose of carrying out a community-
21 based mentoring program unless the entity has submitted
22 an application to the Secretary that includes—

23 “(1) a description of how the programs or ac-
24 tivities proposed in the application will improve ma-
25 ternal mental and physical health outcomes in a
26 service area identified by the entity, substantially in-

1 crease the number of eligible mothers in a service
2 area with access to a community-based mentoring
3 relationship, utilize community volunteer mentors,
4 and supplement, including by avoiding duplication
5 with, existing social services and community re-
6 sources;

7 “(2) a description of how the program will part-
8 ner with other community institutions, including pri-
9 vate institutions, in identifying eligible mothers in
10 need of a mentor and, as applicable, creating sup-
11 port communities among eligible mothers;

12 “(3) a description of the populations to be
13 served by the entity, including specific information
14 on how the entity will serve eligible mothers who be-
15 long to high-risk populations as identified in sub-
16 section (d);

17 “(4) a description of the maternal and child
18 health indicators, financial well-being, and other
19 needs of populations to be served by the entity as
20 described in paragraph (3), including, to the extent
21 practicable, the prevalence of mentoring opportuni-
22 ties for such populations;

23 “(5) the quantifiable benchmarks that will be
24 used to measure program success;

1 “(6) a commitment by the entity to consult
2 with experts with a demonstrated history of men-
3 toring and case management success in achieving
4 the outcomes described in subsection (c)(2)(A) in de-
5 veloping the programs and activities; and

6 “(7) such other application information as the
7 Secretary may deem necessary, with the goal of
8 minimizing the application burden on small non-
9 governmental organizations that would otherwise
10 qualify for the grant.

11 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

12 “(1) CORE COMPONENTS.—A community ma-
13 ternal mentoring program conducted with a grant
14 made under this section shall include the following
15 core components:

16 “(A) Provision of community-based men-
17 toring relationships for eligible mothers, which
18 may include dedicated individual mentors and
19 networks of peer and community support
20 groups.

21 “(B) An individualized needs assessment
22 for each eligible mother participating in the
23 program, to be administered at the outset of
24 the program.

1 “(C) Recruitment and utilization of com-
2 munity-based, volunteer mentors.

3 “(D) Provision of training to participating
4 mentors to equip them with mentoring best
5 practices and knowledge of public and private
6 resources available to eligible mothers (includ-
7 ing public social services).

8 “(2) MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN BENCH-
9 MARK AREAS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The eligible entity
11 shall establish, subject to the approval of the
12 Secretary, quantifiable, measurable 3- and 5-
13 year benchmarks demonstrating the program
14 results in improvements for eligible mothers
15 participating in the program in the following
16 areas:

17 “(i) The number of eligible mothers in
18 the eligible entity’s service area with access
19 to a community-based mentoring relation-
20 ship.

21 “(ii) Improved maternal and child
22 health, including mental and behavioral
23 health.

24 “(iii) Improved financial literacy.

1 “(iv) Improved family economic self-
2 sufficiency.

3 “(v) Improved coordination and refer-
4 rals for other community resources and
5 supports, including public and private re-
6 sources.

7 “(B) DEMONSTRATION OF IMPROVE-
8 MENT.—

9 “(i) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—
10 Not later than 30 days after the end of the
11 third year in which the eligible entity con-
12 ducts the program, the entity shall submit
13 to the Secretary a report describing the
14 program’s results in the areas specified in
15 subparagraph (A).

16 “(ii) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the re-
17 port submitted to the Secretary fails to
18 demonstrate improvements in at least 3 of
19 the areas outlined in subparagraph (A),
20 the eligible entity shall develop and imple-
21 ment a plan to improve outcomes in each
22 of the areas specified in subparagraph (A),
23 subject to approval by the Secretary.

24 “(iii) NO IMPROVEMENT OR FAILURE
25 TO SUBMIT REPORT.—If, 1 year after an

1 eligible entity submits an improvement
2 plan under clause (ii), the Secretary deter-
3 mines that the entity has failed to dem-
4 onstrate any improvement in the areas
5 specified in subparagraph (A), or if the
6 Secretary determines that an eligible entity
7 has failed to submit the report required
8 under clause (i), and has not agreed to a
9 reasonable timeline to submit such report
10 under such conditions as may be deter-
11 mined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall
12 terminate the entity's grant and may re-
13 allocate any unpaid grant funds toward fu-
14 ture grants provided under this section.

15 “(3) IMPROVEMENTS IN PARTICIPANT OUT-
16 COMES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program is de-
18 signed, with respect to an eligible mother par-
19 ticipating in the program, to result in the par-
20 ticipant outcomes described in subparagraph
21 (B) that are relevant to the mother (as deter-
22 mined pursuant to an individualized needs as-
23 sessment administered to the mother).

1 “(B) PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES.—The par-
2 ticipant outcomes described in this subpara-
3 graph are the following:

4 “(i) Improvements in prenatal and
5 maternal health, including mental and be-
6 havioral health and improved pregnancy
7 outcomes.

8 “(ii) Improvements in child health
9 and development, including the prevention
10 of child injuries and maltreatment.

11 “(iii) Higher levels of engagement be-
12 tween mothers, children, and their health
13 providers.

14 “(iii) Reductions in mother’s stress
15 and anxiety.

16 “(iv) Improvements in parenting
17 skills.

18 “(v) Improvement in financial literacy
19 skills.

20 “(vi) Improvements in child’s school
21 readiness and academic achievement.

22 “(vii) Improvements in family eco-
23 nomic self-sufficiency.

24 “(viii) Improvements in the coordina-
25 tion of referrals for, and the provision of,

1 other community resources, including pri-
2 vate and public resources, and supports for
3 eligible families.

4 “(d) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity receiving a
5 grant under this section shall identify and prioritize high-
6 risk populations in provision of services, including—

7 “(1) low-income eligible mothers;

8 “(2) eligible mothers who are pregnant women
9 who have not attained the age of 21;

10 “(3) eligible mothers from populations with a
11 high risk of maternal morbidity;

12 “(4) eligible mothers with a history of sub-
13 stance abuse or victims of domestic abuse;

14 “(5) eligible mothers with children with develop-
15 mental disabilities; and

16 “(6) eligible mothers residing in a qualified op-
17 portunity zone, as designated under section 1400Z-
18 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

19 “(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds provided to
20 an eligible entity under a grant awarded under subsection
21 (a) shall supplement, and not supplant, funds from other
22 sources for maternal mentorship or case management
23 services.

24 “(f)(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall engage in
25 ongoing research and evaluation activities in order to in-

1 crease knowledge about the implementation and effective-
2 ness of community maternal mentoring programs. The
3 Secretary may carry out such activities directly, or
4 through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and
5 shall submit a report to Congress not less than annually
6 on the research and evaluation steps being taken to meas-
7 ure the impact and effectiveness of programs funded
8 under this subchapter, as well as any interim outcomes
9 that may be available.

10 “(2) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 3
11 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
12 retary shall submit a report to Congress on the effective-
13 ness of programs funded with grants under subsection (a)
14 in producing the outcomes described in subsection
15 (c)(3)(B), which shall include recommendations for im-
16 proving program design and implementation.

17 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
18 provide an eligible entity required to develop and imple-
19 ment an improvement plan under clause (c)(2)(B) with
20 technical assistance to develop and implement the plan.
21 The Secretary may provide the technical assistance di-
22 rectly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
23 ments.

24 “(h) NO FUNDS TO PROHIBITED ENTITIES.—No
25 prohibited entity shall be eligible to receive a grant under

1 subsection (a), or any other funds made available by this
2 section.

3 “(i) PROTECTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS
4 ORGANIZATIONS.—A religious organization shall be eligi-
5 ble to apply for and receive funding for a program under
6 this section on the same basis as a nonreligious organiza-
7 tion, and a religious organization’s exemptions, in title VII
8 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (including exemption from
9 prohibitions in employment discrimination in section
10 702(a) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000e–1(a))), title VIII of
11 the Civil rights Act of 1968, title IX of the Educational
12 Amendments of 1987, the Americans with Disabilities Act,
13 the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Religious
14 Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, or any other
15 provision in law providing an exemption for a religious or-
16 ganization, shall not be waived by its participation in, or
17 receipt of funds from, a grant provided by this section.

18 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
19 purposes of carrying out this section, there are authorized
20 to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2023 through 2025.

22 “(1) RESERVATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-
23 priated under this subsection for a fiscal year (or
24 portion of a fiscal year), the Secretary shall reserve

1 3 percent for purposes of carrying out subsections
2 (f) and (g).

3 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available to
4 an eligible entity under this section for a fiscal year
5 (or portion of a fiscal year) shall remain available
6 for expenditure by the eligible entity through the end
7 of the third succeeding fiscal year after award.

8 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
10 tity’ means a local government, Indian Tribe (or a
11 consortium of Indian Tribes), Tribal Organization,
12 Urban Indian Organization, or nonprofit organiza-
13 tion, including religious organizations, with a dem-
14 onstrated history of serving eligible mothers.

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE MOTHER.—The term ‘eligible
16 mother’ means—

17 “(A) a woman who is pregnant; or

18 “(B) a woman who has primary caregiving
19 responsibilities for a child under the age of 6.

20 “(3) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term ‘prohib-
21 ited entity’ means an entity, including its affiliates,
22 subsidiaries, successors, and clinics that, as of the
23 date of enactment of this section, performs, induces,
24 refers for, or counsels in favor of abortions, or pro-

1 vides financial support to any other organization
2 that conducts such activities.

3 “(4) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING RELA-
4 TIONSHIP.—The term ‘community-based mentoring
5 relationship’ means a dedicated mentor and, as ap-
6 plicable, group of mentors or a peer support group,
7 that meet regularly with an eligible mother and help
8 that mother address barriers to care, mental, behav-
9 ioral, and physical well-being, and economic mobility
10 by providing support services and linkages to com-
11 munity resources. A community-based mentoring re-
12 lationship should, to the extent practicable, have an
13 understanding of the barriers and lived experience of
14 that community, which may include shared lived ex-
15 perience.”.