

**Amendment offered by Salud Carbajal**

**Amendment description**

The amendment would establish eligibility criteria as well as requirements to improve uniformity, accountability, and transparency for when the Secretary of Agriculture provides assistance for covered losses in the form of block grants under Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike section 1004 and insert the following:

1 **SEC. 1004. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act  
3 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

6 “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR BLOCK GRANTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional  
8 funds made available after the date of the enactment  
9 of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may  
10 make assistance for such losses available in the form  
11 of block grants.

12 “(2) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the  
13 term ‘covered losses’ means losses—

14 “(A) of revenue, quality, or production of  
15 crops, trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock  
16 as a consequence of a natural disaster (as de-  
17 termined by the Secretary); and

18 “(B) for which assistance is not available  
19 pursuant to any other Federal law.

20 “(b) REQUIREMENTS ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary uses the  
2 authority under subsection (a)(1) to provide assist-  
3 ance for covered losses in the form of block grants,  
4 the Secretary shall—

5           “(A) prior to making assistance in the  
6 form of funds available, make publicly available  
7 the uniform eligibility criteria and payment cal-  
8 culation applicable to such assistance;

9           “(B) allocate block grant funds in accord-  
10 ance with paragraph (2); and

11           “(C) require that to be eligible to receive  
12 such a block grant, a State or State department  
13 of agriculture shall—

14           “(i) submit an application at such  
15 time, in such a manner, and containing  
16 such information as the Secretary shall re-  
17 quire by regulation, including a State plan  
18 described in paragraph (3);

19           “(ii) carry out audits in accordance  
20 with paragraph (4); and

21           “(iii) provide to the Secretary, not  
22 later than 1 year after funds are first  
23 made available under the block grant to  
24 the State, a detailed report that—

1                   “(I) does not include personally  
2                   identifiable information;

3                   “(II) includes a listing of all ac-  
4                   tivities for which such assistance  
5                   would be dispersed;

6                   “(III) the amount of awarded  
7                   block grant funds that, at the time of  
8                   the report, are not obligated or ex-  
9                   pended; and

10                  “(IV) contains such other infor-  
11                  mation as the Secretary determines  
12                  necessary to carry out the require-  
13                  ments under paragraph (5).

14                  “(2) ALLOCATION OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—

15                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary uses  
16                  the authority under subsection (a)(1) to provide  
17                  assistance for covered losses in the form of  
18                  block grants, the Secretary shall—

19                  “(i) award funds such that the  
20                  amount a State receives for a fiscal year  
21                  bears the same proportion to the total  
22                  amount of block grant funds awarded as  
23                  the covered losses in the State bears to the  
24                  total covered losses in all States for which  
25                  assistance is awarded; and

1           “(ii) if the total amount available  
2           under the block grant is insufficient, rat-  
3           ably reduce the amounts awarded.

4           “(B) REALLOCATION.—Funds awarded  
5           under a block grant pursuant to this section—

6           “(i) may not be used by a State in  
7           any manner other than as described in the  
8           State plan submitted by the State in ac-  
9           cordance with paragraph (3); and

10          “(ii) that have not been obligated or  
11          expended after the 2-year period beginning  
12          on the first date of the award, shall be re-  
13          scinded.

14          “(3) STATE PLAN.—A State plan described in  
15          this paragraph is a plan—

16          “(A) that, with respect to assistance for  
17          covered losses, demonstrates—

18                 “(i) the covered losses in the State;  
19                 and

20                 “(ii) that, except for under the block  
21                 grant, assistance pursuant to any other  
22                 Federal law is not available for such cov-  
23                 ered losses; and

24                 “(B) that includes an assurance that, if  
25                 awarded a block grant, the State will—

1 “(i) comply with applicable Federal  
2 law, including with respect to—

3 “(I) which producers are eligible  
4 to receive payments under the block  
5 grant; and

6 “(II) any payment limitations re-  
7 lating to such producers;

8 “(ii) carry out random audits of the  
9 producers that receive payments in accord-  
10 ance with paragraph (4); and

11 “(iii) not include any additional re-  
12 quirements relating to the eligibility of pro-  
13 ducers to receive payments pursuant to the  
14 block grant.

15 “(4) AUDITS.—For each year that a State re-  
16 ceives a block grant pursuant to this section, the  
17 State shall—

18 “(A) conduct an audit of the expenditures  
19 of block grant funds by the State, including the  
20 random audits described in paragraph  
21 (3)(B)(ii); and

22 “(B) not later than 30 days after the com-  
23 pletion of such an audit, submit a copy of the  
24 audit to the Secretary.

25 “(5) TRANSPARENCY.—

1           “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY.—  
2           Not later than 30 days after the end of a cal-  
3           endar quarter after assistance for covered losses  
4           in the form of a block grant pursuant to this  
5           section has been made, the Director of the Of-  
6           fice of Management and Budget, in coordina-  
7           tion with the Secretary, shall make publicly  
8           available on a subpage of the website estab-  
9           lished under section 2 of the Federal Funding  
10          Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006  
11          (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) the information required  
12          to be submitted under subparagraph (B).

13          “(B) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—For  
14          purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A), the  
15          Secretary shall, with respect to assistance for  
16          covered losses made in the form of a block  
17          grant under this section, provide to the Direct  
18          of the Office of Management and Budget the  
19          following information:

20                 “(i) The total amount of assistance  
21                 under such a block grant provided to each  
22                 State.

23                 “(ii) With respect to each State, a de-  
24                 tailed list of all activities for which such  
25                 assistance was dispersed.

1                   “(iii) A list of the States that applied  
2                   for but did not receive a block grant and  
3                   the State plan submitted by each such  
4                   State under paragraph (3).”.

5           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
6 for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting  
7 after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

“1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.”.

