

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO
H.R. 2283 SUBCOMMITTEE PRINT
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing Commu-
3 nity Organizations for Veteran Engagement and Recovery
4 Act” of the “RECOVER Act”.

5 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-
6 GRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO MENTAL
7 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR THE PROVI-
8 SION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR VET-
9 ERANS.

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot program under
12 which the Secretary shall make grants to eligible mental
13 health care providers for the provision of mental health
14 care to veterans, including evidence-based mental health
15 care delivered in person or via telehealth, by providers who
16 have—

1 (1) documented experience serving veterans and
2 their families; and

3 (2) training in behavioral health conditions re-
4 lated to military service.

5 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
6 under the pilot program, a mental health care provider
7 shall—

8 (1) have operated at least one outpatient men-
9 tal health facility in the United States for a contin-
10 uous period of at least three years;

11 (2) be licensed or certified under applicable
12 state law to provide outpatient mental health serv-
13 ices;

14 (3) be accredited by—

15 (A) the Joint Commission on Accreditation
16 of Healthcare Organizations;

17 (B) the Commission on Accreditation of
18 Rehabilitation Facilities; or

19 (C) any other nationally recognized accred-
20 iting body the Secretary determines appro-
21 priate; and

22 (4) submit to the Secretary an application that
23 includes such information and assurances as the
24 Secretary may require, including—

1 (A) an identification of the outpatient fa-
2 cility or facilities where the mental health care
3 services will be provided;

4 (B) a plan under which at least one clini-
5 cian at each facility that receives grant funds
6 has completed training or continuing education
7 in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health
8 conditions specific to veterans, including the ef-
9 fect of military service on behavioral health;
10 and

11 (C) an identification of the percentage of
12 the operating budget for each such facility that
13 was provided through Federal grants during the
14 fiscal year preceding the year during which the
15 application is submitted.

16 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
18 under the pilot program shall use the grant—

19 (A) to deliver mental health care described
20 in subsection (a);

21 (B) to operate or expand an existing out-
22 patient mental health facility or establish a new
23 outpatient mental health facility for the purpose
24 of providing such care;

1 (C) to encourage veterans who are eligible
2 for enrollment in the patient enrollment system
3 under section 1705 of title 38, United States
4 Code, to enroll in such system and to receive
5 medical services furnished by the Department
6 of Veterans Affairs;

7 (D) to support activities necessary to de-
8 liver or sustain care, including—

- 9 (i) outreach;
10 (ii) care coordination;
11 (iii) veteran engagement;
12 (iv) clinician training;
13 (v) implementation support; and
14 (vi) program evaluation; and

15 (E) to support continuous quality improve-
16 ment and outcomes measurement activities, in-
17 cluding the collection and reporting of clinical
18 outcomes and operational metrics; and

19 (F) to support activities of the program
20 that are not billable, reimbursable, or otherwise
21 authorized by law, including—

- 22 (i) outreach;
23 (ii) care coordination;
24 (iii) engagement;
25 (iv) implementation support; and

1 (v) program evaluation; and
2 (G) to provide services to individuals for
3 which reimbursement is not otherwise available,
4 including such individuals who are—
5 (i) uninsured;
6 (ii) ineligible for health care furnished
7 by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
8 (iii) in receipt of health care that is
9 not reimbursable as of the date of the en-
10 actment of this Act.

11 (2) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

12 The recipient of a grant under the pilot program
13 may not—

14 (A) charge an eligible veteran a fee associ-
15 ated with the receipt of mental health care
16 funded by such grant;

17 (B) refuse to provide mental health care to
18 an eligible veteran on the basis that the veteran
19 is not eligible for reimbursement for such care
20 under another payer source; or

21 (C) use grant funds to—

22 (i) duplicate payments made under
23 any contract or agreement to which the
24 Department is a party as of the date of the
25 enactment of this Act; or

1 (ii) pay for the same clinical services
2 or service units that are otherwise billable
3 to a Federal payer, including the Veterans
4 Community Care Program under section
5 1703 of title 38, United States Code, or
6 any other public or private health plan.

7 (3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
8 this subsection may be construed to—

9 (A) prohibit a grant recipient from seeking
10 reimbursement from non-Department payers for
11 mental health services provided by the grant re-
12 cipient, except that grant funds shall not be
13 used to supplant or duplicate a reimbursement
14 otherwise available under Federal law; or

15 (B) authorize double billing or duplicate
16 payments for the same clinical service or unit of
17 service.

18 (4) SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CARE.—A recipi-
19 ent may use grant funds to provide care to spouses
20 and dependent children of a veteran when such serv-
21 ices are integral to achieving a successful clinical
22 outcome. Permissible services include—

23 (A) family therapy;

24 (B) couples therapy;

25 (C) group therapy;

1 (D) family psychoeducation; and

2 (E) other counseling services the Secretary
3 determines are clinically necessary.

4 (d) SELECTION OF FACILITIES.—In awarding grants
5 under the pilot program, the Secretary—

6 (1) shall ensure that grants are distributed geo-
7 graphically evenly among rural and urban areas;

8 (2) may consider the proportion of veterans his-
9 torically served by the grant recipient;

10 (3) may prioritize outpatient mental health fa-
11 cilities located in areas that the Secretary deter-
12 mines—

13 (A) are medically underserved;

14 (B) have large veteran populations;

15 (C) are located near military installations;

16 or

17 (D) have large numbers of veterans at high
18 risk of suicide; and

19 (4) shall prioritize a provider that—

20 (A) demonstrates a primary mission of
21 serving veterans or military-connected popu-
22 lations; or

23 (B) demonstrates that grant funds will be
24 used to expand veterans' access to care and to
25 improve patient outcomes.

1 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
4 subparagraph (B), no grant under the pilot pro-
5 gram for a facility for any fiscal year may ex-
6 ceed \$1,500,000.

7 (B) LIMITATION.—In the case of an out-
8 patient mental health facility for which at least
9 50 percent of the operating budget of the facil-
10 ity for the preceding fiscal year was provided
11 through Federal grants, no grant under the
12 pilot program for the facility for any fiscal year
13 may exceed the lesser of—

14 (i) 50 percent of the operating budget
15 of the facility; or

16 (ii) \$1,500,000.

17 (2) MULTIPLE GRANTS.—The recipient of a
18 grant under the pilot program—

19 (A) may apply for, and receive, grants for
20 more than one facility of the recipient for any
21 fiscal year; and

22 (B) may apply for, and receive, a grant for
23 a facility that has already received a grant
24 under the pilot program.

1 (f) REGULATIONS; ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Sec-
2 retary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section,
3 which shall include a requirement that each recipient of
4 a grant under the pilot program shall—

5 (1) demonstrate the capacity to provide ac-
6 countability;

7 (2) demonstrate clinical outcomes;

8 (3) justify the effective use of any private in-
9 vestment funds or Federal grant funds through data
10 collection and reporting metrics; and

11 (4) collect standardized outcome measures in-
12 cluding symptom improvement and program comple-
13 tion.

14 (g) CONTINUITY OF CARE.—A recipient of a grant
15 under the pilot program shall adhere to the continuity of
16 care model established by the Secretary to the Veterans
17 Community Care Program.

18 (h) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the com-
19 pletion of the pilot program under this section, the Sec-
20 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
21 gram that includes the following:

22 (1) The number of veterans who received men-
23 tal health care under the program.

1 (2) An identification of the types of mental
2 health care provided and the time period for which
3 such care was provided.

4 (3) An identification and summary of program
5 outcomes.

6 (4) The number of veterans who received men-
7 tal health care under the program and subsequently
8 enrolled in the patient enrollment system under sec-
9 tion 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

10 (5) An identification of any obstacles faced by
11 grant recipients in providing mental health care
12 under the program.

13 (6) A summary of clinical outcomes based on
14 pre- and post-client functioning—

15 (A) the number of veterans who improved
16 clinically based on relevant clinical evaluation
17 metrics that the Secretary determines appro-
18 priate;

19 (B) the degree of clinical improvement
20 based on such relevant clinical evaluation
21 metrics;

22 (C) the total number of veterans partici-
23 pating in the program; and

24 (D) any other outcome metrics as the Sec-
25 retary determines appropriate.

1 (7) Findings with respect to the sustainability
2 of the program.

3 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out the pilot program under this section \$20,000,000 for
6 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

7 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

8 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended by striking “June 9,
10 2034” each place it appears and inserting “July 24,
11 2034”.

