

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1920

To establish a program to provide grants to expand the availability of public health dentistry programs in medically underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, and other Federally-defined areas that lack primary dental services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. OBEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To establish a program to provide grants to expand the availability of public health dentistry programs in medically underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, and other Federally-defined areas that lack primary dental services.

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 “Dental Health Access
5 Expansion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title III of the Public
3 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 “Subpart IX—Primary Dental Programs
6 **“SEC. 340F. GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE AVAIL-**
7 **ABILITY OF SERVICES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
9 the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall
10 establish a program under which the Secretary may award
11 grants to eligible entities and eligible individuals to expand
12 the availability of primary dental care services in dental
13 health professional shortage areas.

14 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

15 “(1) ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
16 grant under this section an entity shall—

17 “(A) be a health center receiving funds
18 under section 330, or a county or local public
19 health department, if such center or department
20 is located in a federally-designated dental pro-
21 fessional shortage area;

22 “(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
23 an application at such time, in such manner,
24 and containing such information as the Sec-
25 retary may require; and

1 “(C) provide an assurance that the entity
2 will provide matching funds in accordance with
3 subsection (d).

4 “(2) INDIVIDUALS.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under this section an individual shall—

6 “(A) be a dentist licensed or certified in
7 accordance with the laws of State in which such
8 individual provides dental services;

9 “(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
10 an application at such time, in such manner,
11 and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary may require; and

13 “(C) provide assurances that—

14 “(i) the individual will practice in a
15 federally-designated dental professional
16 shortage area; and

17 “(ii) not less than 25 percent of the
18 patients of such individual are receiving as-
19 sistance under a State plan under title
20 XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1396 et seq.).

22 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

23 “(1) ENTITIES.—An entity shall use amounts
24 received under a grant under this section to provide
25 for the increased availability of primary dental serv-

1 ices in the areas described in subsection (a). Such
2 amounts may be used to supplement the salaries of-
3 ferred for individuals accepting employment as den-
4 tists in such areas.

5 “(2) INDIVIDUALS.—A grant to an individual
6 under subsection (a) shall be in the form of a
7 \$1,000 bonus payment for each month in which such
8 individual is in compliance with the eligibility re-
9 quirements of subsection (b)(2)(C).

10 “(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An entity that re-
11 ceives a grant under this section shall contribute non-Fed-
12 eral funds to activities carried out under the grant in a
13 total amount equal to at least 45 percent of the amount
14 of the grant.

15 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
17 appropriated to carry out this section, \$5,000,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2000–2004.

19 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appro-
20 priate for a fiscal year under paragraph (1), the Sec-
21 retary shall use—

22 “(A) not less than 60 percent of such
23 amount to make grants to eligible entities; and

24 “(B) not more than 40 percent of such
25 amount to make grants to eligible individuals.”.

1 (b) DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
2 AREAS.—The Administrator of the Health Resources and
3 Services Administration, in consultation with the Associa-
4 tion of State and Territorial Dental Directors and other
5 interested parties, shall design and implement procedures
6 to simplify the process by which dental health professional
7 shortage areas are designated.

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