

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1285

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply and quality of child care, access to child care, and the child care workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KIM, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply and quality of child care, access to child care, and the child care workforce, and for other purposes.

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 “Building Child Care
5 for a Better Future Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE CHILD CARE ENTI-**
2 **TLEMENT TO STATES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 418(a)(3) of the Social
4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618(a)(3)) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(3) APPROPRIATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For grants under this
8 section, there are appropriated—

9 “(i) for fiscal year 2026,
10 \$20,000,000,000; and

11 “(ii) for each fiscal year after fiscal
12 year 2026, the greater of—

13 “(I) the amount appropriated
14 under this subparagraph for the pre-
15 vious fiscal year, increased by the per-
16 centage increase (if any) in the con-
17 sumer price index for all urban con-
18 sumers (all items; United States city
19 average) for the most recent 12-
20 month period for which data is avail-
21 able; and

22 “(II) the amount appropriated
23 under this subparagraph for the pre-
24 vious fiscal year.

1 “(B) AMOUNTS RESERVED.—Of the
2 amount appropriated under subparagraph (A)
3 for a fiscal year—

4 “(i) an amount equal to 5 percent of
5 such amount shall be available for grants
6 to Indian tribes and tribal organizations;

7 “(ii) an amount equal to 4 percent of
8 such amount shall be available for grants
9 to territories;

10 “(iii) an amount, not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of
11 1 percent of such amount, shall be re-
12 served by the Secretary to support tech-
13 nical assistance and dissemination activi-
14 ties under paragraphs (3) and (4) of sec-
15 tion 658I(a) of the Child Care and Devel-
16 opment Block Grant Act of 1990; and

17 “(iv) an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per-
18 cent of such amount appropriated may be
19 reserved by the Secretary to conduct re-
20 search and demonstration activities, as well
21 as periodic external, independent evalua-
22 tions of the impact of the Child Care and
23 Development Block Grant program estab-
24 lished under subchapter C of chapter 8 of
25 title VI of the Omnibus Budget Reconcili-

ation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–35), as carried out under this subsection and under such subchapter, on increasing access to child care services and improving the safety and quality of child care services, using scientifically valid research methodologies, and to disseminate the key findings of those evaluations widely and on a timely basis.”.

(b) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RESERVED FOR TRIBAL GRANTS.—Section 418(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 618(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED TRIBAL GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine an appropriate procedure for redistributing the amounts described in subparagraph (B) for each fiscal year to each Indian tribe and tribal organization that applies for such amounts, to the extent the Secretary determines that the Indian tribe or tribal organi-

1 zation will be able to use such additional
2 amounts to provide child care assistance.

3 “(B) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The
4 amounts described in this subparagraph are,
5 with respect to a fiscal year, the unused
6 amounts of any payment made to an Indian
7 tribe or tribal organization under this sub-
8 section for the fiscal year which the Secretary
9 determines will not be used by the Indian tribe
10 or tribal organization during the period in
11 which such payments are available to be obli-
12 gated.”.

13 (c) REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON APPLICATION OF
14 UPDATED FMAP.—Section 418(a)(2)(C) of such Act (42
15 U.S.C. 618(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “, as such
16 section was in effect on September 30, 1995”.

17 (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
18 Section 418 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 618(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
21 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “para-
22 graph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (3)(A)
23 and remaining after the application of para-
24 graph (3)(B)”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
 2 “paragraph (3)(A),” and inserting “paragraph
 3 (3)(A) and remaining after the application of
 4 paragraph (3)(B) and”;

5 (C) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 7 “paragraph (3)(C)” and inserting “para-
 8 graph (3)(B)(ii)”;

9 (ii) by striking subparagraph (E); and

10 (D) in paragraph (6), (as redesignated by
 11 subsection (b)(1)), by inserting “(as in effect on
 12 June 29, 2003)” after “section 403(a)(1)(D)”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “by a State
 14 under this section” and inserting “by a State, a ter-
 15 ritory, or an Indian tribe or tribal organization
 16 under subsection (a)”;

17 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
 18 following:

19 “(c) APPLICATION OF CHILD CARE AND DEVELOP-
 20 MENT BLOCK GRANT ACT of 1990.—Notwithstanding any
 21 other provision of law, amounts provided to a State, a ter-
 22 ritory, or a Indian tribe or tribal organization under sub-
 23 section (a) shall be transferred to the lead agency under
 24 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990,
 25 integrated by the State, territory, or Indian tribe or tribal

1 organization into the programs established by the State,
 2 territory, Indian tribe or tribal organization under such
 3 Act, and be subject to requirements and limitations of
 4 such Act.”; and

5 (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
 6 following:

7 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
 9 means entities included on the list published pursu-
 10 ant to section 104(a) of the Federally Recognized
 11 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131(a)).

12 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
 13 the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

14 “(3) TERRITORY.—The term ‘territory’ means
 15 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
 16 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
 17 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
 18 lands.

19 “(4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘tribal
 20 organization’ means—

21 “(A) the recognized governing body of any
 22 Indian tribe, and any legally established organi-
 23 zation of Indians which is controlled, sanc-
 24 tioned, or chartered by such governing body or
 25 which is democratically elected by the adult

members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities, except that in any case where a contract is let or grant made to an organization to perform services benefitting more than one Indian tribe, the approval of each such Indian tribe shall be a prerequisite to the letting or making of such contract or grant; and

“(B) includes a Native Hawaiian organization, as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) and a private nonprofit organization established for the purpose of serving youth who are Indians or Native Hawaiians.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2025.

**SEC. 3. GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE,
SUPPLY, QUALITY, AND ACCESS IN AREAS OF
PARTICULAR NEED.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618), as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE WORK-
 2 FORCE, SUPPLY, QUALITY, AND ACCESS IN AREAS OF
 3 PARTICULAR NEED.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
 5 vided in this subsection, the preceding provisions of
 6 this section shall not apply to this subsection.

7 “(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For grants under this
 9 subsection to improve child care workforce, sup-
 10 ply, quality, and access in areas of particular
 11 need, there are appropriated \$5,000,000,000
 12 for each fiscal year.

13 “(B) AMOUNTS RESERVED.—Of the
 14 amount appropriated under subparagraph (A)
 15 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

16 “(i) an amount equal to 5 percent of
 17 such amount for grants to Indian tribes
 18 and tribal organizations;

19 “(ii) an amount equal to 4 percent of
 20 such amount for grants to territories;

21 “(iii) an amount, not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of
 22 1 percent of such amount, to support tech-
 23 nical assistance and dissemination activi-
 24 ties related to improving child care work-
 25 force, supply, quality, and access, including

1 in areas of particular need, under para-
 2 graphs (3) and (4), respectively, of section
 3 658I(a) of the Child Care and Develop-
 4 ment Block Grant Act of 1990;

5 “(iv) an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per-
 6 cent of such amount to carry out the eval-
 7 uation required under paragraph (8); and

8 “(v) an amount, not to exceed 3 per-
 9 cent of such amount, for administrative ex-
 10 penses of the Secretary in administering
 11 this subsection.

12 “(3) GRANTS.—

13 “(A) INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANI-
 14 ZATIONS.—The Secretary shall use the amount
 15 reserved under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a fiscal
 16 year to make grants under this subsection for
 17 the fiscal year to Indian tribes and tribal orga-
 18 nizations in amounts that shall be allotted
 19 among Indian tribes and tribal organizations in
 20 proportion to their respective needs.

21 “(B) TERRITORIES.—The Secretary shall
 22 use the amount reserved under paragraph
 23 (2)(B)(ii) for a fiscal year to make grants
 24 under this subsection for the fiscal year to each
 25 territory in amounts that shall be allotted

1 among the territories in proportion to their re-
2 spective needs.

3 “(C) STATES.—The Secretary shall use the
4 amount appropriated under subparagraph (A)
5 of paragraph (2) for a fiscal year that remains
6 after the application of subparagraph (B) of
7 that paragraph, to make grants for the fiscal
8 year under this subsection to each State in
9 amounts that bear the same proportion to the
10 amount so remaining as the sum of the amount
11 granted under paragraph (1) of subsection (a)
12 and the amount allotted and paid under para-
13 graph (2) of subsection (a) to each such State
14 for the fiscal year (without regard to amounts
15 redistributed under subparagraph (D) of sub-
16 section (a)(2) for the fiscal year) bears to the
17 total amounts granted and allotted to all of the
18 States under paragraphs (1) and (2) of that
19 subsection for such fiscal year.

20 “(4) INCORPORATION INTO CCDBG PLAN.—

21 “(A) CONTENTS.—In order to be paid a
22 grant under this subsection for a fiscal year,
23 the lead agency of a State, territory, Indian
24 tribe, or tribal organization shall submit to the
25 Secretary, as part of the initial submission of

1 the Child Care and Development Block Grant
2 plan for the period that includes such fiscal
3 year, or as an amendment to that plan, a de-
4 scription of the planned use of grant funds
5 that—

6 “(i) describes the demographic and
7 economic data and other criteria the lead
8 agency proposes to use to determine
9 whether an area is in particular need of
10 child care;

11 “(ii) describes how community mem-
12 bers were engaged to identify community-
13 specific needs such as diverse types of care
14 delivery, care for infant and toddlers, mul-
15 tilingual care, and nontraditional oper-
16 ational hours;

17 “(iii) identifies specific areas deter-
18 mined to be in particular need of child
19 care, where such areas are located, the size
20 and scope of such areas, and the age
21 groups of children in need of child care in
22 such areas;

23 “(iv) outlines how the lead agency
24 proposes to use the grant funds to increase
25 child care workforce, supply, quality, and

1 access for all families, including families
2 who are eligible for subsidies under the
3 Child Care and Development Block Grant
4 Act of 1990, in the areas determined to be
5 in particular need of child care through ac-
6 tivities such as—

7 “(I) contracting and providing
8 grants to child care providers to pay
9 for specified numbers of child care
10 slots (including slots in family child
11 care homes) and to build supply and
12 stability by including expectations for
13 compensation in the contracts and
14 grants;

15 “(II) establishing or expanding
16 the operation of community or neigh-
17 borhood-based family child care net-
18 works by providing grants and con-
19 tracts for training and other activities
20 that increase the supply and quality of
21 family child care;

22 “(III) furnishing child care pro-
23 viders with start-up funding, technical
24 assistance, support for improving
25 business practices, and support navi-

1 gating real estate financing and devel-
2 opment processes, including leveraging
3 additional facilities financing re-
4 sources;

5 “(IV) providing guidance to child
6 care providers on negotiating with
7 landlords or applying for land or
8 home ownership;

9 “(V) providing technical assist-
10 ance to child care providers through-
11 out the child care licensing process;

12 “(VI) recruiting child care pro-
13 viders and staff;

14 “(VII) supporting the training
15 and professional development of the
16 child care workforce including through
17 apprenticeships, partnerships with
18 labor unions or labor-management
19 partnerships, and partnerships with
20 public and nonprofit institutions of
21 higher education to provide com-
22 prehensive scholarships that support
23 equitable access to, and completion of,
24 credentials and degrees in early child-
25 hood education;

1 “(VIII) attracting and maintain-
2 ing an effective and diverse early care
3 workforce by increasing total com-
4 pensation, providing wage supple-
5 ments or bonuses, or offering wage
6 and retention rewards and ensuring
7 adequate wages for staff of child care
8 providers, including sole proprietors
9 and independent contractors, that, at
10 a minimum—

11 “(aa) provide a living wage
12 for all staff of such child care
13 providers; and

14 “(bb) are adjusted on an an-
15 nual basis for cost of living in-
16 creases to ensure payment rates
17 remain sufficient to meet the re-
18 quirements of this subsection;

19 “(IX) subject to subparagraph
20 (C), providing financial support (with-
21 out regard to limitations on expendi-
22 tures imposed under section 658F(b)
23 of the Child Care and Development
24 Block Grant Act of 1990) for projects
25 involving the purchase or improve-

1 ment of land, a major renovation,
2 repurposing facilities, the purchase,
3 acquisition, construction, or perma-
4 nent improvement of any building or
5 facility, including major renovation
6 and minor remodeling, indoor or out-
7 door modifications, including such
8 modifications to support accessibility
9 for children with disabilities,
10 predevelopment or soft costs, and for
11 projects to upgrade child care facili-
12 ties to assure that providers meet
13 State and local child care standards,
14 including applicable health, safety,
15 and quality requirements; or

16 “(X) subject to subparagraph
17 (C), contracting with an intermediary
18 with experience securing private
19 sources of capital financing for child
20 care facilities or other low-income
21 community development projects to
22 provide financial or managerial assist-
23 ance, technical support through the
24 real estate process, including success-
25 ful execution of Federal interest docu-

1 mentation, or furnishing an evaluation
2 of sustainability or operational capac-
3 ity of providers;

4 “(v) in the case of a State or terri-
5 tory, contains an assurance that the State
6 or territory shall collaborate with respect
7 to the use of grant funds to improve child
8 care workforce, supply, quality, and access
9 in areas of particular need identified with-
10 in the State or territory with each Indian
11 tribe and tribal organization in such area;
12 and

13 “(vi) contains such other information
14 as the Secretary may require.

15 “(B) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
16 prove a planned use of funds submission that
17 contains the information required under sub-
18 paragraph (A), and, with respect to the pro-
19 posed criteria required under subparagraph
20 (A)(i), shall accept any reasonable criteria that
21 are based on internal analyses by a lead agency
22 of a State, territory, Indian tribe, or tribal or-
23 ganization or analyses by organizations with ex-
24 perience in evaluating research on various ap-
25 proaches to identifying areas where there is a

low supply of child care that is affordable and that is in particular need of child care.

“(C) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop parameters on the use of funds from an allotment paid under this subsection for projects described in subclause (IX) or (X) of subparagraph (A)(iv).

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The parameters developed under clause (i) shall provide that, in the case of funds from an allotment paid under this subsection that are used for projects described in subclause (IX) or (X) of subparagraph (A)(iv)—

“(I) for such projects involving a privately-owned family child care home, the Secretary shall not retain any Federal interest; and

“(II) for all other such projects, the Secretary shall not retain a Federal interest after a period of 10 years.

“(iii) WAGE RATES.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or sub-

1 contractors in the performance of construc-
2 tion, alteration, or repair work carried out,
3 in whole or in part, with funds from an al-
4 lotment paid under this subsection for
5 projects described in subparagraph (A)(iv)
6 shall be paid wages at rates not less than
7 the prevailing rates for projects of a simi-
8 lar character in the locality as determined
9 by the Secretary of Labor in accordance
10 with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title
11 40, United States Code. With respect to
12 the labor standards specified in the first
13 sentence of this clause, the Secretary of
14 Labor shall have the authority and func-
15 tions set forth in Reorganization Plan
16 Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5
17 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40,
18 United States Code.

19 “(5) OTHER FUNDING AND PAYMENT RULES.—

20 “(A) APPROVAL AND PAYMENT DEAD-
21 LINE.—The Secretary shall make quarterly pay-
22 ments to the lead agency of each State, terri-
23 tory, Indian tribe, and tribal organization with
24 a planned use of funds submission approved
25 under paragraph (4) from the grant determined

1 for the State, territory, Indian tribe, or tribal
2 organization under paragraph (3) for a fiscal
3 year.

4 “(B) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Nei-
5 ther subparagraph (C) of subsection (a)(2) nor
6 any other cash or in-kind matching requirement
7 shall apply to the grants paid under this sub-
8 section.

9 “(C) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

10 “(i) CERTIFICATION FUNDS WILL
11 SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT, GENERAL
12 REVENUE EXPENDITURES.—Each State
13 paid a grant under this subsection for a
14 fiscal year shall certify that the grant
15 funds will be used to supplement and not
16 supplant the level of general revenue ex-
17 penditures from State, local, and other
18 non-Federal sources that are used to pro-
19 vide child care assistance for low-income
20 families.

21 “(ii) STATE MINIMUM EXPENDITURES
22 REQUIREMENT.—

23 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Each State
24 paid a grant under this subsection for
25 a fiscal year shall certify that the

1 State shall satisfy the required min-
2 imum general revenue expenditures
3 for child care assistance for low-in-
4 come families dollar amount applica-
5 ble to the State for the fiscal year.

6 “(II) STATE MINIMUM GENERAL
7 REVENUE EXPENDITURES FOR CHILD
8 CARE ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME
9 FAMILIES DOLLAR AMOUNT.—With
10 respect to a State and a fiscal year,
11 the minimum general revenue expend-
12 itures for child care assistance for
13 low-income families dollar amount for
14 the State and fiscal year is—

15 “(aa) in the case of the first
16 fiscal year for which the State is
17 paid a grant under this sub-
18 section, the aggregate dollar
19 amount of general revenue ex-
20 penditures for child care assist-
21 ance for low-income families for
22 the most recent State fiscal year
23 for which data is available; and

1 “(bb) in the case of any suc-
 2 ceeding fiscal year, the greater
 3 of—

4 “(AA) the minimum
 5 baseline dollar amount of
 6 general revenue expenditures
 7 for child care assistance for
 8 low-income families applica-
 9 ble to the State for the pre-
 10 ceding year; and

11 “(BB) the minimum
 12 baseline dollar amount of
 13 general revenue expenditures
 14 for child care assistance for
 15 low-income families for the
 16 most recent State fiscal year
 17 for which data is available.

18 “(III) ANNUAL GUIDANCE.—The
 19 Secretary shall issue annual guidance
 20 to States specifying—

21 “(aa) the data and reporting
 22 that will be required for purposes
 23 of enforcing the State minimum
 24 general revenue expenditures for
 25 child care assistance for low-in-

1 come families dollar amount re-
 2 quirement under this subpara-
 3 graph; and

4 “(bb) for each fiscal year
 5 and State for which a grant is
 6 paid under this subsection, the
 7 minimum general revenue ex-
 8 penditures for child care assist-
 9 ance for low-income families dol-
 10 lar amount that is required for
 11 the State and fiscal year.

12 “(D) PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY; REDIS-
 13 TRIBUTION OF UNUSED FUNDS.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
 15 vided in clause (ii), the period in which the
 16 funds from grants paid under this sub-
 17 section for a fiscal year are available for
 18 expenditure, the determination as to
 19 whether funds from the grant will not be
 20 used, and the procedure for redistributing
 21 unused funds, shall be made in the same
 22 manner as if—

23 “(I) in the case of 1 of the 50
 24 States or the District of Columbia,
 25 the funds were considered amounts al-

1 lotted to the State or District under
2 subsection (a)(2)(B) for a fiscal year;

3 “(II) in the case of a territory,
4 the funds were considered a grant
5 made to the territory under subsection
6 (a)(4) for such fiscal year; and

7 “(III) in the case of an Indian
8 tribe or tribal organization, the funds
9 were considered a grant made to the
10 Indian tribe or tribal organization
11 under subsection (a) for such fiscal
12 year.

13 “(ii) EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF
14 FUNDS USED FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—If
15 funds from a grant paid under this sub-
16 section are used to provide financial sup-
17 port for a project described in subclause
18 (IX) or (X) of paragraph (4)(A)(iv), the
19 funds shall remain available for expendi-
20 ture by the lead agency of a State, terri-
21 tory, Indian tribe, or tribal organization
22 (as applicable) for a period of 5 years.

23 “(E) INAPPLICABILITY OF TERRITORIAL
24 PAYMENT LIMITATION.—Section 1108(a) shall

1 not apply with respect to any funds paid under
2 this subsection.

3 “(6) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent per-
5 mitted under this paragraph, section 658G(b)
6 of the Child Care and Development Block
7 Grant Act of 1990, and the approved planned
8 use of funds submission of the lead agency of
9 a State, territory, Indian tribe, or tribal organi-
10 zation under paragraph (4), each such lead
11 agency shall use funds from a grant paid under
12 this subsection to increase child care workforce,
13 supply, quality, and access in areas determined
14 to be in particular need of child care (with ac-
15 tivities provided directly, or through grants or
16 contracts with local child care resource and re-
17 ferral organizations or other appropriate enti-
18 ties). Activities carried out with such funds
19 shall be—

20 “(i) designed to improve the quality of
21 child care services, including improving the
22 quality of the child care workforce, and in-
23 crease parental options for, and access to,
24 high-quality child care, especially in areas
25 of concentrated poverty; and

1 “(ii) in alignment with the most re-
2 cent statewide or tribal assessment of the
3 State’s or Indian tribe’s or tribal organiza-
4 tion’s needs to carry out such services and
5 care.

6 “(B) PRIORITY.—If a lead agency chooses
7 to make grants from the funds paid under this
8 subsection, each such lead agency shall give pri-
9 ority to funding child care services that will use
10 the grant to provide or coordinate services in
11 order to—

12 “(i) provide child care services during
13 nontraditional hours;

14 “(ii) serve dual language learners,
15 children with disabilities, children experi-
16 encing homelessness, children in foster
17 care, children from low-income families, or
18 infants and toddlers;

19 “(iii) serve a high proportion of chil-
20 dren whose families are eligible for sub-
21 sidies under the Child Care and Develop-
22 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 for the
23 child care;

24 “(iv) operate in rural communities
25 with a low supply of child care;

1 “(v) support child care services pro-
2 vided by public entities, non-profit entities,
3 and small businesses that are at least 51
4 percent owned and controlled by individ-
5 uals who are socially and economically dis-
6 advantaged, as defined by the Adminis-
7 trator of the Small Business Administra-
8 tion; or

9 “(vi) provide competitive wages and
10 support the recruitment and retention of a
11 high-quality child care workforce, including
12 through increased compensation (including
13 wages and benefits), bonuses, tuition or fee
14 support for educational attainment or pro-
15 fessional development, child care appren-
16 ticeship programs, or other financial incen-
17 tives.

18 “(C) HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD
19 START PROGRAMS.—A lead agency may use
20 funds from a grant paid under this subsection
21 for activities or assistance under a Head Start
22 program (including an Early Head Start pro-
23 gram) carried out under the Head Start Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

1 “(D) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE
2 CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
3 ACT of 1990.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
5 vided in clause (ii) or to the extent other-
6 wise provided in this subsection, subsection
7 (c) shall apply to the grants paid under
8 this subsection in the same manner as that
9 subsection applies to amounts paid under
10 subsection (a).

11 “(ii) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN
12 USE OF FUNDS REQUIREMENTS.—The re-
13 quirements of subparagraphs (D) and (E)
14 of section 658E(c)(3) of the Child Care
15 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
16 shall not apply to the grants paid under
17 this subsection.

18 “(7) REPORTS.—

19 “(A) CCDBG REPORTS.—The lead agency
20 of each State, territory, Indian tribe, and tribal
21 organization paid a grant under this subsection
22 for a fiscal year shall include information re-
23 garding how the lead agency spent the grant in
24 each monthly, quarterly, or annual report, as
25 applicable, submitted under section 658K(a)(2)

1 of the Child Care and Development Block
 2 Grant Act of 1990. The information required to
 3 be collected and reported under this paragraph
 4 shall be—

5 “(i) in addition to, and shall not af-
 6 fect, reporting and data collection require-
 7 ments imposed under the Child Care and
 8 Development Block Grant Act of 1990, in-
 9 cluding to the extent any information spec-
 10 ified under this paragraph also is required
 11 to be included in a report submitted under
 12 that Act; and

13 “(ii) made publicly available.

14 “(B) 1-YEAR POST-AWARD REPORT.—Not
 15 later than 6 months after receipt of the first
 16 payment from a grant under this subsection,
 17 the lead agency of the State, territory, Indian
 18 tribe, or tribal organization (as applicable) shall
 19 submit a report to the Secretary that includes
 20 information and data (reported on such basis as
 21 the Secretary shall specify) regarding—

22 “(i) the supply of child care in the
 23 areas determined to be in particular need
 24 of child care by the lead agency, including
 25 with respect to the pre-grant award assess-

1 ment of the number of Child Care and De-
2 velopment Block Grant-eligible child care
3 slots reserved by grants or contracts in
4 such areas and the pre-grant award assess-
5 ment of the number of providers who are
6 regulated under State law in such areas,
7 and the number of providers who are not
8 covered by or are exempt from such a reg-
9 ulation but are eligible child care providers
10 providing services under the Child Care
11 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
12 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.) in such areas;
13 and

14 “(ii) the supply, quality, and access of
15 child care in the areas determined to be in
16 particular need of child care by the lead
17 agency.

18 “(C) 3-YEAR POST-AWARD REPORT.—Not
19 later than December 31 of the calendar year in
20 which the third fiscal year for which the lead
21 agency of a State, territory, Indian tribe, or
22 tribal organization is paid a grant under this
23 subsection ends, the lead agency shall submit a
24 report to the Secretary that includes the fol-
25 lowing information:

1 “(i) Data that describes the impact of
2 expenditures of grant funds on—

3 “(I) the supply of child care in
4 the areas determined to be in par-
5 ticular need of child care by the lead
6 agency, including with respect to the
7 pre-grant award assessment of the
8 number of Child Care and Develop-
9 ment Block Grant-eligible child care
10 slots reserved by grants or contracts
11 in such areas and the pre-grant award
12 assessment of the number of providers
13 who are regulated under State law in
14 such areas, and the number of pro-
15 viders who are not covered by or are
16 exempt from such a regulation but are
17 eligible child care providers providing
18 services under the Child Care and De-
19 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990
20 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.) in such
21 areas; and

22 “(II) the supply, quality, and ac-
23 cess of child care in the areas deter-
24 mined to be in particular need of child
25 care by the lead agency, and on the

1 extent to which areas in which such
2 funds were used experienced outcomes
3 that reduced the conditions in such
4 areas which factored into such deter-
5 mination.

6 “(ii) Information specifying the areas
7 determined to be in particular need of
8 child care by the lead agency and the ac-
9 tivities in which grant funds were used in
10 such areas.

11 “(iii) Demographic data on the child
12 care providers receiving funds and on the
13 families and children served.

14 “(iv) Information specifying whether
15 grant funds were used for projects de-
16 scribed in subclause (IX) or (X) of para-
17 graph (4)(A)(iv) and if so, the status of
18 such projects, including if such projects
19 are ongoing at the time of reporting.

20 “(D) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The in-
21 formation reported in accordance with subpara-
22 graphs (A), (B), and (C) shall be incorporated
23 into the biennial reports to Congress by the
24 Secretary required under section 658L(a) of the

1 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
2 of 1990.

3 “(8) REGULAR EVALUATIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From a geographically
5 diverse selection of the lead agencies paid a
6 grant under this subsection that includes rep-
7 resentation of States, territories, and Indian
8 tribes and tribal organizations, the Secretary
9 regularly shall evaluate the impact of the activi-
10 ties carried out by such lead agencies with re-
11 spect to improving the supply and quality of
12 child care in the areas determined to be in par-
13 ticular need of child care by such lead agencies.

14 “(B) SUPPLY ASSESSMENT.—In evaluating
15 the extent to which there are improvements in
16 the supply of child care in the areas determined
17 to be in particular need of child care, the Sec-
18 retary shall focus on the following areas:

19 “(i) General availability of child care
20 services.

21 “(ii) Availability of child care services
22 that—

23 “(I) are provided during non-
24 traditional hours;

1 “(II) serve dual language learn-
2 ers, children with disabilities, children
3 experiencing homelessness, children in
4 foster care, children from low-income
5 families, or infants and toddlers;

6 “(III) serve a high proportion of
7 children whose families are eligible for
8 subsidies under the Child Care and
9 Development Block Grant Act of
10 1990; and

11 “(IV) operate in rural commu-
12 nities with a low supply of child care.

13 “(iii) Opportunity for parental choice
14 in child care services.

15 “(iv) Improvement in workforce re-
16 cruitment and retention for child care serv-
17 ices.

18 “(C) QUALITY ASSESSMENT.—In evalu-
19 ating the extent to which there are improve-
20 ments in the quality of child care in the areas
21 determined to be in particular need of child
22 care, the Secretary shall focus on at least 5 of
23 the following areas:

24 “(i) Ratios of staff to children and
25 group size.

1 “(ii) Developmentally appropriate cur-
2 rriculum.

3 “(iii) Approaches to instruction.

4 “(iv) Relationship quality between
5 children and staff.

6 “(v) Children’s learning and develop-
7 ment.

8 “(vi) Physical environment quality
9 and ability to protect children and staff
10 from illness and injury.

11 “(vii) Qualifications, experience, and
12 specialized training of staff.

13 “(viii) Opportunities for staff profes-
14 sional development.

15 “(ix) Wages and benefits for staff.

16 “(x) Ability to foster relationships
17 with families and communities.

18 “(xi) Leadership and management ca-
19 pacity.

20 “(xii) Creating a stable work environ-
21 ment for staff retention.

22 “(xiii) Pursuit or earning of national
23 accreditation.

24 “(D) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

“(i) submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the evaluations of the impact of the activities carried out by lead agencies with funds from grants paid under this subsection—

“(I) within 180 days of the completion of each such evaluation; and

“(II) at least once every 5 years; and

“(ii) make each such report, along with the data and report for each evaluation, publicly available.

“(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

“(B) LEAD AGENCY.—The term ‘lead agency’ has the meaning given that term in sec-

1 tion 658P(9) of the Child Care and Develop-
2 ment Block Grant Act of 1990.’’.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section take effect on October 1, 2025.

