

sage signs or other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers about abductions of children. A State shall be eligible for a grant under this subsection if the Secretary determines that the State has developed a State program in accordance with subsection (b).

(2) Eligible activities

A grant under this subsection may be used by a State to support the implementation of systems that use changeable message signs or other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers about abductions of children. Such support may include the purchase and installation of changeable message signs or other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers about abductions of children.

(d) Federal share

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 80 percent.

(2) Waiver

If the Secretary determines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States is unable to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall waive such requirement.

(e) Distribution of grant amounts

The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, distribute grants under this section equally among the States that apply for a grant under this section within the time period prescribed by the Secretary.

(f) Administration

The Secretary shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, for the receipt of grants under this section.

(g) Definition

In this chapter, the term “State” means any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory of the United States.

(h) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Such amounts shall remain available until expended.

(i) Study of State programs

(1) Study

The Secretary shall conduct a study to examine State barriers to the adoption and implementation of State programs for the use of communications systems along highways for alerts and other information for the recovery of abducted children.

(2) Report

Not later than 1 year after April 30, 2003, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report

on the results of the study, together with any recommendations the Secretary determines appropriate.

(Pub. L. 108–21, title III, §303, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 662; Pub. L. 116–283, div. H, title C, §10001(b)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4861.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 5791b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(A), inserted “and major transportation routes” after “along highways” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(B), inserted “(referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Transportation” and “and at airports, maritime ports, border crossing areas and checkpoints, and ports of exit from the United States” after “along highways”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(C)(i), substituted “other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” for “other motorist information systems to notify motorists” and inserted “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” after “necessary to notify motorists”.

Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(C)(ii)(I), substituted “other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” for “other motorist information systems to notify motorists”.

Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II), inserted “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” after “support the notification of motorists”.

Subsec. (b)(2)(E). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(C)(ii)(III), inserted “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” after “motorists” in two places.

Subsec. (b)(2)(F), (G). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(C)(ii)(IV), (V), inserted “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” after “motorists”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(D), substituted “other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers” for “other motorist information systems” in two places.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(E), amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 80 percent.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(F), substituted “In this chapter” for “In this section” and “American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory of the United States” for “or Puerto Rico”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(b)(1)(G), substituted “each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” for “fiscal year 2004”.

§20504. Grant program for support of AMBER Alert communications plans

(a) Program required

The Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States and Indian tribes for—

(1) the development or enhancement of programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans; and

(2) the integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into State AMBER Alert systems.

(b) Activities

Activities funded by grants under the program under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development and implementation of education and training programs, and associated materials, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans;

(2) the development and implementation of law enforcement programs, and associated equipment, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans;

(3) the development and implementation of new technologies to improve AMBER Alert communications;

(4) the integration of State or regional AMBER Alert communication plans with a territorial government or an Indian tribe; and

(5) such other activities as the Attorney General considers appropriate for supporting the AMBER Alert communications program.

(c) Federal share

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 50 percent.

(2) Waiver

If the Attorney General determines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, or an Indian tribe is unable to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall waive such requirement.

(d) Distribution of grant amounts on geographic basis

The Attorney General shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the distribution of grants under the program under subsection (a) on an equitable basis throughout the various regions of the United States, including territories of the United States.

(e) Administration

The Attorney General shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, and standards to improve accountability and transparency for grants awarded under the program under subsection (a).

(f) Definition of Indian tribe

In this section, the term “Indian tribe” means a federally recognized Indian tribe or a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 1602 of title 43).

(g) Authorization of appropriations

(1) There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Justice \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out this section and, in addition, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b).

(2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 108–21, title III, §304, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 663; Pub. L. 115–166, §2, Apr. 13, 2018, 132

Stat. 1274; Pub. L. 116–283, div. H, title C, §10001(c), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4862.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 5791c of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(1), inserted “a territorial government or” after “with”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(2), amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under the program under subsection (a) may not exceed 50 percent.

“(2) WAIVER OF FEDERAL SHARE.—If the Attorney General determines that an Indian tribe does not have sufficient funds available to comply with the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) for the cost of activities funded by a grant for the purpose described in subsection (b)(4), the Attorney General may increase the Federal share of the costs for such activities to the extent the Attorney General determines necessary.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116–283, §10001(c)(3), inserted “, including territories of the United States” before period at end.

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States for the development or enhancement of programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans.”

Subsec. (b)(4), (5). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(2), added par. (4) and redesignated former par. (4) as (5).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(3), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading, substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal” for “The Federal”, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(4), substituted “and standards to improve accountability and transparency for grants awarded under” for “for grants under”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(6), added subsec. (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (g).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 115–166, §2(5), (7), redesignated subsec. (f) as (g) and, in par. (1), substituted “2019” for “2004” in two places and “paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b)” for “subsection (b)(3)”.

§ 20505. Limitation on liability

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, including any of its officers, employees, or agents, shall not be liable for damages in any civil action for defamation, libel, slander, or harm to reputation arising out of any action or communication by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, its officers, employees, or agents, in connection with any clearinghouse, hotline or complaint intake or forwarding program or in connection with activity that is wholly or partially funded by the United States and undertaken in cooperation with, or at the direction of a Federal law enforcement agency.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) does not apply in any action in which the plaintiff proves that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, its officers, employees, or agents acted with actual malice, or provided information or took action for a purpose unrelated to an activity mandated by Federal law. For