

(B) develop new ways to educate emergency health care providers through the use of technology-enhanced educational methods; or

(C) acquire personal protective equipment for emergency medical services personnel as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

(d) Grant amounts

Each grant awarded under this section shall be in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

(e) Definitions

In this section:

(1) The term “emergency medical services”—

(A) means resources used by a public or private nonprofit licensed entity to deliver medical care outside of a medical facility under emergency conditions that occur as a result of the condition of the patient; and

(B) includes services delivered (either on a compensated or volunteer basis) by an emergency medical services provider or other provider that is licensed or certified by the State involved as an emergency medical technician, a paramedic, or an equivalent professional (as determined by the State).

(2) The term “rural area” means—

(A) a nonmetropolitan statistical area;

(B) an area designated as a rural area by any law or regulation of a State; or

(C) a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area (as determined under the most recent rural urban commuting area code as set forth by the Office of Management and Budget).

(f) Matching requirement

The Secretary may not award a grant under this section to an entity unless the entity agrees that the entity will make available (directly or through contributions from other public or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward the activities to be carried out under the grant in an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount received under the grant.

(g) Authorization of appropriations

(1) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

(2) Administrative costs

The Secretary may use not more than 10 percent of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year for the administrative expenses of carrying out this section.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §330J, as added Pub. L. 107-251, title II, §221, Oct. 26, 2002, 116 Stat. 1638; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12608, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 5008.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-334, §12608(1), substituted “in rural areas or to residents of rural areas” for “in rural areas”.

Subsecs. (b) to (f). Pub. L. 115-334, §12608(2), added subsecs. (b) to (f) and struck out former subsecs. (b) to (f) which related to eligibility for grants, use of funds, preference for certain grant applications, matching requirement, and definition of “emergency medical services”, respectively.

Subsec. (g)(1). Pub. L. 115-334, §12608(3), substituted “2019 through 2023” for “2002 through 2006”.

§ 254c-16. Mental health services delivered via telehealth

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Eligible entity

The term “eligible entity” means a public or nonprofit private telehealth provider network that offers services that include mental health services provided by qualified mental health providers.

(2) Qualified mental health professionals

The term “qualified mental health professionals” refers to providers of mental health services reimbursed under the medicare program carried out under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) who have additional training in the treatment of mental illness in children and adolescents or who have additional training in the treatment of mental illness in the elderly.

(3) Special populations

The term “special populations” refers to the following 2 distinct groups:

(A) Children and adolescents in mental health underserved rural areas or in mental health underserved urban areas.

(B) Elderly individuals located in long-term care facilities in mental health underserved rural or urban areas.

(4) Telehealth

The term “telehealth” means the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration.

(b) Program authorized

(1) In general

The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall award grants to eligible entities to establish demonstration projects for the provision of mental health services to special populations as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth and for the provision of education regarding mental illness as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth.

(2) Populations served

The Secretary shall award the grants under paragraph (1) in a manner that distributes the grants so as to serve equitably the populations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(3).

(c) Use of funds

(1) In general

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds—

(A) for the populations described in subsection (a)(3)(A)—

(i) to provide mental health services, including diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth; and

(ii) to collaborate with local public health entities to provide the mental health services; and

(B) for the populations described in subsection (a)(3)(B)—

(i) to provide mental health services, including diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, in long-term care facilities as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth; and

(ii) to collaborate with local public health entities to provide the mental health services.

(2) Other uses

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may also use the grant funds to—

(A) pay telecommunications costs; and

(B) pay qualified mental health professionals on a reasonable cost basis as determined by the Secretary for services rendered.

(3) Prohibited uses

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall not use the grant funds to—

(A) purchase or install transmission equipment (other than such equipment used by qualified mental health professionals to deliver mental health services using telehealth under the project involved); or

(B) build upon or acquire real property.

(d) Equitable distribution

In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that such grants are equitably distributed among geographical regions of the United States.

(e) Application

An entity that desires a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary determines to be reasonable.

(f) Report

Not later than 4 years after October 26, 2002, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that shall evaluate activities funded with grants under this section.

(g) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §330K, as added Pub. L. 107-251, title II, §221, Oct. 26, 2002, 116 Stat. 1640; amended Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2021.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Title XVIII of the Act is classified generally to subchapter XVIII (§1395 et seq.) of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(1), substituted “subsection (a)(3)” for “subsection (a)(4)”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(2)(A), substituted “subsection (a)(3)(A)” for “subsection (a)(4)(A)”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(B). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(2)(B), substituted “subsection (a)(3)(B)” for “subsection (a)(4)(B)”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendments by Pub. L. 108-163 deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Pub. L. 107-251, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-163, set out as a note under section 233 of this title.

§ 254c-17. Repealed. Pub. L. 108-163, §2(e)(2), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2021

Section, Pub. L. 107-251, title I, §102, Oct. 26, 2002, 116 Stat. 1627, provided for grants to State professional licensing boards to develop and implement State policies to promote telemedicine.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Pub. L. 107-251, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-163, set out as an Effective Date of 2003 Amendments note under section 233 of this title.

§ 254c-18. Telemedicine; incentive grants regarding coordination among States

(a) In general

The Secretary may make grants to State professional licensing boards to carry out programs under which such licensing boards of various States cooperate to develop and implement State policies that will reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine.

(b) Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of carrying out subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §330L, as added Pub. L. 108-163, §2(e)(1), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2021.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Pub. L. 107-251, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-163, set out as an Effective Date of 2003 Amendments note under section 233 of this title.

§ 254c-19. Pediatric mental health care access grants

(a) In general

The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Ad-