

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3274

To provide assistance with respect to child care infrastructure.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2025

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TOKUDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide assistance with respect to child care infrastructure.

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 “Child Care Infrastruc-
5 ture Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD**
7 **CARE SAFETY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title IV of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by insert-
10 ing after section 418 the following:

1 **“SEC. 418A. INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD**
2 **CARE SAFETY.**

3 “(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
4 ‘Infrastructure Grants To Improve Child Care Safety Act’.

5 “(b) **NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.**—

6 “(1) **IMMEDIATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—

7 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall
8 conduct an immediate needs assessment of the
9 condition of child care facilities throughout the
10 United States (with priority given to child care
11 programs that receive Federal funds), that—

12 “(i) considers the infrastructure
13 needs, as of the date of the enactment of
14 this section, of a variety of child care cen-
15 ters, including home-based centers; and

16 “(ii) considers how the COVID–19
17 pandemic has impacted specific metrics,
18 such as—

19 “(I) capacity;

20 “(II) investments in infrastruc-
21 ture changes;

22 “(III) the types of infrastructure
23 changes centers need to implement
24 and their associated costs;

25 “(IV) the price of tuition; and

1 “(V) any changes or anticipated
2 changes in the number and demo-
3 graphic of children attending.

4 “(B) TIMING.—The immediate needs as-
5 sessment should occur simultaneously with the
6 first grant-making cycle under subsection (c).

7 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of the enactment of this section,
9 the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a re-
10 port containing the result of the needs assess-
11 ment conducted under subparagraph (A), and
12 make the assessment publicly available.

13 “(2) LONG-TERM NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
15 conduct a long-term assessment of the condition
16 of child care facilities throughout the United
17 States (with priority given to child care pro-
18 grams that receive Federal funds). The assess-
19 ment may be conducted through representative
20 random sampling.

21 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years
22 after the date of the enactment of this section,
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a re-
24 port containing the results of the needs assess-

1 ment conducted under subparagraph (A), and
2 make the assessment publicly available.

3 “(c) CHILD CARE FACILITIES GRANTS.—

4 “(1) GRANTS TO STATES.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
6 award grants to States for the purpose of help-
7 ing child care providers acquire, construct, ren-
8 ovate, or improve child care facilities, including
9 adapting, reconfiguring, or expanding the facili-
10 ties.

11 “(B) PRIORITIZED FACILITIES.—The Sec-
12 retary may not award a grant to a State under
13 subparagraph (A) unless the State involved
14 agrees, with respect to the use of grant funds,
15 to prioritize—

16 “(i) child care facilities primarily serv-
17 ing low-income populations;

18 “(ii) child care facilities primarily
19 serving children who have not attained the
20 age of 5 years with a significant percent-
21 age of infants and toddlers enrolled;

22 “(iii) child care facilities that—

23 “(I) are currently unable to serve
24 young children, had to significantly
25 reduce capacity, or are unable to serve

1 more children, due to factors such as
2 the inadequate condition, quality, or
3 availability of facilities; or

4 “(II) are seeking to build capac-
5 ity and expand the number of children
6 served;

7 “(iv) child care facilities that operate
8 under nontraditional hours; and

9 “(v) child care facilities located in
10 rural or underserved communities.

11 “(C) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant
12 under this subsection shall be awarded for a pe-
13 riod of not more than 5 years.

14 “(D) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant
15 under this subsection, a State shall submit to
16 the Secretary an application at such time, in
17 such manner, and containing such information
18 as the Secretary may require, which informa-
19 tion shall—

20 “(i) be disaggregated as the Secretary
21 may require; and

22 “(ii) include a plan to use a portion of
23 the grant funds to report back to the Sec-
24 retary on the impact of using the grant
25 funds to improve child care facilities.

1 “(E) PRIORITY.—In selecting States for
2 grants under this subsection, the Secretary
3 shall prioritize States that—

4 “(i) plan to improve center-based and
5 home-based child care programs, which
6 may include a combination of child care
7 and early Head Start or Head Start pro-
8 grams;

9 “(ii) aim to meet specific needs across
10 urban, suburban, or rural areas as deter-
11 mined by the State, such as prioritizing
12 improvements to programs that serve chil-
13 dren from families with low incomes or
14 children with disabilities; and

15 “(iii) show evidence of collaboration
16 with—

17 “(I) local government officials;

18 “(II) other State agencies;

19 “(III) nongovernmental organiza-
20 tions, such as—

21 “(aa) organizations within
22 the philanthropic community;

23 “(bb) certified community
24 development financial institutions
25 as defined in section 103 of the

1 Community Development Bank-
2 ing and Financial Institutions
3 Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)
4 that have been certified by the
5 Community Development Finan-
6 cial Institutions Fund (12 U.S.C.
7 4703); and

8 “(cc) organizations that
9 have demonstrated experience
10 in—

11 “(AA) providing tech-
12 nical or financial assistance
13 for the acquisition, construc-
14 tion, renovation, or improve-
15 ment of child care facilities;

16 “(BB) providing tech-
17 nical, financial, or manage-
18 rial assistance to child care
19 providers; and

20 “(CC) securing private
21 sources of capital financing
22 for child care facilities or
23 other low-income community
24 development projects; and

1 “(IV) local community organiza-
2 tions, such as—

3 “(aa) child care providers;

4 “(bb) community care agen-
5 cies;

6 “(cc) resource and referral
7 agencies; and

8 “(dd) unions.

9 “(F) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting States
10 for grants under this subsection, the Secretary
11 shall consider—

12 “(i) whether the applicant—

13 “(I) has or is developing a plan
14 to address child care facility needs;
15 and

16 “(II) demonstrates the capacity
17 to execute such a plan; and

18 “(ii) after the date the report required
19 by subsection (b)(1)(C) is submitted to the
20 Congress, the needs of the applicants
21 based on the results of the assessment.

22 “(G) DIVERSITY OF AWARDS.—In award-
23 ing grants under this section, the Secretary
24 shall give equal consideration to States with
25 varying capacities under subparagraph (F).

1 “(H) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—As a condition for
3 the receipt of a grant under subparagraph
4 (A), a State that is not an Indian tribe
5 shall agree to make available (directly or
6 through donations from public or private
7 entities) contributions with respect to the
8 cost of the activities to be carried out pur-
9 suant to subparagraph (A), which may be
10 provided in cash or in kind, in an amount
11 equal to 10 percent of the funds provided
12 through the grant.

13 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT
14 CONTRIBUTED.—Contributions required by
15 clause (i) may include—

16 “(I) amounts provided by the
17 Federal Government, or services as-
18 sisted or subsidized to any significant
19 extent by the Federal Government; or

20 “(II) philanthropic or private-sec-
21 tor funds.

22 “(I) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the last day of the grant period, a State receiv-
24 ing a grant under this paragraph shall submit

1 a report to the Secretary as described in sub-
2 paragraph (D)—

3 “(i) to determine the effects of the
4 grant in constructing, renovating, or im-
5 proving child care facilities, including any
6 changes in response to the COVID–19
7 pandemic and any effects on access to and
8 quality of child care; and

9 “(ii) to provide such other information
10 as the Secretary may require.

11 “(J) AMOUNT LIMIT.—The annual amount
12 of a grant under this paragraph may not exceed
13 \$250,000,000.

14 “(2) GRANTS TO INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZA-
15 TIONS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
17 award grants to intermediary organizations,
18 such as certified community development finan-
19 cial institutions, tribal organizations, or other
20 organizations with demonstrated experience in
21 child care facilities financing, for the purpose of
22 providing technical assistance, capacity-build-
23 ing, and financial products to develop or finance
24 child care facilities.

1 “(B) APPLICATION.—A grant under this
2 paragraph may be made only to intermediary
3 organizations that submit to the Secretary an
4 application at such time, in such manner, and
5 containing such information as the Secretary
6 may require.

7 “(C) PRIORITY.—In selecting intermediary
8 organizations for grants under this subsection,
9 the Secretary shall prioritize intermediary orga-
10 nizations that—

11 “(i) demonstrate experience in child
12 care facility financing or related commu-
13 nity facility financing;

14 “(ii) demonstrate the capacity to as-
15 sist States and local governments in devel-
16 oping child care facilities and programs;

17 “(iii) demonstrate the ability to lever-
18 age grant funding to support financing
19 tools to build the capacity of child care
20 providers, such as through credit enhance-
21 ments;

22 “(iv) propose to focus on child care
23 facilities that operate under nontraditional
24 hours;

1 “(v) propose to meet a diversity of
2 needs across States and across urban, sub-
3 urban, and rural areas at varying types of
4 center-based, home-based, and other child
5 care settings, including early care pro-
6 grams located in freestanding buildings or
7 in mixed-use properties; and

8 “(vi) propose to focus on child care
9 facilities primarily serving low-income pop-
10 ulations and children who have not at-
11 tained the age of 5 years.

12 “(D) AMOUNT LIMIT.—The amount of a
13 grant under this paragraph may not exceed
14 \$15,000,000.

15 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than the end of fiscal
16 year 2030, the Secretary shall submit to the Con-
17 gress a report on the effects of the grants provided
18 under this subsection, and make the report publicly
19 accessible.

20 “(d) LABOR STANDARDS FOR ALL GRANTS.—

21 “(1) All laborers and mechanics employed by
22 contractors or subcontractors in the performance of
23 construction, renovation, improvement, repair, alter-
24 ation, adaptation, reconfiguration, or expansion of
25 child care facilities funded in whole or in part under

1 this section shall be paid wages at rates not less
2 than those prevailing on projects of a character simi-
3 lar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of
4 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter
5 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40, United States
6 Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Davis-Bacon
7 Act’).

8 “(2) The Secretary shall require that each enti-
9 ty, including grantees and subgrantees, that applies
10 for an infrastructure grant for constructing, ren-
11 ovating, or improving child care facilities, including
12 adapting, reconfiguring, or expanding such facilities,
13 which is funded in whole or in part under this sec-
14 tion, shall include in its application written assur-
15 ance that all laborers and mechanics employed by
16 contractors or subcontractors in the performance of
17 construction, alternation or repair, as part of such
18 project, shall be paid wages in accordance with para-
19 graph (1). The Secretary shall not approve any such
20 funding without first obtaining adequate assurance
21 that required labor standards will be maintained
22 with respect to any such construction work.

23 “(3) The Secretary of Labor shall have, with
24 respect to the labor standards specified in paragraph
25 (1), the authority and functions set forth in Reorga-

1 nization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (15 Fed. Reg.
2 3176; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 276e of title 40,
3 United States Code.

4 “(e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-
5 PRIATIONS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
7 there is authorized to be appropriated
8 \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, which shall
9 remain available through fiscal year 2030.

10 “(2) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.—

11 “(A) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall
12 reserve 3 percent of the total amount made
13 available to carry out this section, for payments
14 to Indian tribes.

15 “(B) TERRITORIES.—The Secretary shall
16 reserve 3 percent of the total amount made
17 available to carry out this section, for payments
18 to territories.

19 “(3) GRANTS FOR INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZA-
20 TIONS.—Not less than 10 percent and not more
21 than 15 percent of the total amount made available
22 to carry out this section may be used to carry out
23 subsection (c)(2).

24 “(4) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR
25 NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.—Not more than \$5,000,000

1 of the amounts made available to carry out this sec-
2 tion may be used to carry out subsection (b).

3 “(f) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the
4 term ‘State’ has the meaning provided in section 419, ex-
5 cept that it includes the Commonwealth of the Northern
6 Mariana Islands and any Indian tribe.”

7 (b) EXEMPTION OF TERRITORY GRANTS FROM LIM-
8 TATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS TO THE TERRITORIES.—
9 Section 1108(a)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(a)(2))
10 is amended by inserting “418A(c),” after “413(f),”

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