

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4272

To prioritize health care facilities and mental or behavioral health facilities in the Community Facilities program for fiscal years 2026 through 2031, and allow loans and grants under the program to be used for medical supplies, increasing telehealth capabilities, supporting staffing needs, or renovating and remodeling closed facilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 2, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. MANN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To prioritize health care facilities and mental or behavioral health facilities in the Community Facilities program for fiscal years 2026 through 2031, and allow loans and grants under the program to be used for medical supplies, increasing telehealth capabilities, supporting staffing needs, or renovating and remodeling closed facilities.

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 “Prioritizing Rural Hos-  
5 pitals Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years 2026 through  
3 2031, in selecting recipients of direct loans or grants for  
4 the development of essential community facilities under  
5 section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
6 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary of Agri-  
7 culture shall give priority to entities eligible for the direct  
8 loans or grants to develop—

9 (1) health care facilities; or

10 (2) mental or behavioral health facilities, in-  
11 cluding certified community behavioral health clinics  
12 described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to  
13 Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public  
14 Law 113–93).

15 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity referred to  
16 in subsection (a) that receives a direct loan or grant pur-  
17 suant to this section may use the direct loan or grant  
18 funds to—

19 (1) provide medical supplies;

20 (2) increase telehealth capabilities, including  
21 underlying health care information systems;

22 (3) support staffing needs, subject to the condi-  
23 tion that the eligible entity shall not use more than  
24 25 percent of the direct loan or grant funds for this  
25 purpose; or

1           (4) renovate or remodel closed health care fa-  
2           cilities.

3           (c) LIMITATION ON OTHER REPRIORITIZATIONS.—

4 For fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture shall not make any national reprioritizations with-  
6 in the Community Facilities direct loan and grant pro-  
7 grams under section 608 of the Rural Development Act  
8 of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-2).

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