

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a program to assist States in establishing or enhancing community integration network infrastructure for health and social services.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To establish a program to assist States in establishing or enhancing community integration network infrastructure for health and social services.

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 “Leveraging Integrated  
5 Networks in Communities to Address Social Needs Act of  
6 2020” or the “LINC To Address Social Needs Act of  
7 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OR EN-**  
2 **HANCEMENT OF STATE COMMUNITY INTE-**  
3 **GRATION NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE.**

4 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall award  
5 grants on a competitive basis to States to support such  
6 States, through public-private partnerships, to establish  
7 new or enhance existing community integration network  
8 infrastructure through authorized activities under sub-  
9 section (b).

10 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use a  
11 grant under this section to carry out activities and services  
12 to establish new or enhance existing community integra-  
13 tion network infrastructure, on a statewide basis through  
14 direct network operations or collaborations among mul-  
15 tiple associated entities, which may include such entities  
16 that operate regionally. Such activities and services shall  
17 include—

18 (1) establishing a new or enhancing an existing  
19 technology platform that—

20 (A) enables the coordination of public and  
21 private providers and payors of services for in-  
22 dividuals in the State, including services such  
23 as—

24 (i) nutritional assistance;

25 (ii) housing;

1 (iii) health care, including preventa-  
2 tive health intervention, chronic disease  
3 management, and behavioral health care;

4 (iv) transportation;

5 (v) job training;

6 (vi) child development or care;

7 (vii) caregiving and respite care;

8 (viii) disability assistance; and

9 (ix) other services, as determined by  
10 the State;

11 (B) prioritizes connectivity with, incorpora-  
12 tion of, and partnership with any appropriate  
13 existing technology platforms developed by pub-  
14 lic or private organizations in the State for the  
15 purposes described in subparagraph (A);

16 (C) ensures that—

17 (i) reasonable measures are taken to  
18 promote connectivity among associated en-  
19 tities; and

20 (ii) appropriate privacy, security, pro-  
21 tections are in place, in accordance with  
22 applicable Federal and State privacy laws;

23 (2) connecting associated entities for purposes  
24 of communication, service coordination, referral  
25 management, outcome tracking, and related services;

1           (3) providing technical assistance and sup-  
2           porting associated entities in connecting and partici-  
3           pating in the community integration network infra-  
4           structure;

5           (4) planning for and implementing actions de-  
6           signed to create sustainable funding models to sup-  
7           port long-term access to community integration net-  
8           work infrastructure;

9           (5) designing and implementing a financial  
10          structure to make the community integration net-  
11          work infrastructure financially self-sustaining not  
12          later than 3 years after receiving funds under this  
13          section; and

14          (6) evaluating the use of any funds provided  
15          under this section, as described in subsection (d).

16          (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—A grant under this Act  
17          shall be awarded under such terms and conditions as the  
18          Secretary shall prescribe.

19          (d) APPLICATION.—A State desiring a grant under  
20          this section shall—

21                 (1) enter into a public-private partnership  
22                 with—

23                         (A) one or more private, nonprofit, or phil-  
24                         anthropic organizations; or

1 (B) any Indian Tribe, Tribal organization,  
2 or urban Indian organization within the State;  
3 and

4 (2) submit to the Secretary an application at  
5 such time, in such manner, and containing or ac-  
6 companied by such information as the Secretary may  
7 require, including—

8 (A) a description of the agency or depart-  
9 ment in the State government that will coordi-  
10 nate with and oversee the partnership estab-  
11 lished under paragraph (1);

12 (B) a plan for the establishment or en-  
13 hancement of a community integration network  
14 infrastructure including—

15 (i) the planned governance structure  
16 within the community integration network  
17 infrastructure;

18 (ii) proposed associated entities and  
19 services to be included in the community  
20 integration network infrastructure; and

21 (iii) a plan for accessing and linking  
22 relevant data to create community integra-  
23 tion network infrastructure, including a de-  
24 scription of intended sources of data;

1           (C) assurances that the funds awarded  
2 under this section will be used solely carry out  
3 authorized activities as described in subsection  
4 (b) and other related activities;

5           (D) potential options, including public-pri-  
6 vate partnerships in addition to the partnership  
7 described in paragraph (1), for making the  
8 community integration network infrastructure  
9 financially self-sustaining not later than 3 years  
10 after receiving funds under this section; and

11           (E) a description of the objectives and out-  
12 come goals of developing the community inte-  
13 gration network infrastructure, including—

14                   (i) one or more health outcomes;

15                   (ii) one or more other important social  
16 outcomes;

17                   (iii) improved access to health care or  
18 social services; and

19                   (iv) how progress toward the outcomes  
20 described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and  
21 (C) will be measured through internal per-  
22 formance metrics.

23           (e) SEPARATE TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Nothing  
24 in this section shall preclude Indian Tribes, Tribal organi-  
25 zations, or urban Indian organizations from establishing

1 a community integration network infrastructure that is  
2 separate from any other public-private partnership receiv-  
3 ing funding under this section.

4 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
6 appropriated to carry out this section \$200,000,000  
7 for fiscal year 2021.

8 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-  
9 priated pursuant to paragraph (1), up to \$5,000,000  
10 may be used for administrative expenses.

11 (3) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts ap-  
12 propriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain  
13 available until the date that is 5 years after the date  
14 of enactment of this Act.

15 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) ASSOCIATED ENTITIES.—The term “associ-  
17 ated entities” means any—

18 (A) community-based organization that ac-  
19 cepts referrals from health care organizations  
20 and that provides services such as—

21 (i) nutritional assistance;

22 (ii) housing;

23 (iii) health care, including preventa-  
24 tive health intervention, chronic disease  
25 management, and behavioral health care;

- 1 (iv) transportation;  
2 (v) job training;  
3 (vi) child development or care;  
4 (vii) caregiving and respite care; and  
5 (viii) disability assistance;

6 (B) public, or nonprofit or for-profit, pri-  
7 vate health care provider organization;

8 (C) public or private funded payor of  
9 health care services, including home- or commu-  
10 nity-based services;

11 (D) State, local, territorial, or Tribal  
12 health and social services agency;

13 (E) State public housing authority or  
14 housing finance agency;

15 (F) public health information exchange or  
16 public health information network, as defined  
17 by the Secretary; or

18 (G) other similar entity, as designated by  
19 the State.

20 (2) COMMUNITY INTEGRATION NETWORK IN-  
21 FRASTRUCTURE.—The term “community integration  
22 network infrastructure” means technical infrastruc-  
23 ture used to enable the coordination, alignment, and  
24 connection, of associated entities in a State for pur-  
25 poses of communication, service coordination, and



1 referral management of services, with respect to  
2 services such as—

3 (A) nutritional assistance;

4 (B) housing;

5 (C) health care, including preventative  
6 health intervention, chronic disease manage-  
7 ment, and behavioral health care;

8 (D) transportation;

9 (E) job training;

10 (F) child development or care;

11 (G) caregiving and respite care;

12 (H) disability assistance; and

13 (I) other similar services, as designated by  
14 the State.

15 (3) INDIAN TRIBE AND TRIBAL ORGANIZA-  
16 TION.—The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal orga-  
17 nization” have the meanings given to the terms ‘In-  
18 dian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ in section 4 of  
19 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
20 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

21 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” refers  
22 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

23 (5) STATE.— The term “State” means a state,  
24 territory, or the District of Columbia.

1           (6) URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term  
2           “‘urban Indian organization’” has the meaning  
3           given to the term in section 4 of the Indian Health  
4           Car Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

5 **SEC. 3. EVALUATION, REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

6           (a) EVALUATION.—The Comptroller General of the  
7           United States shall conduct an evaluation that—

8           (1) measures the overall impact of the commu-  
9           nity integration network infrastructure established  
10           or enhanced using funds received under section 2,  
11           with respect to—

12                   (A) changes in individual and population  
13                   health outcomes;

14                   (B) changes in access to health care or so-  
15                   cial services;

16                   (C) the degree of data sharing using the  
17                   community integration network infrastructure  
18                   established or enhanced using funds received  
19                   under section 2;

20                   (D) the effectiveness of service coordina-  
21                   tion;

22                   (E) the cost-effectiveness of the provision  
23                   of services;

24                   (F) any results or anticipated results on  
25                   overall health and social services spending; and

1 (G) any other relevant factors; and

2 (2) describes how the funds received under sec-  
3 tion 2 were used.

4 (b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
5 than 4 years after the date the first grant under this Act  
6 is awarded, the Comptroller General of the United States  
7 shall—

8 (1)(A) submit a report on the evaluation con-  
9 ducted under subsection (a) to Congress; and

10 (B) make such report publicly available; and

11 (2) based on the evaluation conducted under  
12 subsection (a), make recommendations to States and  
13 Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or urban Indian  
14 organizations, on how to improve and sustain com-  
15 munity integration network infrastructure estab-  
16 lished or enhanced using funds received under sec-  
17 tion 2.