

**SENATE BILL No. 499**

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-9

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1 AN ACT concerning the department of health and environment;  
2 establishing the prevention of maternal mortality grant program within  
3 the department of health and environment; establishing the prevention  
4 of maternal mortality grant program fund and making transfers thereto;  
5 providing competitive grants to programs for the prevention of  
6 maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity.  
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8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

10 (1) "Culturally respectful congruent" means sensitive to and  
11 respectful of the preferred cultural values, beliefs, world view and  
12 practices of the patient and aware that cultural differences between patients  
13 and healthcare providers or other service providers must be proactively  
14 addressed to ensure that patients receive equitable, high-quality services  
15 that meet such patients' needs;

16 (2) "department" means the Kansas department of health and  
17 environment;

18 (3) "postpartum" means the one-year period beginning on the last day  
19 of a woman's pregnancy; and

20 (4) "secretary" means the secretary of health and environment.

21 (b) (1) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the department  
22 shall establish and operate a prevention of maternal mortality grant  
23 program to award competitive grants to eligible entities in order to  
24 establish or expand programs for the prevention of maternal mortality and  
25 severe maternal morbidity among rural women and women of color. The  
26 department shall establish eligibility requirements for program  
27 participation that require applicants to be community-based organizations  
28 that offer programs and resources that are aligned with evidence-based  
29 practices for improving maternal health outcomes for rural women and  
30 women of color.

31 (2) On and after July 1, 2024, the department shall:

32 (A) Conduct outreach to encourage eligible applicants to apply for  
33 grants under this program; and

34 (B) provide application assistance to eligible applicants on best  
35 practices for applying for grants under this program. In conducting the  
36 outreach required by this section, the department shall give special

1 consideration to eligible applicants that:

2 (i) Are based in and provide support for communities with high rates  
3 of adverse maternal health outcomes and significant racial and ethnic  
4 disparities in maternal health outcomes;

5 (ii) are led by rural women and women of color; and

6 (iii) offer programs and resources that are aligned with evidence-  
7 based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for rural women  
8 and women of color.

9 (3) In awarding grants under this section, the department shall award  
10 a maximum of 20 grants and to the greatest extent possible, the grant  
11 recipients shall represent different areas of the state. The department award  
12 each grant in an amount not less than \$50,000 and not greater than  
13 \$250,000 per grant recipient. In selecting grant recipients, the department  
14 shall give special consideration to eligible applicants that:

15 (A) Meet all the criteria specified in paragraph (2);

16 (2) offer programs and resources designed in consultation with and  
17 intended for rural women and women of color; and

18 (3) offer programs and resources in the communities where they are  
19 located that include any of the following activities:

20 (i) Addressing social determinants of health for women in the  
21 prenatal and postpartum periods, including, but not limited to:

22 (a) Inadequate housing;

23 (b) barriers to transportation;

24 (c) poor nutrition and a lack of access to healthy foods;

25 (d) need for lactation support;

26 (e) need for lead abatement and other efforts to improve air and water  
27 quality;

28 (f) lack of access to child care;

29 (g) need for baby supplies such as diapers, formula, clothing, baby  
30 and child equipment and safe car seat installation;

31 (h) need for wellness and stress-management programs;

32 (i) education about maternal health and well-being; and

33 (j) need for coordination across safety net and social support services  
34 and programs;

35 (ii) promoting evidence-based health literacy and pregnancy,  
36 childbirth, and parenting education for women in the prenatal and  
37 postpartum periods, including group-based programs and peer support  
38 groups;

39 (iii) providing individually tailored support from doulas and other  
40 perinatal health workers to women from pregnancy through the postpartum  
41 period;

42 (iv) providing culturally respectful congruent training to perinatal  
43 healthcare workers such as doulas, certified nurse-midwives, community

1 health workers, peer supporters, certified lactation consultants,  
2 nutritionists and dietitians, social workers, home visitors and navigators;

3 (v) conducting or supporting research on issues affecting black  
4 maternal health.

5 (vi) developing other programs and resources that address  
6 community-specific needs for women in the prenatal and postpartum  
7 periods and are aligned with evidence-based practices for improving  
8 maternal health outcomes for rural women and women of color.

9 (4) The department shall provide technical assistance to grant  
10 recipients regarding all of the following:

11 (A) Capacity building to establish or expand programs preventing  
12 adverse maternal health outcomes among rural women and women of  
13 color;

14 (B) best practices in data collection, measurement, evaluation and  
15 reporting; and

16 (C) planning centered around sustaining programs implemented with  
17 grant funds to prevent maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity  
18 among rural women and women of color when the grant funds have been  
19 expended.

20 (c) On or before October 1, 2025, the department shall submit a  
21 report on the grant program authorized by this section to the senate  
22 standing committee on public health and welfare and the house standing  
23 committee on health and human services or their successor committees.  
24 Such report shall include:

25 (1) A detailed report on funds expended for the program for the most  
26 recent fiscal year;

27 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of outreach efforts by the  
28 department during the application process in diversifying the pool of grant  
29 recipients; and

30 (3) recommendations for future outreach efforts to diversify the pool  
31 of grant recipients for this program and other related grant programs, as  
32 well as for funding opportunities related to the social determinants of  
33 maternal health.

34 (d) The department may employ one full time coordinator position to  
35 perform the responsibilities described in this section. Such coordinator  
36 shall be in the unclassified service and receive a salary as fixed by  
37 secretary.

38 (e) There is hereby established in the state treasury the prevention of  
39 maternal mortality grant program, which shall be administered by the  
40 secretary. All expenditures from the prevention of maternal mortality grant  
41 program fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon  
42 warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to  
43 vouchers approved by state treasurer or the treasurer's designee. The

1 secretary shall remit such supplemental and matching moneys to the state  
2 treasurer in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto.  
3 Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the  
4 entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the prevention of  
5 maternal mortality grant program fund. Moneys in the prevention of  
6 maternal mortality grant program fund shall be used for the purposes as set  
7 forth in this section.

8 (f) The provisions of this section shall expire on Jun 30, 2029.

9 New Sec. 2. (a) On July 1, 2024, and on each July 1 thereafter, or as  
10 soon thereafter each such date as moneys are available, the director of  
11 accounts and reports shall transfer \$3,300,000 from the state general fund  
12 to the prevention of maternal mortality grant program fund.

13 (b) The provisions of this section shall expire on Jun 30, 2029.

14 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
15 publication in the statute book.