

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4923

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide information about available benefits and services to kinship caregivers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide information about available benefits and services to kinship caregivers.

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 “Informing
5 Grandfamilies Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE NOTIFICATIONS TO KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**
 2 **OF CHILD TANF RECIPIENTS AND APPLI-**
 3 **CANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(a) of the Social Secu-
 5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is amended by adding at the
 6 end the following:

7 “(13) STATE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING NO-
 8 TICE AND GUIDANCE TO KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State to which a
 10 grant is made under section 403 shall ensure
 11 that the State agency provides to any kinship
 12 caregiver of a minor child, including grand-
 13 parents and other relative caregivers, who con-
 14 tacts the State agency seeking assistance under
 15 the State program funded under this part (or
 16 under a State program funded with qualified
 17 State expenditures (as defined in section
 18 409(a)(7)(B)(i))), or if the child is a recipient
 19 of such assistance, written notice that—

20 “(i) explains the options of the kin-
 21 ship caregiver under Federal, State, and
 22 local law to participate in the care and
 23 placement of the child, including the finan-
 24 cial ramifications of the options and any
 25 options that may be lost by choosing cer-
 26 tain benefits, including how the receipt of

1 benefits under the State program funded
2 under this part (or under a State program
3 funded with qualified State expenditures
4 (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)))
5 could impact eligibility for other programs;

6 “(ii) describes the additional services
7 and supports that are available for a child
8 placed in a licensed foster family home;

9 “(iii) notifies the kinship caregiver of
10 the availability of guardianship assistance
11 payments if the State has elected the op-
12 tion to make guardianship assistance pay-
13 ments under section 471(a)(28);

14 “(iv) describes policies under the
15 State program funded under this part that
16 may help kinship caregivers and the chil-
17 dren they care for; and

18 “(v) provides direct contact informa-
19 tion for kinship navigator programs de-
20 scribed in section 427(a)(1) or other agen-
21 cies, including the State child welfare
22 agency, and community-based organiza-
23 tions that provide resources and assistance,
24 such as legal services, housing, supple-

1 mental nutrition assistance, health care,
2 and child care.

3 “(B) TIMING OF NOTICE.—The notice re-
4 quired under subparagraph (A)—

5 “(i) shall be provided to a kinship
6 caregiver of a minor child at the time that
7 the kinship caregiver comes into contact
8 with the State agency regarding assistance
9 under the State program funded under this
10 part (or under a State program funded
11 with qualified State expenditures (as de-
12 fined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)));

13 “(ii) if applicable, shall be provided to
14 a kinship caregiver at the time the kinship
15 caregiver attends an eligibility interview for
16 assistance (either on the kinship care-
17 giver’s own behalf or on behalf of the
18 child) under such a program funded under
19 this part; or

20 “(iii) if the kinship caregiver (or the
21 child) is already receiving assistance under
22 such a program on the date of enactment
23 of this paragraph, shall be sent to the kin-
24 ship caregiver as soon as practicable after
25 such date.

1 “(C) PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO KINSHIP
2 CAREGIVERS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State to which
4 a grant is made under section 403 shall
5 ensure that the State agency responsible
6 for administering the State program fund-
7 ed under this part employs a resource em-
8 ployee or contracts with a community-
9 based organization. Such resource em-
10 ployee or community-based organization
11 shall have the necessary expertise to pro-
12 vide guidance to kinship caregivers, includ-
13 ing grandparents and other relative care-
14 givers, of a minor child who is a recipient
15 of or may be seeking assistance under the
16 program (or under a State program funded
17 with qualified State expenditures (as de-
18 fined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))) on—

19 “(I) eligibility requirements for a
20 State program funded under this part
21 (or under a State program funded
22 with qualified State expenditures (as
23 defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i))),
24 including the relevant documentation

1 and application information required
2 to apply for such programs;

3 “(II) legal options regarding cus-
4 tody and guardianship of the child, in-
5 cluding explaining to the kinship care-
6 giver how each legal option cor-
7 responds to the availability of benefits
8 and services, if any;

9 “(III) eligibility for guardianship
10 assistance payments if the State has
11 elected to make guardianship assist-
12 ance payments under section
13 471(a)(28); and

14 “(IV) how the receipt of benefits
15 under the State program funded
16 under this part (or under a State pro-
17 gram funded with qualified State ex-
18 penditures (as defined in section
19 409(a)(7)(B)(i))) could impact eligi-
20 bility for other programs.

21 “(ii) SERVING AS A LIAISON.—A re-
22 source employee or community-based orga-
23 nization described in clause (i) shall serve
24 as a liaison with other agencies and com-
25 munity-based organizations that provide

1 resources and assistance to kinship care-
2 givers, which may include guidance for ini-
3 tiating the process of obtaining foster fam-
4 ily licensure.”.

5 (b) INCLUSION IN STATE PLAN.—Section
6 402(a)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(vi) The document shall provide a
9 detailed explanation of how the State in-
10 tends to comply with section 408(a)(13).”.

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