

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to award grants to States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to create or implement Multisector Plans for Aging and Aging with a Disability, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to award grants to States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to create or implement Multisector Plans for Aging and Aging with a Disability, and for other purposes.

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 “Strategic Plan for
5 Aging Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORTING MULTISECTOR PLANS FOR AGING**
2 **AND AGING WITH A DISABILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of IV of the Older Ameri-
4 cans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 423. SUPPORTING MULTISECTOR PLANS FOR AGING**
7 **AND AGING WITH A DISABILITY.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) AGING AND DISABILITY STAKEHOLDERS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘aging and
11 disability stakeholders’ means a group of indi-
12 viduals with experience or expertise in aging or
13 disability issues, which shall consist of—

14 “(i) representatives from area agen-
15 cies on aging;

16 “(ii) covered individuals; and

17 “(iii) representatives from not less
18 than 3 of the groups described in subpara-
19 graph (B).

20 “(B) ADDITIONAL GROUPS.—The groups
21 described in this subparagraph are the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(i) Advocates for covered individuals.

24 “(ii) Academics with expertise in
25 aging or disability issues.

1 “(iii) Philanthropic organizations with
2 experience in supporting aging or disability
3 initiatives.

4 “(iv) Individuals and community part-
5 ners serving older individuals, including in-
6 dividuals employed by area agencies on
7 aging or by multipurpose senior centers.

8 “(v) Providers of aging or disability
9 services.

10 “(vi) Representatives of units of gen-
11 eral purpose local government (as defined
12 in section 301).

13 “(vii) Any other group of individuals
14 serving or representing covered individuals,
15 as determined appropriate by the Assistant
16 Secretary.

17 “(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘cov-
18 ered individuals’ means—

19 “(A) older individuals, including older indi-
20 viduals with disabilities;

21 “(B) individuals who are family members
22 of older individuals, including family members
23 of older individuals with disabilities;

24 “(C) paid caregivers, and unpaid care-
25 givers, of older individuals, including any such

1 caregivers of older individuals with disabilities;
2 and

3 “(D) older relative caregivers.

4 “(3) DISABILITY.—Notwithstanding section
5 102(13), the term ‘disability’ has the meaning given
6 the term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabil-
7 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

8 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
9 tity’ means a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organiza-
10 tion.

11 “(5) MULTISECTOR PLAN FOR AGING AND
12 AGING WITH A DISABILITY; MASTER PLAN FOR
13 AGING; PLAN.—The terms ‘Multisector Plan for
14 Aging and Aging with a Disability’, ‘Master Plan for
15 Aging’, and ‘Plan’ mean a multi-year planning proc-
16 ess, administered by an eligible entity, that convenes
17 cross-sector stakeholders, including aging and dis-
18 ability stakeholders, to collaboratively address the di-
19 verse needs of covered individuals.

20 “(6) OLDER RELATIVE CAREGIVER.—The term
21 ‘older relative caregiver’ has the meaning given such
22 term in section 372.

23 “(7) QUALIFIED LEADER.—The term ‘qualified
24 leader’, with respect to an eligible entity, means—

1 “(A) the head of the eligible entity, or the
2 head of an agency or department of the eligible
3 entity;

4 “(B) a legislative committee of the eligible
5 entity; or

6 “(C) another leader of the eligible entity,
7 as determined appropriate by the Assistant Sec-
8 retary.

9 “(8) TARGETED SUBGROUP.—The term ‘tar-
10 geted subgroup’ means a subgroup of older individ-
11 uals (including older individuals with disabilities)
12 who are older individuals with greatest social need,
13 or greatest economic need, as a result of geographic
14 location, disability status, sexual orientation, gender
15 identity, sex characteristics, socioeconomic status,
16 language, immigration status, or other factors deter-
17 mined appropriate by the Assistant Secretary.

18 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
19 provide eligible entities with resources to create, coordi-
20 nate, implement, and evaluate cross-sector plans to im-
21 prove the health, well-being, and quality of life of covered
22 individuals, which may include targeted subgroups.

23 “(c) GRANTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
25 shall award grants on a competitive basis in accord-

1 ance with this section to eligible entities to each cre-
2 ate or implement a Multisector Plan for Aging and
3 Aging with a Disability (also known as a ‘Master
4 Plan for Aging’) that meets the requirements under
5 paragraph (2). Such grants may be used in the cre-
6 ation or implementation stage of such a Plan.

7 “(2) PLANS.—A Plan created or implemented
8 by an eligible entity through a grant under this sec-
9 tion shall—

10 “(A) have a creation or implementation
11 process that is informed or led by a working
12 group of aging and disability stakeholders
13 (which may include stakeholders who represent
14 targeted subgroups) that reflects the diversity
15 and demographics of the population in the ju-
16 risdiction of the eligible entity;

17 “(B) serve as a strategic planning resource
18 that helps the eligible entity work across agen-
19 cies or departments of the eligible entity (in-
20 cluding political subdivisions of the eligible enti-
21 ty), in collaboration with public or private pro-
22 grams operating in the jurisdiction of the eligi-
23 ble entity, and through collaborations with
24 other eligible entities receiving such a grant to
25 serve an area in the jurisdiction of the first eli-

1 gible entity, to transform the infrastructure and
2 coordination of key services, supports, and ini-
3 tiatives described in paragraph (3) for covered
4 individuals;

5 “(C) enable a qualified leader of the eligi-
6 ble entity to communicate a clear vision, and
7 priorities, for a period of not less than 10 years
8 for the eligible entity with respect to the trans-
9 formation described in subparagraph (B);

10 “(D) guide policy of the eligible entity (in-
11 cluding a political subdivision of the eligible en-
12 tity), including through public or private pro-
13 grams, and through funding priorities, to assist
14 people in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in
15 aging with dignity and autonomy;

16 “(E) include at least one goal for each of
17 the key aging issues described in paragraph (4)
18 and develop initiatives to carry out each such
19 goal;

20 “(F) be more comprehensive than the area
21 plans approved under section 306 by the State
22 agency prior to the date of the creation of the
23 Plan;

24 “(G) be more comprehensive than the
25 State plans approved under section 307 by the

1 Assistant Secretary prior to the date of the cre-
2 ation of the Plan; and

3 “(H) be created through a planning proc-
4 ess that builds on the planning processes for
5 the area plans described in subparagraph (F)
6 and the State plans described in subparagraph
7 (G).

8 “(3) KEY SERVICES, SUPPORTS, AND INITIA-
9 TIVES.—The key services, supports, and initiatives
10 described in this paragraph may include—

11 “(A) disease prevention and health pro-
12 motion services, long-term care services and
13 supports, human services, and any other public
14 health or health care, services, supports, or ini-
15 tiatives;

16 “(B) services, supports, and initiatives
17 with respect to—

18 “(i) retirement security;

19 “(ii) nutrition and food security;

20 “(iii) economic security, including
21 benefits access and job training and place-
22 ment;

23 “(iv) elder rights protection and au-
24 tonomy;

1 “(v) housing, including home modi-
2 fications, minor home repair, and home
3 technology improvements;

4 “(vi) education, including digital and
5 financial literacy and education on retire-
6 ment planning;

7 “(vii) accessible and reliable transpor-
8 tation;

9 “(viii) civic participation and social
10 and community engagement; and

11 “(ix) broadband access;

12 “(C) services, supports, and initiatives for
13 assisting covered individuals with disaster pre-
14 paredness and during a major disaster or emer-
15 gency declared by the President under section
16 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
17 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
18 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) or any other natural dis-
19 aster declared by the Governor of the applicable
20 State;

21 “(D) affordable, accessible, and culturally
22 and linguistically appropriate services, including
23 translation, interpretation, and outreach for
24 limited English proficiency communities; and

1 “(E) any other services, supports, or initia-
2 tives with respect to covered individuals, as de-
3 termined appropriate by the eligible entity.

4 “(4) KEY AGING ISSUES.—The key aging issues
5 described in this paragraph are each of the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(A) Supporting the ability of older indi-
8 viduals to be stably and safely housed, which
9 may include supporting their ability to age well
10 in the setting of their choice and to access
11 homelessness prevention services.

12 “(B) Expanding access to affordable, age-
13 friendly disease prevention and health pro-
14 motion services and health care, including nu-
15 trition services, exercise programs, stress man-
16 agement services, fall prevention services, men-
17 tal health services, behavioral health care, and
18 substance use disorder services to promote lon-
19 gevity.

20 “(C) Promoting disaster and pandemic
21 preparedness.

22 “(D) Promoting age-friendly communities,
23 as defined in section 203(c)(9).

24 “(E) Addressing the ability of older indi-
25 viduals to access affordable, high-quality long-

1 term services and supports, including access to
2 caregivers and home and community-based
3 services.

4 “(F) Expanding access to services that
5 promote elder justice and reduce elder abuse,
6 neglect, and exploitation.

7 “(G) Reducing disparities in outcomes for
8 covered individuals.

9 “(H) Promoting economic security and re-
10 tirement security and reducing poverty for cov-
11 ered individuals.

12 “(I) Promoting social connection and re-
13 ducing isolation and loneliness for covered indi-
14 viduals.

15 “(J) Ensuring public spaces are accessible
16 to, including safe for, older individuals, includ-
17 ing older individuals with disabilities.

18 “(K) Ensuring access to healthy and af-
19 fordable foods and reducing food insecurity,
20 hunger, and malnutrition.

21 “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
22 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application
23 to the Assistant Secretary at such time, in such manner,
24 and containing such information as the Assistant Sec-
25 retary may require, including—

1 “(1) information demonstrating the commit-
2 ment of the eligible entity to creating or imple-
3 menting a Plan, as evidenced by—

4 “(A) an Executive order issued by the head
5 of the eligible entity, or legislation enacted in
6 the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, author-
7 izing a Plan;

8 “(B) a letter from a qualified leader of the
9 eligible entity demonstrating the commitment of
10 the eligible entity to working across government
11 agencies or departments of the eligible entity,
12 as well as with aging and disability stakeholders
13 and other stakeholders in the public and private
14 sectors, to create or implement a Plan; and

15 “(C) any other declarations, activities, or
16 actions as determined appropriate by the As-
17 sistant Secretary;

18 “(2) a description of—

19 “(A) the working group described in sub-
20 section (c)(2)(A) that the eligible entity has
21 convened or plans to convene; and

22 “(B) any other anticipated activities and
23 programs (such as public hearings, public com-
24 ment periods, or listening sessions) to support
25 creating or implementing a Plan that reflects

1 demonstrated input from aging and disability
2 stakeholders, including covered individuals, and
3 other members of the public, including input
4 from members of Indian tribes or tribal organi-
5 zations;

6 “(3) an assessment of the needs of covered indi-
7 viduals, which may include targeted subgroups,
8 served by the eligible entity;

9 “(4) a consideration of varying needs of popu-
10 lations across different types of geographies in the
11 jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including urban,
12 rural, and frontier, as applicable; and

13 “(5) details on how the Plan will comply with
14 subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of subsection
15 (c)(2).

16 “(e) AWARDS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
18 shall award not more than 65 grants under this sec-
19 tion during the 5-year period beginning on the date
20 of enactment of this section.

21 “(2) SET ASIDE.—Of the grants awarded under
22 paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary shall award
23 not less than 10 grants to eligible entities that are
24 Indian tribes or tribal organizations.

1 “(3) PROCESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall
2 establish a process for—

3 “(A) selecting, including for prioritizing,
4 eligible entities to receive a grant under this
5 section; and

6 “(B) subject to paragraph (4), determining
7 the amount of each such grant, which shall in-
8 clude a tiered system depending on the popu-
9 lation in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

10 “(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—No grant awarded
11 under this section to an eligible entity shall exceed
12 \$500,000.

13 “(5) TERMS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity re-
15 ceiving a grant under this section shall—

16 “(i) receive a total amount for the
17 grant as a lump sum; and

18 “(ii) subject to subparagraph (B), ob-
19 ligate and expend such total amount in ac-
20 cordance with this section not later than 3
21 years after receiving such lump sum.

22 “(B) EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY.—An
23 eligible entity may, pursuant to an agreement
24 with the Assistant Secretary, obligate and ex-
25 pend amounts from a grant under this section

1 in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
2 tion after the 3-year period described in sub-
3 paragraph (A)(ii).

4 “(f) DEADLINE.—In the case of a grant awarded
5 under this section to create a Plan, the eligible entity re-
6 ceiving the grant shall create the Plan and begin imple-
7 menting the Plan not later than 2 years after receiving
8 the grant.

9 “(g) ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION PROCESS.—

10 “(1) DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Not
11 later than 1 year after receiving a grant under this
12 section, the eligible entity receiving the grant shall
13 submit to the Assistant Secretary a developmental
14 assessment. Such assessment may include—

15 “(A) 3 or more goals with respect to the
16 Plan that the eligible entity commits to ad-
17 dressing in the final Plan described in para-
18 graph (2)(A);

19 “(B) demonstrated use of data metrics to
20 inform the goals of the Plan, which data
21 metrics are derived from—

22 “(i) datasets or qualitative data with
23 respect to the population in the jurisdiction
24 of the eligible entity; and

1 “(ii) nationwide datasets or quali-
2 tative data, with an awareness that na-
3 tional datasets may not include data with
4 respect to Indian tribes and tribal organi-
5 zations;

6 “(C) demonstrated involvement with 3 or
7 more governmental departments or agencies of
8 the eligible entity on creation or implementation
9 of the Plan;

10 “(D) demonstrated input from—

11 “(i) the working group described in
12 subsection (c)(2)(A) convened by the eligi-
13 ble entity; and

14 “(ii) any other aging and disability
15 stakeholders;

16 “(E) demonstrated input from other indi-
17 viduals who will be impacted by the Plan;

18 “(F) as applicable, demonstrated incorpo-
19 ration of aging, disability, and older relative
20 caregiver plans and initiatives existing on the
21 day before the receipt of the grant in the juris-
22 diction of the eligible entity, which may include
23 such existing age-friendly plans, Tribal plans
24 and resolutions, initiatives in area plans sub-
25 mitted under section 306 and State plans sub-

1 mitted under section 307, and working groups
2 or task forces related to aging, disability, or
3 older relative caregiver initiatives;

4 “(G) demonstrated assurances that the eli-
5 gible entity agrees to make available (directly or
6 through public or private entities) non-Federal
7 contributions towards the costs of the Plan; and

8 “(H) as applicable, a timeline and working
9 plan for finalizing the Plan and beginning im-
10 plementation of the Plan not later than 2 years
11 after the grant is awarded.

12 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT.—Not
13 later than 2 years after receiving a grant under this
14 section, the eligible entity receiving the grant shall
15 submit to the Assistant Secretary an implementation
16 assessment. Such assessment shall include—

17 “(A) a final Plan, including 3 or more
18 goals for the Plan and short- and long-term pri-
19 orities or initiatives to meet each of those goals;

20 “(B) an update regarding all matters in-
21 cluded in the developmental assessment sub-
22 mitted under paragraph (1);

23 “(C) for each priority or initiative de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A), identified bench-
25 marks or data metrics that are identified in a

1 publicly accessible way such as through a data
2 dashboard or in a report;

3 “(D) a plan for accountability that in-
4 cludes—

5 “(i) demonstrated commitment of a
6 qualified leader of the eligible entity to exe-
7 cute and oversee such plan for account-
8 ability, as evidenced by information deter-
9 mined appropriate by the Assistant Sec-
10 retary;

11 “(ii) one or more departments or
12 agencies of the eligible entity listed as ac-
13 countable for each priority or initiative de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A);

15 “(iii) a plan to continue to engage
16 aging and disability stakeholders, and
17 other key players or partners as deter-
18 mined by the eligible entity, through advi-
19 sory groups, public hearings held by the
20 implementation committee as described in
21 clause (iv)(II)(cc), or other means;

22 “(iv) the establishment of an imple-
23 mentation committee, which shall—

24 “(I) consist of the working group
25 described in subsection (c)(2)(A) con-

1 vened by the eligible entity and as ap-
2 plicable other regional, State, local, or
3 Tribal participants as determined ap-
4 propriate by the eligible entity; and

5 “(II) be responsible for—

6 “(aa) assisting in ensuring
7 that the goals of the Plan de-
8 scribed in subparagraph (A) are
9 implemented;

10 “(bb) participating in the
11 development of the progress re-
12 port described in subparagraph
13 (E); and

14 “(cc) holding public hear-
15 ings, with an opportunity for
16 public comment, for the purposes
17 described in clause (iii); and

18 “(v) a plan for identifying and re-
19 sponding to any disparities in access to key
20 services, supports, and initiatives in the ju-
21 risdiction of the eligible entity as described
22 in subsection (c)(3); and

23 “(E) a progress report schedule that in-
24 cludes—

1 “(i) an established process for bi-year-
2 ly updates to the Plan throughout a 10-
3 year period; and

4 “(ii) opportunities for input from
5 aging and disability stakeholders and any
6 other individuals impacted by the Plan.

7 “(h) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
8 the Assistant Secretary shall consult the Interagency Co-
9 ordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly
10 Communities established under section 203(c).

11 “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Sec-
12 retary shall provide technical assistance to eligible entities
13 who are seeking or have received a grant under this sec-
14 tion in complying with the requirements of this section or
15 otherwise creating or implementing a Plan.

16 “(j) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
18 There is authorized to be appropriated for each of
19 fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to the Assistant Sec-
20 retary to remain available until expended \$6,500,000
21 to carry out this section.

22 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amounts
23 appropriated under this section for a year, the As-
24 sistant Secretary shall use not more than 3 percent

1 to carry out subsection (i) and for any other admin-
2 istrative costs.”.

3 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON
4 HEALTHY AGING AND AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.—
5 Section 203(c)(1) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
6 U.S.C. 3013(c)(1)) is amended by striking “with respect
7 to aging issues and” and inserting “with respect to aging
8 issues, advising the Assistant Secretary on carrying out
9 the grant program under section 423, and”.