

Social Determinants Accelerator Act
SECTION BY SECTION

SECTION 1 – SHORT TITLE

- The Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2019

SECTION 2 – FINDINGS; PURPOSE

- **Findings** – There is a significant body of evidence showing that economic and social conditions have a powerful impact on individual and population health outcomes and wellbeing, as well as medical costs. However, state, local and tribal governments face challenges in coordinating benefits and services delivered through Medicaid and other social service programs due to complex rules and administration.
- **Purpose** - To assist state, local and tribal governments in improving health and social outcomes for individuals and the return on investment for health and social services programs by: (1) establishing effective technical assistance to overcome barriers to coordinating services across sectors; and (2) creating a pipeline of state and locally designed, cross-sector strategies that will generate rigorous evidence about their impact.

SECTION 3 – SOCIAL DETERMINANTS ACCELERATOR COUNCIL

- **Establishment** - Instructs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), in coordination with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to establish an interagency, intergovernmental technical advisory council, known as the Social Determinants Accelerator Interagency Council (the Council).
- **Membership** - The Council will include designees from federal agencies and up to six state, local and tribal health and human service agencies, public housing authorities, state and local government budget offices, state Medicaid agencies, or national consumer advocacy organizations.
- **Duties** - The Council will be responsible for (1) making recommendations to the HHS Secretary and the CMS Administrator regarding the criteria for making awards; (2) identifying federal authorities and opportunities to improve coordination of funding and administration of federal programs; (3) providing targeted technical assistance to states developing Social Determinants Accelerator Plans; (4) providing an annual report to Congress; (5) developing and disseminating evaluation guidelines and standards that may be used to assess planned interventions and approaches; (6) seeking feedback on how to improve the Council's technical assistance; and (7) coordinating with other relevant cross-agency initiatives.

SECTION 4 – SOCIAL DETERMINANTS ACCELERATOR GRANTS TO STATES OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- **Grants to State, Local, and Tribal Governments** – Up to twenty-five grants to state, local or tribal governments to develop Social Determinants Accelerator Plans will be awarded within six months of enactment.
- **Applications for Grants** – Applications must include information related to the target population that would benefit from the Social Determinants Accelerator Plan, the objective

or goals, the proposed interventions, and key stakeholders that will participate in developing the plan, among other details as determined by the Secretary.

- **Use of Grants** – Grants may be used to convene and coordinate with relevant government entities and stakeholders, to collaborate with the Council on developing a Social Determinants Accelerator Plan, and to prepare and submit a final Plan to the Council.
- **Social Determinants Accelerator Plans** – Social Determinants Accelerator Plans developed by state, local, and tribal governments must include information on the target population that would benefit, the proposed interventions or approaches and the intended objectives and outcome goals, a plan for accessing and linking data to enable coordinated benefits and services, the stakeholders involved in the planning process, and a proposed evaluation plan, among other information.

SECTION 5 – FUNDING

- **Funding** - Authorizes \$25 million in funding, of which up to \$5 million may be used to fund the Council’s activities.
- **Rural Set-Aside** - Sets aside up to 20 percent of the funding – with limited exceptions – to award grants to develop plans that will primarily serve rural populations.