

health of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall award grants to eligible entities to establish demonstration projects for the provision of mental health services to special populations as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth and for the provision of education regarding mental illness as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth.

**(2) Populations served**

The Secretary shall award the grants under paragraph (1) in a manner that distributes the grants so as to serve equitably the populations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(3) of this section.

**(c) Use of funds**

**(1) In general**

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds—

(A) for the populations described in subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section—

(i) to provide mental health services, including diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth; and

(ii) to collaborate with local public health entities to provide the mental health services; and

(B) for the populations described in subsection (a)(3)(B) of this section—

(i) to provide mental health services, including diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, in long-term care facilities as delivered remotely by qualified mental health professionals using telehealth; and

(ii) to collaborate with local public health entities to provide the mental health services.

**(2) Other uses**

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may also use the grant funds to—

(A) pay telecommunications costs; and

(B) pay qualified mental health professionals on a reasonable cost basis as determined by the Secretary for services rendered.

**(3) Prohibited uses**

An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall not use the grant funds to—

(A) purchase or install transmission equipment (other than such equipment used by qualified mental health professionals to deliver mental health services using telehealth under the project involved); or

(B) build upon or acquire real property.

**(d) Equitable distribution**

In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that such grants are equitably distributed among geographical regions of the United States.

**(e) Application**

An entity that desires a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Sec-

retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary determines to be reasonable.

**(f) Report**

Not later than 4 years after October 26, 2002, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that shall evaluate activities funded with grants under this section.

**(g) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §330K, as added Pub. L. 107-251, title II, §221, Oct. 26, 2002, 116 Stat. 1640; amended Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2021.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Title XVIII of the Act is classified generally to subchapter XVIII (§1395 et seq.) of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(1), substituted “subsection (a)(3)” for “subsection (a)(4)”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(2)(A), substituted “subsection (a)(3)(A)” for “subsection (a)(4)(A)”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(B). Pub. L. 108-163, §2(d)(2)(B), substituted “subsection (a)(3)(B)” for “subsection (a)(4)(B)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendments by Pub. L. 108-163 deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Pub. L. 107-251, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-163, set out as a note under section 233 of this title.

**§ 254c-17. Repealed. Pub. L. 108-163, §2(e)(2), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2021**

Section, Pub. L. 107-251, title I, §102, Oct. 26, 2002, 116 Stat. 1627, provided for grants to State professional licensing boards to develop and implement State policies to promote telemedicine.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Pub. L. 107-251, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-163, set out as an Effective Date of 2003 Amendments note under section 233 of this title.

**§ 254c-18. Telemedicine; incentive grants regarding coordination among States**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary may make grants to State professional licensing boards to carry out programs under which such licensing boards of various States cooperate to develop and implement State policies that will reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine.

**(b) Authorization of appropriations**

For the purpose of carrying out subsection (a) of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.