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S. 3303

[Report No. 119-_____]]

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to establish or enhance a community integration platform for services for veterans, to require the collection from veterans of information related to social determinants of health, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by _____, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to establish or enhance a community integration platform for services for veterans, to require the collection from veterans of information related to social determinants of health, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Leveraging Integrated
3 Networks in Communities for Veterans Act” or the
4 “LINC VA Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ESTABLISHMENT OR EN-**
6 **HANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY INTEGRATION**
7 **PLATFORM FOR VETERANS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Center for Innova-
11 tion for Care and Payment of the Department of Veterans
12 Affairs, shall carry out a pilot program under which the
13 Secretary shall establish a new, or enhance an existing,
14 interoperable community integration platform to coordi-
15 nate local support services for veterans through other gov-
16 ernmental and nongovernmental organizations (in this sec-
17 tion referred to as the “pilot program”).

18 (b) **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PLATFORM.**—The
19 community integration platform established or enhanced
20 pursuant to the pilot program shall be accessible to vet-
21 erans, employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
22 and others participating in the pilot program as deter-
23 mined appropriate by the Secretary and shall—

24 (1) enable the coordination of services such
25 as—

26 (A) nutritional assistance;

1 ~~(B)~~ housing;

2 ~~(C)~~ health care, including preventive health
3 intervention, chronic disease management, and
4 behavioral health care;

5 ~~(D)~~ transportation;

6 ~~(E)~~ job training;

7 ~~(F)~~ child development or care;

8 ~~(G)~~ caregiving and respite care;

9 ~~(H)~~ disability assistance;

10 ~~(I)~~ suicide prevention;

11 ~~(J)~~ sexual assault services;

12 ~~(K)~~ legal aid;

13 ~~(L)~~ transition programs of the Department
14 of Defense; and

15 ~~(M)~~ other services, as determined by the
16 Secretary;

17 ~~(2)~~ prioritize connectivity with appropriate ex-
18 isting technology networks developed by public or
19 private organizations that comply with, as applica-
20 ble, standards adopted by the Secretary of Health
21 and Human Services under section 3004 of the Pub-
22 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj-14), for the
23 purposes described in paragraph (1);

24 ~~(3)~~ ensure that—

1 (A) reasonable measures are taken to pro-
2 mote connectivity and interoperable exchange
3 among covered entities; and

4 (B) appropriate privacy and security pro-
5 tections are in place, in accordance with appli-
6 cable Federal and State privacy laws;

7 (4) connect covered entities for purposes of
8 communication, service coordination and consumer
9 assistance, referral and capacity management, out-
10 come tracking and reporting, and related services;

11 (5) provide technical assistance and support
12 covered entities in connecting and participating in
13 the community integration platform;

14 (6) collect information from veterans served
15 under the pilot program regarding social deter-
16 minants of health using a standardized risk assess-
17 ment or screening tool, which shall include standard-
18 ized definitions for identifying social determinants of
19 health needs identified in the ICD-10 diagnostic
20 codes Z55 through Z63 and Z75 (as in effect on the
21 date of the enactment of this Act) that incorporate
22 measures for quantifying the relative severity of any
23 such social determinant of health need identified in
24 a veteran;

1 (7) incorporate screenings used to collect infor-
2 mation under paragraph (6) into routine care pro-
3 vided to veterans under the laws administered by the
4 Secretary; and

5 (8) be accessible via a web-based platform for
6 all veterans and via a non-web-based alternative
7 platform or process for veterans who are unable to
8 easily and reliably access the web-based platform.

9 (c) LOCATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall carry out the pilot program at not
12 fewer than five medical facilities of the Department
13 of Veterans Affairs.

14 (2) VARIETY OF FACILITIES.—In selecting fa-
15 cilities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall en-
16 sure the selection of a variety of different types of
17 facilities, including—

18 (A) frontier facilities;

19 (B) under-resourced facilities; and

20 (C) facilities at which there are existing ef-
21 forts to coordinate with community resources.

22 (d) COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF PRO-
23 GRAMS.—

24 (1) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING NET-
25 WORKS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Sec-

1 retary of Veterans Affairs shall coordinate with ex-
2 isting community networks.

3 (2) COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION WITH
4 STATE MEDICAID PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of
5 Health and Human Services, in consultation with
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall issue guid-
7 ance to States that includes options for State Med-
8 icaid programs to coordinate and integrate medical
9 assistance provided under a State plan or waiver
10 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42
11 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) with services for veterans pro-
12 vided under the pilot program, as well as a template
13 for States to use to request or modify Medicaid
14 waiver authority under section 1115 of the Social
15 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) for such purpose.

16 (e) TRACKING OF REFERRALS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
18 Affairs shall track—

19 (A) the accuracy of referrals of veterans to
20 community networks under the pilot program;

21 (B) the response time of providers to
22 which such veterans are referred; and

23 (C) the outcome of the initial meeting by
24 a veteran and the provider to which the veteran
25 is referred.

1 (2) FORM.—The Secretary may track the infor-
2 mation required under paragraph (1) in any medium
3 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

4 (f) REPORT.—Not later than three years after
5 amounts are first appropriated to carry out the pilot pro-
6 gram, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
7 Congress a report indicating the social service needs of
8 veterans reflected by the use of services under the commu-
9 nity integration platform established or enhanced under
10 the pilot program, including an assessment of—

11 (1) the need for services that is being met
12 through such platform; and

13 (2) the need for services that is not being met
14 through such platform.

15 (g) COMPTROLLER GENERAL EVALUATION, REPORT,
16 AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

17 (1) EVALUATION.—The Comptroller General of
18 the United States shall conduct an evaluation that
19 measures the overall impact of the community inte-
20 gration platform established or enhanced under the
21 pilot program with respect to—

22 (A) changes in individual and population
23 health outcomes among veterans;

24 (B) changes in access to health care or so-
25 cial services among veterans; and

1 (C) such other factors as the Comptroller
2 General considers appropriate.

3 ~~(2) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—~~

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than four
5 years after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act, the Comptroller General shall—

7 (i) submit to Congress a report on the
8 evaluation conducted under paragraph (1);

9 (ii) make such report publicly avail-
10 able; and

11 (iii) based on such evaluation, make
12 recommendations to the Secretary of Vet-
13 erans Affairs on how to improve and sus-
14 tain the community integration platform
15 established or enhanced under the pilot
16 program.

17 (B) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—The report
18 under subparagraph (A)(i) shall include data
19 on—

20 (i) what resources under the pilot pro-
21 gram are being utilized the most;

22 (ii) what requests for services under
23 the pilot program cannot be met; and

1 (iii) the impact of the provision of
2 services under the pilot program on health
3 outcomes of veterans.

4 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PLATFORM.—

6 The term “community integration platform” means
7 an interoperable platform used to enable the coordi-
8 nation, alignment, and connection of covered entities
9 at the local level for purposes of communication,
10 service coordination, and referral management of
11 services, with respect to services specified in sub-
12 section (b)(1).

13 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
14 tity” means any—

15 (A) community-based organization that—

16 (i) accepts referrals from health care
17 organizations; and

18 (ii) provides services specified in sub-
19 section (b)(1).

20 (B) public or private health care provider
21 organization;

22 (C) public or private funded payor of
23 health care services, including home- or commu-
24 nity-based services;

1 (D) State, local, territorial, or Tribal
2 health and social services agency;

3 (E) State public housing authority or
4 housing finance agency;

5 (F) public health information exchange or
6 public health information network, as defined
7 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; or

8 (G) other similar entity, as determined by
9 the Secretary.

10 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means a State,
11 territory of the United States, or the District of Co-
12 lumbia.

13 **SEC. 3. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM VETERANS**
14 **RELATED TO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF**
15 **HEALTH.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
17 shall collect from veterans enrolled in the system of annual
18 patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs
19 established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38,
20 United States Code, as part of routine screenings of such
21 veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary, in-
22 formation related to social determinants that may factor
23 into the health of such veterans.

24 (b) SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.—

1 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The information collected
2 under subsection (a) shall include standardized defi-
3 nitions for identifying social determinants of health
4 needs identified in the ICD-10 diagnostic codes Z55
5 through Z63 and Z75 (as in effect on the date of
6 enactment of this Act).

7 (2) ~~INCORPORATION OF MEASURES.~~—Defini-
8 tions included under paragraph (1) with respect to
9 identifying social determinants of health needs shall
10 incorporate measures for quantifying the relative se-
11 verity of any such social determinant of health need
12 identified in an individual.

13 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

14 *This Act may be cited as the “Leveraging Integrated*
15 *Networks in Communities for Veterans Act” or the “LINC*
16 *VA Act”.*

17 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ESTABLISHMENT OR ENHANCE-**
18 **MENT OF COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PLAT-**
19 **FORM FOR VETERANS.**

20 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Commencing not later than 18
21 *months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-*
22 *retary, acting through the Center for Innovation for Care*
23 *and Payment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall*
24 *carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall*
25 *establish a new, or enhance an existing, interoperable com-*

1 *munity integration platform to coordinate local support*
2 *services for veterans through other governmental and non-*
3 *governmental organizations (in this section referred to as*
4 *the “pilot program”).*

5 *(b) ELEMENTS OF PILOT PROGRAM.—In carrying out*
6 *the pilot program, the Secretary shall ensure that the com-*
7 *munity integration platform established or enhanced under*
8 *the pilot program—*

9 *(1) permits veterans to identify and connect with*
10 *covered entities that furnish covered services;*

11 *(2) permits covered entities to identify and con-*
12 *nect with veterans in need of covered services;*

13 *(3) utilizes, to the extent practicable, existing*
14 *interoperable technology networks;*

15 *(4) prioritizes connectivity with appropriate ex-*
16 *isting technology networks developed by public or pri-*
17 *ivate organizations that comply with, as applicable,*
18 *standards adopted by the Secretary of Health and*
19 *Human Services under section 3004 of the Public*
20 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj–14), for the pro-*
21 *vision of covered services;*

22 *(5) ensures that—*

23 *(A) reasonable measures are taken to pro-*
24 *mote connectivity and interoperable exchange*

1 *among covered entities and between covered enti-*
2 *ties and veterans; and*

3 *(B) appropriate privacy and security pro-*
4 *tections are in place, in accordance with appli-*
5 *cable Federal and State privacy law;*

6 *(6) is accessible by employees of the Department,*
7 *covered entities, and veterans;*

8 *(7) connects covered entities and veterans for*
9 *purposes of communication, service coordination, and*
10 *consumer assistance, referral and capacity manage-*
11 *ment, outcome tracking and reporting, and related*
12 *services; and*

13 *(8) is accessible via a web-based platform for all*
14 *veterans and via a non-web-based alternative plat-*
15 *form or process for veterans who are unable to easily*
16 *and reliably access the web-based platform.*

17 *(c) LOCATIONS.—*

18 *(1) INITIAL LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall*
19 *carry out the pilot program at not fewer than five*
20 *medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Af-*
21 *airs selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot*
22 *program.*

23 *(2) EXPANSION.—The Secretary may expand be-*
24 *yond initial sites for the pilot program selected under*
25 *paragraph (1) if implementation of the pilot program*

1 *at those initial sites has demonstrated improvements*
2 *in referral completion and access to services by vet-*
3 *erans.*

4 (3) *VARIETY OF FACILITIES.—In selecting facili-*
5 *ties under paragraph (1), or pursuant to any expan-*
6 *sion under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure*
7 *the selection of a variety of different types of facili-*
8 *ties, including—*

9 (A) *frontier facilities;*

10 (B) *under-resourced facilities;*

11 (C) *facilities at which there are existing ef-*
12 *forts to coordinate with community resources;*
13 *and*

14 (D) *facilities located in communities with*
15 *an established community-based veteran service*
16 *coordination network capable of integration with*
17 *the pilot program.*

18 (d) *PROCUREMENT OF TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out*
19 *the pilot program, the Secretary shall ensure full and open*
20 *competition in the procurement of any services or tech-*
21 *nology and shall not enter into an exclusive national con-*
22 *tract for the operation of the community integration plat-*
23 *form under the pilot program.*

24 (e) *APPLICATION PROCESS.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may require*
2 *covered entities that seek to participate in the pilot*
3 *program to submit to the Secretary an application*
4 *therefor in such form, in such manner, and con-*
5 *taining such commitments and information as the*
6 *Secretary considers necessary to carry out this sec-*
7 *tion.*

8 (2) *REVIEW.*—

9 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall re-*
10 *view the applications of covered entities sub-*
11 *mitted under paragraph (1) to ensure that the*
12 *participation of such entities would be safe and*
13 *appropriate for veterans participating in the*
14 *pilot program.*

15 (B) *DUE DILIGENCE.*—*In reviewing appli-*
16 *cations under subparagraph (A), the Secretary*
17 *shall conduct due diligence consistent with how*
18 *the Secretary conducts due diligence for public-*
19 *private partnerships under other laws adminis-*
20 *tered by the Secretary.*

21 (f) *SCREENING AND TRACKING OF PARTICIPANTS.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall require*
23 *veterans participating in the community integration*
24 *platform under the pilot program to provide informa-*
25 *tion regarding social determinants of health using the*

1 *ICD–10 diagnostic codes Z55 through Z63 and Z75*
2 *(as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act)*
3 *in a standardized risk assessment or screening tool*
4 *and such other information as the Secretary considers*
5 *necessary to administer the pilot program.*

6 (2) *INFORMED CONSENT.*—*Information collected*
7 *under the pilot program with respect to a veteran*
8 *shall be obtained with the informed consent of the vet-*
9 *eran and used solely for purposes of care coordina-*
10 *tion, service delivery, or program evaluation under*
11 *the pilot program.*

12 (3) *TRACKING OF INFORMATION.*—

13 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall*
14 *track—*

15 (i) *the number of referrals of veterans*
16 *to covered entities through the community*
17 *integration platform under the pilot pro-*
18 *gram;*

19 (ii) *the response time of covered enti-*
20 *ties to which such veterans are referred; and*

21 (iii) *the outcome of the initial meeting*
22 *by a veteran and a covered entity to which*
23 *the veteran is referred, including a descrip-*
24 *tion of the services that are provided to the*
25 *veteran by such entity.*

1 (B) *TRACKING BY ENTITIES.*—*The Sec-*
2 *retary may require covered entities participating*
3 *in the pilot program to track the information re-*
4 *quired under subparagraph (A) in a medium de-*
5 *termined appropriate by the Secretary.*

6 (g) *COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF PRO-*
7 *GRAMS.*—

8 (1) *COORDINATION WITH EXISTING NETWORKS.*—
9 *In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall*
10 *coordinate with existing community networks.*

11 (2) *COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION WITH*
12 *STATE MEDICAID PROGRAMS.*—*The Secretary of*
13 *Health and Human Services, in consultation with the*
14 *Secretary, shall issue guidance to States that includes*
15 *options for State Medicaid programs to coordinate*
16 *and integrate medical assistance provided under a*
17 *State plan or waiver under title XIX of the Social Se-*
18 *curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) with services for*
19 *veterans provided under the pilot program, as well as*
20 *a template for States to use to request or modify Med-*
21 *icaid waiver authority under section 1115 of the So-*
22 *cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) for such purpose.*

23 (h) *PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS.*—*The Secretary*
24 *shall establish performance benchmarks for the pilot pro-*

1 *gram, including measures of referral completion, timeliness*
2 *of service connection, and veteran-reported satisfaction.*

3 *(i) REPORT AND BRIEFINGS.—*

4 *(1) REPORT.—Not later than three years after*
5 *the commencement of the pilot program, the Secretary*
6 *shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*
7 *gress a report analyzing the needs of veterans for cov-*
8 *ered services reflected by the use of such services under*
9 *the community integration platform under the pilot*
10 *program, including an assessment of—*

11 *(A) the need for such services that is being*
12 *met through such platform; and*

13 *(B) the need for such services that is not*
14 *being met through such platform.*

15 *(2) BRIEFING ON ENTITIES NOT SELECTED.—Not*
16 *later than 180 days after the commencement of the*
17 *pilot program, and not less frequently than once every*
18 *180 days thereafter until the conclusion of the pilot*
19 *program, the Secretary shall brief the appropriate*
20 *committees of Congress on the covered entities that*
21 *submitted an application to participate in the pilot*
22 *program but were not selected for participation and*
23 *the reason those entities were not selected.*

24 *(j) COMPTROLLER GENERAL EVALUATION, REPORT,*
25 *AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—*

1 (1) *EVALUATION.*—*The Comptroller General of*
2 *the United States shall conduct an evaluation that*
3 *measures the overall impact of the community inte-*
4 *gration platform established or enhanced under the*
5 *pilot program with respect to—*

6 (A) *changes in individual and population*
7 *health outcomes among veterans;*

8 (B) *changes in access to health care or so-*
9 *cial services among veterans; and*

10 (C) *such other factors as the Comptroller*
11 *General considers appropriate.*

12 (2) *REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.*—

13 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than four*
14 *years after the commencement of the pilot pro-*
15 *gram, the Comptroller General shall—*

16 (i) *submit to Congress a report on the*
17 *evaluation conducted under paragraph (1);*

18 (ii) *make such report publicly avail-*
19 *able; and*

20 (iii) *based on such evaluation, make*
21 *recommendations to the Secretary on how to*
22 *improve and sustain the community inte-*
23 *gration platform established or enhanced*
24 *under the pilot program.*

1 (B) *ELEMENTS OF REPORT.*—*The report*
2 *under subparagraph (A)(i) shall include data*
3 *on—*

4 (i) *what covered sources under the pilot*
5 *program are being utilized the most;*

6 (ii) *what requests for services under the*
7 *pilot program cannot be met; and*

8 (iii) *the impact of the provision of*
9 *services under the pilot program on health*
10 *outcomes of veterans.*

11 (k) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

12 (1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—
13 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
14 *means the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-*
15 *ate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the*
16 *House of Representatives.*

17 (2) *COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PLATFORM.*—*The*
18 *term “community integration platform” means an*
19 *interoperable platform or network of interoperable*
20 *systems used to enable the coordination, alignment,*
21 *and connection of covered entities and veterans at the*
22 *local level for purposes of communication, service co-*
23 *ordination, and referral management of covered serv-*
24 *ices.*

1 (3) *COVERED ENTITY*.—The term “covered enti-
2 ty” means any of the following entities or providers
3 that have entered into an agreement with the Sec-
4 retary to participate in the pilot program:

5 (A) *A community-based organization that—*

6 (i) *accepts referrals from health care*
7 *organizations; and*

8 (ii) *provides covered services.*

9 (B) *A public or private health care provider*
10 *organization.*

11 (C) *A public or private funded payor of*
12 *health care services, including home- or commu-*
13 *nity-based services.*

14 (D) *A State, local, territorial, or Tribal*
15 *health or social services agency.*

16 (E) *A State public housing authority or*
17 *housing finance agency.*

18 (F) *A public health information exchange or*
19 *public health information network, as defined by*
20 *the Secretary.*

21 (G) *A faith-based service provider.*

22 (H) *Any other similar entity, as determined*
23 *by the Secretary.*

24 (4) *COVERED SERVICES*.—The term “covered
25 services” means any of the following:

1 (A) *Nutritional assistance.*

2 (B) *Housing.*

3 (C) *Health care, including preventive health*
4 *intervention, chronic disease management, and*
5 *behavioral health care.*

6 (D) *Transportation.*

7 (E) *Job training and employment.*

8 (F) *Child development or care.*

9 (G) *Caregiving and respite care.*

10 (H) *Disability assistance.*

11 (I) *Suicide prevention.*

12 (J) *Sexual assault services.*

13 (K) *Legal aid.*

14 (L) *Transition assistance for veterans newly*
15 *separated or discharged from active military,*
16 *naval, air, or space service (as defined in section*
17 *101(24) of title 38, United States Code).*

18 (M) *Assistance with utilities necessary for*
19 *safe habitation.*

20 (N) *Other services, as determined by the*
21 *Secretary.*

22 (5) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
23 *the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

1 (6) *STATE*.—The term “State” has the meaning
2 given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
3 States Code.

4 **SEC. 3. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM VETERANS**
5 **RELATED TO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF**
6 **HEALTH.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 shall collect from veterans enrolled in the system of annual
9 patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs
10 established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38,
11 United States Code, as part of routine screenings of such
12 veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary, in-
13 formation related to social determinants that may factor
14 into the health of such veterans.

15 (b) *SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH*.—

16 (1) *IN GENERAL*.—The information collected
17 under subsection (a) shall include standardized defi-
18 nitions for identifying social determinants of health
19 needs identified in the ICD–10 diagnostic codes Z55
20 through Z63 and Z75 (as in effect on the date of en-
21 actment of this Act).

22 (2) *INCORPORATION OF MEASURES*.—Definitions
23 included under paragraph (1) with respect to identi-
24 fying social determinants of health needs shall incor-
25 porate measures for quantifying the relative severity

1 *of any such social determinant of health need identi-*
2 *fied in an individual.*