

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7932

To award funds for community college and industry partnerships.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Mrs. LEE of Nevada introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To award funds for community college and industry
partnerships.

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 “Community College
5 Workforce Training Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNER-**
7 **SHIP GRANTS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
10 ty” means an eligible institution or a consortia of
11 such eligible institutions.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
2 ble institution” means a public institution of higher
3 education (as defined in section 101(a) of the High-
4 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) at
5 which the highest degree that is predominantly
6 awarded to students is an associate degree, including
7 a 2-year Tribal College or University (as defined in
8 section 316 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C.
9 1059e)).

10 (3) PERKINS CTE DEFINITIONS.—The terms
11 “career and technical education”, “dual or concu-
12 rent enrollment”, and “work-based learning” have
13 the meanings given the terms in section 3 of the
14 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
15 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Labor.

18 (b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND
19 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the funds appro-
21 priated under subsection (h) and not reserved under
22 subsection (f), the Secretary, in collaboration with
23 the Secretary of Education (acting through the Of-
24 fice of Career, Technical, and Adult Education),
25 shall award, on a competitive basis, grants, con-

1 tracts, or cooperative agreements in accordance with
2 section 169(b)(5) of the Workforce Innovation and
3 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224(b)(5)) to eligible
4 entities to assist such eligible entities in—

5 (A) establishing and scaling career training
6 programs, including career and technical edu-
7 cation programs;

8 (B) establishing industry and sector part-
9 nerships to inform such programs; and

10 (C) providing necessary student supports.

11 (2) AWARD AMOUNTS.—The total amount of
12 funds awarded under this section to an eligible enti-
13 ty shall not exceed—

14 (A) in the case of an eligible entity that is
15 a single eligible institution, \$2,500,000; and

16 (B) in the case of an eligible entity that is
17 a consortia of eligible institutions, \$15,000,000.

18 (3) AWARD PERIOD.—A grant, contract, or co-
19 operative agreement awarded under this section shall
20 be for a period of not more than 4 years, except that
21 the Secretary may extend such a grant, contract, or
22 cooperative agreement for an additional 2-year pe-
23 riod, based on the outcomes reported under sub-
24 section (g)(1) of the programs supported under such
25 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

1 (4) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—In awarding
2 funds under this section, the Secretary shall ensure,
3 to the extent practicable, the equitable distribution
4 of funds, based on—

5 (A) geography (such as urban and rural
6 distribution); and

7 (B) States and local areas significantly im-
8 pacted by the COVID–19 national emergency.

9 (c) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding funds under this section,
10 the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that
11 will use such funds to serve individuals impacted by the
12 COVID–19 national emergency, as demonstrated by pro-
13 viding an assurance in the application submitted under
14 subsection (d) that the eligible entity will use such funds
15 to—

16 (1) serve such individuals with barriers to em-
17 ployment, veterans, spouses of members of the
18 Armed Forces, Native American Indians, Alaska Na-
19 tives, Native Hawaiians, individuals with disabilities,
20 or incumbent workers who are low-skilled and who
21 need to increase their employability skills;

22 (2) serve such individuals from each major ra-
23 cial and ethnic group and gender with lower than av-
24 erage educational attainment in the State or employ-

1 ment in the in-demand industry sector or occupation
2 that such award will support; or

3 (3) serve areas with high unemployment rates
4 or high levels of poverty, including rural areas.

5 (d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking an
6 award of funds under this section shall submit to the Sec-
7 retary an application containing a grant proposal at such
8 time and in such manner, and containing such informa-
9 tion, as required by the Secretary, including a detailed de-
10 scription of the following:

11 (1) Each entity (and the roles and responsibil-
12 ities of each entity) with which the eligible entity will
13 partner to carry out activities under this section, in-
14 cluding each of the following:

15 (A) An industry or sector partnership rep-
16 resenting a high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand
17 industry sector or occupation.

18 (B) A State higher education agency or a
19 State workforce agency.

20 (C) To the extent practicable—

21 (i) State or local workforce develop-
22 ment systems;

23 (ii) economic development and other
24 relevant State or local agencies;

1 (iii) one or more community-based or-
2 ganizations;

3 (iv) one or more institutions of higher
4 education that primarily award 4-year de-
5 grees with which the eligible institution has
6 developed or will develop articulation
7 agreements for programs created or ex-
8 panded using funds under this section;

9 (v) one or more providers of adult
10 education; and

11 (vi) one or more labor organizations
12 or joint labor-management partnerships.

13 (2) The programs that will be supported with
14 such award, including a description of—

15 (A) each program that will be developed or
16 expanded, and how the program will be respon-
17 sive to the high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand
18 industry sectors or occupations in the geo-
19 graphic region served by the eligible entity
20 under this section, including—

21 (i) how the eligible entity will collabo-
22 rate with employers to ensure each such
23 program will provide the skills and com-
24 petencies necessary to meet future employ-
25 ment demand; and

1 (ii) the quantitative data and evidence
2 that demonstrates the extent to which each
3 such program will meet the needs of em-
4 ployers and workers in the geographic area
5 served by the eligible entity under this sec-
6 tion;

7 (B) the recognized postsecondary creden-
8 tials to be awarded under each program de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (A);

10 (C) how each such program will facilitate
11 cooperation between representatives of workers
12 and employers in the local areas to ensure a
13 fair and engaging workplace that balances the
14 priorities and well-being of workers with the
15 needs of businesses;

16 (D) the extent to which each such program
17 aligns with a statewide or regional workforce
18 development strategy, including such strategies
19 established under section 102(b)(1) of the
20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
21 U.S.C. 3112(b)(1)); and

22 (E) how the eligible entity will ensure the
23 quality of each such program, the career path-
24 ways within each such program, the stackability
25 and portability of credentials earned as part of

1 each such program, and the jobs in the industry
2 sectors or occupations to which each such pro-
3 gram is aligned.

4 (3) The extent to which the eligible entity can
5 leverage additional resources, and a demonstration
6 of the future sustainability of each such program.

7 (4) How each such program and activities car-
8 ried out under the grant will include evidence-based
9 practices, including a description of such practices.

10 (5) The student populations that will be served
11 by the eligible entity, including—

12 (A) an analysis of any barriers to employ-
13 ment or barriers to postsecondary education
14 that such populations face, and an analysis of
15 how the services to be provided by the eligible
16 entity under this section will address such bar-
17 riers; and

18 (B) how the eligible entity will support
19 such populations to establish a work history,
20 demonstrate success in the workplace, and de-
21 velop the skills and competencies that lead to
22 entry into and retention in unsubsidized em-
23 ployment.

1 (6) Assurances the eligible entity will partici-
2 pate in and comply with third-party evaluations de-
3 scribed in subsection (f)(2).

4 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall use a
6 grant awarded under this section to establish and
7 scale career training programs, including career and
8 technical education programs, and career pathways
9 and supports for students participating in such pro-
10 grams.

11 (2) STUDENT SUPPORT AND EMERGENCY SERV-
12 ICES.—Not less than 15 percent of the grant award-
13 ed to an eligible entity under this section shall be
14 used to carry out student support services, which
15 may include the following:

16 (A) Supportive services, including
17 childcare, transportation, mental health serv-
18 ices, or substance use disorder prevention and
19 treatment, assistance in obtaining health insur-
20 ance coverage, housing, and other benefits, as
21 appropriate.

22 (B) Connecting students to State or Fed-
23 eral means-tested benefits programs, including
24 the means-tested Federal benefits programs de-
25 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of

1 section 479(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act
2 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ss(d)(2)).

3 (C) The provision of direct financial assist-
4 ance to help students facing financial hardships
5 that may impact enrollment in or completion of
6 a program assisted with such funds.

7 (D) Navigation, coaching, mentorship, and
8 case management services, including providing
9 information and outreach to populations de-
10 scribed in subsection (c) to take part in a pro-
11 gram supported with such funds.

12 (E) Providing access to necessary supplies,
13 materials, technological devices, or required
14 equipment, and other supports necessary to
15 participate in such programs.

16 (3) ADDITIONAL REQUIRED PROGRAM ACTIVI-
17 TIES.—The funds awarded to an eligible entity
18 under this section that remain after carrying out
19 paragraph (1) shall be used to—

20 (A) create, develop, or expand articulation
21 agreements (as defined in section 486A(a) of
22 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
23 1093a(a))), credit transfer agreements, policies
24 to award credit for prior learning, corequisite
25 remediation, dual or concurrent enrollment pro-

1 grams, career pathways, and competency-based
2 education;

3 (B) establish or expand industry or sector
4 partnerships to develop or expand quality aca-
5 demic programs and curricula;

6 (C) establish or expand work-based learn-
7 ing opportunities, including apprenticeship pro-
8 grams registered under the Act of August 16,
9 1937 (commonly known as the “National Ap-
10 prenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;
11 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), or paid internships;

12 (D) establish or implement plans for the
13 eligible entity to be included on the list of eligi-
14 ble providers of training services described in
15 section 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation and
16 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(d));

17 (E) award academic credit or provide for
18 academic alignment towards credit pathways for
19 programs assisted with such funds, including
20 industry recognized credentials, competency-
21 based education, or work-based learning;

22 (F) make available open, searchable, and
23 comparable information on the recognized post-
24 secondary credentials awarded under such pro-
25 grams, including the related skills or com-

1 petencies and related employment and earnings
2 outcomes; or

3 (G) acquire equipment necessary to sup-
4 port activities permitted under this section.

5 (f) SECRETARIAL RESERVATIONS.—Not more than 5
6 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal year may
7 be used by the Secretary for—

8 (1) the administration of the program under
9 this section, including providing technical assistance
10 to eligible entities;

11 (2) targeted outreach to eligible institutions
12 serving a high number or high percentage of low-in-
13 come populations and rural serving eligible institu-
14 tions, to provide guidance and assistance in the
15 grant application process under this section; and

16 (3) a rigorous, third-party evaluation that uses
17 experimental or quasi-experimental design or other
18 research methodologies that allow for the strongest
19 possible causal inferences to determine whether each
20 eligible entity carrying out a program supported
21 under this section has met the goals of such pro-
22 gram as described in the application submitted by
23 such eligible entity, including through a national as-
24 sessment of all such programs at the conclusion of
25 each award period described in subsection (b)(3).

1 (g) REPORTS AND DISSEMINATION.—

2 (1) REPORTS.—

3 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—Each eligible enti-
4 ty receiving a grant, contract, or cooperative
5 agreement under this section shall submit to
6 the Secretary, for each year of the award period
7 of such grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
8 ment, and for the entire award period, 1 year
9 after the conclusion of such award period, a re-
10 port that includes—

11 (i) a description of the programs sup-
12 ported with such funds, including activities
13 carried out directly by the eligible entity
14 and activities carried out by each partner
15 of the eligible entity described in sub-
16 section (d)(1);

17 (ii) data on each population served
18 with the funds and labor market outcomes
19 of each such population;

20 (iii) resources leveraged by the eligible
21 entity to support activities under this sec-
22 tion; and

23 (iv) the performance of each such pro-
24 gram with respect to the indicators of per-
25 formance under section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of

1 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
2 Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)).

3 (B) SECRETARY.—Upon receipt of a report
4 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
5 submit such report to the Committee on Edu-
6 cation and Labor of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committee on Health, Education,
8 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

9 (2) DISSEMINATION.—Each eligible entity re-
10 ceiving funds under this section shall—

11 (A) participate in activities to disseminate
12 related research and best practices; and

13 (B) to the extent practicable, and as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary, make available to the
15 public any materials created under the grant.

16 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$2,000,000,000 through fiscal year 2024.

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