H. R. 1623

To reauthorize the Assets for Independence Act, to provide for the approval of applications to operate new demonstration programs and to renew existing programs, to enhance program flexibility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. STARK, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. SERRANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To reauthorize the Assets for Independence Act, to provide for the approval of applications to operate new demonstration programs and to renew existing programs, to enhance program flexibility, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the "Stephanie Tubbs Jones Assets for Independence Reauthorization Act of 2011".

(b) Reference.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Assets for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note).

(c) Table of Contents.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; reference; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 4. Definitions.
Sec. 5. Applications.
Sec. 6. Demonstration authority; annual grants.
Sec. 7. Reserve Fund.
Sec. 8. Eligibility for participation.
Sec. 9. Deposits by qualified entities.
Sec. 10. Regulations.
Sec. 11. Annual progress reports.
Sec. 12. Sanctions.
Sec. 13. Evaluations.
Sec. 14. Costs of training qualified entities.
Sec. 15. Waiver authority.
Sec. 16. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 17. Conforming amendments.
Sec. 18. General effective date.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 402 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "Fully 1⁄2" and inserting "Almost 1⁄4"; and
(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “Traditional public assistance programs concentrate on income and consumption and have lacked an asset-building component to promote and support the transition to increased economic self-sufficiency.”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that a qualified entity conducting a demonstration project under the Assets for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) should, to the maximum extent practicable, increase—

(1) the rate at which the entity matches contributions by individuals participating in the project under section 410(a)(1) of such Act; or

(2) the number of individuals participating in the project.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 404 is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘household’ means an individual or group of individuals who live in a single residence. Multiple households may share a single residence.”;

(2) in paragraph (5)(A)—
(A) by striking clause (iii);

(B) by redesignating clauses (iv) through (vi) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively;

and

(C) in clause (iv), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by striking “clause (vi)” and inserting “clause (v)”;

(3) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) a State or local government agency (or a public housing agency, as defined in section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6))) or a tribal government (or a tribally designated housing entity, as defined in section 4(22) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(22)));”;

and

(B) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) a credit union designated as a low-income credit union by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA); or
“(iv) an organization designated as a community development financial institution by the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund).”; and

(4) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the first sentence—

(I) by inserting “of an eligible individual or the dependent of an eligible individual (as such term is used in subparagraph (E)(ii))” after “expenses”; and

(II) by inserting “, or to a vendor pursuant to an education purchase plan approved by a qualified entity” before the period;

(ii) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by inserting “or for courses described in subclause (III)” after “eligible educational institution”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:
“(III) Preparatory courses.—Preparatory courses for an examination required for admission to an eligible educational institution, for successful performance at an eligible educational institution, or for a professional licensing or certification examination.

“(IV) Room and board and transportation.—Room and board and transportation, including commuting expenses, necessary to enable attendance at courses of instruction at an eligible educational institution or attendance at courses described in subclause (III).”;

(iii) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) Eligible educational institution.—The term ‘eligible educational institution’ means—

“(I) an institution described in section 101 or 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1001, 1002); or
“(II) an area career and technical education school, as defined in section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)).”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) EDUCATION PURCHASE PLAN.—The term ‘education purchase plan’ means a plan—

“(I) for the purchase of items or services described in subclauses (II) through (IV) of clause (i) from entities other than eligible educational institutions;

“(II) that includes a description of the items or services to be purchased; and

“(III) that includes such information as a qualified entity may request from the eligible individual involved regarding the necessity of the items or services to a course of study at an eligible educational institution.
or a course described in clause (i)(III).”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) **Principal residence.**—The term ‘principal residence’ means a main residence the qualified acquisition costs of which do not exceed 120 percent of the median house price in the area, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for purposes of section 203(b) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(b)) for a residence occupied by a number of families that corresponds to the number of households occupying the residence involved.”; and

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) by amending subclause (I) to read as follows:

“(I) **In general.**—Subject to subclause (II), the term ‘qualified first-time homebuyer’ means an individual participating in the project involved—who—
“(aa) has no sole present ownership interest in a principal residence during the 3-year period ending on the date of acquisition of the principal residence to which this subparagraph applies (except for an interest in such principal residence); and

“(bb) has no co-ownership interest in a principal residence on the date of acquisition of the principal residence to which this subparagraph applies (except for an interest in such principal residence).”;

(II) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(III) by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

“(II) EXCEPTION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—An individual participating in the project involved who is a recent or current victim of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002(a)(6) of the Violence
Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)(6))) shall not be considered to fail to be a qualified first-time homebuyer by reason of having a co-ownership interest in a principal residence with a person who committed domestic violence against the victim.”;

(C) by redesigning subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) HOME REPLACEMENT, REPAIR, OR IMPROVEMENT.—Qualified replacement costs or qualified repair or improvement costs with respect to a principal residence, if paid from an individual development account directly to the persons to whom the amounts are due. In this subparagraph:

“(i) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—The term ‘principal residence’ means—

“(I) with respect to payment of qualified replacement costs, a main residence the qualified replacement
costs of which do not exceed 120 percent of the median house price in the area, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for purposes of section 203(b) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(b)) for a residence occupied by a number of families that corresponds to the number of households occupying the residence involved; or

“(II) with respect to qualified repair or improvement costs, a main residence the value of which does not exceed, on the day before the commencement of the repairs or improvements, 120 percent of such median house price.

“(ii) QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT COSTS.—The term ‘qualified replacement costs’ means the costs (including any usual or reasonable settlement, financing, or other closing costs) of replacing—

“(I) a manufactured home that was manufactured, assembled, or imported for resale before the initial ef-
fectiveness of any Federal manufactured home construction and safety standards established pursuant to section 604 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403); or

“(II) a residence that fails to meet local building codes or is not legally habitable.

“(iii) QUALIFIED REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT COSTS.—The term ‘qualified repair or improvement costs’ means the costs of making repairs or improvements (including any usual or reasonable financing costs) that will enhance the habitability or long-term value of a residence.”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.—Contributions paid from an individual development account of an eligible individual directly to a qualified tuition program (as defined in subsection (b) of section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), for the purpose of cov-
er qualified higher education expenses (as
defined in subsection (e)(3) of such section) of
a dependent of such individual (as such term is
used in clause (ii) of subparagraph (E)).”.

SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.

Section 405 is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(4), by adding at the end
the following: “Such funds include funds received
under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
U.S.C. 9901 et seq.), the Indian Self-Determination
and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b et
seq.), the Native American Housing Assistance and
seq.), or title I of the Housing and Community De-
velopment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) (in-
cluding Community Development Block Grant Act
funds and Indian Community Development Block
Grant Act funds), that are formally committed to
the project.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
section:

“(h) APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PROJECTS AND RE-
NEWALS OF EXISTING PROJECTS.—For project years be-
inning on or after the date of the enactment of the Steph-
anie Tubbs Jones Assets for Independence Reauthoriza-
tion Act of 2011, the previous provisions of this section shall only apply as follows:

“(1) Announcement of procedures.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Assets for Independence Reauthorization Act of 2011, the Secretary shall publicly announce the procedures by which a qualified entity may submit an application—

“(A) to conduct a demonstration project under this title; or

“(B) for renewal of authority to conduct a demonstration project under this title.

“(2) Approval.—The Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, approve applications submitted pursuant to the procedures announced under paragraph (1), taking into account the assessments required by subsection (c) and giving special consideration to the applications described in paragraph (3).

“(3) Special consideration.—The applications described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Applications submitted by qualified entities proposing to conduct demonstration projects under this title that will target the following populations:
“(i) Individuals who are or have been in foster care.

“(ii) Victims of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002(a)(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)(6))).

“(iii) Victims of—

“(I) a major disaster declared to exist by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or an emergency declared to exist by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); or

“(II) a situation similar to a major disaster or emergency described in subclause (I) declared to exist by the Governor of a State.

“(iv) Formerly incarcerated individuals.

“(v) Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed.

“(B) Applications described in subsection (d).
“(4) Contracts with nonprofit entities.—Subsection (f) shall continue to apply.

“(5) Grandfathering of existing statewide programs.—Subsection (g) shall continue to apply, except that any reference in such subsection to the date of enactment of this Act or to $1,000,000 shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Assets for Independence Reauthorization Act of 2011 or to $250,000, respectively.”.

SEC. 6. DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY; ANNUAL GRANTS.

Section 406(a) is amended by inserting “(or, in the case of an application approved under section 405(h)(2), not later than 30 days after the date of the approval of such application)” after “the date of enactment of this title”.

SEC. 7. RESERVE FUND.

Section 407(c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting “or organizations” after “organization”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) Limitation on uses.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided to a qualified entity under section 406(b)—

“(i) not more than 5.5 percent shall be used for the purpose described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1);

“(ii) not less than 80 percent shall be used for the purpose described in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph; and

“(iii) not more than 14.5 percent shall be used for the purposes described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of such paragraph.

“(B) JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECT.—If two or more qualified entities are jointly administering a demonstration project, no one such entity shall use more than its proportional share of the percentage indicated in subparagraph (A) for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 8. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION.

Section 408 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as

follows:

“(1) INCOME TESTS.—The household meets ei-

ther of the following income tests:

“(A) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME TEST.—

The adjusted gross income of the household for

the last taxable year ending in or with the pre-

ceding calendar year does not exceed the great-

er of—

“(i) 200 percent of the Federal pov-

erty line, as defined in section 673(2) of

the Community Services Block Grant Act

(42 U.S.C. 9902(2)), including any revi-

sion required by such section, for a family

composed of the number of persons in the

household at the end of such taxable year;

or

“(ii) 80 percent of the median income

for the area for such taxable year, as de-

termined by the Secretary of Housing and

Urban Development for purposes of section

3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act

of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)), taking

into account any family-size adjustment by

the Secretary under such section that cor-
responds to the size of the household at
the end of such taxable year.

“(B) Modified adjusted gross income
test.—

“(i) In general.—The modified ad-
justed gross income of the household for
the last taxable year ending in or with the
preceding calendar year does not exceed
the amount described in clause (ii) for the
individual whose eligibility is being deter-
mined under this section.

“(ii) Amount described.—The
amount described in this clause for an in-
dividual is as follows:

“(I) Married filing jointly.—$40,000 for an individual de-
scribed in subsection (a)(1) of section
1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
1986.

“(II) Surviving spouse.—
$40,000 for an individual described in
subsection (a)(2) of such section.

“(III) Head of household.—
$30,000 for an individual described in
subsection (b) of such section.
“(IV) Single or married filing separately.—$20,000 for an individual described in subsection (c) or (d) of such section.

“(iii) Adjustment for inflation.—

“(I) In general.—In the case of a calendar year described in clause (i) that is after 2012, the dollar amounts in clause (ii) shall be the dollar amounts determined under this clause (or clause (ii)) for the previous year increased by the annual percentage increase (if any) in the consumer price index (all items; U.S. city average) as of September of the calendar year described in clause (i).

“(II) Rounding.—Any dollar amount determined under subclause (I) that is not a multiple of $100 shall be rounded to the next greatest multiple of $100.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Adjustment for inflation.—
“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a calendar year described in subparagraph (A) that is after 2012, the dollar amount in such subparagraph shall be the dollar amount determined under this clause (or such subparagraph) for the previous year increased by the annual percentage increase (if any) in the consumer price index (all items; U.S. city average) as of September of the calendar year described in such subparagraph.

“(ii) ROUNDING.—Any dollar amount determined under clause (i) that is not a multiple of $100 shall be rounded to the next greatest multiple of $100.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) CALCULATING INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD.—

“(1) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1)(A), the adjusted gross income of a household for a taxable year is the sum of the adjusted gross incomes of the individuals who are members of the household at the end of such year.
“(2) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—
For purposes of subsection (a)(1)(B), the modified adjusted gross income of a household for a taxable year is the sum of the modified adjusted gross incomes of the individuals who are members of the household at the end of such year.”; and

(4) in subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “, including” and all that follows and inserting a period;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) INDIVIDUALS WHO MOVE BECAUSE OF MAJOR DISASTERS OR EMERGENCIES OR TO FIND EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall establish procedures under which an individual described in subparagraph (B) may transfer from one demonstration project under this title to another demonstration project under this title that is being conducted in another community
by a qualified entity that agrees to accept the
individual into the project. Such regulations
shall not permit such a transfer unless such
qualified entity has sufficient amounts in its
Reserve Fund to make the deposits required by
section 410 with respect to the individual.

“(B) Individual described.—An indi-
vidual described in this subparagraph is an indi-
vidual participating in a demonstration
project under this title who moves from the
community in which the project is being con-
ducted—

“(i) because of—

“(I) a major disaster declared to
exist in such community by the Presi-
dent under section 401 of the Robert
T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or an emergency declared to
exist in such community by the Presi-
dent under section 501 of such Act
(42 U.S.C. 5191);

“(II) a situation similar to a
major disaster or emergency described
in subclause (I) declared to exist in
such community by the Governor of a State; or

“(III) a qualifying life event experienced by such individual; or

“(ii) in order to secure employment.

“(C) QUALIFYING LIFE EVENT DEFINED.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i)(III), the term ‘qualifying life event’—

“(i) means an event determined by the Secretary to be similar to an event that would permit the individual to make an election change with respect to a cafeteria plan under section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(ii) includes—

“(I) a change in the legal marital status of the individual;

“(II) a change in the number of dependents of the individual (as such term is used in section 404(8)(E)(ii));

“(III) the birth or death of a child of the individual;

“(IV) the adoption or placement for adoption of a child by the individual;
“(V) a change in the provider of
daycare for a child of the individual,
or a significant increase in the cost of
such daycare; and

“(VI) a change in employment
status of the individual, the individ-
ual’s spouse, or a dependent of the in-
dividual (as such term is used in sec-
tion 404(8)(E)(ii)).

“(3) RELOCATION TO COMMUNITY WHERE NO
PROJECT IS AVAILABLE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual de-
scribed in subparagraph (B) shall be permitted
to withdraw funds from the individual develop-
ment account of the individual during the 1-
year period following the date such individual
moves to another community in the same man-
ner that an individual is permitted under sec-
tion 410(d)(2) to withdraw funds during the 1-
year period following the end of a demonstra-
tion project.

“(B) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An indi-
vidual described in this subparagraph is an in-
dividual who—
“(i) moves to a community where no demonstration project under this title is being conducted; or

“(ii) after moving to another community and making such efforts as the Secretary may require to transfer to another demonstration project under this title, is, for any reason other than a violation of the requirements of this title or regulations promulgated by the Secretary under this title, not accepted into another demonstration project under this title.

“(C) FUNDS REMAINING IN IDA.—Any funds remaining in an individual development account after the end of the 1-year period described in subparagraph (A) shall be treated in the same manner as funds remaining in an individual development account after the end of the 1-year period described in subsection (d)(2)(A) of section 410 are treated under subsection (f) of such section.

“(4) RELOCATION BY OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall prohibit any individual who is unable to continue participating in a demonstration project under
this title for any reason, except for an individual de-
scribed in paragraph (2)(B) or (3)(B), from being
eligible to participate in any other demonstration
project conducted under this title.”.

SEC. 9. DEPOSITS BY QUALIFIED ENTITIES.

Section 410 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “2 times”
after “an amount equal to”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “$2,000” and
inserting “$5,000”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “$4,000” and
inserting “$10,000”; 

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
inserting the following:
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”;

(B) in paragraph (1), as amended by sub-
paragraph (A), by adding at the end the fol-
lowing: “The Secretary may waive the applica-
tion of the preceding sentence in the case of an
individual who has participated in another dem-
onstration project under this title (including
successful completion after transferring from
one project to another project as described in
section 408(c)(2)) or an asset-building project
similar to the demonstration projects conducted under this title.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) ACCESS FOR 1 YEAR AFTER END OF PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that an eligible individual is able to withdraw funds from an individual development account of the individual during the 1-year period following the end of the demonstration project with respect to which deposits were made into such account (whether such project ends by reason of expiration of the authority under section 406(a) of the qualified entity to conduct the demonstration project, termination of such authority under section 413 without transfer to another qualified entity, or otherwise).

“(B) APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWALS.—During the period described in subparagraph (A), an eligible individual may only make a withdrawal if the withdrawal is approved in writing—
“(i) by a responsible official of the qualified entity; or

“(ii) by the Secretary, if the Secretary terminated the authority of the qualified entity to conduct the demonstration project under section 413 or the Secretary determines that the qualified entity is otherwise unable or unwilling to participate in the approval process.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) UNUSED FUNDS IN IDA.—If funds remain in an individual development account after the end of the 1-year period described in subsection (d)(2)(A), such funds shall be disposed of as considered appropriate by the Secretary or a nonprofit entity (as such term is used in section 404(7)(A)(i)) designated by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 10. REGULATIONS.

Section 411 is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “; REGULATIONS” after “PROJECTS”;

(2) by striking “A qualified entity” and inserting the following:

“(a) LOCAL CONTROL OVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—A qualified entity”; and
(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
section:

“(b) REGULATIONS.—Subject to subsection (a), not
later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Assets for Independence Reau-
thorization Act of 2011, the Secretary shall promulgate
such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to
implement this title. The Secretary may provide that any
such regulation takes effect on the date of promulgation,
but the Secretary shall accept and consider public com-
ments for 60 days after such date.”.

SEC. 11. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412(b) is amended by
striking “subsection (a) to” and all that follows and in-
serting “subsection (a) to the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply to reports submitted on or after
the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12. SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b)(5) to read as
follows:

“(5) if, by the end of the 90-day period begin-
ning on the date of the termination, the Secretary
has not found a qualified entity (or entities) described in paragraph (3), shall—

“(A) make every effort to identify, without conducting a competition (unless the Secretary determines that conducting a competition would be feasible and appropriate), another qualified entity (or entities), in the same or a different community, willing and able to conduct one or more demonstration projects under this title that may differ from the project being terminated;

“(B) in identifying a qualified entity (or entities) under subparagraph (A), give priority to qualified entities that—

“(i) are participating in demonstration projects conducted under this title;

“(ii) have waiting lists for participants in such demonstration projects; and

“(iii) can demonstrate the availability of non-Federal funds described in section 405(c)(4), in addition to any such funds committed to any demonstration projects being conducted by the qualified entity at the time the Secretary considers identifying the entity under subparagraph (A),
to be committed to the demonstration project (or projects) described in subpara-
graph (A) as matching contributions; and
“(C) if the Secretary identifies a qualified entity (or entities) under subparagraph (A)—
“(i) transfer to the entity (or entities) control over the Reserve Fund established pursuant to section 407 with respect to the project being terminated; and
“(ii) authorize the entity (or entities) to use such Reserve Fund to conduct a demonstration project (or projects) in ac-
cordance with an application approved under subsection (e) or (h)(2) of section 405 and the requirements of this title.”;
and
(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
section:
“(c) FOCUS ON COMMUNITY OF TERMINATED PROJECT.—In identifying another qualified entity (or en-
tities) under paragraph (3) or (5) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, select a qualified entity (or entities) in the community served by the dem-
onstration project being terminated.”.
(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to terminations occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETIONARY APPLICATION TO PREVIOUS TERMINATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may apply such amendment to terminations occurring within the one-year period ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act. In the case of such an application, any reference in such amendment to the date of the termination is deemed a reference to such date of enactment.

SEC. 13. EVALUATIONS.

Section 414 is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into one or more contracts with one or more independent research organizations to evaluate the demonstration projects conducted under this title, individually and as a group, including all qualified entities participating in and sources providing funds for the demonstration projects conducted under this title. Such contract or contracts may also provide for the evaluation of other asset-building programs and policies targeted to low-income individuals.”;
(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3);

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “, and how such effects vary among different popula-

(C) by striking paragraphs (5) and (6);

and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and

(7) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(3) in subsections (b) and (c), by inserting “(or organizations)” after “research organization” each

place it appears.

SEC. 14. COSTS OF TRAINING QUALIFIED ENTITIES.

The Assets for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 416 as section 417;

and

(2) by inserting after section 415 the following new section:

“SEC. 416. COSTS OF TRAINING QUALIFIED ENTITIES.

“If the Secretary determines that a qualified entity conducting a demonstration project under this title should receive training in order to conduct the project in accord-

ance with an application approved under subsection (e) or (h)(2) of section 405 or the requirements of this title, or
to otherwise successfully conduct the project, the Sec-
retary may use funds appropriated under section 418 to
cover the necessary costs of such training, including the
costs of travel, accommodations, and meals.’’.

SEC. 15. WAIVER AUTHORITY.

The Assets for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604
note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 417, as redesig-
nated by section 14(1) of this Act, as section 418;

and

(2) by inserting after section 416 the following
new section:

“SEC. 417. WAIVER AUTHORITY.

“In order to carry out the purposes of this title, the
Secretary may waive any requirement of this title—

“(1) relating to—

“(A) the definition of a qualified entity;

“(B) the approval of a qualified entity to
conduct a demonstration project under this title
or to receive a grant under this title;

“(C) eligibility criteria for individuals to
participate in a demonstration project under
this title;

“(D) amounts or limitations with respect

to—
“(i) the matching by a qualified entity
of amounts deposited by an eligible indi-
vidual in the individual development ac-
count of the individual;

“(ii) the amount of funds that may be
granted to a qualified entity by the Sec-
retary; or

“(iii) uses by a qualified entity of the
funds granted to the qualified entity by the
Secretary; or

“(E) the withdrawal of funds from an indi-
vidual development account only for qualified
expenses or as an emergency withdrawal; or

“(2) the waiver of which is necessary to—

“(A) permit the Secretary to enter into an
agreement with the Commissioner of Social Se-
curity;

“(B) allow individuals to be placed on a
waiting list to participate in a demonstration
project under this title; or

“(C) allow demonstration projects under
this title to be targeted to populations described
in section 405(h)(3)(A) and to successfulely re-
cruit individuals from such populations for par-
ticipation.”.
SEC. 16. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 418, as redesignated by section 15(1) of this Act, is amended by inserting after “2003” the following: “and $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016”.

SEC. 17. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 414(e) is amended by striking “section 416” and inserting “section 418”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–285) is amended by striking the item relating to section 416 and inserting the following new items:

Sec. 416. Costs of training qualified entities.
Sec. 417. Waiver authority.
Sec. 418. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 18. GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by sections 4 through 9 of this Act shall apply to project years beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.