

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2611

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce by providing such individuals with support services, job training, and education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. BACA, and Mr. PIERLUISI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce by providing such individuals with support services, job training, and education, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Partner-
5 ships to Transform Opportunities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to provide resources to
3 nonprofit organizations and minority-serving institutions
4 to prepare individuals with multiple barriers to employ-
5 ment, especially underrepresented minorities, to enter the
6 workforce by providing support services, job training, and
7 education.

8 **SEC. 3. UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY PROGRAMS.**

9 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act
10 of 1998 is amended by inserting after section 166 (29
11 U.S.C. 2911), the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 166B. UNREPRESENTED MINORITY PROGRAMS.**

13 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
14 support employment and training activities for individuals
15 with multiple barriers to employment in order—

16 “(1) to develop more fully the academic, occu-
17 pational, and literacy skills of such individuals;

18 “(2) to make such individuals more competitive
19 in the workforce; and

20 “(3) to promote the economic and social devel-
21 opment of minority communities in accordance with
22 the goals and values of such communities.

23 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

24 “(1) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
25 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means—

1 “(A) a historically Black college or univer-
2 sity;

3 “(B) a Hispanic-serving Institution;

4 “(C) a Tribal College or University; or

5 “(D) a Predominantly Black Institution.

6 “(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
7 VERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or
8 university’ has the meaning given the term ‘part B
9 institution’ in section 322 of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

11 “(3) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
12 term ‘Hispanic-serving institution’ has the meaning
13 given the term in section 502 of the Higher Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

15 “(4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
16 ‘nonprofit organization’ means a nonprofit organiza-
17 tion that focuses on preparing individuals with mul-
18 tiple barriers to employment to enter the workforce
19 by providing such individuals with support services,
20 job training, and education.

21 “(5) PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.—
22 The term ‘Predominantly Black Institution’ has the
23 meaning given the term in section 318 (20 U.S.C.
24 1059e).

1 “(6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
2 term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the meaning
3 given the term in section 316 of the Higher Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

5 “(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall,
6 on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into con-
7 tracts or cooperative agreements with, nonprofit organiza-
8 tions in partnership with one or more minority-serving in-
9 stitutions to carry out the authorized activities described
10 in subsection (d).

11 “(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A nonprofit organi-
12 zation in partnership with one or more minority-serving
13 institutions receiving a grant, contract, or agreement
14 under subsection (c) shall use such funds to serve individ-
15 uals with multiple barriers to employment by carrying out
16 the following activities:

17 “(1) Education services, including postsec-
18 ondary education, English as a second language
19 courses, General Education Development prepara-
20 tion, financial literacy workshops, access to informa-
21 tion technology workshops and courses, Generational
22 Diversity Awareness programs, and health and
23 wellness programs.

24 “(2) Activities that increase access to workforce
25 services, including on-the-job training, internships,

1 skills training, job placement, financial literacy, and
2 personal development.

3 “(3) Additional support services, including
4 health and nutrition services, housing assistance,
5 transportation, child care, and clothing.

6 “(e) PROGRAM PLAN.—In order to receive a grant
7 or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under
8 this subsection (c), a nonprofit organization in partnership
9 with one or more minority-serving institutions shall submit
10 to the Secretary a program plan that describes a strategy
11 for meeting the needs of individuals with multiple barriers
12 to employment in the area served by such organization.
13 Such plan shall—

14 “(1) be consistent with the purpose of this sec-
15 tion;

16 “(2) identify the population to be served;

17 “(3) identify the education and employment
18 needs of the population to be served and the manner
19 in which the activities to be provided will strengthen
20 the ability of the individuals served to obtain or re-
21 tain unsubsidized employment;

22 “(4) describe the activities to be provided and
23 the manner in which such activities are to be inte-
24 grated with other appropriate activities; and

1 “(5) describe, after the organization submitting
2 the plan consults with the Secretary, the perform-
3 ance measures to be used to assess the performance
4 of nonprofit organizations in carrying out the activi-
5 ties assisted under this section.

6 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
8 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
9 2012 through 2016.”.

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