

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4321

To reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16 (legislative day, APRIL 14), 2026

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize the YouthBuild program, 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 “YouthBuild for the
5 Future Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.**

7 Section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
8 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3226) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(1) RESERVATION; AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

4 “(A) RESERVATION.—In any fiscal year in
5 which the amount appropriated to carry out
6 this section is greater than \$125,000,000, the
7 Secretary shall reserve 20 percent of the por-
8 tion of such amount that is greater than
9 \$125,000,000 for—

10 “(i) grants to applicants that are lo-
11 cated in rural areas (as defined by the Sec-
12 retary); and

13 “(ii) grants for programs operated by
14 a tribe, organization, or entity described in
15 section 166(c) or for the benefit of Indi-
16 ans, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians
17 (as the 3 terms are defined in section
18 166(b)) for the purpose of carrying out
19 YouthBuild programs approved under this
20 section.

21 “(B) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—After making
22 the reservation described in subparagraph (A),
23 the Secretary may use the remaining amount
24 appropriated to carry out this section to make
25 grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying

1 out YouthBuild programs approved under this
2 section.”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), in clause
5 (iv)(II), by striking “language”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(I) Provision of meals and other food as-
9 sistance that is offered to participants in con-
10 junction with another activity described in this
11 paragraph.

12 “(J) Informing participants of their eligi-
13 bility, and assisting participants in applying, for
14 Federal and State means tested benefit pro-
15 grams, such as the supplemental nutrition as-
16 sistance program established under the Food
17 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
18 seq.), and assistance provided by the State
19 through the Child Care and Development Block
20 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.).

21 “(K) Supportive services for individuals
22 with disabilities to ensure such individuals may
23 fully participate in a YouthBuild program.”;
24 and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) USE OF FUNDS FOR MATCH.—An entity which receives a grant under this section may use a portion of such grant funds to meet all or a portion of the requirement to provide matching funds under section 121(e) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571(e)) or any other such requirements under such Act (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.), if the funds are used consistent with the requirements described under subsection (e)(3).”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “youth offender” and inserting “youth justice-involved individual”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “are basic skills deficient” and inserting “have foundational skill needs”;

(3) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In establishing expected levels of performance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult, on not less than an annual basis, with entities carrying out YouthBuild programs to ensure such levels of performance account for the workforce development and postsecondary

1 education experiences of youth served by such pro-
 2 grams.”;

3 (4) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the
 4 following:

5 “(4) ANNUAL RELEASE OF FUNDING OPPOR-
 6 TUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Secretary shall, to
 7 the greatest extent practicable, announce new fund-
 8 ing opportunities for grants under this section dur-
 9 ing the same time period each year such grants are
 10 announced.

11 “(5) STATE WAGE DATA.—A State receiving
 12 grants under this section shall facilitate access for
 13 entities carrying out YouthBuild programs in the
 14 State to wage data of participants in YouthBuild
 15 programs for the purpose of meeting the require-
 16 ments of this section. Such facilitation shall not re-
 17 duce any protections afforded by the State which
 18 protect the privacy of participant information.”; and

19 (5) by amending subsection (i) to read as fol-
 20 lows:

21 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
 23 tion—

24 “(1) \$159,500,000 for fiscal year 2027;

25 “(2) \$167,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;

- 1 “(3) \$175,900,000 for fiscal year 2029;
 2 “(4) \$184,700,000 for fiscal year 2030;
 3 “(5) \$193,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and
 4 “(6) \$203,600,000 for fiscal year 2032.”.

5 **SEC. 3. YOUTHBUILD EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS.**

6 (a) PARTNERSHIP.—Subtitle D of title I of the Work-
 7 force Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended by in-
 8 serting after section 171 (29 U.S.C. 3226) the following:

9 **“SEC. 171A. YOUTHBUILD EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Using funds appropriated under
 11 section 172(e), the Secretary shall award grants to eligible
 12 consortia for the purposes of developing partnerships, and
 13 developing, implementing, and expanding, through those
 14 partnerships, employment and training opportunities for
 15 participants of YouthBuild programs.

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA.—To be eligible to receive
 17 a grant under this section, a consortium shall consist of—

18 “(1) an entity carrying out a YouthBuild pro-
 19 gram; and

20 “(2) a public or private employer in the State,
 21 region, or local area where such program is located.

22 “(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
 23 under this section, such a consortium shall submit an ap-
 24 plication at such time, in such form, and containing such
 25 information as the Secretary may require, including—

1 “(1) a description of the results of a needs as-
2 sessment completed by such consortium on the needs
3 of employers in the proposed service area for em-
4 ployees and of participants in the YouthBuild pro-
5 gram for employment;

6 “(2) a description, listing the members, of any
7 partnerships that the consortium may utilize to
8 carry out employment and training opportunities
9 under this section;

10 “(3) based on the results of the needs assess-
11 ment described under paragraph (1) and the poten-
12 tial partnership described under paragraph (2), a
13 description of the proposed uses of the grant funds
14 by such consortium; and

15 “(4) a description of how the consortium will
16 evaluate the effectiveness of the employment and
17 training opportunities the consortium plans to pro-
18 vide under this section.

19 “(d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this sec-
20 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
21 that propose to carry out a partnership with a joint labor-
22 management apprenticeship program.

23 “(e) USES OF FUNDS.—A consortium that receives
24 a grant under this section shall use the funds from such
25 grant to develop a partnership, or to develop, implement,

1 or expand, through those partnerships, employment and
 2 training opportunities for participants in the YouthBuild
 3 program. Such employment and training opportunities
 4 shall be aligned with the characteristics of the labor mar-
 5 ket in the proposed service area and meet the needs of
 6 employers in such area.”.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 8 172 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is
 9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
 11 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 “(e) YOUTHBUILD EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP.—
 15 There is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for
 16 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2032 to carry out sec-
 17 tion 171A.”.

18 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 19 section 1(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 20 Act is amended by inserting, after the item relating to sec-
 21 tion 171, the following:

“Sec. 171A. YouthBuild employer partnerships.”.

