

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1516

To support local reading programs for children so that all children are able to read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 1997

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KIND, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GREEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. REYES, Mr. SAWYER, and Mr. TOWNS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To support local reading programs for children so that all children are able to read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

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 AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “America Reads Challenge Act of 1997”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
 2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—AMERICA READS CHALLENGE

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Purpose and definitions.

Sec. 103. Funds appropriated and funds contributed by Corporation for National and Community Service.

TITLE II—GRANTS TO STATES

Sec. 201. Funds available.

Sec. 202. Distribution of funds.

Sec. 203. State applications.

Sec. 204. Award of funds.

Sec. 205. Local reading programs.

Sec. 206. Local Parents as First Teachers programs.

Sec. 207. State administration.

TITLE III—LOCAL AND REGIONAL GRANTS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE MODELS AND EXEMPLARY PARTNERSHIPS

Sec. 301. Funds available.

Sec. 302. Grants authorized.

Sec. 303. Eligible applicants.

Sec. 304. Applications.

TITLE IV—SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 401. Authorized activities.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. Waivers.

Sec. 502. Consultation with Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Sec. 503. Prohibition on use of funds for certain purposes.

TITLE I—AMERICA READS CHALLENGE

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

6 The Congress finds as follows:

7 (1) While students today read on average as
 8 well as ever, 40 percent of America's fourth graders
 9 have reading scores below the basic level on the Na-

1 tional Assessment of Educational Progress. This
2 reading performance is not adequate to prepare
3 these students to meet the complexity of the jobs
4 they will seek and the society in which they will live.

5 (2) Problems in reading performance of young
6 children exist in States and communities throughout
7 the country, including urban and rural locations. Re-
8 search shows that children who cannot read well and
9 independently by the end of the third grade are
10 hampered at the start of their education, and for the
11 rest of their lives, with a greater likelihood of drop-
12 ping out of school and of increased delinquent be-
13 haviors.

14 (3) Reading is a skill that is developed not only
15 in the classroom, but also in the home and other
16 places outside of school. While communities must
17 work with teachers, libraries, and principals to
18 strengthen in-school reading programs, all Ameri-
19 cans can play a role in helping young children learn
20 to read.

21 (4) As their children's first teachers, parents
22 can give their children the firm foundation they need
23 to do well in school by, for example, reading to their
24 children at least 30 minutes each day from infancy
25 onward, talking with their children, reducing tele-

1 vision watching, getting their children library cards
2 and urging their children to use them regularly, and
3 seeking the support they may need to help their chil-
4 dren learn to read.

5 (5) Research underscores the importance of
6 one-on-one tutoring in helping students improve
7 their reading ability. Effective tutoring programs
8 typically rely on trained tutors who provide reading
9 help, on a regular basis outside of school hours, to
10 young children who are behind in reading. Effective
11 programs often use funds for reading specialists and
12 program coordinators, are linked with in-school
13 reading programs, and support the active involve-
14 ment of parents.

15 (6) When appropriately trained, concerned indi-
16 viduals from all walks of life, from libraries, schools,
17 community-based organizations, religious organiza-
18 tions, colleges and universities, businesses and other
19 employers, senior citizen groups, parent associations,
20 youth and civic groups, and literacy coalitions, can
21 serve as reading tutors for young children to support
22 their reading success.

23 (7) Early efforts to teach reading are particu-
24 larly important to children from language minority
25 backgrounds, and data from the National Assess-

1 ment of Educational Progress indicate that a large
2 gap in reading achievement between students from
3 non-English backgrounds and the general population
4 is present by the early grades and persists through
5 secondary school.

6 **SEC. 102. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to help all
8 children read well and independently by the end of the
9 third grade so that they can succeed in school, later in
10 the workplace, and in life. This Act assists in achieving
11 that purpose primarily by providing financial support for
12 effective local reading programs for preschool-age children
13 and children attending both public and private schools.

14 (b) **LOCAL READING PROGRAM.**—As used in this Act,
15 the term “local reading program” means a program
16 that—

17 (1) helps children read well and independently
18 by the end of the third grade;

19 (2) serves an area with a high number or per-
20 centage of children from low-income families or with
21 the greatest need for reading assistance;

22 (3) recruits, and provides appropriate and effec-
23 tive training for, tutors for after-school, weekend, or
24 summer reading programs, or for other proven read-

1 ing programs, for children from preschool through
2 fourth grade;

3 (4) uses qualified and trained individuals, such
4 as—

5 (A) program coordinators to organize and
6 supervise the program; and

7 (B) reading specialists who can train par-
8 ticipating tutors to effectively supplement the
9 in-school reading program;

10 (5) ensures that all program personnel are
11 screened to meet State and local safety standards;

12 (6) builds on and supports the in-school reading
13 programs for the children being served, and main-
14 tains regular communication between program staff
15 and school personnel;

16 (7) makes parental involvement and support a
17 high priority, and is coordinated with early childhood
18 and family literacy programs, such as Head Start
19 and Even Start programs, and with related pro-
20 grams carried out under title I of the Elementary
21 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 6301 et seq.); and

23 (8) provides information to the public about the
24 program's strategies for, and progress in, helping

1 children read well and independently by the end of
2 the third grade.

3 (c) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act:

4 (1) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term
5 “Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive
6 Officer of the Corporation for National and Commu-
7 nity Service.

8 (2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
9 has the meaning given that term in section 102(2)
10 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
11 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a(2)).

12 (3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
13 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
14 that term in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
15 14101(18) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801(18)).

17 (4) NATIONAL SERVICE LAWS.—The term “na-
18 tional service laws” means the National and Com-
19 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et
20 seq.) and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of
21 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.).

22 (5) READING SPECIALIST.—The term “reading
23 specialist” means an individual with advanced train-
24 ing in reading who is licensed or certified to teach

1 reading by the State in which the individual will
 2 serve a local reading program.

3 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 6 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
 7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

8 (8) STATE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND
 9 COMMUNITY SERVICE.—The term “State Commis-
 10 sion on National and Community Service” means a
 11 State commission described in section 178 of the
 12 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
 13 U.S.C. 12638), including any alternative administra-
 14 tive entity approved by the Chief Executive Officer
 15 under subsection (a)(2) of that section.

16 (9) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 17 “State educational agency” has the meaning given
 18 that term in section 14101(28) of the Elementary
 19 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

20 **SEC. 103. FUNDS APPROPRIATED AND FUNDS CONTRIB-**
 21 **UTED BY CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND**
 22 **COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

23 (a) FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE SECRETARY OF
 24 EDUCATION.—

1 (1) APPROPRIATION.—For the purpose of car-
2 rying out this Act jointly with the Chief Executive
3 Officer, there are appropriated to the Secretary,
4 from funds not otherwise appropriated—

5 (A) \$260,000,000 for fiscal year 1998;

6 (B) \$290,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

7 (C) \$335,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

8 (D) \$380,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

9 and

10 (E) \$460,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

11 (2) SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES.—Of the funds ap-
12 propriated by paragraph (1) for any fiscal year, the
13 Secretary may reserve up to five percent or
14 \$15,000,000, whichever is less, for supportive activi-
15 ties under section 401.

16 (b) CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY
17 SERVICE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appro-
19 priated to carry out the national service laws for
20 each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002, the full
21 amount in each fiscal year that exceeds the amount
22 appropriated for fiscal year 1997 to carry out the
23 national service laws, up to a maximum of
24 \$200,000,000 each fiscal year, will be available to

1 the Chief Executive Officer to carry out this Act
2 jointly with the Secretary.

3 (2) SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES.—Of the funds
4 made available under paragraph (1), the Chief Exec-
5 utive Officer may reserve up to five percent for sup-
6 portive activities under section 401.

7 (c) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary and the
8 Chief Executive Officer may carry over, for one additional
9 fiscal year any funds described in subsection (a) or (b)
10 that remain available at the end of the fiscal year for
11 which they were appropriated.

12 **TITLE II—GRANTS TO STATES**

13 **SEC. 201. FUNDS AVAILABLE.**

14 (a) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—From the
15 amounts appropriated by section 103(a)(1), the Secretary
16 shall make available to carry out this title not less than
17 \$197,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$225,500,000 for fis-
18 cal year 1999, \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2000,
19 \$315,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and \$395,000,000 for
20 fiscal year 2002.

21 (b) CORPORATION.—For each fiscal year, the Chief
22 Executive Officer shall make available to carry out this
23 title at least 70 percent, but not more than 75 percent,
24 of the amount made available under section 103(b) for
25 that fiscal year. The amount made available under this

1 subsection includes the amounts necessary for national
2 service educational awards for national service partici-
3 pants, to be deposited in the National Service Trust, as
4 provided in subtitle D of title I of the National and Com-
5 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 202. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

7 (a) AMOUNTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES AND OUTLYING
8 AREAS.—The Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer
9 shall reserve up to one percent of the funds made available
10 under subsections (a) and (b) of section 201, respectively,
11 jointly to make grants to Indian tribes and to American
12 Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth
13 of the Northern Mariana Islands, to carry out such activi-
14 ties as the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer may
15 approve, subject to such conditions as they may establish,
16 consistent with the purpose of this Act. The Secretary and
17 the Chief Executive Officer shall carry out this subsection
18 in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (b) AWARDS TO STATES.—After reserving funds for
20 outlying areas under subsection (a), the Secretary and the
21 Chief Executive Officer shall allocate and distribute the
22 remaining funds made available under subsections (a) and
23 (b) of section 201 as follows:

24 (1) 70 percent of the funds from each source
25 shall be allocated among the States in accordance

1 with the relative amount each State received under
2 part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) for
4 the preceding fiscal year.

5 (2) 30 percent of the funds from each source
6 shall be distributed among some or all of the States
7 on the basis of the quality of their applications sub-
8 mitted under section 203, and the extent to which
9 the State has mobilized a broad base of local and
10 statewide organizations to help many more children
11 read well and independently and has adopted a
12 promising approach to promote reading success from
13 early childhood through fourth grade. However, be-
14 ginning with the third year of grants under this
15 title, the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer
16 may adjust distributions under this paragraph on
17 the basis of the relative performance of the States
18 in achieving the purpose of this Act.

19 (c) REALLOCATIONS AND DIRECT LOCAL GRANTS.—

20 (1) FAILURE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION.—If a
21 State does not submit an application under this title,
22 the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer may
23 use the State's allocations under subsection (b)(1) to
24 make direct grants to eligible applicants in that

1 State to carry out local reading programs, consistent
2 with sections 205 and 206.

3 (2) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM SINGLE
4 SOURCE.—If a State does not request funds under
5 this title from both the Secretary and the Chief Ex-
6 ecutive Officer, the Secretary or the Chief Executive
7 Officer, as the case may be, shall reallocate the
8 funds for which the State is not applying to other
9 States in the manner they determine will best
10 achieve the purpose of this Act.

11 **SEC. 203. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

12 (a) JOINT APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—

13 (1) FEDERAL CONTACT PERSON.—A State that
14 wishes to receive funds under this title shall submit
15 an application to a single contact identified by the
16 Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer, to be
17 known as the “America Reads” contact.

18 (2) PREPARATION.—The State educational
19 agency and the State Commission on National and
20 Community Service for a State shall jointly prepare
21 the application, in consultation with appropriate in-
22 dividuals, agencies, and organizations, and shall pro-
23 vide a reasonable period for public comment on the
24 application before submitting it to the America
25 Reads contact.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application shall—

2 (1) describe how the State will make competi-
3 tive subgrants, in accordance with section 205, to
4 develop, carry out, or expand local reading programs
5 that—

6 (A) will reach the children in greatest need
7 of assistance, such as those children who are
8 from low-income families or who have limited
9 English proficiency, to read well and independ-
10 ently by the end of the third grade; and

11 (B) use effective practices that have shown
12 the most promise in helping all children, includ-
13 ing children with limited English proficiency
14 and children with disabilities, to read well and
15 independently;

16 (2) describe the State’s strategy for building on
17 existing literacy initiatives in the State, including
18 family literacy initiatives such as those carried out
19 under the Even Start program, and for attracting
20 other resources to promote the purpose of this Act,
21 including how the State will work with the business
22 sector and with other public and private agencies,
23 such as school districts, elementary schools, libraries,
24 literacy organizations, reading associations, institu-
25 tions of higher education, senior citizens groups, arts

1 and cultural groups, religious and other community
2 groups, and programs funded under the national
3 service laws, to implement that strategy;

4 (3) describe the State's intended distribution of
5 funds for Parents as First Teachers programs and
6 activities under section 206 and how the State will
7 consult with representatives of programs for pre-
8 school children (including the State's Head Start
9 program), family literacy programs (such as Even
10 Start programs), and programs funded under the
11 Adult Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), in
12 carrying out that section;

13 (4) describe how local programs assisted under
14 this title will be evaluated and how the State will as-
15 sess its progress toward meeting the purpose of this
16 Act if it does not participate in the biennial assess-
17 ments of fourth grade reading proficiency through
18 the National Assessment of Educational Progress
19 under section 411 of the National Education Statis-
20 tics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9010);

21 (5) describe the proposed uses of funds re-
22 quested from the Corporation for National and Com-
23 munity Service under this title;

24 (6) include an assurance that the State, and
25 other recipients of funds under this title in the

1 State, will comply with this Act and other applicable
2 laws; and

3 (7) include such other information and assur-
4 ances as the Secretary and the Chief Executive offi-
5 cer may require.

6 (c) APPLICABLE REVIEW.—

7 (1) JOINT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Sec-
8 retary and the Chief Executive Officer shall jointly
9 review each State application submitted under this
10 title and shall jointly approve each application that
11 meets the requirements of this section.

12 (2) FAILURE TO APPROVE.—If a State’s appli-
13 cation does not meet the requirements of this sec-
14 tion, the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer
15 shall give the State a reasonable opportunity to re-
16 vise and resubmit the application and, at the State’s
17 request, shall provide technical assistance to the
18 State regarding the revision of the application.

19 **SEC. 204. AWARD OF FUNDS.**

20 Except as provided in section 202(c), for each State
21 whose application is approved under this title—

22 (1) the Secretary shall award the State’s share
23 of the funds described in section 201(a) to the State
24 educational agency; and

1 (2) the Chief Executive Officer shall award the
2 State's share of the funds described in section
3 201(b) to the State Commission on National and
4 Community Service.

5 **SEC. 205. LOCAL READING PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL APPLICANTS.—Except as
7 provided in sections 206 and 207, each State shall use
8 funds awarded to it under this title to make subgrants
9 to local applicants to develop, carry out, or expand local
10 reading programs.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An eligible local appli-
12 cant is a consortium consisting of—

13 (1) a local educational agency (or one or more
14 schools of such an agency); and

15 (2) at least one other public or private agency
16 or organization (such as a library, museum, or other
17 cultural institution, community-based organization,
18 business or other employer, senior citizens group,
19 youth group, parent association, civic group, literacy
20 organization, or institution of higher education) or
21 an Indian tribe.

22 (c) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

23 (1) STATE CONTACT PERSON.—Each eligible
24 local applicant in a State wishing to receive funds
25 under this title shall submit an application to a sin-

1 gle contact jointly identified by the State educational
2 agency and the State Commission on National and
3 Community Service, to be known as the “America
4 Reads Challenge” contact.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application shall—

6 (A) describe how the applicant will use the
7 funds to develop and carry out, or to expand,
8 a local reading program that meets each of the
9 elements identified in section 102(b);

10 (B) identify a local educational agency or
11 other member of the consortium with a record
12 of sound fiscal management to act as the appli-
13 cant’s fiscal agent; and

14 (C) include such other information as the
15 State educational agency and the State Com-
16 mission on National and Community Service
17 may require.

18 (d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

19 (1) FUNDS PROVIDED BY SECRETARY.—Funds
20 made available under this title by the Secretary shall
21 be used by local applicants for expenses reasonably
22 necessary to develop, carry out, or expand effective
23 local reading programs, such as the costs of reading
24 specialists, materials, training of tutors, and family
25 literacy activities.

1 (2) FUNDS PROVIDED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
2 OFFICER.—Funds made available under this title by
3 the Chief Executive Officer shall be used by local ap-
4 plicants for activities that are described in this title
5 and authorized by the national service laws.

6 **SEC. 206. LOCAL PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any
8 other provision of this title, each State shall use at least
9 20 percent of the funds it receives under section 204(1)
10 to develop, carry out, or expand effective local programs,
11 such as family literacy programs, that provide appropriate
12 support, training, and educational materials to involve and
13 assist parents (and other adult primary caregivers) to help
14 their children become successful readers by the end of the
15 third grade.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Funds available under this
17 section—

18 (1) may be included as part of an award to an
19 eligible local applicant under section 205; or

20 (2) may be separately awarded to consortia de-
21 scribed in that section (except that such a consor-
22 tium need not include a local educational agency or
23 a school of a local educational agency).

1 (c) CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS.—Funds available
2 under this section shall be provided only to applicants de-
3 scribed in subsection (b) that—

4 (1) have a demonstrated record of successfully
5 working with parents in improving the reading skills
6 of their young children or plan to use a program
7 model that has been demonstrated to be effective;
8 and

9 (2) demonstrate that the proposed program—

10 (A) has the support of the community; and

11 (B) will be coordinated with other pro-
12 grams that provide support for parents, such as
13 adult education programs.

14 **SEC. 207. STATE ADMINISTRATION.**

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
16 each State educational agency and State Commission on
17 National and Community Service may use not more than
18 one percent of the amount it receives under this title for
19 any fiscal year for the administration of this title.

1 **TITLE III—LOCAL AND RE-**
2 **GIONAL GRANTS TO SUPPORT**
3 **EFFECTIVE MODELS AND EX-**
4 **EMPLARY PARTNERSHIPS**

5 **SEC. 301. FUNDS AVAILABLE.**

6 (a) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—From the
7 amounts appropriated by section 103(a)(1) for each fiscal
8 year, the Secretary shall make available \$50,000,000 to
9 carry out this title.

10 (b) CORPORATION.—For each fiscal year, the Chief
11 Executive Officer shall make available to carry out this
12 title 25 percent of the amount made available under sec-
13 tion 103(b) for that fiscal year. The amount made avail-
14 able under this subsection includes the amounts necessary
15 for national service educational awards for national service
16 participants, to be deposited in the National Service
17 Trust, as provided in subtitle D of title I of the National
18 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
19 et seq.).

20 **SEC. 302. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

21 (a) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—The
22 Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer, acting jointly,
23 shall make competitive grants to eligible applicants to de-
24 velop, carry out, or expand—

1 (1) large-scale local reading programs that will
2 serve as effective models for helping large numbers
3 of children read well and independently by the end
4 of the third grade;

5 (2) national or regional support networks that
6 provide information to interested persons on how
7 parents can help their children read better and that
8 support the efforts of parents of children of any age
9 from birth through age eight to give their children
10 a solid foundation for reading and later success in
11 school;

12 (3) reading programs conducted by national or-
13 ganizations in more than one State; and

14 (4) other local, regional, and national activities
15 that identify and promote the most effective and
16 promising practices for helping all children read well
17 and independently by the end of the third grade.

18 (b) PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS PROGRAMS.—The
19 Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer shall ensure
20 that, for each fiscal year, at least 10 percent of the funds
21 made available under section 301(a) are awarded to sup-
22 port networks described in subsection (a)(2) or for other
23 programs that provide appropriate support, training, and
24 educational materials to involve and assist parents (and
25 other adult primary caregivers) to help their children be-

1 come successful readers by the end of the third grade. The
2 Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer shall carry out
3 this subsection in consultation with the Secretary of
4 Health and Human Services.

5 **SEC. 303. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**

6 Eligible applicants under this title are—

7 (1) national organizations;

8 (2) multi-State consortia comprised of two or
9 more public or private agencies, organizations, insti-
10 tutions, or Indian tribes; and

11 (3) local applicants that are eligible for sub-
12 grants under section 205 or section 206 and that
13 have the capacity to conduct programs of sufficient
14 size to serve as national models.

15 **SEC. 304. APPLICATIONS.**

16 (a) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—Any eligible appli-
17 cant that wishes to receive a grant under this title shall
18 submit an application to a single contact identified by the
19 Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer, to be known
20 as the “America Reads Challenge” contact.

21 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application shall—

22 (1) identify the amount of funds, if any, the ap-
23 plicant is requesting from the Secretary;

1 (2) identify the amount of funds, if any, the ap-
2 plicant is requesting from the Chief Executive Offi-
3 cer;

4 (3) describe the specific activities the applicant
5 will carry out with the funds for which it is applying;

6 (4) describe how those activities are related to
7 school-based reading programs and early childhood
8 programs, if appropriate;

9 (5) describe how the applicant will serve chil-
10 dren in greatest need of reading assistance, such as
11 those children who are from low-income families or
12 who have limited English proficiency;

13 (6) demonstrate that the applicant’s proposed
14 project—

15 (A) is likely to have a substantial local, re-
16 gional, or national impact;

17 “(B) will be cost-effective; and

18 “(C) will be coordinated with the business
19 and nonprofit sectors and with other State and
20 local programs that provide support for parents;

21 (7) describe how the applicant will periodically
22 evaluate its program and make necessary improve-
23 ments;

24 (8) include an assurance that the applicant will
25 comply with this Act and other applicable laws; and

1 (9) include such other information and assur-
2 ances as the Secretary and the Chief Executive Offi-
3 cer may require.

4 (a) APPLICATION REVIEW.—The Secretary and the
5 Chief Executive Officer shall jointly review and act on
6 each application submitted under this title.

7 **TITLE IV—SUPPORTIVE** 8 **ACTIVITIES**

9 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

10 The Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer shall
11 use funds reserved under subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) of
12 section 103, respectively, directly or through grants to, or
13 contracts with, public and private agencies, organizations,
14 institutions, and Indian tribes—

15 (1) for technical assistance, dissemination of
16 materials and information about best practices, and
17 other activities that further the purpose of this Act;
18 and

19 (2) to evaluate programs carried out under this
20 Act.

21 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

22 **SEC. 501. WAIVERS.**

23 The Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer may
24 waive any provision of this Act, and the Chief Executive
25 Officer may waive any provision of the national service

1 laws (other than section 177(b) of the National and Com-
2 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12637(b))) to the
3 extent it is applicable to this Act, at the request of an
4 applicant or recipient who demonstrates to the satisfaction
5 of the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer that such
6 a waiver would significantly promote the purpose of this
7 Act.

8 **SEC. 502. CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF HEALTH**
9 **AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

10 The Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer shall
11 consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
12 in carrying out this Act.

13 **SEC. 503. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN**
14 **PURPOSES.**

15 Notwithstanding section 501 or any other law, funds
16 made available under this Act may not be—

17 (1) awarded to a pervasively sectarian organiza-
18 tion; or

19 (2) used to support religious worship, instruc-
20 tion, or proselytization.

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