

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 363

To establish a program for training residents of low-income rural areas for, and employing the residents in, new telecommunications industry jobs located in the rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 1999

Mr. DOMENICI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a program for training residents of low-income rural areas for, and employing the residents in, new telecommunications industry jobs located in the rural areas, 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 “Rural Employment in
5 Telecommunications Industry Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) DISLOCATED WORKER; LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The terms “dislocated worker” and “low-income individual” have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

6 (2) INTENSIVE SERVICES.—The term “intensive services” means services described in section 134(d)(3) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(3)).

10 (3) LOW-INCOME RURAL AREA.—The term “low-income rural area” means a county that—

12 (A) has a 1996 population of not more than 125,000 persons;

14 (B) contains a municipality with a 1996 population of not more than 50,000 persons;

16 (C) has a 1990 population density of not more than 25 persons per square mile;

18 (D) has a 1996 per capita income that is not more than \$17,500; or

20 (E) is a county no part of which is—

21 (i) within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; or

1 (ii) within an area designated as a
 2 metropolitan statistical area by the Direc-
 3 tor of the Office of Management and
 4 Budget.

5 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 6 the Secretary of Labor.

7 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means 1 of the
 8 several States.

9 **SEC. 3. RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE TELECOMMUNI-**
 10 **CATIONS INDUSTRY PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 12 program to promote rural employment in the tele-
 13 communications industry. In carrying out the program,
 14 the Secretary shall make grants to States for projects de-
 15 scribed in subsection (b).

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
 17 under subsection (a) shall use the funds made available
 18 through the grant to carry out a State telecommunications
 19 employment and training project. In carrying out the
 20 project, the State shall—

21 (1) train eligible individuals for new tele-
 22 communications industry jobs that will be located in
 23 low-income rural areas pursuant to arrangements
 24 with employers participating in the project, including
 25 ensuring that individuals receive—

1 (A) intensive services;

2 (B) customized training and appropriate
3 remedial training described in paragraphs (2)
4 and (3) of section 4; and

5 (C) appropriate supportive services; and

6 (2) arrange for the employment of the individ-
7 uals in the telecommunications industry jobs.

8 (c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to par-
9 ticipate in a project described in subsection (a), an individ-
10 ual shall be—

11 (1) a resident of a low-income rural area;

12 (2)(A) a low-income individual;

13 (B) a dislocated worker from the oil and natu-
14 ral gas exploration and development industry;

15 (C) an out-of-school youth;

16 (D) an individual with a disability, as defined in
17 section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of
18 1998;

19 (E) an individual who is receiving, or who has
20 received within the past year, assistance under the
21 State temporary assistance for needy families pro-
22 gram established under part A of title IV of the So-
23 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or other
24 public assistance;

1 (F) a veteran, as defined in section 101 of the
2 Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

3 (G) a displaced homemaker, as defined in sec-
4 tion 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

5 (H) an older individual, as defined in section
6 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

7 (I) a homeless individual;

8 (J) an individual eligible to participate in activi-
9 ties carried out under section 166 of the Workforce
10 Investment Act of 1998;

11 (K) an individual eligible to participate in em-
12 ployment and training activities under section 134 of
13 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

14 (L) a long-term unemployed individual; or

15 (M) an individual with multiple barriers to em-
16 ployment; and

17 (3) an individual who has been assessed by the
18 entity carrying out the project and determined to
19 need intensive services.

20 (d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall make grants
21 under this section to not more than 3 States.

22 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND STATE PLAN.**

23 (a) CONTENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
24 under this Act, a State shall submit an application to the
25 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing

1 such information as the Secretary may require, including
2 a State plan that includes—

3 (1) information demonstrating how the project
4 will train and employ eligible individuals, including
5 individuals described in subparagraphs (C) through
6 (M) of section 3(c)(2);

7 (2) an assurance that the project will include a
8 customized training program for the customer serv-
9 ice and supervisory competencies needed in the tele-
10 communications industry jobs to be located in the
11 low-income rural areas served;

12 (3) an assurance that the project will include
13 appropriate remedial training in such areas as read-
14 ing, writing, math, and English as a second lan-
15 guage for eligible individuals who the entity carrying
16 out the project assesses and determines need such
17 training;

18 (4) includes information describing linkages, in-
19 cluding linkages relating to providing supportive
20 services for participants in and graduates of the
21 project, between—

22 (A) the entity carrying out the project; and

23 (B) one-stop operators (as defined in sec-
24 tion 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of
25 1998), one-stop partners (as defined in section

1 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998),
2 State workforce investment boards established
3 under section 111 of such Act, and local work-
4 force investment boards established under sec-
5 tion 117 of such Act;

6 (5) information identifying certification criteria
7 for individuals who successfully complete the train-
8 ing;

9 (6) an assurance that employers participating
10 in the project will make available contributions, to
11 the costs of training participants in the project for
12 the new telecommunications jobs (including the costs
13 of assessing individuals seeking to participate in the
14 project, whether or not the individuals are deter-
15 mined to be eligible under section 3(c)), in an
16 amount equal to not less than \$1 for every \$1 of
17 Federal funds provided under the grant;

18 (7)(A) an assurance that the project will in-
19 clude an appropriate performance assessment pro-
20 gram that will measure—

21 (i) the rate of completion of the training
22 by participants in the training;

23 (ii) the percentage of the participants who
24 obtain unsubsidized employment;

1 (iii) the wages of the participants at place-
 2 ment in the employment; and

3 (iv) the percentage of the participants re-
 4 tained in the employment after 6 months of em-
 5 ployment; and

6 (B) an assurance that the entity carrying out
 7 the project will annually submit to the Secretary the
 8 results of the performance assessment program; and

9 (8)(A) information explaining how the activities
 10 carried out through the project are linked to State
 11 economic development activities; and

12 (B) information describing commitments from
 13 private sector employers to locate new telecommuni-
 14 cations jobs and facilities within the low-income
 15 rural areas to be served, including commitments to
 16 provide any needed upgrade in the telecommuni-
 17 cations infrastructure.

18 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
 19 shall accept applications submitted under subsection (a)
 20 not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
 21 Act.

22 (c) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
 23 shall evaluate, and approve or reject, each application sub-
 24 mitted under subsection (a) that meets the criteria de-

1 scribed in subsections (a) and (b) not later than 60 days
2 after the submission of the application.

3 (d) PRIORITY.—In determining which States receive
4 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary will give prior-
5 ity to a State submitting a State plan describing a project
6 that—

7 (1) will serve an area of high unemployment;

8 (2) will serve an area with a significant bilin-
9 gual population;

10 (3) will serve an area with a significant minor-
11 ity population, including Native Americans;

12 (4) will serve an area with a high percentage of
13 youth who have failed to complete secondary school;

14 (5) will serve an area significantly impacted by
15 the contraction of the oil and natural gas exploration
16 and development industry;

17 (6) will serve an area significantly impacted by
18 recent plant closings; or

19 (7) is designed to create 1,000 or more new
20 jobs within 2 years of the commencement of the
21 training.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal years
4 2000 through 2004.

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