

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2923

To improve the literacy and English skills of limited English proficient individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To improve the literacy and English skills of limited English proficient individuals, 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 “Families Learning and
5 Understanding English Together Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Census Bureau reports that 17.9 per-
9 cent of United States households speak a language
10 other than English at home.

1 (2) Many parents in many recently-immigrated
2 families speak little to no English, possess low lit-
3 eracy skills in their native language due to limited
4 education, and frequently struggle to assist their
5 children’s English language development.

6 (3) The United States is a nation of immi-
7 grants, and even today, according to the 2004 up-
8 date of the Census, over 34,000,000 individuals who
9 live in the United States were born outside the coun-
10 try.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

12 The purpose of this Act is to improve the educational,
13 social, and economic advancement of families with limited
14 English proficient individuals in need of literacy skills by
15 expanding and enhancing family literacy services for such
16 families.

17 **SEC. 4. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds made
19 available pursuant to section 8, and after reserving funds
20 under section 5, the Secretary may award grants to family
21 literacy providers to provide, directly or through a contract
22 with another provider, family literacy services designed for
23 families with limited English proficient individuals. Each
24 grant under this Act shall be for a period of 1 year and
25 may be renewed for a total of 5 additional years.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—Family literacy providers who de-
2 sire to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an ap-
3 plication at such time, containing such information, and
4 in such manner as the Secretary may require. Such appli-
5 cation shall include the following:

6 (1) An assurance that services provided with
7 funds under this Act shall be provided to the hard-
8 est-to-reach populations, including populations with
9 the greatest economic and social need.

10 (2) A description of the services that will be
11 provided with funds under this Act, including how
12 the services will be based on scientifically based
13 reading research.

14 (3) A description of the outcome measures, con-
15 sistent with section 6, that are based on scientifically
16 based research and will be employed by the family
17 literacy provider to measure the effectiveness of
18 services provided with funds under this Act.

19 (4) An assurance that, in providing family lit-
20 eracy services through the grant, the family literacy
21 provider will collaborate with one or more of the fol-
22 lowing:

23 (A) A local educational agency.

24 (B) An elementary school.

25 (C) A secondary school.

1 (D) A nonprofit entity.

2 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
3 this Act for a fiscal year shall not be less than \$150,000
4 or more than \$1,000,000.

5 (d) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may not
6 award a grant under this Act to an applicant unless the
7 applicant agrees to provide, from funds derived from non-
8 Federal sources, matching funds in an amount that is not
9 less than 20 percent of the amount of the grant. Such
10 matching funds may be provided in the form of in-kind
11 contributions.

12 (e) SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.—Family literacy
13 services under this Act shall be provided in sufficient in-
14 tensity in terms of hours, and shall be of sufficient dura-
15 tion, to make sustainable changes in a family and shall
16 integrate all of the following activities:

17 (1) Interactive literacy activities between par-
18 ents and their children.

19 (2) Training for parents regarding how to be
20 the primary teacher for their children and full part-
21 ners in the education of their children.

22 (3) Parent literacy training that leads to eco-
23 nomic self-sufficiency.

24 (4) An age-appropriate education to prepare
25 children for success in school and life experiences.

1 (f) SPECIAL RULE.—Family literacy services under
2 this Act may be provided to a family only if—

3 (1) each parent in the family has attained 16
4 years of age; and

5 (2) the family has at least one child from birth
6 who has not yet attained 8 years of age.

7 **SEC. 5. RESERVATIONS.**

8 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—From
9 funds made available pursuant to section 8 for a fiscal
10 year, the Secretary shall reserve \$3,000,000 to provide,
11 directly or through a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
12 ment with an entity that has experience in the develop-
13 ment and operation of successful family literacy services
14 programs, technical assistance and training for the pur-
15 pose of—

16 (1) assisting grantees that provide family lit-
17 eracy services to improve the quality of such serv-
18 ices; and

19 (2) enabling grantees that demonstrate the ef-
20 fective provision of family literacy services, based on
21 improved outcomes for children and their parents, to
22 provide technical assistance and training to other
23 agencies and to service providers that work in col-
24 laboration with such agencies to provide family lit-
25 eracy services.

1 (b) EVALUATION.—From funds made available pur-
2 suant to section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall
3 reserve not more than 2 percent of such funds for the pur-
4 pose of conducting an annual evaluation of the grant pro-
5 gram conducted under this Act. Such evaluation shall be
6 used by the Secretary—

7 (1) for program improvement;

8 (2) to further define the program’s goals and
9 objectives; and

10 (3) to determine program effectiveness.

11 **SEC. 6. OUTCOME MEASURES.**

12 The Secretary shall require each family literacy pro-
13 vider receiving a grant under this Act to meet culturally
14 appropriate and competent outcome measures described in
15 the provider’s application under section 4, including out-
16 come measures with respect to—

17 (1) acquisition of the English language, includ-
18 ing improved educational levels;

19 (2) improved parenting and life skills;

20 (3) the improved ability of parents with limited
21 English proficiency to effectively interact with offi-
22 cials of the schools their children attend;

23 (4) reduced dependency on welfare;

24 (5) increased employment opportunities or
25 hours;

1 (6) improved developmental skills and inde-
2 pendent learning of the children; and

3 (7) increased parental participation in their
4 children’s education and home environments that are
5 supportive of educational endeavors.

6 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act:

8 (1) APPLICATION OF ESEA TERMS.—The terms
9 “elementary school”, “limited English proficient”,
10 “local educational agency”, “scientifically based re-
11 search”, and “secondary school” have the meanings
12 given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary
13 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
14 7801). The term “scientifically based reading re-
15 search” has the meaning given such term in section
16 1208 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6368).

18 (2) FAMILY LITERACY PROVIDER.—The term
19 “family literacy provider” means an entity that—

20 (A) is located in a geographic area con-
21 taining at least one public elementary school or
22 secondary school with a majority enrollment of
23 children with limited English proficiency; and

24 (B) is one of the following:

(i) A current grantee under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.) (commonly referred to as “William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs”), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), or any other Federal or State early childhood program.

(ii) An adult education provider.

(iii) A local educational agency.

(iv) A public or private nonprofit agency.

(v) Another entity that has the demonstrated ability to provide family literacy services to adults and families.

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

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

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