

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 341

To amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2005

Mr. OSBORNE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements.

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 “Improving the Commu-
5 nity Services Block Grant Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT AMEND-**
7 **MENTS.**

8 (a) PURPOSES AND GOALS.—Section 672 of the Com-
9 munity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 note)
10 is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 672. PURPOSES AND GOALS.**

2 “The purpose of this subtitle is to reduce poverty—

3 “(1) by strengthening and coordinating local ef-
4 forts to expand opportunities for individuals and
5 families to become economically self-sufficient and to
6 improve and revitalize low-income communities in
7 urban and rural areas, by providing resources to
8 States for support of local eligible entities, including
9 community action agencies and other community-
10 based organizations—

11 “(A) to plan, coordinate, and mobilize a
12 broad range of Federal, State, local, and pri-
13 vate assistance or investment in such a manner
14 as to use these resources effectively to reduce
15 poverty and in initiatives that are responsive to
16 specific local needs and conditions;

17 “(B) to coordinate a range of services that
18 meet the needs of low-income families and indi-
19 viduals, that support strong and healthy fami-
20 lies, and that assist them in developing the
21 skills needed to become self sustaining while en-
22 suring that these services are provided effec-
23 tively and efficiently; and

24 “(C) to design and implement comprehen-
25 sive approaches to assist eligible individuals in

1 gaining employment and achieving economic
2 self-sufficiency;

3 “(2) by improving and revitalizing the low-in-
4 come communities in urban and rural areas by pro-
5 viding resources to States for support of local eligi-
6 ble entities and their partners—

7 “(A) to broaden the resource base of initia-
8 tives and projects directed to the elimination of
9 poverty and the redevelopment of the low-in-
10 come community, including partnerships with
11 nongovernmental and governmental institutions
12 to develop the community assets and services
13 that reduce poverty, such as—

14 “(i) other private, religious, chari-
15 table, and community-based organizations;

16 “(ii) individual citizens, and business,
17 labor, and professional groups, that are
18 able to influence the quantity and quality
19 of opportunities and services for the poor;
20 and

21 “(iii) local government leadership; and

22 “(B) to coordinate community-wide re-
23 sources and services that will have a significant,
24 measurable impact on the causes of poverty in
25 the community and that will help families and

1 individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency
2 and to test innovative, community-based ap-
3 proaches to attacking the causes and effects of
4 poverty and of community breakdown, includ-
5 ing—

6 “(i) innovative initiatives to prevent
7 and reverse loss of investment, jobs, public
8 services, and infrastructure in low- and
9 moderate-income communities; and

10 “(ii) innovative partnerships to lever-
11 age the assets and services that reduce
12 poverty, as provided in subparagraph (A);
13 and

14 “(3) by ensuring maximum participation of
15 residents of low-income communities and of mem-
16 bers of the groups served by grants made under this
17 subtitle in guiding the eligible entities and in their
18 programs funded under this subtitle, to ameliorate
19 the particular problems and needs of low-income
20 residents and to develop the permanent social and
21 economic assets of the low-income community in
22 order to reduce the incidence of poverty.”.

23 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 673(1)(A) of the Com-
24 munity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(1)(A))
25 is amended—

1 (1) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the end;

2 (2) in clause (ii) by striking the period at the

3 end and inserting “; and”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(iii) that successfully develops and

6 meets the locally determined goals de-

7 scribed in section 678E(b)(1), as deter-

8 mined by the State, and meets State goals,

9 standards, and performance requirements

10 as provided for in section 678B(a).”.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section

12 674 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42

13 U.S.C. 9903) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking “1999 through 2003” and

16 inserting “2006 through 2012”; and

17 (B) by striking “681” and inserting

18 “675C(b)(3), 681,”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

20 (A) by striking “678F” and inserting

21 “678E to assist States, eligible entities, and

22 their partners in projects supported by this sub-

23 title”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “mon-

25 itoring (to correct programmatic deficiencies of

eligible entities)” and inserting “monitoring (including technical assistance and training to correct programmatic deficiencies of eligible entities)”.

(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 675C of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by striking “Beginning on October 1, 2000, a” and inserting “A”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(F) by striking “neighborhood-based” and inserting “community-based”.

(e) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—Section 676 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “Beginning with fiscal year 2000, to” and inserting “To”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “youth development programs that support” and inserting “youth development programs, which may include mentoring programs, that support”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (C) by adding
2 “and” at the end; and

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(D) initiatives to improve economic condi-
6 tions and mobilize new resources in rural areas
7 to eliminate obstacles to the self-sufficiency of
8 families and individuals in rural communities;”;

9 (C) in paragraph (2) by striking “commu-
10 nity and neighborhood-based” and inserting
11 “community-based”;

12 (D) in paragraph (3)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A) by striking “information pro-
15 vided by eligible entities in the State, con-
16 taining” and inserting “an assurance that
17 the State will provide information, includ-
18 ing”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking
20 “community and neighborhood-based” and
21 inserting “community-based”;

22 (E) in paragraph (9) by striking “and
23 community organizations” and inserting “and
24 community-based organizations”;

1 (F) in paragraph (10) by striking “com-
2 munity organization” and inserting “commu-
3 nity-based organization”;

4 (G) in paragraph (12) by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (H) by redesignating paragraph (13) as
7 paragraph (15); and

8 (I) by inserting after paragraph (12) the
9 following:

10 “(13) an assurance that the State will take
11 swift action to improve performance or, when appro-
12 priate, to terminate the funding under this subtitle
13 of low-performing eligible entities that do not meet
14 the applicable locally determined goals described in
15 section 678E(b)(1) or do not meet the State goals,
16 standards, and requirements as provided for in sec-
17 tion 678B(a);

18 “(14) an assurance that the State will provide
19 a justification to the Secretary if it continues to fund
20 persistently low-performing eligible entities; and”;

21 (2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “plan, or”
22 and all that follows through the period at the end,
23 and inserting “plan, to meet a State requirement, as
24 described in section 678C(a), or to meet the locally

1 determined goals as described in section
2 678E(b)(1).”; and

3 (3) by striking subsection (f).

4 (f) TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER
5 ACTIVITIES.—Section 678A(a)(1)(A) of the Community
6 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9913(a)(1)(A)) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by inserting “dissemination regarding best
9 practices,” after “technical assistance,”; and

10 (2) by inserting “(including to assist in the de-
11 velopment of reporting systems and electronic data
12 systems)” after “collection activities”.

13 (g) MONITORING OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section
14 678B of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
15 U.S.C. 9914) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
18 by inserting “and the locally determined per-
19 formance goals described in section
20 678E(b)(1)” after “a State”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3)—

22 (i) by inserting “appropriate” before
23 “goals”; and

24 (ii) by striking “established by the
25 State”; and

1 (2) in the last sentence of subsection (c) by
2 striking “Chairperson of the Committee on Edu-
3 cation” and all that follows through “Human Re-
4 sources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate
5 congressional committees”.

6 (h) CORRECTIVE ACTION; TERMINATION AND RE-
7 DUCTION OF FUNDING.—Section 678C(a) of the Commu-
8 nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9915(a)) is
9 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
10 ing “established by the State”.

11 (i) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIRE-
12 MENTS.—Section 678E of the Community Services Block
13 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9917) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “By
16 October 1, 2001, each” and inserting “Each”;
17 and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in the 1st sentence by inserting
20 “including any activities under section
21 678C” before the period at the end;

22 (ii) by striking the 2d sentence;

23 (iii) in the 3d sentence by striking
24 “also”; and

1 (iv) in the 3d sentence by inserting
2 “information on the timeliness of the dis-
3 tribution of block grant funds to eligible
4 entities as provided in section 675C(a),”
5 after “including”;

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2) in the matter pre-
8 ceding subparagraph (A) by striking “beginning
9 after September 30, 1999”;

10 (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “Com-
11 mittee on Education” and all that follows
12 through “Human Resources of the Senate” and
13 inserting “appropriate congressional commit-
14 tees”;

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

16 “(5) COORDINATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
17 MENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the Sec-
18 retary shall coordinate reporting requirements for all
19 programs of the Department of Health and Human
20 Services managed by eligible entities so as to consoli-
21 date and reduce the number of reports required
22 about individuals, families, and uses of grant
23 funds.”; and

24 (D) by redesignating such subsection as
25 subsection (c); and

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(b) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING RE-
4 QUIREMENTS.—

5 “(1) LOCALLY DETERMINED GOALS.—In order
6 to be designated as an eligible entity and to receive
7 a grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall
8 establish locally determined goals for reducing pov-
9 erty in the community, including goals for—

10 “(A) leveraging and mobilizing community
11 resources;

12 “(B) fostering coordination of Federal,
13 State, local, private, and other assistance; and

14 “(C) promoting community involvement.

15 “(2) DEMONSTRATION THAT GOALS WERE
16 MET.—In order for an eligible entity to receive a
17 second or subsequent grant made under this subtitle
18 after the effective date of this paragraph, such entity
19 shall demonstrate to the State that it has met the
20 goals described in paragraph (1).”.

21 (j) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—Section 679 of
22 the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
23 9920) is amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(f) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—In providing
25 assistance under a program described in subsection (a),

1 a religious organization shall not discriminate against a
 2 beneficiary, or a potential beneficiary, of such assistance
 3 on the basis of religion or of a religious belief.”.

4 (k) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—
 5 Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act
 6 (42 U.S.C. 9921) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A) by inserting
 10 “(including financial assistance for con-
 11 struction or substantial rehabilitation of
 12 buildings and facilities, and for loans or in-
 13 vestments in private business enterprises
 14 owned by community development corpora-
 15 tions)” after “assistance”;

16 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
 17 (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs
 18 (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

19 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
 20 (A) the following:

21 “(B) FEDERAL INTEREST.—The Secretary
 22 shall establish procedures that permit funds
 23 provided under a grant made under this para-
 24 graph, or intangible assets acquired with such
 25 funds, to become the sole property of the grant-

1 ee before the expiration of the 12-year period
2 beginning after the fiscal year for which such
3 grant is made if such grantee agrees to use
4 such funds or such property for purposes and
5 uses consistent with the purposes and uses for
6 which such grant is made.

7 “(C) REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The
8 Secretary shall establish procedures to allow a
9 grant made under this paragraph to be used by
10 a grantee to carry out activities substantially
11 similar to the activities for which such grant is
12 made if, due to no fault of such grantee, such
13 grantee cannot carry out the activities for which
14 such grant is made. Such procedures shall re-
15 quire that the substantially similar activities
16 serve the same impact area and have the same
17 goals, objectives, and outcomes as the activities
18 for which such grant is made.”;

19 (B) in paragraph (3)(B) by inserting
20 “water and wastewater” after “community”;
21 and

22 (C) in paragraph (4) by striking “neigh-
23 borhood-based” and inserting “community-
24 based”; and

1 (2) in subsection (c) by striking “Chairperson
2 of the Committee on Education” and all that follows
3 through “Human Resources of the Senate” and in-
4 serting “appropriate congressional committees”.

5 (l) COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION PRO-
6 GRAMS.—Section 681 of the Community Services Block
7 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9922) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (c) in the matter preceding
9 paragraph (1) by striking “Committee on Edu-
10 cation” and all that follows through “Human Re-
11 sources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate
12 congressional committees”; and

13 (2) in subsection (d) by striking “1999 through
14 2003” and inserting “2006 through 2012”.

15 (m) NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED
16 TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-IN-
17 COME YOUTH.—Section 682 of the Community Services
18 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9923) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

20 (A) by inserting “(which may be accom-
21 plished through mentoring)” after “youth”; and

22 (B) by inserting “to improve academic
23 achievement” after “study practices”; and

24 (2) in subsection (g) by striking “1999 through
25 2003” and inserting “2006 through 2012”.

1 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
3 take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○