

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1794

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

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

---

## 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 2007”.

**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 9, and after reserving funds  
20 under section 9(b), the Secretary may award grants to  
21 family literacy providers to provide, directly or through a  
22 contract with another provider, family literacy services de-  
23 signed for families with limited English proficient individ-  
24 uals. Each grant under this Act shall be for a period of

1 1 year and may be renewed for a total of 5 additional  
2 years.

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

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

12 (2) A description of the services that will be  
13 provided with funds under this Act, including how  
14 the services will be based on research-based reading  
15 instruction for limited English proficient children  
16 and parents.

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

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

- 1 (A) A local educational agency.
- 2 (B) An elementary school.
- 3 (C) A secondary school.
- 4 (D) A nonprofit entity.

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

8       (d) SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.—Family literacy  
9 services under this Act shall be provided in sufficient in-  
10 tensity in terms of hours, and shall be of sufficient dura-  
11 tion, to make sustainable changes in a family and shall  
12 integrate all of the following activities:

13 (1) Interactive literacy activities between par-  
14 ents and their children.

18 (3) Parent literacy training that leads to eco-  
19 nomic self-sufficiency

20 (4) An age-appropriate education to prepare  
21 children for success in school and life experiences

22 (e) SPECIAL RULE.—Family literacy services under  
23 this Act may be provided to a family only if—

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

### 3 SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

4 (a) ACTIVITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary, act-  
5 ing through the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and  
6 Secondary Education, shall provide technical assistance  
7 and training to grantees under this Act for the purposes  
8 described in subsection (c).

9 (b) ACTIVITIES BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

19 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of technical assistance  
20 and training provided under this section are the following:

21 (1) Assisting grantees under this Act to im-  
22 prove the quality of their family literacy services.

1       parents, to provide technical assistance and training  
2       to government agencies and to family literacy pro-  
3       viders that work in collaboration with such agencies  
4       to improve the quality of their family literacy serv-  
5       ices.

6               (3) Assisting such grantees in the implemen-  
7       tation of literacy curriculum and training activities, in-  
8       cluding curriculum and training activities that sup-  
9       port building on a child's native language.

10               (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days  
11       after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall sub-  
12       mit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the  
13       House of Representatives and the Committee on Health,  
14       Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report  
15       on the technical assistance and training provided pursuant  
16       to subsections (a) and (b). Each such report shall describe  
17       the actions taken by the Secretary to ensure that such  
18       technical assistance and training is of high-quality and is  
19       responsive to the needs of grantees under this Act.

20 **SEC. 6. OUTCOME MEASURES.**

21               The Secretary shall require each family literacy pro-  
22       vider receiving a grant under this Act to meet culturally  
23       appropriate and competent outcome measures described in  
24       the provider's application under section 4, including out-  
25       come measures with respect to—

## 14 SEC. 7. EVALUATION.

15        The Secretary shall conduct an annual evaluation of  
16 the grant program under this Act. Such evaluation shall  
17 be used by the Secretary—  
18            (1) for program improvement;  
19            (2) to further define the program's goals and  
20 objectives; and  
21            (3) to determine program effectiveness.

## 22 SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

23 For purposes of this Act:

24 (1) APPLICATION OF ESEA TERMS.—The terms  
25 “elementary school”, “limited English proficient”,

1 “local educational agency”, “scientifically based re-  
2 search”, and “secondary school” have the meanings  
3 given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary  
4 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
5 7801). The term “scientifically based reading re-  
6 search” has the meaning given such term in section  
7 1208 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6368).

11 (A) is located in a geographic area con-  
12 taining at least one public elementary school or  
13 secondary school with a majority enrollment of  
14 children with limited English proficiency; and

15 (B) is one of the following:

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

25 (ii) An adult education provider.

## 10 SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
12 priated to carry out this Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal  
13 years 2008 through 2013.

14 (b) RESERVATIONS.—From funds made available  
15 pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary  
16 shall reserve—

17 (1) not more than 2 percent of such funds for  
18 conducting the annual evaluation required by section  
19 7;

20 (2) \$5,000,000 for technical assistance and  
21 training under section 5(a); and

22 (3) \$5,000,000 for technical assistance and  
23 training under section 5(b).

