

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1172

To reduce hunger in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2007

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. AKAKA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To reduce hunger in the United States.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2007”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO END HUNGER

- Sec. 101. Hunger reports.

TITLE II—STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Sec. 121. Hunger-free communities collaborative grants.

Sec. 122. Hunger-free communities infrastructure grants.

Sec. 123. Hunger-free communities training and technical assistance grants.

Sec. 124. Report.

Sec. 125. Authorization of appropriations.

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1)(A) at the 1996 World Food Summit, the
 4 United States, along with 185 other countries,
 5 pledged to reduce the number of undernourished
 6 people by half by 2015; and

7 (B) as a result of that pledge, the Department
 8 of Health and Human Services adopted the Healthy
 9 People 2010 goal to cut food insecurity in half by
 10 2010, and in doing so reduce hunger;

11 (2) national nutrition programs are among the
 12 fastest, most direct ways to efficiently and effectively
 13 prevent hunger, reduce food insecurity, and improve
 14 nutrition among the populations targeted by a pro-
 15 gram;

16 (3) in 2001, food banks, food pantries, soup
 17 kitchens, and emergency shelters helped to feed
 18 more than 23,000,000 low-income people; and

19 (4) community-based organizations and char-
 20 ities can help—

21 (A) play an important role in preventing
 22 and reducing hunger;

- 1 (B) measure community food security;
- 2 (C) develop and implement plans for im-
- 3 proving food security;
- 4 (D) educate community leaders about the
- 5 problems of and solutions to hunger;
- 6 (E) ensure that local nutrition programs
- 7 are implemented effectively; and
- 8 (F) improve the connection of food inse-
- 9 cure people to anti-hunger programs.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) DOMESTIC HUNGER GOAL.—The term “do-

13 mestic hunger goal” means—

14 (A) the goal of reducing hunger in the

15 United States to at or below 2 percent by 2010;

16 or

17 (B) the goal of reducing food insecurity in

18 the United States to at or below 6 percent by

19 2010.

20 (2) EMERGENCY FEEDING ORGANIZATION.—

21 The term “emergency feeding organization” has the

22 meaning given the term in section 201A of the

23 Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C.

24 7501).

1 (3) FOOD SECURITY.—The term “food secu-
2 rity” means the state in which an individual has ac-
3 cess to enough food for an active, healthy life.

4 (4) HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES GOAL.—The
5 term “hunger-free communities goal” means any of
6 the 14 goals described in the H. Con. Res. 302
7 (102nd Congress).

8 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Agriculture.

10 **TITLE I—NATIONAL** 11 **COMMITMENT TO END HUNGER**

12 **SEC. 101. HUNGER REPORTS.**

13 (a) STUDY.—

14 (1) TIMELINE.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary shall conduct a study of major matters
18 relating to the problem of hunger in the United
19 States, as determined by the Secretary.

20 (B) UPDATE.—Not later than 5 years
21 after the date on which the study under sub-
22 paragraph (A) is conducted, the Secretary shall
23 update the study.

1 (2) MATTERS TO BE ASSESSED.—The matters
2 to be assessed by the Secretary in the study and up-
3 date under this section shall include—

4 (A) data on hunger and food insecurity in
5 the United States;

6 (B) measures carried out during the pre-
7 vious year by Federal, State, and local govern-
8 ments to achieve domestic hunger goals and
9 hunger-free communities goals;

10 (C) measures that could be carried out by
11 Federal, State, and local governments to
12 achieve domestic hunger goals and hunger-free
13 communities goals; and

14 (D) the impact of hunger and household
15 food insecurity on obesity, in the context of pov-
16 erty and food assistance programs.

17 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall de-
18 velop recommendations on—

19 (1) removing obstacles to achieving domestic
20 hunger goals and hunger-free communities goals;
21 and

22 (2) otherwise reducing domestic hunger.

23 (c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the
24 President and Congress—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report that contains—

(A) a detailed statement of the results of the study, or the most recent update to the study, conducted under subsection (a)(1); and

(B) the most recent recommendations of the Secretary under subsection (b); and

(2) not later than 5 years after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), an update of the report.

TITLE II—STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY EFFORTS

SEC. 121. HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means a public food program service provider or a nonprofit organization, including but not limited to an emergency feeding organization, that demonstrates the organization has collaborated, or will collaborate, with 1 or more local partner organizations to achieve at least 1 hunger-free communities goal.

(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not more than 50 percent of any funds made available under section 125 to make grants to eligible entities

1 to pay the Federal share of the costs of an activity
2 described in subsection (d).

3 (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
4 the cost of carrying out an activity under this sec-
5 tion shall not exceed 80 percent.

6 (3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

7 (A) CALCULATION.—The non-Federal
8 share of the cost of an activity under this sec-
9 tion may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly
10 evaluated, including facilities, equipment, or
11 services.

12 (B) SOURCES.—Any entity may provide
13 the non-Federal share of the cost of an activity
14 under this section through a State government,
15 a local government, or a private source.

16 (c) APPLICATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
18 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
19 cation to the Secretary at the time and in the man-
20 ner and accompanied by any information the Sec-
21 retary may require.

22 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
23 under paragraph (1) shall—

24 (A) identify any activity described in sub-
25 section (d) that the grant will be used to fund;

1 (B) describe the means by which an activ-
 2 ity identified under subparagraph (A) will re-
 3 duce hunger in the community of the eligible
 4 entity;

5 (C) list any partner organizations of the el-
 6 igible entity that will participate in an activity
 7 funded by the grant;

8 (D) describe any agreement between a
 9 partner organization and the eligible entity nec-
 10 essary to carry out an activity funded by the
 11 grant; and

12 (E) if an assessment described in sub-
 13 section (d)(1) has been performed, include—

14 (i) a summary of that assessment;

15 and

16 (ii) information regarding the means
 17 by which the grant will help reduce hunger
 18 in the community of the eligible entity.

19 (3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
 20 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
 21 entities that—

22 (A) demonstrate in the application of the
 23 eligible entity that the eligible entity makes col-
 24 laborative efforts to reduce hunger in the com-
 25 munity of the eligible entity; and

1 (B)(i) serve a predominantly rural and
2 geographically underserved area;

3 (ii) serve communities in which the rates of
4 food insecurity, hunger, poverty, or unemploy-
5 ment are demonstrably higher than national av-
6 erage rates;

7 (iii) provide evidence of long-term efforts
8 to reduce hunger in the community;

9 (iv) provide evidence of public support for
10 the efforts of the eligible entity; or

11 (v) demonstrate in the application of the
12 eligible entity a commitment to achieving more
13 than 1 hunger-free communities goal.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) ASSESSMENT OF HUNGER IN THE COMMU-
16 NITY.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity in a
18 community that has not performed an assess-
19 ment described in subparagraph (B) may use a
20 grant received under this section to perform the
21 assessment for the community.

22 (B) ASSESSMENT.—The assessment re-
23 ferred to in subparagraph (A) shall include—

1 (i) an analysis of the problem of hun-
 2 ger in the community served by the eligible
 3 entity;

4 (ii) an evaluation of any facility and
 5 any equipment used to achieve a hunger-
 6 free communities goal in the community;

7 (iii) an analysis of the effectiveness
 8 and extent of service of existing nutrition
 9 programs and emergency feeding organiza-
 10 tions; and

11 (iv) a plan to achieve any other hun-
 12 ger-free communities goal in the commu-
 13 nity.

14 (2) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity in a com-
 15 munity that has submitted an assessment to the
 16 Secretary shall use a grant received under this sec-
 17 tion for any fiscal year for activities of the eligible
 18 entity, including—

19 (A) meeting the immediate needs of people
 20 in the community served by the eligible entity
 21 who experience hunger by—

22 (i) distributing food;

23 (ii) providing community outreach; or

24 (iii) improving access to food as part
 25 of a comprehensive service;

1 (B) developing new resources and strate-
 2 gies to help reduce hunger in the community;

3 (C) establishing a program to achieve a
 4 hunger-free communities goal in the commu-
 5 nity, including—

6 (i) a program to prevent, monitor, and
 7 treat children in the community experi-
 8 encing hunger or poor nutrition; or

9 (ii) a program to provide information
 10 to people in the community on hunger, do-
 11 mestic hunger goals, and hunger-free com-
 12 munities goals; and

13 (D) establishing a program to provide food
 14 and nutrition services as part of a coordinated
 15 community-based comprehensive service.

16 **SEC. 122. HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES INFRASTRUCTURE**
 17 **GRANTS.**

18 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
 19 tion, the term “eligible entity” means an emergency feed-
 20 ing organization (as defined in section 201A(4) of the
 21 Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C.
 22 7501(4))).

23 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not
 25 more than 40 percent of any funds made available

1 under section 125 to make grants to eligible entities
2 to pay the Federal share of the costs of an activity
3 described in subsection (d).

4 (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
5 the cost of carrying out an activity under this sec-
6 tion shall not exceed 80 percent.

7 (c) APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
9 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
10 cation to the Secretary at the time and in the man-
11 ner and accompanied by any information the Sec-
12 retary may require.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
14 under paragraph (1) shall—

15 (A) identify any activity described in sub-
16 section (d) that the grant will be used to fund;
17 and

18 (B) describe the means by which an activ-
19 ity identified under subparagraph (A) will re-
20 duce hunger in the community of the eligible
21 entity.

22 (3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
23 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
24 entities the applications of which demonstrate 2 or
25 more of the following:

1 (A) The eligible entity serves a predomi-
2 nantly rural and geographically underserved
3 area.

4 (B) The eligible entity serves a community
5 in which the rates of food insecurity, hunger,
6 poverty, or unemployment are demonstrably
7 higher than national average rates.

8 (C) The eligible entity serves a community
9 that has carried out long-term efforts to reduce
10 hunger in the community.

11 (D) The eligible entity serves a community
12 that provides public support for the efforts of
13 the eligible entity.

14 (E) The eligible entity is committed to
15 achieving more than 1 hunger-free communities
16 goal.

17 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
18 grant received under this section for any fiscal year to
19 carry out activities of the eligible entity, including—

20 (1) constructing, expanding, or repairing a fa-
21 cility or equipment to support hunger relief agencies
22 in the community;

23 (2) assisting an emergency feeding organization
24 in the community in obtaining locally-produced
25 produce and protein products; and

1 (3) assisting an emergency feeding organization
2 in the community to process and serve wild game.

3 **SEC. 123. HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES TRAINING AND**
4 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
6 tion, the term “eligible entity” means a national or re-
7 gional nonprofit organization that carries out an activity
8 described in subsection (d).

9 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not
11 more than 10 percent of any funds made available
12 under section 125 to make grants to eligible entities
13 to pay the Federal share of the costs of an activity
14 described in subsection (d).

15 (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
16 the cost of carrying out an activity under this sec-
17 tion shall not exceed 80 percent.

18 (c) APPLICATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
20 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
21 cation to the Secretary at the time and in the man-
22 ner and accompanied by any information the Sec-
23 retary may require.

24 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
25 under paragraph (1) shall—

1 (A) demonstrate that the eligible entity
2 does not operate for profit;

3 (B) describe any national or regional train-
4 ing program carried out by the eligible entity,
5 including a description of each region served by
6 the eligible entity;

7 (C) describe any national or regional tech-
8 nical assistance provided by the eligible entity,
9 including a description of each region served by
10 the eligible entity; and

11 (D) describe the means by which each or-
12 ganization served by the eligible entity—

13 (i) works to achieve a domestic hun-
14 ger goal;

15 (ii) works to achieve a hunger-free
16 communities goal; or

17 (iii) used a grant received by the orga-
18 nization under section 121 or 122.

19 (3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
20 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
21 entities the applications of which demonstrate 2 or
22 more of the following:

23 (A) The eligible entity serves a predomi-
24 nantly rural and geographically underserved
25 area.

1 (B) The eligible entity serves a region in
 2 which the rates of food insecurity, hunger, pov-
 3 erty, or unemployment are demonstrably higher
 4 than national average rates.

5 (C) The eligible entity serves a region that
 6 has carried out long-term efforts to reduce hun-
 7 ger in the region.

8 (D) The eligible entity serves a region that
 9 provides public support for the efforts of the el-
 10 ible entity.

11 (E) The eligible entity is committed to
 12 achieving more than 1 hunger-free communities
 13 goal.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
 15 grant received under this section for any fiscal year to
 16 carry out national or regional training and technical as-
 17 sistance for organizations that—

18 (1) work to achieve a domestic hunger goal;

19 (2) work to achieve a hunger-free communities
 20 goal; or

21 (3) receive a grant under section 121 or 122.

22 **SEC. 124. REPORT.**

23 Not later than September 30, 2013, the Secretary
 24 shall submit to Congress a report describing—

1 (1) each grant made under this title, includ-
2 ing—

3 (A) a description of any activity funded by
4 such a grant; and

5 (B) the degree of success of each activity
6 funded by such a grant in achieving hunger-free
7 communities goals; and

8 (2) the degree of success of all activities funded
9 by grants under this title in achieving domestic hun-
10 ger goals.

11 **SEC. 125. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this title \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
14 through 2013.

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