

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 795

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HARE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 5 “Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social
 6 Work Reinvestment Act”.

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

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

TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

- Sec. 101. Establishment of Commission.
- Sec. 102. Purposes and duties of Commission.
- Sec. 103. Appointment of Commission members.
- Sec. 104. Powers of the Commission.
- Sec. 105. Compensation for Commission members.
- Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

- Sec. 201. Workplace improvement grants.
- Sec. 202. Research grants.
- Sec. 203. Education and training grants.
- Sec. 204. Community-based programs of excellence grants.
- Sec. 205. National coordinating center.
- Sec. 206. Multi-media outreach campaign.

9 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

10 Congress finds the following:

11 (1) The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that
 12 employment of social workers is expected to increase
 13 faster than average (estimated to be 22 percent dur-
 14 ing the 2006–2016 decade), demonstrating a sub-
 15 stantial need for social workers. The need is even

1 greater for social workers in the area of aging. The
2 National Association of Social Workers Center for
3 Workforce Studies estimates that nine percent of, or
4 30,000, licensed social workers specialize in geron-
5 tology. By 2010, as more people reach the age of 65,
6 the National Institute on Aging projects that 60,000
7 to 70,000 social workers will be needed.

8 (2) Social work salaries are among the lowest
9 for professionals in general and for those with Mas-
10 ter's level educations in particular. A survey con-
11 ducted by the John A. Hartford Foundation found
12 that between 1992 and 1999 the annual rate of
13 wage growth for degree-holding social workers was
14 0.8 percent. According to the National Association
15 of Social Workers, Center for Workforce Studies, 60
16 percent of full-time social workers earn between
17 \$35,000 and \$59,999 per year, with 25 percent
18 earning between \$40,000 and \$49,999 per year. So-
19 cial workers who earn lower salaries are more likely
20 to work in challenging agency environments and to
21 serve more vulnerable clients. They are also more
22 likely to leave the profession.

23 (3) According to one study by the Council on
24 Social Work Education, 68 percent of individuals
25 surveyed who held a Master's Degree in Social Work

1 graduated with an average debt of \$26,777. Addi-
2 tionally, the United States Public Interest Research
3 Group states that 37 percent of public four-year
4 graduates have too much debt to manage as a start-
5 ing social worker. While social workers may be in
6 positions that are personally fulfilling, due to their
7 high loan debt and low income, many struggle finan-
8 cially.

9 (4) Social work can be a dangerous profession.
10 According to the American Federation of State,
11 County, and Municipal Employees, 70 percent of
12 caseworkers report that front line staff in their
13 agency have been victims of violence or have received
14 threats of violence. Social workers are considerably
15 safer when measures such as global positioning sys-
16 tems, self-defense training, and conflict prevention
17 are implemented.

18 (5) According to a study by the University of
19 Michigan, approximately one in seven adults over the
20 age of 70 have some form of dementia, and 9.7 per-
21 cent (or 2,400,000 Americans) of those found with
22 dementia were also found to have Alzheimer's dis-
23 ease. Social workers in gerontology settings work
24 with older adults, including those with dementia to
25 support their physiological, psychological, and social

1 needs through mental health therapy, caregiver and
2 family counseling, health education, program coordi-
3 nation, and case management. These professionals
4 also assist the hundreds of thousands of older per-
5 sons who are abused, neglected, frail, and vulner-
6 able. Between 2000 and 2004 there was a 19.7 per-
7 cent increase in the total number of reports of elder
8 and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect.

9 (6) The Children's Defense Fund states that
10 every 36 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or
11 neglected. The Administration for Children and
12 Families states that 510,000 children were in the
13 United States foster care system in 2006. Most of
14 the children in foster care are placed in foster care
15 due to parental abuse or neglect. Research shows
16 that professional social workers in child welfare
17 agencies are more likely to find permanent homes
18 for children who were in foster care for two or more
19 years. Unfortunately, fewer than 40 percent of child
20 welfare workers are professional social workers.

21 (7) The Department of Health and Human
22 Services estimates that 26.2 percent of Americans
23 aged 18 and older (one in four adults) experiences
24 a diagnosable mental disorder. Additionally, one in
25 five children and adolescents experience a mental

1 health disorder. At least one in ten, or about
2 6,000,000 young people, have a serious emotional
3 disturbance. Social workers provide the majority of
4 mental health counseling services in the United
5 States, and are often the only providers of such serv-
6 ices in rural areas.

7 (8) The Department of Veterans Affairs esti-
8 mates that there are 23,977,000 veterans in the
9 United States. More than 1,100,000 members of the
10 Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq or Af-
11 ghanistan since 2001. A once declining veteran pop-
12 ulation is now surging and is in dire need of mental
13 health treatment to address issues such as post trau-
14 matic stress disorder, depression, drug and alcohol
15 addiction, and suicide. Veterans make up 25 percent
16 of homeless people in the United States, even though
17 they comprise only 11 percent of the general popu-
18 lation. Social workers working with veterans and
19 their families provide case management, crisis inter-
20 vention, mental health interventions, housing and fi-
21 nancial counseling, high risk screening, and advo-
22 cacy among other services. The Department of Vet-
23 erans Affairs employs over 5,000 professional social
24 workers and is the single largest employer of social
25 workers in the country. Social workers in the De-

1 partment also coordinate the Community Residential
2 Care Program, the oldest and most cost-effective of
3 the Department's extended care programs.

4 (9) The American Cancer Society estimates
5 that there were 1,437,180 new cases of cancer and
6 565,650 cancer deaths in 2008 alone. The incidence
7 of cancer will increase dramatically as the population
8 grows older. The Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention reports that at the end of 2003 there
10 were 1,039,000 to 1,285,000 people living with HIV
11 or AIDS in the United States. In 2006, 1,300,000
12 people received care from hospice providers in the
13 United States. Health care and medical social work-
14 ers practice in all of these areas and provide out-
15 reach for prevention, help individuals and their fami-
16 lies adapt to their circumstances, provide grief coun-
17 seling, and act as a liaison between individuals and
18 their medical team, helping patients make informed
19 decisions about their care.

20 (10) The National Center for Education Statis-
21 tics states that in 2005 the national dropout rate for
22 high school students totaled 9.3 percent. White stu-
23 dents dropped out at a rate of 5.8 percent. African-
24 American students dropped out at a rate of 10.7
25 percent. Hispanic students dropped out at a rate of

1 22.1 percent. Some vulnerable communities have
2 drop out rates of 50 percent or higher. Social work-
3 ers in school settings help these students through
4 early identification, prevention, intervention, coun-
5 seling, and support services.

6 (11) According to the Department of Justice,
7 every year more than 650,000 ex-offenders are re-
8 leased from Federal and State prisons. Social work-
9 ers employed in the corrections system address dis-
10 proportionate minority incarceration rates, provide
11 treatment for mental health problems and drug and
12 alcohol addiction, and work within as well as outside
13 of the prison to reduce recidivism and increase posi-
14 tive community reentry.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
18 means the Social Work Reinvestment Commission.

19 (2) COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM.—The term
20 “community-based program” means an agency, or-
21 ganization, or other entity carrying out a program
22 that provides direct social work services, or commu-
23 nity development services, at a neighborhood, local-
24 ity, or regional level, to address human service,
25 health care, or psycho-social needs.

1 (3) HIGH NEED AND HIGH DEMAND POPU-
2 LATION.—The term “high need and high demand
3 population” means a group that lacks sufficient re-
4 sources and, as a result, has a greater probability of
5 being harmed by specific social, environmental, or
6 health problems than the population as a whole. The
7 group at issue may be a group residing in an area
8 defined by the Health Resources and Services Ad-
9 ministration as a “health professional shortage
10 area,” which has a shortage of primary medical care,
11 dental, or mental health providers.

12 (4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
13 VERSITY.—The term “historically black college or
14 university” means the institutions that are within
15 the definition given the term “part B institution” in
16 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

18 (5) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
19 term “minority serving institution” means an edu-
20 cational institution that serves a large percentage of
21 minority students, including Alaska/Native Hawaiian
22 Institutions, Asian-Serving Institutions, Black-Serv-
23 ing Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and
24 Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and
25 Tribal Colleges and Universities. Minority serving

1 institutions are classified based on either legislation
2 or the percentage of minority student enrollment.

3 (6) RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER.—

4 The term “related professional researcher” means a
5 person who is professionally engaged in research in
6 a social, political, economic, health, or mental health
7 field. The research referenced to in this paragraph
8 is primarily conducted by doctoral level researchers
9 under university, government, research institute, or
10 community agency auspices.

11 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

13 (8) SOCIAL WORK.—The term “social work”
14 means—

15 (A) the professional activity of helping in-
16 dividuals, groups, or communities enhance or
17 restore capacity for social and psycho-social
18 functioning and creating societal conditions fa-
19 vorable to that enhancement or restoration;

20 (B) an activity, the practice of which con-
21 sists of the professional application of values,
22 principles, and techniques related to the profes-
23 sional activity described in subparagraph (A),
24 including—

1 (i) diagnosis and treatment of mental
2 and emotional disorders with individuals,
3 families, and groups;

4 (ii) helping communities or groups
5 provide or improve social and health serv-
6 ices and participating in relevant legislative
7 processes; and

8 (iii) helping people obtain tangible
9 services; and

10 (C) an activity, the practice of which re-
11 quires knowledge of—

12 (i) human development;

13 (ii) behavior of social, economic, and
14 cultural institutions; and

15 (iii) the interaction of the factors de-
16 scribed in clauses (i) and (ii).

17 (9) SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER.—The term
18 “social work researcher” means a person who stud-
19 ies social work at the individual, family, group, com-
20 munity, policy, or organizational level, focusing
21 across the human life span on prevention of, inter-
22 vention in, treatment of, aftercare of, and rehabilita-
23 tion from acute and chronic social and psycho-social
24 conditions, and includes a person examining the ef-
25 fect of policies on social work practice. The study re-

ferred to in this paragraph is primarily conducted by researchers with doctoral degrees who are social workers or faculty under university, government, research institute, or community agency auspices.

(10) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social worker” means a graduate of a school of social work with a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree, who uses knowledge and skills to provide social work services for clients who may be individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, or society in general.

TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

Not later than three months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary on policy issues associated with the recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work.

SEC. 102. PURPOSES AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study to examine and assess—

1 (1) the professional capacity of the social work
2 workforce to successfully serve and respond to the
3 increasing biopsychosocial needs of individuals,
4 groups, and communities in the areas of—

5 (A) aging;

6 (B) child welfare;

7 (C) military and veterans affairs;

8 (D) mental and behavioral health and dis-
9 ability;

10 (E) criminal justice and correctional sys-
11 tems;

12 (F) health and issues affecting women and
13 families; and

14 (G) other areas as identified by the Com-
15 mission;

16 (2) the workforce challenges facing the profes-
17 sion of social work, such as high social work edu-
18 cational debt, fair market compensation, social work
19 workforce trends, translating social work research to
20 practice, social work safety, State-level social work
21 licensure policies and reciprocity agreements for pro-
22 viding services across State lines, the lack of diver-
23 sity in the social work profession, or any other area
24 determined by the Secretary, and the effect that

1 such challenges have on the recruitment and reten-
2 tion of professional social workers;

3 (3) current workforce challenges and shortages
4 relevant to the needs of clients served by profes-
5 sional social workers;

6 (4) the social work workforce challenges de-
7 scribed in paragraph (2) and the effects that they
8 will have on the areas described in paragraph (1);
9 and

10 (5) the advisability of establishing a social work
11 enhancement account intended to provide direct
12 grant assistance to local governments to encourage
13 the engagement of professional social workers in so-
14 cial service programs.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
16 date of its first meeting, the Commission shall submit a
17 report to the Secretary and Congress containing specific
18 findings and conclusions regarding the need for recruit-
19 ment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profes-
20 sion of social work. The report shall include recommenda-
21 tions and strategies for corrective actions to ensure a ro-
22 bust social work workforce capable of keeping up with the
23 demand for needed services. The Commission may provide
24 to Congress any additional findings or recommendations
25 considered by the Commission to be important.

1 **SEC. 103. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

2 (a) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
3 retary shall appoint members to the Commission. The
4 members shall reflect representation by social workers and
5 other members, including:

6 (1) Two deans of schools of social work.

7 (2) One social work researcher.

8 (3) One related professional researcher.

9 (4) One governor.

10 (5) Two leaders of national social work organi-
11 zations.

12 (6) One senior social work State official.

13 (7) One senior related State official.

14 (8) Two directors of community-based organiza-
15 tions or nonprofit organizations.

16 (9) One labor economist.

17 (10) One social work consumer.

18 (11) One licensed clinical social worker.

19 (b) APPOINTMENT BY OTHER OFFICIALS.—Four ad-
20 ditional members shall be appointed to the Commission,
21 one member chosen by:

22 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
23 tives.

24 (2) The minority leader of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives.

26 (3) The majority leader of the Senate.

1 (4) The minority leader of the Senate.

2 (c) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-
3 CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall select a chairperson
4 and vice-chairperson for the Commission from among the
5 members of the Commission.

6 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
7 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission, and
8 any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers
9 of the Commission. Vacancies shall be filled in the same
10 manner as the original appointment.

11 (e) ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION.—Members
12 of the Commission should be appointed so as to dem-
13 onstrate knowledge, understanding, and participation of
14 individuals and groups from different racial, ethnic, cul-
15 tural, gender, geographic, religious, sexual orientation, lin-
16 guistic, and class backgrounds.

17 (f) SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.—The Commission
18 shall hold its first meeting not later than six weeks after
19 the date on which the final member of the Commission
20 is appointed, and subsequent meetings at the call of the
21 chair.

22 **SEC. 104. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

23 (a) POWERS.—The Commission shall have the power
24 to—

1 (1) hold hearings and sit and act at such times
2 and places take testimony, receive evidence, and ad-
3 minister oaths;

4 (2) delegate the Commission powers described
5 in paragraph (1) to any Commission subcommittee
6 or member thereof for the purpose of carrying out
7 this Act;

8 (3) enter into contracts to enable the Commis-
9 sion to perform its work under this Act; and

10 (4) consult, to the extent that it determines
11 necessary or useful, with other agencies and organi-
12 zations, including—

13 (A) agencies within the Department of
14 Health and Human Services, including the Ad-
15 ministration for Children and Families, the Ad-
16 ministration on Aging, the Agency for
17 Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers
18 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers
19 for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the Health
20 Resources and Service Administration, the In-
21 dian Health Service, the National Institutes of
22 Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental
23 Health Services Administration;

24 (B) the Social Security Administration;

1 (C) the Departments of Agriculture, De-
2 fense, Education, Homeland Security, Labor,
3 Justice, State, and Veterans Affairs; and

4 (D) any other agency as determined by the
5 Commission.

6 (b) COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION.—The en-
7 tities and agencies described in subsection (a)(3) shall co-
8 operate with and provide counsel to the Commission to
9 the greatest extent practicable.

10 **SEC. 105. COMPENSATION FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

11 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
12 mission shall not receive compensation for the perform-
13 ance of services for the Commission, but shall be allowed
14 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
15 at rates authorized for employees of agencies under sub-
16 chapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,
17 while away from their homes or regular places of business
18 in the performance of services for the Commission. Not-
19 withstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code,
20 the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompen-
21 sated services of members of the Commission.

22 (b) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
23 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
24 Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall

1 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or
2 privilege.

3 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
5 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out the
6 activities of the Commission.

7 **TITLE II—REINVESTMENT**
8 **GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUP-**
9 **PORT SOCIAL WORK PROFES-**
10 **SION**

11 **SEC. 201. WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

12 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
13 award grants to four eligible entities described in sub-
14 section (c) to address workplace concerns for the social
15 work profession, including caseloads, compensation, social
16 work safety, supervision, and working conditions.

17 (b) LOCAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES RE-
18 QUIREMENT.—At least two of the grant recipients must
19 be local or State government agencies.

20 (c) GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be
21 eligible for a grant under this section, an entity must—

22 (1) work in a social work capacity that dem-
23 onstrates a need in a workplace concern area de-
24 scribed in subsection (a);

1 (2) demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and
2 participation in the entities' programs of individuals
3 and groups from different racial, ethnic, cultural,
4 gender, geographic, religious, sexual orientation, lin-
5 guistic, and class backgrounds;

6 (3) demonstrate a record of active participation
7 of professionally trained social workers in the enti-
8 ties' programs; and

9 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
10 uals employed by the entities as competent only
11 within the boundaries of their education, training, li-
12 censes, certification, consultation received, super-
13 vised experience, or other relevant professional expe-
14 rience.

15 (d) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall dis-
16 tribute the grant funds annually to the four grant recipi-
17 ents over a four-year period in equal amounts.

18 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
19 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
20 ble entities that—

21 (1) are equipped with the capacity to oversee
22 and monitor the grant-funded workplace improve-
23 ment program carried out under this section, includ-
24 ing proven fiscal responsibility and administrative
25 capability; and

1 (2) are knowledgeable about relevant workforce
2 trends and have at least two years of experience rel-
3 evant to the grant-funded workplace improvement
4 program.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 to the Sec-
7 retary to provide grants under this section.

8 **SEC. 202. RESEARCH GRANTS.**

9 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
10 award grants to not less than 25 social workers who hold
11 a doctoral degree in social work for post-doctoral research
12 in social work—

13 (1) to further the knowledge base about effec-
14 tive social work interventions; and

15 (2) to promote usable strategies to translate re-
16 search into practice across diverse community set-
17 tings and service systems.

18 (b) GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be
19 eligible for a grant under this section, a social worker
20 must—

21 (1) demonstrate knowledge and understanding
22 of individuals and groups from different racial, eth-
23 nic, cultural, gender, geographic, religious, sexual
24 orientation, linguistic, and class backgrounds; and

1 (2) provide services and represent themselves as
2 competent only within the boundaries of their edu-
3 cation, training, licenses, certification, consultation
4 received, supervised experience, or other relevant
5 professional experience.

6 (c) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—At least 10 of the
7 social workers awarded grants in subsection (a) must be
8 employed by a historically black college or university or
9 minority serving institution.

10 (d) AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall distribute the
11 grant funds annually to the grant recipients over a four-
12 year period.

13 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Secretary
15 to provide grants under this section.

16 **SEC. 203. EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS.**

17 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
18 award 20 grants to institutions of higher education that
19 offer baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees in social
20 work to support the recruitment of social work students
21 for, and education of the students in, baccalaureate, mas-
22 ter's, and doctoral degree programs, as well as the devel-
23 opment of faculty.

24 (b) GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be
25 eligible for a grant under this section, an institution must

1 demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and participation
2 in the institutions' programs of individuals and groups
3 from different racial, ethnic, cultural, gender, geographic,
4 religious, sexual orientation, linguistic, and class back-
5 grounds.

6 (c) INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT.—At least four of
7 the grant recipients must be a historically black college
8 or university or other minority serving institution.

9 (d) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall dis-
10 tribute the grant funds annually to the 20 grant recipients
11 over a four-year period in equal amounts. A grant recipi-
12 ent may not receive more than \$100,000 annually in grant
13 money under this section.

14 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
15 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to in-
16 stitutions of higher education that—

17 (1) are accredited by the Council on Social
18 Work Education;

19 (2) have a graduation rate of not less than 80
20 percent for social work students; and

21 (3) exhibit an ability to recruit social workers
22 from and place them in areas with a high need and
23 high demand population.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000 to the Secretary
3 to provide grants under this section.

4 **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE**
5 **GRANTS.**

6 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
7 award grants to six public community-based programs or
8 nonprofit organizations that are carrying out programs of
9 excellence to further test and replicate effective social
10 work interventions.

11 (b) GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be
12 eligible for a grant under this section, a public community-
13 based program or nonprofit organization must—

14 (1) carry out programs in the areas of aging,
15 child welfare, military and veteran’s issues, mental
16 and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice
17 and correction systems, and health and issues affect-
18 ing women and families;

19 (2) demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and
20 participation in the public community-based pro-
21 grams or nonprofit organizations’ programs of indi-
22 viduals and groups from different racial, ethnic, cul-
23 tural, gender, geographic, religious, sexual orienta-
24 tion, linguistic, and class backgrounds;

1 (3) demonstrate a record of active participation
2 of professionally trained social workers in the public
3 community-based programs or nonprofit organiza-
4 tions' programs; and

5 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
6 uals employed by the public community-based pro-
7 grams or nonprofit organizations as competent only
8 within the boundaries of their education, training, li-
9 censes, certification, consultation received, super-
10 vised experience, or other relevant professional expe-
11 rience.

12 (c) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall dis-
13 tribute the grant funds annually to the grant recipients
14 over a three-year period in equal amounts. A grant recipi-
15 ent may not receive more than \$500,000 annually in grant
16 money under this section.

17 (d) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
18 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to pub-
19 lic community-based programs or nonprofit organizations
20 that—

21 (1) have demonstrated successful and measur-
22 able outcomes that are worthy of replication;

23 (2) have been in operation for at least two
24 years; and

1 (3) work with high need and high demand pop-
2 ulations.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$9,000,000 to the Secretary
5 to provide grants under this section.

6 **SEC. 205. NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into
8 a contract with a national social work research entity
9 that—

10 (1) has experience in coordinating the transfer
11 of information and ideas among entities engaged in
12 social work research, practice, education, and policy-
13 making; and

14 (2) maintains relationships with Federal enti-
15 ties, social work degree-granting institutions of high-
16 er education and departments of social work within
17 such institutions, and organizations and agencies
18 that employ social workers.

19 (b) GENERAL DUTIES.—The contract recipient (in
20 this section referred to as the “coordinating center”) shall
21 serve as a coordinating center and shall organize informa-
22 tion and other data, collect and report data, serve as a
23 clearinghouse, and coordinate activities with the entities,
24 institutions, departments, organizations, and agencies de-
25 scribed in subsection (a)(2).

1 (c) COLLABORATION.—The coordinating center shall
2 work with institutions of higher education, research enti-
3 ties, and entities with social work practice settings to iden-
4 tify key research areas to be pursued, select research fel-
5 lows, and organize appropriate mentorship and profes-
6 sional development efforts.

7 (d) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING
8 CENTER.—The coordinating center shall—

9 (1) collect, coordinate, monitor, and distribute
10 data, information on best practices and findings re-
11 garding the activities funded under grants made to
12 eligible entities and individuals under the grant pro-
13 grams described in sections 201 through 204;

14 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-
15 port that includes recommendations regarding the
16 need to recruit new social workers, retain current so-
17 cial workers, conduct social work research, and rein-
18 vestment into the profession of social work; and

19 (3) demonstrate cultural competency and pro-
20 mote the participation of diverse groups.

21 (e) SELECTION.—The Secretary, in collaboration
22 with the coordinating center, shall—

23 (1) select topics to be researched under this sec-
24 tion;

1 (2) select candidates and finalists for research
2 fellow positions; and

3 (3) determine other activities to be carried out
4 under this section.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
7 section for each of fiscal years 2010 to 2014.

8 **SEC. 206. MULTI-MEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.**

9 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC SERV-
10 ICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Secretary shall develop and
11 issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-
12 mote the social work profession, highlight the advantages
13 and rewards of social work, and encourage individuals to
14 enter the social work profession.

15 (b) METHOD.—The public service announcements de-
16 scribed in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through appro-
17 priate media outlets, including television or radio, in a
18 manner intended to reach as wide and diverse an audience
19 as possible.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
22 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
23 2010 through 2013.

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