

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3862

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 29, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. WALZ, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support community college and industry partnerships, 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 “Community College
5 to Career Fund Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CAREER FUND.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Workforce Innova-
 3 tion and Opportunity Act is amended by adding at the
 4 end the following:

5 **“Subtitle F—Community College to**
 6 **Career Fund**

7 **“SEC. 199. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNER-**
 8 **SHIPS PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From funds appro-
 10 priated under section 199A, the Secretary of Labor (in
 11 coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Sec-
 12 retary of Commerce) shall award competitive grants to eli-
 13 gible entities described in subsection (b) for the purpose
 14 of developing, offering, improving, and providing edu-
 15 cational or career training programs for workers.

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

17 “(1) PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS OR AN
 18 EMPLOYER OR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP.—

19 “(A) GENERAL DEFINITION.—For pur-
 20 poses of this section, an ‘eligible entity’ means
 21 any of the entities described in subparagraph
 22 (B) (or a consortium of any of such entities) in
 23 partnership with employers or an employer or
 24 industry partnership representing multiple em-
 25 ployers.

1 “(B) DESCRIPTION OF ENTITIES.—The en-
2 tities described in this subparagraph are—

3 “(i) a community college;

4 “(ii) a 4-year public institution of
5 higher education (as defined in section
6 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) that offers 2-
8 year degrees, and that will use funds pro-
9 vided under this section for activities at
10 the certificate and associate degree levels;

11 “(iii) a Tribal College or University
12 (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
14 1059c(b))); or

15 “(iv) a private or nonprofit, 2-year in-
16 stitution of higher education (as defined in
17 section 102 of the Higher Education Act
18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) in the Com-
19 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the
20 United States Virgin Islands, American
21 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
22 ern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the
23 Marshall Islands, the Federated States of
24 Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

25 “(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—

1 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL
2 PARTNERS.—In addition to partnering with em-
3 ployers or an employer or industry partnership
4 representing multiple employers as described in
5 paragraph (1)(A), an entity described in para-
6 graph (1) may include in the partnership de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1) one or more of the or-
8 ganizations described in subparagraph (B).
9 Each eligible entity that includes one or more
10 such organizations shall collaborate with the
11 State or local board in the area served by the
12 eligible entity.

13 “(B) ORGANIZATIONS.—The organizations
14 described in this subparagraph are as follows:

15 “(i) A provider of adult education (as
16 defined in section 203) or an institution of
17 higher education (as defined in section 101
18 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1001)).

20 “(ii) A community-based organization.

21 “(iii) A joint labor-management part-
22 nership.

23 “(iv) A State or local board.

24 “(v) Any other organization that the
25 Secretaries consider appropriate.

1 “(c) EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER TRAINING PRO-
2 GRAM.—For purposes of this section, the Governor of the
3 State in which at least one of the entities described in sub-
4 section (b)(1)(B) of an eligible entity is located shall es-
5 tablish criteria for an educational or career training pro-
6 gram leading to a recognized postsecondary credential for
7 which an eligible entity submits a grant proposal under
8 subsection (d).

9 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
10 grant under this section shall submit an application con-
11 taining a grant proposal, for an educational or career
12 training program leading to a recognized postsecondary
13 credential, to the Secretaries at such time and containing
14 such information as the Secretaries determine is required,
15 including a detailed description of—

16 “(1) the extent to which the educational or ca-
17 reer training program described in the grant pro-
18 posal fits within an overall strategic plan consisting
19 of—

20 “(A) the State plan described in section
21 102 or 103, for the State involved;

22 “(B) the local plan described in section
23 108, for each local area that comprises a sig-
24 nificant portion of the area to be served by the
25 eligible entity; and

1 “(C) a strategic plan developed by the eli-
2 gible entity;

3 “(2) the extent to which the program will meet
4 the needs of employers in the area for skilled work-
5 ers in in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

6 “(3) the extent to which the program will meet
7 the educational or career training needs of workers
8 in the area;

9 “(4) the specific educational or career training
10 program and how the program meets the criteria es-
11 tablished under subsection (e), including the manner
12 in which the grant will be used to develop, offer, im-
13 prove, and provide the educational or career training
14 program;

15 “(5) any previous experience of the eligible enti-
16 ty in providing educational or career training pro-
17 grams, the absence of which shall not automatically
18 disqualify an eligible institution from receiving a
19 grant under this section; and

20 “(6) how the program leading to the credential
21 meets the criteria described in subsection (c).

22 “(e) CRITERIA FOR AWARD.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section
24 shall be awarded based on criteria established by the
25 Secretaries, that include the following:

1 “(A) A determination of the merits of the
2 grant proposal submitted by the eligible entity
3 involved to develop, offer, improve, and provide
4 an educational or career training program to be
5 made available to workers.

6 “(B) An assessment of the likely employ-
7 ment opportunities available in the area to indi-
8 viduals who complete an educational or career
9 training program that the eligible entity pro-
10 poses to develop, offer, improve, and provide.

11 “(C) An assessment of prior demand for
12 training programs by individuals eligible for
13 training and served by the eligible entity, as
14 well as availability and capacity of existing (as
15 of the date of the assessment) training pro-
16 grams to meet future demand for training pro-
17 grams.

18 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
19 section, the Secretaries shall give priority to eligible
20 entities that—

21 “(A) include a partnership, with employers
22 or an employer or industry partnership, that—

23 “(i) pays a portion of the costs of
24 educational or career training programs; or

1 “(ii) agrees to hire individuals who
2 have attained a recognized postsecondary
3 credential resulting from the educational or
4 career training program of the eligible en-
5 tity;

6 “(B) enter into a partnership with a labor
7 organization or labor-management training pro-
8 gram to provide, through the program, tech-
9 nical expertise for occupationally specific edu-
10 cation necessary for a recognized postsecondary
11 credential leading to a skilled occupation in an
12 in-demand industry sector;

13 “(C) are focused on serving individuals
14 with barriers to employment, low-income, non-
15 traditional students, students who are dis-
16 located workers, students who are veterans, or
17 students who are long-term unemployed;

18 “(D) include any eligible entities serving
19 areas with high unemployment rates;

20 “(E) are eligible entities that include an
21 institution of higher education eligible for as-
22 sistance under title III or V of the Higher Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.; 20
24 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

1 “(F) include a partnership, with employers
2 or an employer or industry partnership, that in-
3 creases domestic production of goods.

4 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
5 this section shall be used for one or more of the following:

6 “(1) The development, offering, improvement,
7 and provision of educational or career training pro-
8 grams, that provide relevant job training for skilled
9 occupations, that lead to recognized postsecondary
10 credentials, that will meet the needs of employers in
11 in-demand industry sectors, and that may include
12 registered apprenticeship programs, on-the-job train-
13 ing programs, and programs that support employers
14 in upgrading the skills of their workforce.

15 “(2) The development and implementation of
16 policies and programs to expand opportunities for
17 students to earn a recognized postsecondary creden-
18 tial, including a degree, in in-demand industry sec-
19 tors and occupations, including by—

20 “(A) facilitating the transfer of academic
21 credits between institutions of higher education,
22 including the transfer of academic credits for
23 courses in the same field of study;

24 “(B) expanding articulation agreements
25 and policies that guarantee transfers between

1 such institutions, including through common
2 course numbering and use of a general core
3 curriculum; and

4 “(C) developing or enhancing student sup-
5 port services programs.

6 “(3) The creation of career pathway programs
7 that provide a sequence of education and occupa-
8 tional training that leads to a recognized postsec-
9 ondary credential, including a degree, including pro-
10 grams that—

11 “(A) blend basic skills and occupational
12 training;

13 “(B) facilitate means of transitioning par-
14 ticipants from non-credit occupational, basic
15 skills, or developmental coursework to for-credit
16 coursework within and across institutions;

17 “(C) build or enhance linkages, including
18 the development of dual enrollment programs
19 and early college high schools, between sec-
20 ondary education or adult education programs
21 (including programs established under the Carl
22 D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
23 of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and title II
24 of this Act);

1 “(D) are innovative programs designed to
2 increase the provision of training for students,
3 including students who are members of the Na-
4 tional Guard or Reserves, to enter skilled occu-
5 pations in in-demand industry sectors; and

6 “(E) support paid internships that will
7 allow students to simultaneously earn credit for
8 work-based learning and gain relevant employ-
9 ment experience in an in-demand industry sec-
10 tor or occupation, which shall include opportu-
11 nities that transition individuals into employ-
12 ment.

13 “(4) The development and implementation of—

14 “(A) a Pay-for-Performance program that
15 leads to a recognized postsecondary credential,
16 for which an eligible entity agrees to be reim-
17 bursed under the grant primarily on the basis
18 of achievement of specified performance out-
19 comes and criteria agreed to by the Secretary;
20 or

21 “(B) a Pay-for-Success program that leads
22 to a recognized postsecondary credential, for
23 which an eligible entity—

24 “(i) enters into a partnership with an
25 investor, such as a philanthropic organiza-

1 tion that provides funding for a specific
 2 project to address a clear and measurable
 3 educational or career training need in the
 4 area to be served under the grant; and

5 “(ii) agrees to be reimbursed under
 6 the grant only if the project achieves speci-
 7 fied performance outcomes and criteria
 8 agreed to by the Secretary.

9 **“SEC. 199A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
 11 propriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out
 12 the program established by section 199.

13 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—Not more than 5 per-
 14 cent of the amounts made available under subsection (a)
 15 may be used by the Secretaries to administer the program
 16 described in that subsection, including providing technical
 17 assistance and carrying out evaluations for the program
 18 described in that subsection.

19 “(c) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—The funds appro-
 20 priated pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year shall
 21 be available for Federal obligation for that fiscal year and
 22 the succeeding 2 fiscal years.

23 **“SEC. 199B. DEFINITION.**

24 “For purposes of this subtitle, the term ‘community
 25 college’ has the meaning given the term ‘junior or commu-

1 nity college’ in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act
 2 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 4 tents for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 5 is amended by inserting after the items relating to subtitle
 6 E of title I the following:

“Subtitle F—Community College to Career Fund

“Sec. 199. Community college and industry partnerships program.

“Sec. 199A. Authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 199B. Definition.”.

7 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, including the
 8 amendments made by this Act, takes effect as if included
 9 in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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