

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2207

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. WALZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) 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 (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the 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.—Not later than the end
10 of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of
11 the Community College to Career Fund Act, from funds
12 appropriated under section 199A, the Secretary of Labor
13 (in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the
14 Secretary of Commerce) shall award competitive grants to
15 eligible entities described in subsection (b) for the purpose
16 of developing, offering, improving, and providing edu-
17 cational or career training programs for workers. The
18 grants shall be awarded for periods of 3 years.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

20 “(1) PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS OR AN
21 EMPLOYER OR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP.—

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

1 industry partnership representing multiple em-
2 ployers.

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

5 “(i) a community college;

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

13 “(iii) a Tribal College or University
14 (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 1059c(b))); or

17 “(iv) a public or private nonprofit, 2-
18 year institution of higher education (as de-
19 fined in section 102 of the Higher Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) in
21 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,
22 the United States Virgin Islands, American
23 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
24 ern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the

1 Marshall Islands, the Federated States of
2 Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

3 “(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—

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

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

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

23 “(ii) A community-based organization.

24 “(iii) A joint labor-management part-
25 nership.

1 “(iv) A State board.

2 “(v) An elementary school or sec-
3 ondary school, as defined in section 8101
4 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
5 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

6 “(vi) Any other organization that the
7 Secretaries consider appropriate.

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

16 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
17 grant under this section shall submit an application con-
18 taining a grant proposal, for an educational or career
19 training program leading to a recognized postsecondary
20 credential, to the Secretaries at such time and containing
21 such information as the Secretaries determine is required,
22 including—

23 “(1) a detailed description of—

24 “(A) the extent to which the educational or
25 career training program described in the grant

1 proposal fits within an overall strategic plan
2 consisting of—

3 “(i) the State plan described in sec-
4 tion 102 or 103, for the State involved;

5 “(ii) the local plan described in sec-
6 tion 108, for each local area that com-
7 prises a significant portion of the area to
8 be served by the eligible entity; and

9 “(iii) a strategic plan developed by the
10 eligible entity;

11 “(B) the extent to which the program will
12 meet the needs of employers in the area for
13 skilled workers in in-demand industry sectors
14 and occupations;

15 “(C) the extent to which the program will
16 meet the educational or career training needs of
17 workers in the area;

18 “(D) the specific educational or career
19 training program and how the program meets
20 the criteria established under subsection (e), in-
21 cluding the manner in which the grant will be
22 used to develop, offer, improve, and provide the
23 educational or career training program;

24 “(E) any previous experience of the eligible
25 entity in providing educational or career train-

1 ing programs, the absence of which shall not
2 automatically disqualify an eligible institution
3 from receiving a grant under this section; and

4 “(F) how the program leading to the cre-
5 dential meets the criteria described in sub-
6 section (c); and

7 “(2) a detailed plan on how the entity will en-
8 sure that the program will meet the performance
9 measures described in subsection (g), and an assur-
10 ance that the entity will annually submit to the Sec-
11 retary information on the performance of the pro-
12 gram on the performance measures described in sub-
13 section (g).

14 “(e) CRITERIA FOR AWARD.—

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

18 “(A) A determination of the merits of the
19 grant proposal submitted by the eligible entity
20 involved to develop, offer, improve, and provide
21 an educational or career training program to be
22 made available to workers.

23 “(B) An assessment of the likely employ-
24 ment opportunities available in the area to indi-
25 viduals who complete an educational or career

1 training program that the eligible entity pro-
2 poses to develop, offer, improve, and provide.

3 “(C) An assessment of prior demand for
4 training programs by individuals eligible for
5 training and served by the eligible entity, as
6 well as availability and capacity of existing (as
7 of the date of the assessment) training pro-
8 grams to meet future demand for training pro-
9 grams.

10 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
11 section, the Secretaries shall give priority to eligible
12 entities that—

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

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

17 “(ii) agrees to hire individuals who
18 have attained a recognized postsecondary
19 credential resulting from the educational or
20 career training program of the eligible en-
21 tity;

22 “(B) enter into a partnership with a labor
23 organization or labor-management training pro-
24 gram to provide, through the program, tech-
25 nical expertise for occupationally specific edu-

1 cation necessary for a recognized postsecondary
2 credential leading to a skilled occupation in an
3 in-demand industry sector;

4 “(C) are focused on serving individuals
5 with barriers to employment, students who are
6 veterans, spouses of members of the Armed
7 Forces, incumbent workers who are low-skilled
8 and who need to increase their work-related
9 skills;

10 “(D) include any eligible entities serving
11 areas with high unemployment rates; and

12 “(E) are eligible entities that include an
13 institution of higher education eligible for as-
14 sistance under title III or V of the Higher Edu-
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.; 20
16 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

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

19 “(1) The development, offering, improvement,
20 and provision of educational or career training pro-
21 grams, that provide relevant job training for skilled
22 occupations, that lead to recognized postsecondary
23 credentials, that will meet the needs of employers in
24 in-demand industry sectors, and that may include
25 registered apprenticeship programs, on-the-job train-

1 ing programs, and programs that support employers
2 in upgrading the skills of their workforce.

3 “(2) The development and implementation of
4 policies and programs to expand opportunities for
5 students to earn a recognized postsecondary creden-
6 tial, including a degree, in in-demand industry sec-
7 tors and occupations, including by—

8 “(A) facilitating the transfer of academic
9 credits between institutions of higher education,
10 including the transfer of academic credits for
11 courses in the same field of study;

12 “(B) expanding articulation agreements
13 and policies that guarantee transfers between
14 such institutions, including through common
15 course numbering and use of a general core
16 curriculum;

17 “(C) developing or enhancing student sup-
18 port services programs; and

19 “(D) establishing policies and processes for
20 assessing and awarding course credit for work-
21 related learning.

22 “(3) The creation of career pathway programs
23 that provide a sequence of education and occupa-
24 tional training that leads to a recognized postsec-

1 ondary credential, including a degree, including pro-
2 grams that—

3 “(A) blend basic skills and occupational
4 training;

5 “(B) facilitate means of transitioning par-
6 ticipants from non-credit occupational, basic
7 skills, or developmental coursework to for-credit
8 coursework within and across institutions;

9 “(C) build or enhance linkages, including
10 the development of dual enrollment programs
11 and early college high schools, between sec-
12 ondary education or adult education programs
13 (including programs established under the Carl
14 D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
15 of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and title II
16 of this Act);

17 “(D) are innovative programs designed to
18 increase the provision of training for students,
19 including students who are members of the Na-
20 tional Guard or Reserves, to enter skilled occu-
21 pations in in-demand industry sectors;

22 “(E) support paid internships that will
23 allow students to simultaneously earn credit for
24 work-based learning and gain relevant employ-
25 ment experience in an in-demand industry sec-

1 tor or occupation, which shall include opportu-
2 nities that transition individuals into employ-
3 ment; and

4 “(F) develop competency-based education
5 programs that offer an outcome-oriented ap-
6 proach through which recognized postsecondary
7 credentials are awarded based on successful
8 demonstration of skills and proficiency.

9 “(4) The development and implementation of—

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

17 “(B) a Pay-for-Success program that leads
18 to a recognized postsecondary credential, for
19 which an eligible entity—

20 “(i) enters into a partnership with an
21 investor, such as a philanthropic organiza-
22 tion that provides funding for a specific
23 project to address a clear and measurable
24 educational or career training need in the
25 area to be served under the grant; and

1 “(ii) agrees to be reimbursed under
2 the grant only if the project achieves speci-
3 fied performance outcomes and criteria
4 agreed to by the Secretary.

5 “(g) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
7 lish performance measures for the programs carried
8 out under this section.

9 “(2) MEASURES.—The performance measures
10 shall consist of—

11 “(A) indicators of performance, including
12 the number of program participants who are in
13 unsubsidized employment during the second
14 quarter after exit from the program; and

15 “(B) a level of performance for each indi-
16 cator described in subparagraph (A).

17 “(3) MONITORING PROGRESS.—The Secretary
18 shall monitor the progress of eligible entities that re-
19 ceive grants under this section in ensuring that their
20 programs meet the performance measures.

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

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
23 propriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out
24 the program established by section 199. Funds appro-
25 priated under this subsection shall remain available until

1 the end of the 5th full fiscal year after the date of enact-
2 ment of the Community College to Career Fund Act.

3 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—Not more than 5 per-
4 cent of the amounts made available under subsection (a)
5 may be used by the Secretaries for Federal administration
6 of the program described in that subsection, including pro-
7 viding technical assistance and carrying out evaluations
8 for the program described in that subsection.

9 “(c) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—The funds appro-
10 priated pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year shall
11 be available for Federal obligation for that fiscal year and
12 the succeeding 4 fiscal years.

13 **“SEC. 199B. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “For purposes of this subtitle:

15 “(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
16 munity college’ has the meaning given the term ‘jun-
17 ior or community college’ in section 312(f) of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

19 “(2) EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER TRAINING PRO-
20 GRAM.—The term ‘educational or career training
21 program’ means—

22 “(A) a career pathway program, as defined
23 in section 3; or

1 “(B) a program with an integrated edu-
2 cation and training approach, as defined in sec-
3 tion 203.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
5 tents for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6 is amended by inserting after the items relating to subtitle
7 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. Definitions.”.

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

○