

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 272

To amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants to support job creation initiatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants to support job creation initiatives, 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 “Back to Basics Job
5 Creation Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. BACK TO BASICS JOB CREATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act (42
8 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 2010. BACK TO BASICS JOB CREATION GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) GRANTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
5 tion with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary
6 of Commerce, shall make grants to eligible entities
7 to assist low-income individuals and individuals who
8 have been unemployed for at least 3 months in de-
9 veloping self-employment opportunities.

10 “(2) TIMING OF GRANT AWARDS.—Not later
11 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
12 section, the Secretary shall obligate not less than
13 half of any funds appropriated for grants under this
14 section.

15 “(3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under
16 this section, the Secretary shall give preference to el-
17 igible entities—

18 “(A) that serve communities that have ex-
19 perience high levels of poverty and unemploy-
20 ment and low levels of reemployment, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary using data reported by
22 the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor
23 Statistics;

24 “(B) that demonstrate an ability to admin-
25 ister activities using the grant funds without
26 acquiring new administrative structures or re-

1 sources, such as staffing, technology, evaluation
2 activities, training, research, and programming;
3 and

4 “(C) that have established partnerships
5 with other government agencies, community
6 based organizations, financial institutions, edu-
7 cational institutions, or business organizations.

8 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity awarded
10 a grant under this section shall use the grant—

11 “(A) to provide education and training for
12 business and financial literacy, certification,
13 small business plan development, entrepreneur-
14 ship, and patent and copyright processes; and

15 “(B) to provide funding for new small
16 businesses that pay employees at a living wage.

17 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—An eligible entity awarded
18 a grant under this section may not use the grant—

19 “(A) to subsidize private or public employ-
20 ment; or

21 “(B) for any activity in violation of Fed-
22 eral, State, or local law.

23 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—An eligible
24 entity awarded a grant under this section may use
25 not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for ad-

1 ministrative expenses, except that none of the funds
2 may be used for salaries.

3 “(4) DEADLINE ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

4 An eligible entity awarded a grant under this section
5 shall expend the grant funds before December 31,
6 2019, except that the Secretary may provide an ex-
7 tension.

8 “(c) NO EFFECT ON MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS.—

9 For purposes of determining eligibility and benefit
10 amounts under any means-tested assistance program, any
11 assistance funded by a grant under this section shall be
12 disregarded.

13 “(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
14 shall submit a report on the implementation of this section
15 to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of
16 Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
17 Senate whenever either committee shall so request.

18 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this
20 section \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018. The amounts
21 appropriated under this section are authorized to remain
22 available through December 31, 2018.

23 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

24 “(1) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State, an
25 Indian tribe, or a local government;

1 “(2) the term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning
2 given such term by section 4 of the Indian Self-De-
3 termination and Education Assistance Act (25
4 U.S.C. 450b); and

5 “(3) the term ‘means-tested assistance pro-
6 gram’ means a benefit program for which eligibility
7 is based on income.”.

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