

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1748

To provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, 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 “Opening Doors for
5 Youth Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The time between the early teens and mid-
9 twenties represents a critical developmental period in
10 which individuals can gain the education and train-
11 ing, entry-level work experiences, work-readiness
12 skills, and social networks needed to smoothly tran-
13 sition into the labor market and build towards fu-
14 ture professional success.

15 (2) Yet, nearly 5 million young people ages 16
16 to 24 are out of school and unemployed, leaving
17 them disconnected from the systems and institutions
18 critical for developing the building blocks of inde-
19 pendence and self-sufficiency.

20 (3) Communities of color experience the highest
21 rates of youth disconnection: 25.4 percent of Native
22 American youth, 18.9 percent of Black youth, and
23 14.3 percent of Latino youth between the ages of 16
24 and 24 were disconnected from school and work in
25 2015.

1 (4) Disconnected youth are also three times
2 more likely than other youth to have a disability,
3 twice as likely to live below the Federal poverty
4 threshold, and significantly more likely to live in ra-
5 cially segregated neighborhoods. Disconnected young
6 women and girls are three times more likely to have
7 a child, and young people involved in the juvenile
8 justice system or aging out of the foster care system
9 are at high risk of disconnection.

10 (5) Disconnection from school and work can
11 have significant consequences for youth, including
12 decreased earning power and fewer future employ-
13 ment opportunities. According to the 2012 report,
14 “The Economic Value of Opportunity Youth”, dis-
15 connected youth will, on average, earn \$392,070 less
16 than the average worker over their lifetimes.

17 (6) Failure to successfully connect young people
18 to employment and educational opportunities also re-
19 sults in a significant loss in productivity for the
20 overall economy, as well as increases in government
21 spending. According to a recent report from Meas-
22 ure of America, in 2013, youth disconnection re-
23 sulted in \$26.8 billion in public expenditures, includ-
24 ing spending on health care, public assistance, and
25 incarceration.

1 (7) Disconnected young people, commonly re-
2 ferred to as “opportunity youth” because of their
3 tremendous potential, can add great social and eco-
4 nomic value to our communities and the economy, if
5 given the appropriate supports and resources. Ac-
6 cording to the Opportunity Index, an annual meas-
7 urement of opportunity in a geographic region, the
8 number of opportunity youth, along with educational
9 attainment and poverty rates, are strongly linked to
10 overall opportunity in communities. When young
11 adults do well, communities do well.

12 (8) Despite their talent and motivation, many
13 opportunity youth lack access to the training, edu-
14 cation, and entry-level jobs that can help them gain
15 the work experience and credentials needed to suc-
16 cessfully transition into the labor market.

17 (9) Lack of access to entry-level jobs can limit
18 a young adult’s ability to accrue early work experi-
19 ence and demonstrate productivity and work readi-
20 ness to potential employers. Labor market shifts
21 have also limited opportunities for young people
22 without a high school diploma or with limited post-
23 secondary credentials. According to a 2013 report
24 from the Georgetown University Center on Edu-
25 cation and the Workforce, by the year 2020, an esti-

1 mated 65 percent of all U.S. jobs will require post-
2 secondary education and training.

3 (10) Summer and year-round youth employ-
4 ment programs that connect young people with
5 entry-level jobs give youth the work experience and
6 opportunity for skill development needed to transi-
7 tion into the labor market and prevent points of dis-
8 connection, such as involvement in the criminal and
9 juvenile justice systems.

10 (11) Evidence suggests that summer youth em-
11 ployment programs may help in-school youth remain
12 connected to the education system. A 2014 study of
13 the New York City Summer Youth Employment
14 Program found that after program participation,
15 youth older than 16 increased their school attend-
16 ance by four or five additional days compared to
17 their previous fall semester attendance. This attend-
18 ance increase represented 25 percent of the total
19 days students were permitted to miss school and still
20 continue on to the next grade.

21 (12) Evidence shows that participation in sum-
22 mer youth employment programs also reduces the
23 rate of violent crimes arrests. For example, a 2014
24 study of Chicago's One Summer Plus program
25 shows that the program reduced violent crime ar-

1 rests among at-risk youth by approximately 43 per-
2 cent, with crime reduction benefits lasting over a
3 year after the program had ended. This reduction
4 can have significant impact for young people, given
5 the impact of a criminal record on future employ-
6 ment prospects and wages.

7 (13) Despite its benefits, summer youth em-
8 ployment has declined by more than 40 percent dur-
9 ing the past 12 years, at a loss of more than 3 mil-
10 lion summer jobs for young Americans. A J.P. Mor-
11 gan Chase study of 14 major U.S. cities found that
12 summer youth employment programs were only able
13 to provide opportunities for 46 percent of applicants
14 in 2014.

15 (14) According to research by Measure of
16 America, the overwhelming number of youth discon-
17 nected from school and work come from discon-
18 nected communities marked by high adult unemploy-
19 ment, poverty, and racial segregation, as well as low
20 levels of adult education attainment. These commu-
21 nities often lack the resources and supports needed
22 to prevent and reverse youth disconnection.

23 (15) Many at-risk or opportunity youth, finding
24 that traditional pathways to educational attainment
25 or employment are ill-matched to their individual

1 needs, struggle to remain connected or reconnect to
2 school and work.

3 (16) For some youth, individual barriers—such
4 as unstable housing, lack access to affordable child
5 care or transportation, or involvement in the juvenile
6 or criminal justice system—make it difficult to take
7 advantage of existing employment and education
8 pathways.

9 (17) According the 2016 report, “Supportive
10 Services in Job Training and Education: A Research
11 Review”, studies suggest that education and training
12 programs that offer supportive services, such as
13 child care, transportation, and financial assistance,
14 are associated with improved outcomes.

15 (18) Community-based preventions and inter-
16 ventions can address the distinct problems oppor-
17 tunity youth may face in the local community and
18 provide a connection to the education and training,
19 re-engagement, and supportive services needed to
20 help these young people succeed.

21 (19) Previous Federal grant programs targeting
22 communities with high rates of poverty have been
23 successful in building such communities’ capacity to
24 improve labor market participation and education at-
25 tainment rates for young people.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary of Labor—

4 (1) \$1,500,000,000 to carry out section 5;

5 (2) \$2,000,000,000 to carry out section 6; and

6 (3) \$2,000,000,000 to provide competitive
7 grants in accordance with section 7.

8 **SEC. 4. RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**
9 **AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

10 (a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of
11 Labor shall reserve—

12 (1) not more than 5 percent of amounts avail-
13 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
14 section 3 for the costs of innovation and learning ac-
15 tivities under section 10;

16 (2) not more than 5 percent of amounts avail-
17 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
18 section 3 for the costs of Federal administration of
19 this Act; and

20 (3) not more than 2 percent of amounts avail-
21 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
22 section 3 for the costs of evaluations conducted
23 under section 11.

24 (b) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—The amounts appro-
25 priated under this Act shall be available for obligation by

1 the Secretary of Labor until the date that is 4 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AT-**
4 **RISK YOUTH.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
6 section 3(1) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
7 retary of Labor shall, for the purpose of carrying out sum-
8 mer employment programs under this section—

9 (1) make an allotment in accordance with sec-
10 tion 127(b)(1)(C)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation
11 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3162(b)(1)(C)(ii))
12 to each State that meets the requirements of section
13 102 or 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113);

14 (2) reserve not more than one-quarter of 1 per-
15 cent of such amounts to provide assistance to the
16 outlying areas; and

17 (3) reserve not more than 1½ percent of such
18 amount to, on a competitive basis, make grants to,
19 or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements
20 with, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Na-
21 tive entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving
22 Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry
23 out the activities described in subsection (d)(2).

24 (b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State, in
2 accordance with the State plan developed under sec-
3 tion 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113), shall allo-
5 cate the amounts that are allotted to the State
6 under subsection (a)(1) to eligible local areas in ac-
7 cordance with section 128(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce
8 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
9 3163(b)(2)(A)) for the purpose of developing and ex-
10 panding summer employment programs under this
11 section.

12 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
13 made available for summer youth employment pro-
14 grams under this section shall supplement and not
15 supplant other State or local public funds expended
16 for summer youth employment programs or other
17 youth activities funded under section 129 of the
18 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
19 U.S.C. 3163).

20 (3) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—The
21 Governor may, after consultation with the State
22 board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the
23 State amounts that are made available to local areas
24 from allocations made under this section and that
25 are available for reallocation in accordance with sec-

tion 128(c)(2)–(4) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3163(c)(2)–(4)).

(4) LOCAL RESERVATION.—Of the amounts allocated to a local area under paragraph (1), not more than 7 percent of such amounts may be used for the administrative costs, including costs for participating in regional and national opportunities for in-person peer learning under section 10.

(c) LOCAL PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The local board of the local area shall develop and submit, in partnership with the chief elected official, a 4-year plan. The plan shall be consistent with the local plan submitted by the local board under section 108 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3123), as determined by the Governor.

(2) SUBMISSION.—The plan shall be submitted to the Governor at such time and in such manner as the Governor may reasonably require. A local area may develop and submit to the Governor a local plan for programs under this section and a local plan for programs under section 6 in lieu of submitting two plans.

(3) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, each plan shall include—

1 (A) a description of how the local area will
2 use program funds, in accordance with sub-
3 section (d), to develop or expand summer youth
4 employment programs for each program year;

5 (B) a description of how the local area will
6 recruit eligible youth into the program;

7 (C) the number of individuals expected to
8 participate in the summer employment program
9 each program year;

10 (D) a description of the services, including
11 supportive services, that the summer employ-
12 ment program is expected to provide;

13 (E) reasonable goals for performance ac-
14 countability measures outlined in subsection (i);

15 (F) an assurance that the summer employ-
16 ment program will be aligned with the youth
17 services provided under the Workforce Innova-
18 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
19 seq.);

20 (G) an assurance that the local area will
21 adhere to the labor standards outlined in sec-
22 tion 8; and

23 (H) any other information as the Governor
24 may reasonably require.

25 (d) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (1) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—To be
2 eligible to participate in activities carried out under
3 this section during any program year, an individual
4 shall, at the time the eligibility determination is
5 made, be either an out-of-school youth or an in-
6 school youth.

7 (2) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—

8 (A) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A local
9 area that has, at the beginning of the program
10 year, no summer youth employment programs
11 or programs that do not have all program ele-
12 ments described in paragraph (3)(B) shall use
13 unreserved allotted funds to—

14 (i) plan, develop, and carry out activi-
15 ties described in paragraph (3)(B);

16 (ii) at the local area’s discretion, de-
17 velop technology infrastructure, including
18 data and management systems, to support
19 program activities;

20 (iii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
21 pants and employers; and

22 (iv) at the local area’s discretion, use
23 not more than 25 percent of allocated pro-
24 gram funds to subsidize not more than 75

1 percent of the wages of each youth partici-
2 pant.

3 (B) EXPANSION ACTIVITIES.—A local area
4 that has, at the beginning of the program year,
5 a summer youth employment program that has
6 all program elements described in paragraph
7 (3)(B) shall use unreserved allotted funds to—

8 (i) increase the number of summer
9 employment opportunities, including un-
10 subsidized or partly subsidized opportuni-
11 ties and opportunities in the private sector;

12 (ii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
13 pants and employers;

14 (iii) use allocated program funds to
15 subsidize not more than 50 percent of the
16 wages of each youth participant; and

17 (iv) at the local area's discretion, en-
18 hance activities described in paragraph
19 (3)(B).

20 (3) LOCAL ELEMENTS.—

21 (A) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Programs funded
22 under this section shall match each youth par-
23 ticipant with an appropriate employer, based on
24 factors including the needs of the employer and
25 the age, skill, and informed aspirations of the

1 youth participant, for a high-quality summer
2 employment opportunity, which may not—

3 (i) be less than 4 weeks; and

4 (ii) pay less than the highest of the
5 Federal, State, or local minimum wage.

6 (B) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Program ele-
7 ments include—

8 (i) work-readiness training and edu-
9 cational programs to enhance the summer
10 employment opportunity;

11 (ii) coaching and mentoring services
12 for youth participants to enhance the sum-
13 mer employment opportunity and encour-
14 age program completion;

15 (iii) coaching and mentoring services
16 for employers on how to successfully em-
17 ploy each youth participant in meaningful
18 work;

19 (iv) career and college planning serv-
20 ices;

21 (v) high-quality financial literacy edu-
22 cation, including education on the use of
23 credit and financing higher education, and
24 access to safe and affordable banking ac-
25 counts with consumer protections;

1 (vi) supportive services, or connection
2 to existing supportive services, to enable
3 participation in the program;

4 (vii) integration of services provided
5 by the program with existing year-round
6 employment programs, youth development
7 programs, secondary school programs,
8 youth services provided under the Work-
9 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
10 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and skills training
11 programs funded by the State or Federal
12 Government;

13 (viii) referral of at least 30 percent of
14 participants from or to providers of youth,
15 adult, vocational rehabilitation services,
16 and adult education and literacy services
17 under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
18 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or
19 skills training programs funded by the
20 State or Federal Government;

21 (ix) rigorous evaluation of programs
22 using research approaches appropriate to
23 programs in different levels of development
24 and maturity, including random assign-
25 ment or quasi-experimental impact evalua-

1 tions, implementation evaluations, pre-ex-
2 perimental studies, and feasibility studies;
3 and

4 (x) commitment and support from
5 mayors or county executives.

6 (C) PRIORITY.—Priority shall be given to
7 summer employment opportunities—

8 (i) in existing or emerging in-demand
9 industry sectors or occupations; or

10 (ii) that meet community needs in the
11 public, private, or nonprofit sector.

12 (4) IN-SCHOOL YOUTH PRIORITY.—For any
13 program year, not less than 75 percent of the unre-
14 served funds allotted to local area under this section
15 shall be used to provide summer employment oppor-
16 tunities for in-school youth.

17 (e) REPORTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that a local
19 area receives funds under this section, the local area
20 shall submit to the Secretary of Labor and the Gov-
21 ernor a report with—

22 (A) the number of youth participants in
23 the program, including the number of in-school
24 and out-of-school youth;

1 (B) the number of youth participants who
2 completed the summer employment opportunity;

3 (C) the expenditures made from the
4 amounts allocated under this section, including
5 expenditures made to provide youth participants
6 with supportive services;

7 (D) a description of how the local area has
8 used program funds to develop or expand sum-
9 mer youth employment programs, including a
10 description of program activities and services
11 provided, including supportive services provided
12 and the number of youth participants accessing
13 such services;

14 (E) the source and amount of funding for
15 the wages of each youth participant;

16 (F) information specifying the levels of
17 performance achieved with respect to the pri-
18 mary indicators of performance described in
19 subsection (i) for the program;

20 (G) the average number of hours and
21 weeks worked and the average amount of wages
22 earned by youth participants in the program;

23 (H) the percent of youth participants
24 placed in employment opportunities in the non-
25 profit, public, and private sectors; and

1 (I) any other information that the Sec-
 2 retary of Labor determines necessary to mon-
 3 itor the effectiveness of the program.

4 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information re-
 5 quired to be reported pursuant to subparagraphs
 6 (A), (B), and (G) of paragraph (1) shall be
 7 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, and sub-
 8 populations described in section 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–
 9 (VI) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 10 Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VI)).

11 (f) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—Primary indi-
 12 cators of performance shall be the performance metrics de-
 13 scribed in sections 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(V) and
 14 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
 15 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(V),
 16 3141(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)) and a work-readiness indicator es-
 17 tablished by the Secretary of Labor.

18 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL AREA FAIL-
 19 URE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY
 20 MEASURES.—If a local area fails to meet performance ac-
 21 countability goals established under local plans for any
 22 program year, the Governor, or, upon request by the Gov-
 23 ernor, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical as-
 24 sistance, which may include assistance in the development
 25 of a performance improvement plan.

1 **SEC. 6. YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT FOR OPPORTUNITY**
2 **YOUTH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
4 section 3(1) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
5 retary of Labor shall, for the purpose of carrying out year-
6 round employment programs under this section—

7 (1) make an allotment in accordance with sec-
8 tion 127(b)(1)(C)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation
9 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3162(b)(1)(C)(ii))
10 to each State that meets the requirements of section
11 102 or 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113); and

12 (2) reserve not more than one-quarter of 1 per-
13 cent of such amounts to provide assistance to the
14 outlying areas.

15 (b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State, in
17 accordance with the State plan developed under sec-
18 tion 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and
19 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113), shall allo-
20 cate the amounts that are allotted to the State
21 under subsection (a)(1) to eligible local areas in ac-
22 cordance with section 128(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce
23 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
24 3163(b)(2)(A)) for the purpose of developing and ex-
25 panding year-round employment programs under
26 this section.

1 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
2 made available for year-round youth employment
3 programs under this section shall supplement and
4 not supplant other State or local public funds ex-
5 pended for year-round youth employment programs
6 or other youth activities funded under section 129 of
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
8 U.S.C. 3163).

9 (3) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—The
10 Governor may, after consultation with the State
11 board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the
12 State amounts that are made available to local areas
13 from allocations made under this section and that
14 are available for reallocation in accordance with sec-
15 tion 128(c)(2)–(4) of the Workforce Innovation and
16 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3163(c)(2)–(4)).

17 (4) LOCAL RESERVATION.—Of the amounts al-
18 located to a local area under paragraph (1), not
19 more than 7 percent of such amounts may be used
20 for the administrative costs, including costs for par-
21 ticipating regional and national opportunities for in-
22 person peer learning under section 10.

23 (c) LOCAL PLANS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The local board of the local
25 area shall develop and submit, in partnership with

1 the chief elected official, a 4-year plan. The plan
2 shall be consistent with the local plan submitted by
3 the local board under section 108 of the Workforce
4 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3123),
5 as determined by the Governor.

6 (2) SUBMISSION.—The plan shall be submitted
7 to the Governor at such time and in such manner
8 as the Governor may reasonably require. A local
9 area may develop and submit to the Governor a local
10 plan for programs under this section and a local
11 plan for programs under section 5 in lieu of submit-
12 ting two plans.

13 (3) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, each plan
14 shall include—

15 (A) a description of how the local area will
16 use program funds, in accordance with sub-
17 section (d), to develop or expand year-round
18 youth employment programs for each program
19 year;

20 (B) a description of how the local area will
21 recruit eligible youth into the program;

22 (C) the number of individuals expected to
23 participate in the year-round employment pro-
24 gram each program year;

1 (D) a description of the services, including
2 supportive services, that the year-round employ-
3 ment program is expected to provide;

4 (E) reasonable goals for performance ac-
5 countability measures outlined in subsection (i);

6 (F) an assurance that the year-round em-
7 ployment program will be aligned with the
8 youth services provided under the Workforce
9 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
10 3101 et seq.);

11 (G) an assurance that the local area will
12 adhere to the labor standards outlined in sec-
13 tion 8; and

14 (H) any other information as the Governor
15 may reasonably require.

16 (d) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—

17 (1) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—To be
18 eligible to participate in activities carried out under
19 this section during any program year, an individual
20 shall, at the time the eligibility determination is
21 made be an out-of-school youth and unemployed in-
22 dividual.

23 (2) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—

24 (A) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A local
25 area that has, at the beginning of the program

1 year, no year-round youth employment pro-
2 grams or programs that do not have all pro-
3 gram elements described in paragraph (3)(B)
4 shall use unreserved allotted funds to—

5 (i) plan, develop, and carry out activi-
6 ties described in paragraph (3)(B);

7 (ii) at the local area's discretion, de-
8 velop technology infrastructure, including
9 data and management systems, to support
10 program activities;

11 (iii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
12 pants and employers; and

13 (iv) at the local area's discretion, use
14 not more than 30 percent of allocated pro-
15 gram funds to subsidize the wages of each
16 youth participant.

17 (B) EXPANSION ACTIVITIES.—A local area
18 that has at the beginning of the program year,
19 a year-round youth employment program that
20 has all program elements described in para-
21 graph (3)(B) shall use unreserved allotted
22 funds to—

23 (i) increase the number of year-round
24 employment opportunities, including un-

1 subsidized or partly subsidized opportuni-
2 ties and opportunities in the private sector;

3 (ii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
4 pants and employers;

5 (iii) use allocated program funds to
6 subsidize wages of each youth participant;
7 and

8 (iv) at the local area's discretion, en-
9 hance activities described in paragraph
10 (3)(B).

11 (3) LOCAL ELEMENTS.—

12 (A) PROGRAM DESIGN.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—Programs funded
14 under this section shall match each youth
15 participant with an appropriate employer,
16 based on factors including the needs of the
17 employer and the age, skill, and informed
18 aspirations of the youth participant, for
19 high-quality year-round employment, which
20 may not—

21 (I) be less than 180 days and
22 more than 1 year;

23 (II) pay less than the highest of
24 the Federal, State, or local minimum
25 wage; and

1 (III) employ the youth partici-
2 pant for less than 20 hours per week.

3 (ii) EMPLOYER SHARE OF WAGES.—
4 Programs funded under this section shall
5 require not less than 25 percent of the
6 wages of each youth participant to be paid
7 by the employer, except this requirement
8 may be waived for not more than 10 per-
9 cent of youth participants with significant
10 barriers to employment.

11 (B) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Program ele-
12 ments include—

13 (i) work-readiness training and edu-
14 cational programs to enhance year-round
15 employment;

16 (ii) coaching and mentoring services
17 for youth participants to enhance the year-
18 round employment opportunity and encour-
19 age program completion;

20 (iii) coaching and mentoring services
21 for employers on how to successfully em-
22 ploy each youth participant in meaningful
23 work;

24 (iv) career and college planning serv-
25 ices;

1 (v) high-quality financial literacy edu-
2 cation, including education on the use of
3 credit and financing higher education, and
4 access to safe and affordable banking ac-
5 counts with consumer protections;

6 (vi) supportive services, or connection
7 to existing supportive services, to enable
8 participation in the program;

9 (vii) integration of services provided
10 by the program with existing youth devel-
11 opment programs, secondary school pro-
12 grams, youth services provided under the
13 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
14 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and skills train-
15 ing programs funded by the State or Fed-
16 eral Government;

17 (viii) referral of at least 30 percent of
18 participants from or to providers of youth,
19 adult, vocational rehabilitation services,
20 and adult education and literacy services
21 under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
22 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), or
23 skills training programs funded by the
24 State or Federal Government;

1 (ix) rigorous evaluation of programs
 2 using research approaches appropriate to
 3 programs in different levels of development
 4 and maturity, including random assign-
 5 ment or quasi-experimental impact evalua-
 6 tions, implementation evaluations, pre-ex-
 7 perimental studies, and feasibility studies;
 8 and

9 (x) commitment and support from
 10 mayors or county executives.

11 (C) PRIORITY.—Priority shall be given to
 12 year-round employment opportunities—

13 (i) in existing or emerging in-demand
 14 industry sectors or occupations; or

15 (ii) that meet community needs in the
 16 public, private, or nonprofit sector.

17 (e) REPORTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that a local
 19 area receives funds under this section, the local area
 20 shall submit to the Secretary of Labor and the Gov-
 21 ernor a report with—

22 (A) the number of youth participants in
 23 the program;

1 (B) the number of youth participants who
2 completed the year-round employment oppor-
3 tunity;

4 (C) the expenditures made from the
5 amounts allocated under this section, including
6 expenditures made to provide youth participants
7 with supportive services;

8 (D) a description of how the local area has
9 used program funds to develop or expand year-
10 round youth employment programs, including a
11 description of program activities and services
12 provided, including supportive services provided
13 and the number of youth participants accessing
14 such services;

15 (E) the source and amount of funding for
16 the wages of each youth participant;

17 (F) information specifying the levels of
18 performance achieved with respect to the pri-
19 mary indicators of performance described in
20 subsection (f) for the program;

21 (G) the average number of hours and
22 weeks worked and the average amount of wages
23 earned by youth participants in the program;

1 (H) the percent of youth participants
 2 placed in employment opportunities in the non-
 3 profit, public, and private sectors;

4 (I) the number of youth participants who
 5 are asked to remain after the end of the year-
 6 round employment and the number of youth
 7 participants actually retained for not less than
 8 90 days; and

9 (J) any other information that the Sec-
 10 retary of Labor determines necessary to mon-
 11 itor the effectiveness of the program.

12 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information re-
 13 quired to be reported pursuant to subparagraphs
 14 (A), (B), and (G) of paragraph (1) shall be
 15 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, and sub-
 16 populations described in section 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–
 17 (VI) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 18 Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VI)).

19 (f) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—Primary indi-
 20 cators of performance shall be the performance metrics de-
 21 scribed in sections 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(III),
 22 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(V), and 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II) of the
 23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
 24 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(III), 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(V),

1 3141(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II)) and a work-readiness indicator
 2 established by the Secretary of Labor.

3 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL AREA FAIL-
 4 URE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY
 5 MEASURES.—If a local area fails to meet performance ac-
 6 countability goals established under local plans for any
 7 program year, the Governor, or upon request by the Gov-
 8 ernor, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical as-
 9 sistance, which may include assistance in the development
 10 of a performance improvement plan.

11 **SEC. 7. CONNECTING-FOR-OPPORTUNITIES COMPETITIVE**
 12 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
 14 section 3(3) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
 15 retary of Labor shall, in consultation with the Secretary
 16 of Education, award grants on a competitive basis to as-
 17 sist local community partnerships in improving high school
 18 graduation and youth employment rates.

19 (b) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—

20 (1) MANDATORY PARTNERS.—A local commu-
 21 nity partnership shall include at a minimum—

- 22 (A) one unit of general local government;
- 23 (B) one local educational agency;
- 24 (C) one institution of higher education;
- 25 (D) one local workforce development board;

1 (E) one community-based organization
2 with experience or expertise in working with
3 youth;

4 (F) one public agency serving youth under
5 the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or
6 criminal justice system;

7 (G) a State or local child welfare agency;
8 and

9 (H) an agency administering programs
10 under part A of title IV of the Social Security
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

12 (2) OPTIONAL PARTNERS.—A local community
13 partnership may also include within the partner-
14 ship—

15 (A) American Job Centers;

16 (B) employers or employer associations;

17 (C) representatives of labor organizations;

18 (D) programs that receive funding under
19 the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-
20 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.);

21 (E) public agencies or community-based
22 organizations with expertise in providing coun-
23 seling services, including trauma-informed and
24 gender-responsive counseling;

1 (F) public housing agencies, collaborative
2 applicants, as defined by the McKinney-Vento
3 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et
4 seq.), or private nonprofit organizations that
5 serve homeless youth and households or foster
6 youth; and

7 (G) other appropriate State and local
8 agencies.

9 (c) APPLICATION.—A local community partnership
10 desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
11 retary of Labor an application at such time, in such man-
12 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
13 reasonably require. At a minimum, each application shall
14 include a comprehensive plan that—

15 (1) demonstrates sufficient need for the grant
16 in the local population (indicators of need may in-
17 clude high rates of high school dropouts and youth
18 unemployment and a high percentage or number of
19 low-income individuals in the local population);

20 (2) demonstrates the capacity of each local
21 community partnership to carry out the activities de-
22 scribed in subsection (d);

23 (3) is consistent with the local plan submitted
24 by the local board under section 108 of the Work-
25 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.

1 3123), the local plan for career and technical edu-
2 cation programs authorized under the Carl D. Per-
3 kins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
4 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (if not part of the Work-
5 force Innovation and Opportunity Act local plan)
6 and the State plan for programs under part A of
7 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601
8 et seq.); and

9 (4) includes an assurance that the local commu-
10 nity partnership will adhere to the labor standards
11 outlined in section 8.

12 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A local community partnership
13 receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant
14 funds—

15 (1) to target individuals not younger than age
16 14 or older than age 24;

17 (2) to make appropriate use of existing edu-
18 cation, child welfare, social services, and workforce
19 development data collection systems to facilitate the
20 local community partnership’s ability to target the
21 individuals described in paragraph (1);

22 (3) to develop wide-ranging paths to higher
23 education and employment, including—

24 (A) using not less than 50 percent of the
25 grant funds to help individuals described in

1 paragraph (1) complete their secondary school
2 education through various alternative means,
3 including through high-quality, flexible pro-
4 grams that utilize evidence-based interventions
5 and provide differentiated services (or path-
6 ways) to students returning to education after
7 exiting secondary school without a regular high
8 school diploma or who, based on their grade or
9 age, are significantly off track to accumulate
10 sufficient academic credits to meet high school
11 graduation requirements, as established by the
12 State;

13 (B) creating career pathways focused on
14 paid work-based learning consisting of on-the-
15 job training and classroom instruction that will
16 lead to credential attainment and prioritize con-
17 nections to registered apprenticeship programs
18 and pre-apprenticeship programs;

19 (C) providing career navigators to provide
20 individuals described in paragraph (1) with pre-
21 employment and employment counseling and to
22 assist such individuals in—

23 (i) finding and securing employment
24 or work-based learning opportunities that

1 pay not less than the highest of the Fed-
2 eral, State, or local minimum wage;

3 (ii) identifying and assessing eligibility
4 for training programs and funding for such
5 programs;

6 (iii) completing necessary paperwork;
7 and

8 (iv) identifying additional services, if
9 needed;

10 (D) connecting individuals described in
11 paragraph (1) with providers of youth services,
12 adult services, vocational rehabilitation services,
13 and adult education and literacy services, under
14 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
15 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), career planning serv-
16 ices, and federally and State funded programs
17 that provide skills training; and

18 (E) ensuring that such individuals success-
19 fully transition into pre-apprenticeship pro-
20 grams, registered apprenticeship programs, or
21 programs leading to recognized postsecondary
22 credentials in in-demand industry sectors or oc-
23 cupations;

24 (4) to provide a comprehensive system aimed at
25 preventing the individuals described in paragraph

1 (1) from disconnecting from education, training, and
2 employment and aimed at re-engaging any such indi-
3 vidual who has been disconnected by—

4 (A) providing school-based dropout preven-
5 tion and community-based dropout recovery
6 services, including establishing or improving
7 school district early warning systems that—

8 (i) connect such systems to existing
9 data gathering and reporting systems es-
10 tablished under the Workforce Innovation
11 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
12 seq.) for the purpose of identifying the in-
13 dividuals described in paragraph (1); and

14 (ii) engage any such identified indi-
15 vidual using targeted, evidence-based inter-
16 ventions to address the specific needs and
17 issues of the individual, including chronic
18 absenteeism; and

19 (B) providing the individuals described in
20 paragraph (1) with access to re-engagement
21 services for training programs and employment
22 opportunities and using providers of youth serv-
23 ices under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
24 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to con-
25 duct intake and refer such individuals and their

1 families to the appropriate re-engagement serv-
2 ice; and

3 (5) to provide a comprehensive system of sup-
4 port for the individuals described in paragraph (1),
5 including—

6 (A) connecting such individuals with pro-
7 fessionals who can—

8 (i) provide case management and
9 counseling services; and

10 (ii) assist such individuals in—

11 (I) developing achievable short-
12 term goals and long-term goals; and

13 (II) overcoming any social, ad-
14 ministrative, or financial barrier that
15 may hinder the achievement of such
16 goals; and

17 (B) providing or connecting participants
18 with available supportive services.

19 (e) PRIORITY IN AWARDS.—In awarding grants
20 under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give pri-
21 ority to applications submitted by local community part-
22 nerships that include a comprehensive plan that—

23 (1) serves and targets communities with a high
24 percentage or high numbers of low-income individ-

1 uals and high rates of high school dropouts and
 2 youth unemployment; and

3 (2) allows the individuals described in para-
 4 graph (1) to earn academic credit through various
 5 means, including high-quality career and technical
 6 education, dual enrollment programs, or work-based
 7 learning.

8 (f) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
 9 shall ensure that consideration is given to geographic dis-
 10 tribution (such as urban and rural areas) in the awarding
 11 of grants under section.

12 (g) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—For activities
 13 funded under this section, the primary indicators of per-
 14 formance shall include—

15 (1) the performance metrics described in sec-
 16 tions 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)–(V) and
 17 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II) of the Workforce Innovation
 18 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
 19 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)–(V), 3141 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–
 20 (II));

21 (2) the four-year adjusted cohort graduation
 22 rate and the extended-year adjusted cohort gradua-
 23 tion rate in a State that chooses to use such a grad-
 24 uation rate, as defined in section 8101(25) of the

1 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
2 as amended; and

3 (3) the rate of attaining a recognized equivalent
4 of a diploma, such as a general equivalency diploma.

5 (h) REPORTS.—For each year that a local community
6 partnership administers a program under this section, the
7 local community partnership shall submit to the Secretary
8 of Labor and, if applicable, the State a report on—

9 (1) the number of youth participants in the pro-
10 gram, including the number of in-school and out-of-
11 school youth, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex,
12 age, and subpopulations described in section
13 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII) of the Workforce Innova-
14 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
15 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII));

16 (2) the expenditures made from the amounts al-
17 located under this section, including any expendi-
18 tures made to provide youth participants with sup-
19 portive services;

20 (3) a description of program activities and serv-
21 ices provided, including supportive services provided
22 and the number of youth participants accessing such
23 services;

24 (4) information specifying the levels of perform-
25 ance achieved with respect to the primary indicators

1 of performance described in subsection (f) for the
2 program, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age,
3 and subpopulations described in section
4 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII) of the Workforce Innova-
5 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
6 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII)); and

7 (5) any other information that the Secretary of
8 Labor determines necessary to monitor the effective-
9 ness of the program.

10 **SEC. 8. LABOR STANDARDS.**

11 Activities funded under this Act shall be subject to
12 the requirements and restrictions, including the labor
13 standards, described in section 181 of the Workforce In-
14 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931) and the non-
15 discrimination provisions of section 188 of such Act (29
16 U.S.C. 2938), in addition to other applicable Federal laws.

17 **SEC. 9. PRIVACY.**

18 Nothing in this Act—

19 (1) shall be construed to supersede the privacy
20 protections afforded parents and students under sec-
21 tion 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
22 (20 U.S.C. 1232g); or

23 (2) shall be construed to permit the develop-
24 ment of a national database of personally identifi-

1 able information on individuals receiving services
2 under this Act.

3 **SEC. 10. INNOVATION AND LEARNING.**

4 Using funds reserved under section 4, the Secretary
5 shall—

6 (1) provide technical assistance to ensure pro-
7 viders have sufficient organizational capacity, staff
8 training, and expertise to effectively implement pro-
9 grams, described under this Act;

10 (2) create regional and national opportunities
11 for in-person peer learning; and

12 (3) provide on a competitive basis sub-grants to
13 States and local areas to conduct pilots and dem-
14 onstrations using emerging and evidence-based best
15 practices, and models for youth employment pro-
16 grams and to evaluate such programs using designs
17 that employ the most rigorous analytical and statis-
18 tical methods that are reasonably feasible.

19 **SEC. 11. EVALUATION AND REPORTS.**

20 (a) EVALUATION.—Not earlier than 1 year or later
21 than 2 years after the end of the award grant period, the
22 Secretary of Labor shall conduct an evaluation of the pro-
23 grams administered under this Act.

24 (b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
25 Labor shall transmit to the Committee on Education and

1 the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the
2 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
3 the Senate not later than 5 years after the end of the
4 award grant period, a final report on the results of the
5 evaluation conducted under subsection (a).

6 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “extended-year
9 adjusted cohort graduation rate”, “evidence-based”,
10 “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate”, “local
11 educational agency”, and “secondary school” have
12 the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of
13 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
16 term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
18 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

19 (3) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
20 The term “registered apprenticeship program” has
21 the meaning given such term in section 171(b) of
22 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
23 U.S.C. 3226(b)).

24 (4) OTHER WIOA TERMS.—The terms “adminis-
25 trative costs”, “career and technical education”,

1 “career pathway”, “career planning”, “community-
2 based organization”, “Governor”, “in-demand indus-
3 try sector or occupation”, “in-school youth”, “local
4 area”, “local board”, “low-income individual”, “one-
5 stop center”, “on-the-job training”, “outlying area”,
6 “out-of-school youth”, “school dropout”, “State”,
7 “supportive services”, “unemployed individual”, and
8 “unit of general local government” have the mean-
9 ings given such terms in section 3 of the Workforce
10 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

○