

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3114

To provide grants for Civic Justice Corps programs for court-involved, previously incarcerated, and otherwise disadvantaged youth and young adults.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2011

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide grants for Civic Justice Corps programs for court-involved, previously incarcerated, and otherwise disadvantaged youth and young adults.

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 “Civic Justice Corps
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to develop, implement, and
8 expand educational and work experience opportunities for
9 court-involved, previously incarcerated, and otherwise dis-
10 advantaged youth and young adults through service and

1 conservation corps and other community-based service or-
2 ganizations.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) On any given day, more than 500,000 juve-
6 nile court cases in the United States end in incarcer-
7 ation or probation.

8 (2) The per diem cost of locking up one young
9 person in a juvenile facility ranges from \$24 in Wyo-
10 ming to \$726 in Connecticut, but the American Cor-
11 rectional Association estimates that, on average, it
12 costs States \$240.99 per day, or around \$88,000 a
13 year, for every young person in a juvenile facility.

14 (3) States spend nearly \$6,000,000,000 a year
15 incarcerating youth.

16 (4) Youth who are imprisoned are up to 50 per-
17 cent more likely to recidivate than their counterparts
18 who remain in their communities.

19 (5) Nearly 70 percent of youth in residential fa-
20 cilities have been adjudicated for nonviolent offenses
21 and could be safely managed within their commu-
22 nities.

23 (6) The most effective programs at reducing re-
24 cidivism rates and promoting positive life outcomes

1 for youth are administered within communities, out-
2 side of the criminal juvenile justice system.

3 (7) In the United States there are more than
4 150 service and conservation corps, the direct de-
5 scendants of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the
6 1930s, that operate in all 50 States, provide edu-
7 cational and economic opportunities to more than
8 30,000 young people each year, and make important
9 contributions in the communities in which they are
10 located.

11 (8) The Civic Justice Corps Model, developed
12 by The Corps Network in conjunction with the Gates
13 and Open Society Foundations, utilizes community
14 service projects to deliver life skills, education, work-
15 force readiness, and supportive and transitional serv-
16 ices to formerly incarcerated and court-involved
17 youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and
18 25.

19 (9) Data from 14 original Civic Justice Corps
20 sites demonstrate 80 percent post-program partici-
21 pant placement rates and 11 percent recidivism
22 rates among program participants (as opposed to
23 the prevailing recidivism rate of 50 to 70 percent).

24 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) CIVIC JUSTICE CORPS MODEL.—The term
2 “Civic Justice Corps Model” refers to programs
3 that—

4 (A) intentionally recruit and primarily en-
5 roll as participants in the program court-in-
6 volved, previously incarcerated, and otherwise
7 disadvantaged youth and young adults between
8 the ages of 16 and 25;

9 (B) provide such participants with edu-
10 cational programming and support designed to
11 lead to a high school diploma or its recognized
12 equivalent;

13 (C) provide such participants with assess-
14 ment, career planning, workforce readiness, and
15 service or work experience designed to lead to
16 unsubsidized employment, enrollment in post-
17 secondary education or an apprenticeship pro-
18 gram, the obtainment of an industry-recognized
19 credential, or some other type of career path-
20 way program, including military service;

21 (D) demonstrate relationships with local
22 criminal, juvenile justice, and other social serv-
23 ice agencies and provide a range of supportive
24 and transitional services to participants;

1 (E) engage participants in relevant, nec-
2 essary, and team-based community service
3 projects designed to instill life and jobs skills
4 and long-term civic engagement;

5 (F) demonstrate relationships with local
6 boards (as such term is defined in section 101
7 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
8 U.S.C. 2801)) and local employers and can pro-
9 vide participants with appropriate post-program
10 placements;

11 (G) require participants to be enrolled in
12 the program for not less than 6 months, and
13 provide participants with at least 12 months of
14 post-program support and services;

15 (H) collect post-program data for at least
16 the 12 months after such participants complete
17 the program; and

18 (I) have in place a plan for sustaining the
19 program after the expiration of the grant.

20 (2) LOCAL SUBGRANTEE.—The term “local
21 subgrantee” refers to a service and conservation
22 corps or other community-based service organization
23 that—

24 (A) has been competitively selected by a
25 national intermediary to carry out a Civic Jus-

1 tice Corps program that implements the Civic
2 Justice Corps Model; and

3 (B) demonstrates—

4 (i) a local need for a Civic Justice
5 Corps program;

6 (ii) the ability to recruit and enroll
7 court-involved, previously incarcerated, and
8 otherwise disadvantaged youth and young
9 adults between the ages of 16 and 25;

10 (iii) the ability to provide the edu-
11 cation, workforce development, service and
12 work experience, and supportive and fol-
13 low-up services described in paragraph (1);

14 (iv) relationships with local criminal,
15 juvenile justice, and social service agencies;

16 (v) relationships with local boards (as
17 such term is defined in section 101 of the
18 Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
19 U.S.C. 2801)) and employers and the abil-
20 ity to place participants upon program
21 completion;

22 (vi) the ability to collect data and re-
23 port on the performance measures de-
24 scribed in section 6(b); and

1 (vii) a plan to sustain the Civic Jus-
2 tice Corps program after the expiration of
3 the subgrant.

4 (3) NATIONAL INTERMEDIARY.—The term “na-
5 tional intermediary” means a national nonprofit or-
6 ganization that—

7 (A) has experience in developing and ad-
8 ministering programs that utilize community
9 service to deliver education and work experience
10 to court-involved, formerly incarcerated, and
11 otherwise disadvantaged youth;

12 (B) demonstrates an ability to administer
13 a competitive subgrant process that will result
14 in the selection of no less than nine geographi-
15 cally diverse local subgrantees to carry out Civil
16 Justice Corps programs that implement the
17 Civic Justice Corps Model;

18 (C) demonstrates an ability to provide
19 training and technical assistance to sub-
20 grantees; and

21 (D) has the ability to collect information
22 from the subgrantees on the performance meas-
23 ures described in section 6(b) and report such
24 information to the Attorney General on an an-
25 nual basis.

1 (4) SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS.—The
2 term “service and conservation corps” means any
3 State or local service or conservation corps, includ-
4 ing a service or conservation corps carried out under
5 the national service laws.

6 **SEC. 5. CIVIC JUSTICE CORPS GRANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall award
8 grants to one or more national intermediaries to develop,
9 implement, and collect data from Civic Justice Corps pro-
10 grams administered by no fewer than nine local sub-
11 grantees in diverse geographic locations.

12 (b) GRANT AND SUBGRANT PERIODS.—Each grant
13 awarded to a national intermediary, and each subgrant
14 awarded to a local subgrantee, under this section shall be
15 for a period of 3 years.

16 (c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each national intermediary
18 receiving a grant under this section shall make at
19 least nine subgrants to local subgrantees to carry
20 out Civil Justice Corps programs that implement the
21 Civil Justice Corps Model described in section 4(1)
22 with the funds provided under such subgrant.

23 (2) RESERVATION.—Each national intermediary
24 receiving a grant under this section shall reserve—

1 (A) not less than 90 percent for subgrants
2 to local subgrantees; and

3 (B) not more than 10 percent for training
4 and technical assistance to, and data collection
5 from, such local subgrantees.

6 (d) USE OF SUBGRANTS.—An entity receiving a
7 subgrant under this section shall use the funds made
8 available through such subgrant to carry out a Civic Jus-
9 tice Corps program that implements the Civic Justice
10 Corps Model. Such program shall include the provision of
11 educational programming and support to participants,
12 which may include—

13 (1) basic instruction and remedial education;

14 (2) language instruction for individuals with
15 limited English proficiency;

16 (3) secondary education services and activities,
17 including drop-out prevention, tutoring, and other
18 activities;

19 (4) preparation for and access to postsecondary
20 education opportunities, including counseling and as-
21 sistance with applying for student financial aid;

22 (5) work readiness training, which may in-
23 clude—

24 (A) development of basic skills, such as—

25 (i) arriving on time to work;

- 1 (ii) being prepared to work;
- 2 (iii) working independently;
- 3 (iv) working with others;
- 4 (v) working safely; and
- 5 (vi) demonstrating a commitment to
- 6 produce high quality work;
- 7 (B) development of job-specific occupa-
- 8 tional skills and on-the-job training; and
- 9 (C) assessment of skills, career counseling,
- 10 and job search assistance; and
- 11 (6) development and monitoring of individual
- 12 education and career plans.

13 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

14 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE ATTORNEY GEN-
15 ERAL.—Each national intermediary receiving a grant
16 under this Act shall submit a report annually to the Attor-
17 ney General at such time, in such manner, and providing
18 such information as the Attorney General may require, in-
19 cluding information on the performance measures re-
20 ported by subgrantees in accordance with subsection (b).

21 (b) SUBGRANTEE REPORTS ON PERFORMANCE
22 MEASURES.—Each entity receiving a subgrant under this
23 section shall annually report to the national intermediary
24 that awarded such subgrant on the following performance
25 measures of participant progress:

1 (1) The obtainment of a high school diploma, a
2 recognized equivalent, or some other industry-recog-
3 nized credential.

4 (2) Post-program placement for each partici-
5 pant in one of the following, and total post-program
6 placement rates for each of the following:

7 (A) Unsubsidized employment.

8 (B) Postsecondary education.

9 (C) A registered apprenticeship or further
10 job training.

11 (D) A career pathway program, including
12 military service.

13 (3) Post-program recidivism rates.

14 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this section \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012
17 through 2018.

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