

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1279

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2011

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Reengaging Americans in Serious Education by Uniting
6 Programs Act”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Grants authorized.
- Sec. 5. Application.
- Sec. 6. Priority.

- Sec. 7. Selection criteria.
- Sec. 8. Use of funds.
- Sec. 9. Planning grants authorized.
- Sec. 10. Accountability, performance measures, and evaluation.
- Sec. 11. Technical assistance and best practices.
- Sec. 12. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In the United States today, millions of
4 youth drop out of secondary school, fail to complete
5 their studies, or do not graduate on time. While the
6 United States has made slow progress in improving
7 graduation rates, the dropout challenge remains a
8 crisis that is impeding our ability to produce an edu-
9 cated workforce and succeed in the 21st century
10 global economy.

11 (2) Government data shows that more than 25
12 percent of our students fail to complete secondary
13 school in 4 years. In some of the Nation’s larger cit-
14 ies and among urban minority youth, dropout rates
15 of 40 percent are not uncommon.

16 (3) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-
17 tics, in 2007, nearly 6,200,000 youth were secondary
18 school dropouts. The impact of this dropout crisis
19 has been likened to “a permanent recession” for
20 youth, and it has consequences for the economy of
21 the United States. Disconnected youth are more
22 likely than other youth to engage in criminal activi-

1 ties, become incarcerated, and rely on public systems
2 of support.

3 (4) The Department of Education reports that
4 the average secondary school dropout is associated
5 with costs to the economy of approximately
6 \$240,000 over the individual's lifetime in terms of
7 lower tax contributions, higher reliance on govern-
8 ment health programs and public assistance, and
9 higher rates of criminal activity. Over their lifetimes,
10 secondary school dropouts are estimated to earn
11 \$400,000 less than secondary school graduates. Fur-
12 ther, only 37 percent of secondary school dropouts
13 are steadily employed, and they are more than twice
14 as likely to live in high poverty.

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

16 (1) to prepare disconnected youth for a com-
17 petitive future;

18 (2) to challenge and support young people who
19 have dropped out of secondary school to—

20 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

21 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential
22 from a recognized postsecondary educational in-
23 stitution, an industry-recognized credential, or
24 certification from a registered apprenticeship
25 program; and

1 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-
2 porting career; and

3 (3) to support local community partnerships in
4 integrating existing, and often disparate, services
5 into a comprehensive, cross-systems dropout recov-
6 ery approach.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **DISABILITY.**—The term “disability” has the
10 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
11 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 12102).

13 (2) **DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—The term “dis-
14 connected youth” means a young person who—

15 (A) has left secondary school without ob-
16 taining a secondary school diploma;

17 (B) is or was previously a homeless child
18 or youth;

19 (C) is or was under the care and place-
20 ment responsibility of the State agency respon-
21 sible for administering a plan under parts B
22 and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.);

24 (D) was under the custody of a juvenile
25 justice or criminal justice system;

1 (E) has a disability; or

2 (F) is a low-income individual and is preg-
3 nant or parenting and not attending any school.

4 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means a partnership consisting of entities or in-
6 dividuals qualified to represent the community as-
7 sisted, or proposed to be assisted, by a grant under
8 this Act, including not less than one partner from
9 each of the following categories:

10 (A) A mayor, or other appropriate chief ex-
11 ecutive officer, of a unit of general purpose
12 local government in the community.

13 (B) A local educational agency (as defined
14 in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
15 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 7801)) serving the community.

17 (C) A local workforce system serving the
18 community.

19 (D) An institution of higher education
20 serving the community.

21 (E) A representative of a local or state sys-
22 tem serving young people in the community, in-
23 cluding—

24 (i) a juvenile justice system;

25 (ii) a criminal justice system;

1 (iii) a housing agency;

2 (iv) a mental health agency; and

3 (v) a child welfare agency.

4 (F) A representative of a community-based
5 organization serving the community.

6 (G) A representative from business or in-
7 dustry.

8 (H) A representative with expertise in
9 labor management relations.

10 (I) A disconnected youth in the community
11 and the parents or caregivers of such discon-
12 nected youth.

13 (4) FEDERAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUN-
14 CIL.—The term “Federal Youth Development Coun-
15 cil” means the Federal Youth Development Council
16 established under the Tom Osborne Federal Youth
17 Coordination Act (Public Law 109–365; 120 Stat.
18 2594).

19 (5) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The
20 term “homeless children and youths” has the mean-
21 ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-
22 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

23 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (7) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop
4 center” means a one-stop center described in section
5 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29
6 U.S.C. 2864(c)).

7 (8) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—The term
8 “postsecondary education” means—

9 (A) a 4-year program of instruction, or not
10 less than a 1-year program of instruction that
11 is acceptable for credit toward a baccalaureate
12 degree, offered by an institution of higher edu-
13 cation; or

14 (B) a certificate or registered apprentice-
15 ship program at the postsecondary level offered
16 by an institution of higher education or a non-
17 profit educational institution.

18 (9) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
19 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
20 means an industry skills training program at the
21 postsecondary level that combines technical and the-
22 oretical training through structured on-the-job learn-
23 ing with related instruction (in a classroom or
24 through distance learning) while an individual is em-
25 ployed, working under the direction of qualified per-

1 sonnel or a mentor, and earning incremental wage
2 increases aligned to enhanced job proficiency, result-
3 ing in the acquisition of a nationally recognized and
4 portable certificate, under a plan approved by the
5 Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor
6 or by a State agency recognized by the Department
7 of Labor.

8 (10) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
9 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
10 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
13 means the Secretary of Labor.

14 (12) YOUNG PEOPLE.—The term “young peo-
15 ple” means individuals who are between the ages of
16 16 and 24, inclusive, at the time of commencement
17 of participation in services funded through a grant
18 under section 4.

19 **SEC. 4. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
21 with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health
22 and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
23 Development, the Attorney General of the United States,
24 the Federal Youth Development Council, and leaders in
25 the field of working with disconnected youth, shall award

1 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable
2 the eligible entities to pay the costs of—

3 (1) developing and implementing a strategy to
4 identify disconnected youth; and

5 (2) providing such disconnected youth with sup-
6 port needed to—

7 (A) attain a secondary school diploma or
8 its recognized equivalent;

9 (B) attain a postsecondary credential, in-
10 cluding a 2-year or 4-year credential from an
11 institution of higher education, an industry-rec-
12 ognized credential, or certification from a reg-
13 istered apprenticeship program; and

14 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-
15 porting career.

16 (b) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall
17 award a grant under this section in an amount that—

18 (1) is appropriate to achieve the goals and im-
19 plement the activities described in the application
20 submitted under section 5; and

21 (2) is not less than \$1,000,000 per year.

22 (c) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-
23 tion shall be awarded for a period of 5 years, and may
24 be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary based on the
25 effective performance of the eligible entity under the pre-

1 ceding grant in accordance with the levels of performance
2 determined by the eligible entity and the Secretary pursu-
3 ant to section 9(b).

4 (d) **EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF**
5 **FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall ensure an equitable and ap-
6 propriate distribution of grants awarded under this section
7 among eligible entities—

8 (1) serving urban, rural, and suburban areas;
9 and

10 (2) with varying degrees of experience and ex-
11 pertise in serving disconnected youth.

12 (e) **FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENTS.**—An eli-
13 gible entity shall choose an entity to be the fiscal agent
14 and an entity to be the administrative agent for the grant
15 funds received under this section.

16 (f) **EXISTING PARTNERSHIP.**—An existing workforce,
17 education, or youth development partnership, coalition, or
18 organization may serve as the eligible entity for the pur-
19 poses of grants under this section if the partnership, coal-
20 ition, or organization includes, or modifies the members of
21 the partnership, coalition, or organization to include, the
22 individuals required to be included in the eligible entity
23 under section 3(2).

1 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires a
3 grant under section 4 shall submit an application to the
4 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
5 such information as the Secretary may require.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under this
7 section shall include—

8 (1) a description of the eligible entity submit-
9 ting the application, including a description of the
10 fiscal agent and the administrative agent for the
11 grant;

12 (2) a description of the strategy that the eligi-
13 ble entity will use to carry out the purpose of this
14 Act, which shall include—

15 (A) a well-developed education component
16 with an emphasis on—

17 (i) multiple pathways and options to-
18 wards secondary school diploma and post-
19 secondary credential attainment, which
20 may include recuperative strategies such as
21 competency based instruction and credit
22 retrieval as well as basic literacy; and

23 (ii) the skills needed in the fields of
24 science, technology, engineering, and math-
25 ematics;

1 (B) a work preparation component, which
2 may include a hands-on internship, work experi-
3 ence, or national or community service, that
4 promotes the development of applied skills such
5 as oral and written communication, teamwork,
6 leadership, and critical thinking; and

7 (C) a youth support component, including
8 the array of comprehensive support services
9 that will—

10 (i) address the challenges that caused
11 the disconnected youth to leave school
12 without a secondary school diploma;

13 (ii) remove barriers to and support
14 the attainment of—

15 (I) the graduation of such young
16 people from secondary school;

17 (II) a postsecondary credential,
18 including a 2-year or 4-year credential
19 from an institution of higher edu-
20 cation, an industry-recognized creden-
21 tial, or certification from a registered
22 apprenticeship program; and

23 (III) success in a family-sup-
24 porting career; and

1 (iii) provide appropriate case manage-
2 ment to ensure young people achieve the
3 purposes described in section 2(b);

4 (3) a needs assessment of the community to be
5 assisted under the grant, including—

6 (A) an estimate of the number of discon-
7 nected youth in the community; and

8 (B) an assessment of resources available in
9 the community that can help such disconnected
10 youth—

11 (i) address the challenges that caused
12 such disconnected youth to leave school
13 without a secondary school diploma;

14 (ii) return to an appropriate edu-
15 cational setting;

16 (iii) attain a secondary school di-
17 ploma;

18 (iv) attain a postsecondary credential,
19 including a 2-year or 4-year credential
20 from an institution of higher education, an
21 industry-recognized credential, or certifi-
22 cation from a registered apprenticeship
23 program; and

24 (v) secure and succeed in a family-
25 supporting career;

1 (4) a plan for identifying and engaging discon-
2 nected youth and connecting such disconnected
3 youth with a continuum of comprehensive and co-
4 ordinated resources that can help such disconnected
5 youth attain a secondary school diploma, a recog-
6 nized postsecondary credential, including a 2-year or
7 4-year credential from an institution of higher edu-
8 cation, an industry-recognized credential, or certifi-
9 cation from a registered apprenticeship program,
10 and secure and succeed in a family-supporting ca-
11 reer, including a description of—

12 (A) the needs of such disconnected youth
13 that will be met by the eligible entity through
14 the grant;

15 (B) the identities, roles, and capacity of
16 the partners in the eligible entity to fulfill the
17 needs described in subparagraph (A), including
18 a description of the role to be played by—

19 (i) secondary schools and institutions
20 of higher education in constructing edu-
21 cation programming;

22 (ii) the local workforce system, includ-
23 ing one-stop career centers and businesses,
24 in developing and implementing the work-
25 force preparation activities; and

1 (iii) systems serving young people, in-
2 cluding the juvenile justice system, and
3 other community-based organizations in
4 providing outreach, support, and direct
5 service;

6 (C) a plan to leverage non-Federal (includ-
7 ing in-kind) resources and a plan for sustain-
8 ability beyond the grant period;

9 (D) the services to be provided through the
10 grant to carry out the strategy described in
11 paragraph (2) and a description of the process
12 that will be used to award subgrants and con-
13 tracts under section 8 for the provision of such
14 services;

15 (E) the research and evidence base indi-
16 cating why the selected strategy and selection of
17 services will be effective in meeting the com-
18 prehensive needs of the disconnected youth
19 identified in the community;

20 (F) the goals, intended outcomes, and per-
21 formance measures of the eligible entity's strat-
22 egy in accordance with the performance meas-
23 ures under section 10(b);

24 (G) a statement of concurrence on the ap-
25 plication, signed by the partners in the eligible

1 entity, that outlines the specific roles and re-
2 sponsibilities of the partners as the roles and
3 responsibilities relate to the functioning of the
4 eligible entity; and

5 (H) a plan to create, or include an exist-
6 ing, youth advisory council, that is composed of
7 disconnected youth from the community to be
8 served, to make recommendations regarding the
9 services to be provided under the grant;

10 (5) a description of the system that will be put
11 in place to—

12 (A) provide case management, counseling,
13 intensive placement and follow-up services,
14 adult advocacy, or mentoring to help discon-
15 nected youth and their families access the var-
16 ious systems, resources, and supports necessary
17 to ensure such young people’s success; and

18 (B) ensure that young people receiving
19 services through the grant will receive individ-
20 ualized case management to ensure that the
21 young people achieve the purposes described in
22 section 2(b), including—

23 (i) an assessment of needs;

24 (ii) coordination of appropriate serv-
25 ices; and

1 (iii) academic preparation and support
2 for entry, persistence, and completion of
3 postsecondary education;

4 (6) a description of how the eligible entity will
5 ensure that every young person served under the
6 grant receives comprehensive services, including
7 services from each of the categories described in sec-
8 tion 7(b)(1) through section 7(b)(3) until the young
9 person—

10 (A) attains a secondary school diploma, a
11 2-year or 4-year credential or occupational cer-
12 tification from an institution of higher edu-
13 cation, an industry-recognized credential, or
14 certification from a registered apprenticeship
15 program; and

16 (B) secures employment that can lead to
17 economic self-sufficiency;

18 (7) a description of how the strategy to be im-
19 plemented under the grant will identify, engage, and
20 provide services to young people who—

21 (A) left school without a secondary school
22 diploma and have reading, mathematics, or
23 science skills at or below the grade 8 level; and

1 (B) are disconnected youth described in
2 any of subparagraphs (C) through (E) of sec-
3 tion 3(2);

4 (8) a description of how public and private serv-
5 ices that exist on the date of submission of the ap-
6 plication will be coordinated and integrated in order
7 to implement and sustain the strategy under the
8 grant;

9 (9) a description of how Federal, State, and
10 local private and public funds will be leveraged, co-
11 ordinated, and integrated in order to implement the
12 strategy under the grant;

13 (10) a description of how the strategy to be im-
14 plemented under the grant strengthens, and does not
15 duplicate, efforts within the community to be served
16 under the grant that are funded under chapter 4 of
17 subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act
18 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2851 et seq.);

19 (11) a description of the process to be used to
20 review or approve the industry-recognized credentials
21 that may be attained by the young people receiving
22 support under the grant; and

23 (12) a description of how the strategy to be im-
24 plemented under the grant aligns with the efforts of
25 the local educational agency serving the community

1 assisted under the grant to improve secondary
2 schools, including efforts focused on—

3 (A) students who are off-track to an on-
4 time graduation; and

5 (B) recuperative strategies.

6 (c) EXISTING PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND STRATE-
7 GIES.—Plans, needs assessments, and strategies that have
8 been developed by an eligible entity or the partners in the
9 eligible entity may be used to satisfy the requirements of
10 this section if such plans, needs assessments, or strate-
11 gies—

12 (1) include the information required by this sec-
13 tion, or can be modified to include the information
14 required by this section; and

15 (2) are submitted to the Secretary with such
16 modifications.

17 **SEC. 6. PRIORITY.**

18 In awarding grants to eligible entities under section
19 4, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from
20 eligible entities proposing—

21 (1) to serve areas with disproportionately high
22 numbers or percentages of young people who have
23 left secondary school without obtaining a secondary
24 school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

1 (2) to serve areas with high concentrations of
2 young people in families whose family income is not
3 more than 200 percent of the poverty line (as deter-
4 mined under section 673(2) of the Community Serv-
5 ices Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))); and

6 (3) to serve areas with high numbers or per-
7 centages of young people who are unemployed or un-
8 deremployed.

9 **SEC. 7. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

10 The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities
11 under section 4 based on selection criteria that includes
12 the following:

13 (1) **BEST PRACTICES OR RESEARCH.**—The ex-
14 tent to which the application submitted by an eligi-
15 ble entity under section 5 is rooted in documented
16 best practices or research.

17 (2) **INTEGRATION.**—The extent to which the
18 application demonstrates the integration of multiple
19 services into a comprehensive, coordinated con-
20 tinuum that meets the holistic needs of young peo-
21 ple, including health services, mental health services,
22 housing, civic opportunities, job readiness, work ex-
23 perience, school readiness, reenrollment in school,
24 and connections to family and community.

1 (3) LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVE-
2 MENT.—The extent to which the application dem-
3 onstrates the leadership and substantive involvement
4 of the business community, the mayor or appropriate
5 chief executive officers of the general purpose local
6 government of the community to be served by the
7 grant, each local educational agency serving the
8 community, the public and nonprofit sectors of the
9 community, and other individuals and entities, de-
10 scribed in section 3(2), of the community.

11 (4) LEVERAGING AND SUSTAINABILITY.—The
12 extent to which the application demonstrates that re-
13 sources from multiple sources will be leveraged to
14 implement the grant, and the extent to which the
15 application demonstrates a plan for sustainability
16 beyond the grant period.

17 **SEC. 8. USE OF FUNDS.**

18 (a) SUBGRANTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity receiving
20 a grant under section 4 shall use the grant funds—

21 (A) to award subgrants and contracts to
22 community-based organizations and other enti-
23 ties to enable the organizations and entities to
24 provide a comprehensive array of coordinated
25 activities that will—

1 (i) support the educational, career and
2 technical, social, emotional, and civic needs
3 of disconnected youth; and

4 (ii) allow disconnected youth to grad-
5 uate from secondary school, attain a post-
6 secondary credential, including a 2-year or
7 4-year credential from an institution of
8 higher education, an industry-recognized
9 credential, or certification from a reg-
10 istered apprenticeship program, and secure
11 and succeed in a family-supporting career;

12 (B) for training, technical assistance, and
13 professional development for the organizations
14 and entities that is offered by local or national
15 organizations;

16 (C) for coordinating the overall effort of
17 the eligible entity; or

18 (D) for the reasonable costs associated
19 with the administration and oversight of the
20 grants under section 4.

21 (2) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—Each organi-
22 zation or entity receiving a subgrant or contract
23 under this section—

24 (A) shall use the subgrant or contract
25 funds to carry out a workforce preparation

1 service, an education support service, or a youth
2 support service, described in paragraphs (1),
3 (2), and (3) of subsection (b), respectively; and

4 (B) may use the subgrant or contract
5 funds to carry out an activity described in para-
6 graph (4) or (5) of subsection (b).

7 (b) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The services and ac-
8 tivities referred to in subsection (a)(2) include the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (1) WORK AND CAREER PREPARATION.—

11 (A) WORKFORCE PREPARATION.—Job
12 training, youth entrepreneurship, technological
13 and career and technical skill building, mean-
14 ingful internship and apprenticeship opportuni-
15 ties, and other workforce preparation activities
16 developed in partnership with the business com-
17 munity and other employers.

18 (B) EXPOSURE AND PREPARATION FOR
19 CAREERS.—Strategies that will expose discon-
20 nected youth to, and prepare such disconnected
21 youth for, careers, including careers in high-
22 growth, high-demand industries that require the
23 use of science, technology, engineering, and
24 mathematics skills.

1 (C) APPLIED SKILLS.—Strategies that pro-
2 mote the development of applied skills in such
3 young people, including oral and written com-
4 munication, teamwork, leadership, critical
5 thinking, and a commitment to social and civic
6 responsibility, including service-learning activi-
7 ties.

8 (D) COMPENSATION.—Compensation for
9 employment opportunities for such young peo-
10 ple, including summer and year-round employ-
11 ment opportunities, national and community
12 service, service-learning, and work experience.

13 (2) EDUCATION SUPPORT.—

14 (A) EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.—Edu-
15 cation programming for such young people, in-
16 cluding assessment, instruction, tutoring, and
17 technology supports to academic instruction.

18 (B) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-
19 CATION.—Career and technical education.

20 (C) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS AND
21 EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.—Participation
22 in dual enrollment programs, early college high
23 schools, and other proven models for supporting
24 the educational achievement of disconnected
25 youth.

1 (D) POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS.—Pro-
2 grams that provide young people with a postsec-
3 ondary credential from an institution of higher
4 education, a non-profit postsecondary edu-
5 cational institution that offers an industry rec-
6 ognized credential, or a registered apprentice-
7 ship program.

8 (E) TRANSITION SUPPORT.—Support for
9 young people in their transition into and their
10 successful completion of postsecondary edu-
11 cation.

12 (F) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial
13 assistance for such young people for education
14 support services and for higher education.

15 (3) YOUTH SUPPORT.—

16 (A) CASE MANAGEMENT.—Case manage-
17 ment, including using subgrant or contract
18 funds for youth centers to serve as points of ac-
19 cess and continued support.

20 (B) HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR DRUG
21 TREATMENT SERVICES.—Health services, men-
22 tal health services, or drug treatment services.

23 (C) HOUSING.—Housing.

24 (D) TRANSPORTATION.—Transportation.

1 (E) CHILDCARE OR FAMILY SUPPORT
2 SERVICES.—Childcare services or family sup-
3 port services.

4 (F) MENTORING ACTIVITIES.—Mentoring
5 activities for such young people, including one-
6 to-one relationship building and tutoring.

7 (4) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.—Curriculum
8 development that promotes contextual learning.

9 (5) OTHER SERVICES OR OPPORTUNITIES.—
10 Other services or opportunities that the Secretary or
11 the eligible entity determine will help carry out the
12 purposes of this Act.

13 (c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—An eligible entity re-
14 ceiving a grant under section 4 shall ensure that, of the
15 group of young people who receive the services and partici-
16 pate in the activities described in subsections (a) and (b)
17 under the grant, not less than 75 percent of the group
18 shall be disconnected youth as defined in section 3(2).

19 (d) WAIVER OF MULTIPLE SERVICE REQUIRE-
20 MENT.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of sub-
21 section (a) regarding the provision of a comprehensive
22 array of coordinated activities for an eligible entity receiv-
23 ing a grant under section 4 to permit not more than 25
24 percent of the young people served by the eligible entity
25 under the grant to receive only 1 or more services among

1 the allowable activities described in subsection (b) if the
2 eligible entity determines that such young people only need
3 1 or more such services in order to—

4 (1) attain a secondary school diploma;

5 (2) attain a recognized postsecondary creden-
6 tial, including a 2-year or 4-year credential from an
7 institution of higher education, an industry-recog-
8 nized credential, or certification from a registered
9 apprenticeship program; and

10 (3) secure and succeed in a family-supporting
11 career.

12 **SEC. 9. PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award plan-
14 ning grants to eligible entities to develop the components
15 of the application described in section 5, in order to allow
16 eligible entities to become competitive for grants under
17 section 4.

18 (b) DURATION; AMOUNT.—Planning grants under
19 this section shall be—

20 (1) for a duration of not more than 6 months
21 in an amount of not more than \$50,000; or

22 (2) for a duration of more than 6 months and
23 not more than one year and in an amount of not
24 more than \$100,000.

1 (c) RECIPIENTS.—Recipients of grants under this
2 section shall include—

3 (1) eligible entities that applied for and did not
4 receive a grant under section 4, and demonstrate the
5 ability to submit a competitive application after ad-
6 ditional local planning; and

7 (2) eligible entities that intend to apply for a
8 grant under section 4 after undergoing a thorough
9 planning process.

10 **SEC. 10. ACCOUNTABILITY, PERFORMANCE MEASURES,**
11 **AND EVALUATION.**

12 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-
13 tablish an accountability system, comprised of the activi-
14 ties described in this section, in order to—

15 (1) assess the effectiveness of grants under sec-
16 tion 4 in helping disconnected youth—

17 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

18 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential
19 from an institution of higher education, an in-
20 dustry recognized credential, or certification
21 from a registered apprenticeship program; and

22 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-
23 porting career;

24 (2) identify and disseminate effective practices
25 to strengthen performance; and

1 (3) maximize the return on investment of Fed-
2 eral funds in activities assisted pursuant to a grant
3 under section 4.

4 (b) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each eligible entity, per-
6 formance measures shall consist of the indicators of
7 performance described in paragraph (2) and the
8 level of performance described in paragraph (3).

9 (2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—The indi-
10 cators of performance referred to in paragraph (1)
11 shall consist of the following:

12 (A) INTERIM INDICATORS.—

13 (i) YOUTH PARTICIPATION.—The par-
14 ticipation of young people in activities
15 funded under section 4.

16 (ii) YOUTH PROGRESS.—The progress
17 of young people towards all of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (I) Attainment of a secondary
20 school diploma or its recognized equiv-
21 alent.

22 (II) Job readiness.

23 (iii) YOUTH ATTAINMENT.—The at-
24 tainment by young people of a secondary
25 school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

1 (B) TRANSITIONAL INDICATORS.—

2 (i) DIPLOMA, AND ENTRANCE INTO
3 EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT.—The at-
4 tainment by young people of a secondary
5 school diploma, and entrance into postsec-
6 ondary education or employment.

7 (ii) CREDENTIAL.—The attainment by
8 young people of 1 or more recognized post-
9 secondary credentials, which may include a
10 certificate, a license, a journey-status card,
11 or an associate degree or baccalaureate de-
12 gree.

13 (C) LONG-TERM INDICATORS.—

14 (i) EMPLOYMENT, DIPLOMA, AND CRE-
15 DENTIAL.—Employment of individuals who
16 participated in activities funded under sec-
17 tion 4, attained a secondary school di-
18 ploma, and attained 1 or more recognized
19 credentials, which may include a certifi-
20 cate, license, journey-status card, or asso-
21 ciate degree or baccalaureate degree.

22 (ii) INITIAL WAGE OR SALARY
23 LEVEL.—The initial wage or salary level of
24 individuals described in clause (i).

1 (3) LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.—For each indi-
2 cator of performance described in paragraph (2), the
3 Secretary, in coordination with the eligible entity,
4 shall determine a level of performance expressed in
5 objective, quantifiable, and measurable form and in
6 a way to show the progress of the eligible entity to-
7 ward continuously improving performance.

8 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY MEASURES.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity
10 that receives a grant under section 4 shall reach
11 agreement with the Secretary on the levels of
12 performance for the years covered by the grant.
13 The levels of performance shall take into ac-
14 count the economic conditions of the area
15 served, the characteristics of young people in
16 the area, secondary school graduation rates,
17 and the activities or services provided in the
18 community served under the grant.

19 (B) ADJUSTMENTS.—If unanticipated cir-
20 cumstances arise resulting in a significant
21 change in the economic conditions of the area,
22 the characteristics of young people in the area,
23 secondary school graduation rates, or activities
24 or services provided in the community served
25 under the grant, then the eligible entity may re-

1 quest that the Secretary adjust the level of per-
2 formance for the eligible entity.

3 (c) ASSURANCE.—Each eligible entity that receives a
4 grant under section 4 shall provide an assurance to the
5 Secretary, as part of the application submitted under sec-
6 tion 5, that the eligible entity will—

7 (1) report progress toward achieving the indica-
8 tors under subsection (b) beyond the grant period
9 for young people served under the grant; and

10 (2) use funds provided under the grant for such
11 progress reporting.

12 (d) REPORTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-
14 ceives a grant under section 4 shall annually, for
15 each year of the grant, provide a report to the Sec-
16 retary that includes the progress of the eligible enti-
17 ty in accomplishing the performance measures for
18 the eligible entity. The annual report shall include—

19 (A) information on the progress each eligi-
20 ble entity made in accomplishing its perform-
21 ance measures, disaggregated by the categories
22 described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the
23 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II));

1 (B) the costs of the activities supported
2 under the grant under section 4, including—

3 (i) the type of cost, such as cash, per-
4 sonnel, equipment, supplies, or materials,
5 or other cost; and

6 (ii) the sources used to pay such
7 costs, such as—

8 (I) funding from other Federal,
9 State, or local public programs; or

10 (II) private sector or philan-
11 thropic contributions; and

12 (iii) the dollar value of the resources
13 leveraged to cover such costs and support
14 the activities;

15 (C) any fiscal and management account-
16 ability information required by the Secretary,
17 which information shall use sound financial and
18 management practices;

19 (D) the characteristics and number of dis-
20 connected youth served by the services and ac-
21 tivities provided under the grant; and

22 (E) the services and supports provided
23 under the grant.

24 (2) VALID AND RELIABLE INFORMATION.—In
25 preparing the reports under this subsection, each eli-

1 gible entity shall establish procedures, consistent
2 with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure
3 that the information contained in the reports is valid
4 and reliable.

5 (e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award
7 a grant or a contract to an entity outside the Department
8 of Labor for an evaluation of the activities assisted under
9 the grants awarded under section 4. Such evaluation
10 shall—

11 (1) evaluate a subgroup of eligible entities that
12 received a grant under section 4;

13 (2) include an analysis and documentation of
14 the strategies implemented by the eligible entities as-
15 sisted under the grants awarded under section 4 and
16 the key lessons learned, as such lessons relate to
17 program design, systems coordination, and imple-
18 mentation;

19 (3) measure the outcomes, and progress toward
20 the outcomes, of the strategies implemented under
21 the grants under section 4 in terms of the interim
22 and transitional indicators of performance under
23 subsection (b)(2), and if feasible, the long-term indi-
24 cators of performance under such subsection;

1 (4) document the incremental progress of such
2 young people over time on the outcomes measured
3 under paragraph (3);

4 (5) measure the return on investment resulting
5 from the activities funded with grants under section
6 4; and

7 (6) begin as soon as practicable after the
8 awarding of the grant or contract under this section
9 and continue throughout the duration of the periods
10 of the grants under section 4 so that the plans in-
11 cluded in the applications under section 5 may be in-
12 formed by, and conducive to, the evaluation.

13 **SEC. 11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES.**

14 The Secretary shall—

15 (1) in consultation with the Federal Youth De-
16 velopment Council, the Coordinating Council on Ju-
17 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estab-
18 lished under section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and
19 Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
20 5616), the Shared Youth Vision, and other related
21 agencies, disseminate best practices that emerge
22 from the programs assisted under this Act in identi-
23 fying disconnected youth, and in implementing effec-
24 tive public and private strategies for preparing such
25 young people to be successful students, workers, and

1 citizens during and after implementation of the pro-
2 gram; and

3 (2) provide, directly or through a grant or con-
4 tract with 1 or more nonprofit organizations selected
5 through a competitive process, training, technical as-
6 sistance, and professional development for organiza-
7 tions serving disconnected youth, including organiza-
8 tions serving such disconnected youth that do not re-
9 ceive funding under this Act.

10 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
12 priated to carry out this Act such sums as may be nec-
13 essary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015.

14 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to
15 carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary
16 shall use—

17 (1) not less than 90 percent of such amount for
18 grants to eligible entities under section 4 and section
19 9; and

20 (2) a total of not more than 10 percent of such
21 amount for the evaluation under section 10(b) and
22 the training, technical assistance, and dissemination
23 of best practices under section 11.

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