

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 665

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2011

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

A BILL

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, 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 “Strengthening Employ-
5 ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2011”
6 or the “SECTORS Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle D of title I of the Work-
3 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.)
4 is amended by inserting after section 171 the following:

5 **“SEC. 171A. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
8 promote industry or sector partnerships that lead collabo-
9 rative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts
10 across multiple firms for a range of workers employed or
11 potentially employed by a targeted industry cluster, in
12 order to encourage industry growth and competitiveness
13 and to improve worker training, retention, and advance-
14 ment in targeted industry clusters, including by devel-
15 oping—

16 “(1) immediate strategies for regions and com-
17 munities to fulfill pressing skilled workforce needs;

18 “(2) long-term plans to grow targeted industry
19 clusters with better training and a more productive
20 workforce;

21 “(3) core competencies and competitive advan-
22 tages for regions and communities undergoing struc-
23 tural economic redevelopment; and

24 “(4) skill standards, career ladders, job re-
25 definitions, employer practices, and shared training

1 and support capacities that facilitate the advance-
2 ment of workers at all skill levels.

3 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CAREER LADDER.—The term ‘career lad-
5 der’ means an identified series of positions, work ex-
6 periences, and educational benchmarks or credentials
7 that offer occupational and financial advancement
8 within a specified career field or related fields over
9 time.

10 “(2) ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.—The term
11 ‘economic self-sufficiency’ means, with respect to a
12 worker, earning a wage sufficient to support a fam-
13 ily adequately over time, based on factors such as—

14 “(A) family size;

15 “(B) the number and ages of children in
16 the family;

17 “(C) the cost of living in the worker’s com-
18 munity; and

19 “(D) other factors that may vary by re-
20 gion.

21 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
22 tity’ means—

23 “(A) an industry or sector partnership; or

24 “(B) an eligible State agency.

1 “(4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘eli-
2 gible State agency’ means a State agency designated
3 by the Governor of the State in which the State
4 agency is located for the purposes of the grant pro-
5 gram under this section.

6 “(5) HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATION.—The term
7 ‘high-priority occupation’ means an occupation
8 that—

9 “(A) has a significant presence in an in-
10 dustry cluster;

11 “(B) is in demand by employers;

12 “(C) pays family-sustaining wages that en-
13 able workers to achieve economic self-suffi-
14 ciency, or can reasonably be expected to lead to
15 such wages;

16 “(D) has or is in the process of developing
17 a documented career ladder; and

18 “(E) has a significant impact on a region’s
19 economic development strategy.

20 “(6) INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The term ‘industry
21 cluster’ means a concentration of interconnected
22 businesses, suppliers, research and development enti-
23 ties, service providers, and associated institutions in
24 a particular field that are linked by common work-
25 force needs.

1 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—

2 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a
3 workforce collaborative that is described as follows:

4 “(A) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An industry or
6 sector partnership is a workforce collabo-
7 rative that organizes key stakeholders in a
8 targeted industry cluster into a working
9 group that focuses on the workforce needs
10 of the targeted industry cluster and in-
11 cludes, at the appropriate stage of develop-
12 ment of the partnership—

13 “(I) representatives of multiple
14 firms or employers in the targeted in-
15 dustry cluster, including small- and
16 medium-sized employers when prac-
17 ticable;

18 “(II) one or more representatives
19 of State labor organizations, central
20 labor coalitions, or other labor organi-
21 zations, except in instances where no
22 labor representation exists;

23 “(III) one or more representa-
24 tives of local boards;

1 “(IV) one or more representa-
2 tives of postsecondary educational in-
3 stitutions or other training providers;
4 and

5 “(V) one or more representatives
6 of State workforce agencies or other
7 entities providing employment serv-
8 ices.

9 “(ii) DIVERSE AND DISTINCT REP-
10 RESENTATION.—No individual may serve
11 as a member in an industry or sector part-
12 nership, as defined in this paragraph, for
13 more than one of the required categories
14 described in subclauses (I) through (V) of
15 clause (i).

16 “(B) AUTHORIZED MEMBERS.—An indus-
17 try or sector partnership may include represent-
18 atives of—

19 “(i) State or local government;

20 “(ii) State or local economic develop-
21 ment agencies;

22 “(iii) other State or local agencies;

23 “(iv) chambers of commerce;

24 “(v) nonprofit organizations;

25 “(vi) philanthropic organizations;

1 “(vii) economic development organiza-
2 tions;

3 “(viii) industry associations; and

4 “(ix) other organizations, as deter-
5 mined necessary by the members com-
6 prising the industry or sector partnership.

7 “(8) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term ‘in-
8 dustry-recognized’, used with respect to a credential,
9 means a credential that—

10 “(A) is sought or accepted by businesses
11 within the industry or sector involved as a rec-
12 ognized, preferred, or required credential for re-
13 cruitment, screening, or hiring purposes; and

14 “(B) is endorsed by a nationally recognized
15 trade association or organization representing a
16 significant part of the industry or sector, where
17 appropriate.

18 “(9) NATIONALLY PORTABLE.—The term ‘na-
19 tionally portable’, used with respect to a credential,
20 means a credential that is sought or accepted by
21 businesses within the industry sector involved, across
22 multiple States, as a recognized, preferred, or re-
23 quired credential for recruitment, screening, or hir-
24 ing purposes.

1 “(10) TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The
2 term ‘targeted industry cluster’ means an industry
3 cluster that has—

4 “(A) economic impact in a local or regional
5 area, such as advanced manufacturing, clean
6 energy technology, and health care;

7 “(B) immediate workforce development
8 needs, such as advanced manufacturing, clean
9 energy, technology, and health care; and

10 “(C) documented career opportunities.

11 “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-
13 priated to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
14 award, on a competitive basis, grants described in
15 paragraph (3) to eligible entities to enable the eligi-
16 ble entities to plan and implement, respectively, the
17 eligible entities’ strategic objectives in accordance
18 with subsection (d)(2)(D).

19 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

20 “(A) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An im-
21 plementation grant awarded under paragraph
22 (3)(A) may not exceed a total of \$2,500,000 for
23 a 3-year period.

1 “(B) RENEWAL GRANTS.—A renewal grant
2 awarded under paragraph (3)(C) may not ex-
3 ceed a total of \$1,500,000 for a 3-year period.

4 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION AND RENEWAL
5 GRANTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
7 award an implementation grant under this sec-
8 tion to an eligible entity that has established, or
9 is in the process of establishing, an industry or
10 sector partnership.

11 “(B) DURATION.—An implementation
12 grant shall be for a duration of not more than
13 3 years, and may be renewed in accordance
14 with subparagraph (C).

15 “(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may
16 renew an implementation grant for not more
17 than 3 years. A renewal of such grant shall be
18 subject to the requirements of this section, ex-
19 cept that the Secretary shall—

20 “(i) prioritize renewals to eligible enti-
21 ties that can demonstrate the long-term
22 sustainability of an industry or sector part-
23 nership funded under this section; and

24 “(ii) require assurances that the eligi-
25 ble entity will leverage, in accordance with

1 subparagraph (D)(ii), each year of the
 2 grant period, additional funding sources
 3 for the non-Federal share of the grant
 4 which shall—

5 “(I) be in an amount greater
 6 than—

7 “(aa) the non-Federal share
 8 requirement described in sub-
 9 paragraph (D)(i)(III); and

10 “(bb) for the second and
 11 third year of the grant period,
 12 the non-Federal share amount
 13 the eligible entity provided for
 14 the preceding year of the grant;
 15 and

16 “(II) include at least a 50 per-
 17 cent cash match from the State, the
 18 industry cluster, or some combination
 19 thereof, of the eligible entity.

20 “(D) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL
 21 SHARE.—

22 “(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as
 23 provided in subparagraph (C)(ii) and
 24 clause (iii), the Federal share of a grant
 25 under this section shall be—

1 “(I) 90 percent of the costs of
2 the activities described in subsection
3 (f), in the first year of the grant;

4 “(II) 80 percent of such costs in
5 the second year of the grant; and

6 “(III) 70 percent of such costs in
7 the third year of the grant.

8 “(ii) NON-FEDERAL.—The non-Fed-
9 eral share of a grant under this section
10 may be in cash or in-kind, and may come
11 from State, local, philanthropic, private, or
12 other sources.

13 “(iii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary
14 may require the Federal share of a grant
15 under this section to be 100 percent if an
16 eligible entity receiving such grant is lo-
17 cated in a State or local area that is re-
18 ceiving a national emergency grant under
19 section 173.

20 “(4) FISCAL AGENT.—Each eligible entity re-
21 ceiving a grant under this section that is an industry
22 or sector partnership shall designate an entity in the
23 partnership as the fiscal agent for purposes of this
24 grant.

1 “(5) USE OF GRANT FUNDS DURING GRANT PE-
2 RIODS.—An eligible entity receiving grant funds
3 under a grant under this section shall expend grant
4 funds or obligate grant funds to be expended by the
5 last day of the grant period.

6 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

7 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF A TARGETED INDUS-
8 TRY CLUSTER.—In order to qualify for a grant
9 under this section, an eligible entity shall identify a
10 targeted industry cluster that could benefit from
11 such grant by—

12 “(A) working with businesses, industry as-
13 sociations and organizations, labor organiza-
14 tions, State boards, local boards, economic de-
15 velopment agencies, and other organizations
16 that the eligible entity determines necessary, to
17 identify an appropriate targeted industry clus-
18 ter based on criteria that include, at a min-
19 imum—

20 “(i) data showing the competitiveness
21 of the industry cluster;

22 “(ii) the importance of the industry
23 cluster to the economic development of the
24 area served by the eligible entity, including
25 estimation of jobs created or preserved;

1 “(iii) the identification of supply and
2 distribution chains within the industry
3 cluster; and

4 “(iv) research studies on industry
5 clusters; and

6 “(B) working with appropriate employment
7 agencies, workforce investment boards, eco-
8 nomic development agencies, community organi-
9 zations, and other organizations that the eligi-
10 ble entity determines necessary to ensure that
11 the targeted industry cluster identified under
12 subparagraph (A) should be targeted for invest-
13 ment, based primarily on the following criteria:

14 “(i) Demonstrated demand for job
15 growth potential.

16 “(ii) Employment base.

17 “(iii) Wages and benefits.

18 “(iv) Demonstrated importance of the
19 targeted industry cluster to the area’s
20 economy.

21 “(v) Workforce development needs.

22 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring
23 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
24 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
25 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-

1 retary may require. An application submitted under
2 this paragraph shall contain, at a minimum, the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(A) A description of the eligible entity,
5 evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to carry
6 out activities in support of the strategic objec-
7 tives identified in the application under sub-
8 paragraph (D), and a description of the ex-
9 pected participation and responsibilities of each
10 of the mandatory partners described in sub-
11 section (b)(8)(A).

12 “(B) A description of the targeted industry
13 cluster for which the eligible entity intends to
14 carry out activities through a grant under this
15 section, and a description of how such targeted
16 industry cluster was identified in accordance
17 with paragraph (1).

18 “(C) A description of the workers that will
19 be targeted or recruited by the partnership, in-
20 cluding an analysis of the existing labor market,
21 a description of potential barriers to employ-
22 ment for targeted workers, and a description of
23 strategies that will be employed to help workers
24 overcome such barriers.

1 “(D) A description of the strategic objec-
2 tives that the eligible entity intends to carry out
3 for the targeted industry cluster, which objec-
4 tives shall include—

5 “(i) recruiting key stakeholders in the
6 targeted industry cluster, such as multiple
7 businesses and employers, labor organiza-
8 tions, local boards, and education and
9 training providers, and regularly convening
10 the stakeholders in a collaborative struc-
11 ture that supports the sharing of informa-
12 tion, ideas, and challenges common to the
13 targeted industry cluster;

14 “(ii) identifying the training needs of
15 multiple businesses, especially skill gaps
16 critical to competitiveness and innovation
17 to the targeted industry cluster;

18 “(iii) facilitating economies of scale by
19 aggregating training and education needs
20 of multiple employers;

21 “(iv) helping postsecondary edu-
22 cational institutions, training institutions,
23 apprenticeship programs, and all other
24 training programs authorized under this
25 Act, align curricula, entrance require-

1 ments, and programs to industry demand
2 and nationally portable, industry-recog-
3 nized credentials (or, if not available for
4 the targeted industry, other credentials, as
5 determined appropriate by the Secretary),
6 particularly for higher skill, high-priority
7 occupations validated by the industry;

8 “(v) ensuring that the State agency
9 carrying out the State program under the
10 Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.),
11 including staff of the agency that provide
12 services under such Act, shall inform re-
13 cipients of unemployment insurance of the
14 job and training opportunities that may re-
15 sult from the implementation of this grant;

16 “(vi) informing and collaborating with
17 organizations such as youth councils, busi-
18 ness-education partnerships, apprenticeship
19 programs, secondary schools, and postsec-
20 ondary educational institutions, and with
21 parents and career counselors, for the pur-
22 pose of addressing the challenges of con-
23 necting disadvantaged adults as defined in
24 section 132(b)(1)(B)(v) and disadvantaged

1 youth as defined in section 127(b) to ca-
2 reers;

3 “(vii) helping companies identify, and
4 work together to address, common organi-
5 zational and human resource challenges,
6 such as—

7 “(I) recruiting new workers;

8 “(II) implementing effective
9 workplace practices;

10 “(III) retraining dislocated and
11 incumbent workers;

12 “(IV) implementing a high-per-
13 formance work organization;

14 “(V) recruiting and retaining
15 women in nontraditional occupations;

16 “(VI) adopting new technologies;
17 and

18 “(VII) fostering experiential and
19 contextualized on-the-job learning;

20 “(viii) developing and strengthening
21 career ladders within and across compa-
22 nies, in order to enable dislocated, incum-
23 bent and entry-level workers to improve
24 skills and advance to higher-wage jobs;

1 “(ix) improving job quality through
2 improving wages, benefits, and working
3 conditions;

4 “(x) helping partner companies in in-
5 dustry or sector partnerships to attract po-
6 tential employees from a diverse job seeker
7 base, including individuals with barriers to
8 employment (such as job seekers who are
9 low income, youth, older workers, and indi-
10 viduals who have completed a term of im-
11 prisonment), by identifying such barriers
12 through analysis of the existing labor mar-
13 ket and implementing strategies to help
14 such workers overcome such barriers; and

15 “(xi) strengthening connections
16 among businesses in the targeted industry
17 cluster, leading to cooperation beyond
18 workforce issues that will improve competi-
19 tiveness and job quality, such as joint pur-
20 chasing, market research, or centers for
21 technology and innovation.

22 “(E) A description of the nationally port-
23 able, industry-recognized credentials or, if not
24 available, other credentials, related to the tar-
25 geted industry cluster that the eligible entity

1 proposes to support, develop, or use as a per-
2 formance measure, in order to carry out the
3 strategic objectives described in subparagraph
4 (D).

5 “(F) A description of the manner in which
6 the eligible entity intends to make sustainable
7 progress toward the strategic objectives.

8 “(G) Performance measures for measuring
9 progress toward the strategic objectives. Such
10 performance measures—

11 “(i) may consider the benefits pro-
12 vided by the grant activities funded under
13 this section for workers employed in the
14 targeted industry cluster, disaggregated by
15 gender and race, such as—

16 “(I) the number of workers re-
17 ceiving nationally portable, industry-
18 recognized credentials (or, if not avail-
19 able for the targeted industry, other
20 credentials) described in the applica-
21 tion under subparagraph (E);

22 “(II) the number of workers with
23 increased wages, the percentage of
24 workers with increased wages, and the
25 average wage increase; and

1 “(III) for dislocated or non-
2 incumbent workers, the number of
3 workers placed in sector-related jobs;
4 and

5 “(ii) may consider the benefits pro-
6 vided by the grant activities funded under
7 this section for firms and industries in the
8 targeted industry cluster, such as—

9 “(I) the creation or updating of
10 an industry plan to meet current and
11 future workforce demand;

12 “(II) the creation or updating of
13 published industry-wide skill stand-
14 ards or career pathways;

15 “(III) the creation or updating of
16 nationally portable, industry-recog-
17 nized credentials, or where there is
18 not such a credential, the creation or
19 updating of a training curriculum that
20 can lead to the development of such a
21 credential;

22 “(IV) the number of firms, and
23 the percentage of the local industry,
24 participating in the industry or sector
25 partnership; and

1 “(V) the number of firms, and
2 the percentage of the local industry,
3 receiving workers or services through
4 the grant funded under this section.

5 “(H) A timeline for achieving progress to-
6 ward the strategic objectives.

7 “(I) In the case of an eligible entity desir-
8 ing an implementation grant under this section,
9 an assurance that the eligible entity will lever-
10 age other funding sources, in addition to the
11 amount required for the non-Federal share
12 under subsection (c)(3)(D), to provide training
13 or supportive services to workers under the
14 grant program. Such additional funding sources
15 may include—

16 “(i) funding under this title used for
17 such training and supportive services;

18 “(ii) funding under the Adult Edu-
19 cation and Family Literacy Act of 1998
20 (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

21 “(iii) economic development funding;

22 “(iv) employer contributions to train-
23 ing initiatives; or

1 “(v) providing employees with em-
2 ployee release time for such training or
3 supportive services.

4 “(e) AWARD BASIS.—

5 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
6 retary shall award grants under this section in a
7 manner to ensure geographic diversity.

8 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under
9 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
10 ble entities that—

11 “(A) work with employers within a tar-
12 geted industry cluster to retain and expand em-
13 ployment in high-wage, high-growth areas;

14 “(B) focus on helping workers move to-
15 ward economic self-sufficiency and ensuring the
16 workers have access to adequate supportive
17 services;

18 “(C) address the needs of firms with lim-
19 ited human resources or in-house training ca-
20 pacity, including small- and medium-sized
21 firms; and

22 “(D) coordinate with entities carrying out
23 State and local workforce investment, economic
24 development, and education activities.

25 “(f) ACTIVITIES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
2 a grant under this section shall carry out the activi-
3 ties necessary to meet the strategic objectives, in-
4 cluding planning activities if applicable, described in
5 the entity’s application in a manner that—

6 “(A) integrates services and funding
7 sources in a way that enhances the effectiveness
8 of the activities; and

9 “(B) uses grant funds awarded under this
10 section efficiently.

11 “(2) PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—Planning activi-
12 ties may only be carried out by an eligible entity re-
13 ceiving an implementation grant under this section
14 during the first year of the grant period with not
15 more than \$250,000 of the grant funds.

16 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-
17 ty may retain a portion of a grant awarded under
18 this section for a fiscal year to carry out the admin-
19 istration of this section in an amount not to exceed
20 5 percent of the grant amount.

21 “(g) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—

22 “(1) ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUA-
23 TION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant
24 under this section, and annually thereafter, an eligi-
25 ble entity shall—

1 “(A) report to the Secretary, and to the
2 Governor of the State that the eligible entity
3 serves, on the activities funded pursuant to a
4 grant under this section; and

5 “(B) evaluate the progress the eligible enti-
6 ty has made toward the strategic objectives
7 identified in the application under subsection
8 (d)(2)(D), and measure the progress using the
9 performance measures identified in the applica-
10 tion under subsection (d)(2)(G).

11 “(2) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—An eligible
12 entity receiving a grant under this section shall sub-
13 mit to the Secretary a report containing the results
14 of the evaluation described in subparagraph (B) at
15 such time and in such manner as the Secretary may
16 require.

17 “(h) ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

18 “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
19 may retain not more than 10 percent of the funds
20 appropriated to carry out this section for each fiscal
21 year to administer this section.

22 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OVER-
23 SIGHT.—The Secretary shall provide technical assist-
24 ance and oversight to assist the eligible entities in
25 applying for and administering grants awarded

1 under this section. The Secretary shall also provide
2 technical assistance to eligible entities in the form of
3 conferences and through the collection and dissemi-
4 nation of information on best practices. The Sec-
5 retary may award a grant or contract to one or more
6 national or State organizations to provide technical
7 assistance to foster the planning, formation, and im-
8 plementation of industry cluster partnerships.

9 “(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Sec-
10 retary shall issue a range of performance measures,
11 with quantifiable benchmarks, and methodologies
12 that eligible entities may use to evaluate the effec-
13 tiveness of each type of activity in making progress
14 toward the strategic objectives described in sub-
15 section (d)(2)(D). Such measures shall consider the
16 benefits of the industry or sector partnership and its
17 activities for workers, firms, industries, and commu-
18 nities.

19 “(4) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
20 Secretary shall—

21 “(A) coordinate the annual review of each
22 eligible entity receiving a grant under this sec-
23 tion and produce an overview report that, at a
24 minimum, includes—

- 1 “(i) the critical learning of each in-
2 dustry or sector partnership, such as—
- 3 “(I) the training that was most
4 effective;
- 5 “(II) the human resource chal-
6 lenges that were most common;
- 7 “(III) how technology is changing
8 the targeted industry cluster; and
- 9 “(IV) the changes that may im-
10 pact the targeted industry cluster over
11 the next 5 years; and
- 12 “(ii) a description of what eligible en-
13 tities serving similar targeted industry
14 clusters consider exemplary practices, such
15 as—
- 16 “(I) how to work effectively with
17 postsecondary educational institutions;
- 18 “(II) the use of internships;
- 19 “(III) coordinating with appren-
20 ticeships and cooperative education
21 programs;
- 22 “(IV) how to work effectively
23 with schools providing vocational edu-
24 cation;

1 “(V) how to work effectively with
2 adult populations, including—
3 “(aa) dislocated workers;
4 “(bb) women in nontradi-
5 tional occupations; and
6 “(cc) individuals with bar-
7 riers to employment, such as job
8 seekers who—
9 “(AA) are economically
10 disadvantaged;
11 “(BB) have limited
12 English proficiency;
13 “(CC) require remedial
14 education;
15 “(DD) are older work-
16 ers;
17 “(EE) are individuals
18 who have completed a sen-
19 tence for a criminal offense;
20 and
21 “(FF) have other bar-
22 riers to employment;
23 “(VI) employer practices that are
24 most effective;

1 “(VII) the types of training that
2 are most effective;

3 “(VIII) other areas where indus-
4 try or sector partnerships can assist
5 each other; and

6 “(IX) alignment of curricula to
7 nationally portable, industry-recog-
8 nized credentials in the sectors where
9 they are available or, if not available
10 for the sector, other credentials, as
11 described in the application under
12 subsection (d)(2)(E);

13 “(B) make resource materials, including all
14 reports published and all data collected under
15 this section, available on the Internet; and

16 “(C) conduct conferences and seminars
17 to—

18 “(i) disseminate information on best
19 practices developed by eligible entities re-
20 ceiving a grant under this section; and

21 “(ii) provide information to the com-
22 munities of eligible entities.

23 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
24 the date of enactment of the Strengthening Employ-
25 ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of

1 2011, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Sec-
 2 retary shall transmit a report to Congress on the in-
 3 dustry or sector partnership grant program estab-
 4 lished by this section. The report shall include a de-
 5 scription of—

6 “(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;

7 “(B) the activities carried out by the eligi-
 8 ble entities;

9 “(C) how the eligible entities were selected
 10 to receive funding under this section; and

11 “(D) an assessment of the results achieved
 12 by the grant program including findings from
 13 the annual reviews described in paragraph
 14 (4)(A).

15 “(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 16 tion shall be construed to permit the reporting or sharing
 17 of personally identifiable information collected or made
 18 available under this section.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 20 tents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of
 21 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9201 note) is amended by inserting after
 22 the item relating to section 171 the following:

“171A. Industry or sector partnership grant program.”.

○