

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4857

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to make grants to promote innovations at historically Black colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2016

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. FATTAH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to make grants to promote innovations at historically Black colleges and universities, 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 “HBCU Innovation
5 Fund Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PROMOTE INNOVATIONS AT HISTORI-**

2 **CALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

3 Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20

4 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.) is amended by inserting after part

5 B the following new part:

6 **“PART C—FUNDING INNOVATIONS AT HISTORI-**

7 **CALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

8 **“SEC. 751. PURPOSE.**

9 “It is the purpose of this part to assist historically
10 Black colleges and universities in planning, developing, im-
11 plementing, validating, and replicating innovations that
12 provide solutions to persistent challenges in enabling eco-
13 nomically and educationally disadvantaged students to en-
14 roll in, persist through, and graduate from college, includ-
15 ing innovations designed to—

16 “(1) improve student achievement at histori-
17 cally Black colleges and universities;

18 “(2) increase the successful recruitment at his-
19 torically Black colleges and universities of—

20 “(A) students from low-income families of
21 all races;

22 “(B) adults; and

23 “(C) military-affiliated students;

24 “(3) increase the rate at which students en-
25 rolled in historically Black colleges and universities
26 make adequate or accelerated progress toward grad-

1 uation, and successfully graduate from such colleges
2 and universities;

3 “(4) increase the number of students pursuing
4 and completing degrees in science, technology, engi-
5 neering, and mathematics at historically Black col-
6 leges and universities and pursuing graduate work in
7 such fields, including through the establishment of
8 innovation ecosystems on the campuses of such col-
9 leges and universities;

10 “(5) redesign course offerings and other in-
11 structional strategies at historically Black colleges
12 and universities to improve student outcomes and re-
13 duce education costs;

14 “(6) enhance the quality and number of tradi-
15 tional and alternative route teacher preparation pro-
16 grams offered by historically Black colleges and uni-
17 versities;

18 “(7) expand the effective use of technology at
19 historically Black colleges and universities; and

20 “(8) strengthen postgraduate employment out-
21 comes for students enrolled in historically Black col-
22 leges and universities.

23 **“SEC. 752. DEFINITIONS.**

24 “In this part, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

- 1 “(1) a part B institution, as defined in section
2 322(2);
3 “(2) a part B institution, as so defined, apply-
4 ing in a consortium with one or more other institu-
5 tions of higher education;
6 “(3) a part B institution, as so defined, apply-
7 ing in a consortium with one or more private non-
8 profit organizations;
9 “(4) a part B institution, as so defined, apply-
10 ing in a consortium with one or more local edu-
11 cational agencies; or
12 “(5) a part B institution, as so defined, apply-
13 ing in a consortium that includes entities described
14 in more than one of subparagraphs (B), (C), and
15 (D).

16 **“SEC. 753. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With funds made available for
18 this part under section 757, the Secretary shall make com-
19 petitive planning and implementation grants, as described
20 in subsections (b) and (c), to eligible entities to enable
21 such entities to plan for the implementation of, in the case
22 of a planning grant, and implement, in the case of an im-
23 plementation grant, innovations described in section 751
24 and to support the planning, development, implementa-

1 tion, validation, scaling up, and replication of such innova-
2 tions.

3 “(b) PLANNING GRANTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made avail-
5 able under section 757 for a fiscal year, the Sec-
6 retary shall use not more than 5 percent or
7 \$12,500,000 (whichever is greater) to award plan-
8 ning grants to enable eligible entities to plan, design,
9 and develop innovations described in section 751.

10 “(2) DURATION.—A planning grant authorized
11 under this subsection shall be for the duration of 1
12 year.

13 “(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each planning grant
14 authorized under this subsection shall be in an
15 amount that is not more than \$150,000.

16 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With funds made available
18 for this part under section 757, the Secretary shall
19 award implementation grants to enable eligible enti-
20 ties to further develop, pilot, field-test, implement,
21 document, validate, and, as applicable, scale up and
22 replicate, innovations described in section 751.

23 “(2) DURATION.—An implementation grant au-
24 thorized under this subsection shall be for a dura-
25 tion of 5 years, except that the Secretary may not

1 continue providing funds under the grant for more
2 than 3 years unless the eligible entity demonstrates
3 that it has achieved satisfactory progress toward
4 carrying out the educational innovations, activities,
5 and projects described in section 754(d), as deter-
6 mined by the Secretary.

7 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each implementation
8 grant authorized under this subsection shall be in an
9 amount sufficient to enable the eligible entity to
10 achieve the purposes of its proposed activities and
11 projects, but shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

12 “(d) SPECIAL RULES FOR CONSORTIUMS.—

13 “(1) FISCAL AGENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligi-
15 ble entity applying for a grant under this part
16 as a consortium described under paragraph (2),
17 (3), (4), or (5) of section 752, each member of
18 the consortium shall agree on 1 such member of
19 such eligibility entity to serve as a fiscal agent
20 of such entity.

21 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The fiscal agent
22 of an eligible entity, as described in subpara-
23 graph (A), shall act on behalf of such entity in
24 performing the financial duties of such entity
25 under this part.

1 “(C) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—The agree-
2 ment described in subparagraph (A) shall be in
3 writing and signed by each member of the con-
4 sortium.

5 “(2) SUBGRANTS.—In the case of an eligible
6 entity applying for a grant under this part as a con-
7 sortium described in paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5)
8 of section 752, the fiscal agent for such entity (as
9 described in paragraph (1)) may use the funds pro-
10 vided by the grant to make subgrants to members
11 of the consortium.

12 **“SEC. 754. APPLICATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring to re-
14 ceive a grant under this part shall submit an application
15 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
16 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably
17 require.

18 “(b) CONSORTIUM ENTITIES.—An application under
19 this section which is submitted by an eligible entity apply-
20 ing as a consortium described in subparagraph (2), (3),
21 (4), or (5) of section 752 shall include the written agree-
22 ment described in section 753(d)(1)(C).

23 “(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary shall en-
24 sure that the application requirements under this section
25 for a planning grant authorized under section 753(b) in-

1 clude, in addition to the requirement in subsection (b) (if
2 applicable), only those minimal requirements that are nec-
3 essary to review the proposed process of an eligible entity
4 for the planning, design, and development of one or more
5 of the innovations described in section 751.

6 “(d) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An application
7 under this section for an innovation grant authorized
8 under section 753(c) shall include, in addition to the re-
9 quirement under subsection (b) (if applicable), descrip-
10 tions of—

11 “(1) each innovation described in section 751
12 that the eligible entity would implement using the
13 funds made available by such grant, including, as
14 applicable, a description of the evidence base sup-
15 porting such innovation;

16 “(2) how each such innovation will address the
17 purpose of this part, as described in section 751,
18 and how each such innovation will further the insti-
19 tutional or organizational mission of the part B in-
20 stitution that is part of the eligible entity;

21 “(3) the specific activities that the eligible enti-
22 ty will carry out with funds made available by such
23 grant, including, in the case of an eligible entity ap-
24 plying as a consortium described in paragraph (2),
25 (3), (4), or (5) of section 752, a description of the

1 activities that each member of the consortium will
2 carry out and a description of the capacity of each
3 such member to carry out those activities;

4 “(4) the performance measures that the eligible
5 entity will use to track its progress in implementing
6 each such innovation, including a description of how
7 the entity will implement those performance meas-
8 ures and use information on performance to make
9 adjustments and improvements to its implemen-
10 tation activities, as needed, over the course of the
11 grant period;

12 “(5) how the eligible entity will provide for an
13 independent evaluation of the implementation and
14 impact of the projects funded by such grant, includ-
15 ing—

16 “(A) an interim report (evaluating the
17 progress made in the first 3 years of the grant);
18 and

19 “(B) a final report (completed at the end
20 of the grant period); and

21 “(6) the plan of the eligible entity for con-
22 tinuing each proposed innovation after the grant has
23 ended.

1 **“SEC. 755. PRIORITY.**

2 “In awarding grants under this part, the Secretary
3 shall give priority to applications that address issues of
4 major national need, including—

5 “(1) educational innovations designed to in-
6 crease the number of African-American males who
7 attain a postsecondary degree;

8 “(2) innovative partnerships between part B in-
9 stitutions and local educational agencies that are de-
10 signed to increase the enrollment and successful
11 completion of historically underrepresented popu-
12 lations in higher education;

13 “(3) educational innovations that support devel-
14 oping programs and initiatives in part B institutions
15 to enhance undergraduate and graduate programs in
16 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

17 “(4) innovative partnerships between part B in-
18 stitutions and other organizations to establish innov-
19 ation ecosystems in support of economic develop-
20 ment, entrepreneurship, and the commercialization
21 of technology supported by funded research;

22 “(5) educational innovations that enhance the
23 quality and number of traditional and alternative
24 route teacher preparation programs at part B insti-
25 tutions to enable teachers to be highly effective in
26 the classroom and to enable such programs to meet

1 the demands for diversity and accountability in
2 teacher education; and

3 “(6) educational innovations that strengthen
4 postgraduate employment outcomes of part B insti-
5 tutions through the implementation of comprehen-
6 sive and strategic career pathways for students.

7 **“SEC. 756. USES OF FUNDS.**

8 “(a) PLANNING GRANTS.—An eligible entity receiv-
9 ing a planning grant under section 753(b) shall use funds
10 made available by such grant to conduct a comprehensive
11 institutional planning process that includes—

12 “(1) an assessment of the needs of the part B
13 institution;

14 “(2) research on educational innovations de-
15 scribed in section 751 that will meet the needs de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1);

17 “(3) the selection of one or more such edu-
18 cational innovations for implementation;

19 “(4) an assessment of the capacity of the part
20 B institution to implement such educational innova-
21 tion; and

22 “(5) activities to further develop such capacity.

23 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An eligible entity
24 receiving an implementation grant under section 753(c)
25 shall use the funds made available by such grant to further

1 develop, pilot, field-test, implement, document, validate,
2 and, as applicable, scale up, and replicate innovations de-
3 scribed in section 751, such as innovations designed to—

4 “(1) improve student achievement, such as
5 through activities designed to increase the number
6 or percentage of students who successfully complete
7 developmental or remedial coursework (which may
8 be accomplished through the evidence-based redesign
9 of such coursework) and pursue and succeed in post-
10 secondary studies;

11 “(2) improve and expand institutional recruit-
12 ment, postsecondary school awareness, and postsec-
13 onary school preparation efforts targeting students,
14 including high-achieving students from low-income
15 families, such as through activities undertaken in
16 partnership with local educational agencies and non-
17 profit organizations (including the introduction of
18 dual-enrollment programs and the implementation of
19 activities designed to enable more students to enter
20 college without the need for remediation);

21 “(3) increase the number of minority males who
22 attain a postsecondary degree, such as through evi-
23 dence-based interventions that integrate academic
24 advising with social and cultural supports and assist-
25 ance with job placement;

- 1 “(4) increase the number or percentage of stu-
2 dents who make satisfactory or accelerated progress
3 toward graduation from postsecondary school and
4 the number or percentage who graduate from post-
5 secondary school on time, such as through the provi-
6 sion of comprehensive academic and nonacademic
7 student support services;
- 8 “(5) increase the number or percentage of stu-
9 dents, particularly students who are members of his-
10 torically underrepresented populations, who enroll in
11 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
12 courses, graduate with degrees in such fields, and
13 pursue advanced studies in such fields;
- 14 “(6) develop partnerships between part B insti-
15 tutions and other organizations to establish innova-
16 tion ecosystems in support of economic development,
17 entrepreneurship, and the commercialization of tech-
18 nology supported by funded research;
- 19 “(7) implement evidence-based improvements to
20 courses, particularly high-enrollment courses, to im-
21 prove student outcomes and reduce education costs
22 for students, including costs of remedial courses;
- 23 “(8) enhance the quality and number of tradi-
24 tional and alternative route teacher preparation pro-
25 grams at part B institutions to enable graduates to

1 be highly effective in the classroom and to enable
2 such programs to meet the demands for diversity
3 and accountability in teacher education;

4 “(9) expand the effective use of technology in
5 higher education, such as through collaboration be-
6 tween institutions on implementing technology-en-
7 abled delivery models (including hybrid models) or
8 through the use of open educational resources and
9 digital content;

10 “(10) strengthen postgraduate employment out-
11 comes through the implementation of comprehensive
12 and strategic career pathways for students, which
13 may include aligning curricula with workforce needs,
14 experiential learning, integration of career services,
15 and developing partnerships with employers and
16 business organizations; and

17 “(11) provide a continuum of solutions by in-
18 corporating activities that address multiple objec-
19 tives described in paragraphs (1) through (10).

20 **“SEC. 757. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 activities under this part—

23 “(1) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2017; and

1 “(2) such sums as may be necessary for each
2 of the 6 succeeding fiscal years.”.

