

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2800

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 21), 2021

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, 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 “Community College
5 to Career Fund in Higher Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CAREER FUND.**

7 Title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1161a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“PART BB—COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CAREER**
 2 **FUND**
 3 **“SEC. 899. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNER-**
 4 **SHIPS GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) WIOA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘career
 7 pathway’, ‘integrated education and training’, ‘indi-
 8 vidual with a barrier to employment’, ‘industry or
 9 sector partnership’, ‘in-demand industry sector or
 10 occupation’, and ‘recognized postsecondary creden-
 11 tial’ have the meanings given to such terms in sec-
 12 tion 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 13 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

14 “(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
 15 munity college’ means an institution of higher edu-
 16 cation that is—

17 “(A) a degree-granting public institution of
 18 higher education at which the highest degree
 19 that is predominantly awarded to students is an
 20 associate degree;

21 “(B) a 2-year Tribal College or University,
 22 as defined in section 316; or

23 “(C) at the designation of the Secretary, a
 24 branch campus, college, or similarly defined and
 25 structured academic entity within a public 4-
 26 year institution of higher education at which

1 the highest degree that is predominantly award-
 2 ed to students is an associate degree and that
 3 is in existence as of the date of enactment of
 4 the Community College to Career Fund in
 5 Higher Education Act.

6 “(3) EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING
 7 PROGRAM.—The term ‘education and workforce
 8 training program’—

9 “(A) means a career pathway program, or
 10 a program that utilizes integrated education
 11 and training strategies, that leads to a recog-
 12 nized postsecondary credential; and

13 “(B) includes a registered apprenticeship
 14 program, on-the-job training program, or paid
 15 internship, if the program or internship meets
 16 the requirements of subparagraph (A).

17 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 18 tity’ means a community college, or a consortium of
 19 community colleges, that—

20 “(A) is part of an industry or sector part-
 21 nership, or is working directly with an industry
 22 or sector partnership for purposes of a grant
 23 under this section; and

24 “(B) may, for purposes of a grant under
 25 this section and in addition to the industry or

1 sector partnership described in subparagraph
 2 (A), partner with one or more of the following:

3 “(i) An eligible provider, as defined in
 4 section 203 of the Adult Education and
 5 Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

6 “(ii) An institution of higher edu-
 7 cation, as defined in section 101 or 102(c).

8 “(iii) An elementary school or sec-
 9 ondary school, as such terms are defined in
 10 section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 11 ondary Education Act of 1965.

12 “(5) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
 13 GRAM.—The term ‘registered apprenticeship pro-
 14 gram’ means an apprenticeship registered under the
 15 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the
 16 ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter
 17 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), that meets the standards
 18 of subpart A of part 29 and part 30 of title 29,
 19 Code of Federal Regulations or any successor regu-
 20 lations.

21 “(6) SECRETARIES.—The term ‘Secretaries’
 22 means the Secretary of Education and the Secretary
 23 of Labor, acting jointly in accordance with the inter-
 24 agency agreement described in subsection (h).

25 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the last day
2 of the first full fiscal year following the date of en-
3 actment of the Community College to Career Fund
4 in Higher Education Act and from funds appro-
5 priated under subsection (g), the Secretaries shall
6 award competitive grants to eligible entities to en-
7 able the eligible entities to carry out education and
8 workforce training programs or activities described
9 in subsection (e).

10 “(2) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant awarded
11 under this section shall be for a period of not more
12 than 5 years, subject to subsection (f)(3).

13 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a
14 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretaries
15 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
16 taining such information as the Secretaries determine is
17 required. The application shall contain—

18 “(1) a grant proposal for each education and
19 workforce training program or activity to be sup-
20 ported under the grant that includes a detailed de-
21 scription of—

22 “(A) the specific education and workforce
23 training program or activity that will be sup-
24 ported, and the quality of the program or activ-
25 ity;

1 “(B) the extent to which the program or
2 activity aligns with—

3 “(i) an overall strategic plan devel-
4 oped by the eligible entity in collaboration
5 with an industry or sector partnership and,
6 if applicable, other partner organizations;

7 “(ii) a statewide, regional, or local
8 workforce development strategy, including
9 strategies established under the Workforce
10 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
11 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.) and the Carl D. Per-
12 kins Career and Technical Education Act
13 of 2006; and

14 “(iii) in-demand industry sectors or
15 occupations;

16 “(C) quantitative data and evidence that
17 demonstrates the extent to which the program
18 or activity to be supported will meet the needs
19 of employers in the area for skilled workers in
20 in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

21 “(D) the extent to which the program or
22 activity to be supported will meet the needs of
23 students in the area;

24 “(E) how the program or activity to be
25 supported meets the criteria established under

1 subsection (d), including the manner in which
2 the grant will be used to develop, offer, im-
3 prove, or provide the program or activity; and

4 “(F) any previous experience of the eligible
5 entity in successfully providing education and
6 workforce training programs or activities, the
7 absence of which shall not automatically dis-
8 qualify an eligible entity from receiving a grant
9 under this section; and

10 “(2)(A) a detailed description of how the eligi-
11 ble entity will ensure that any education and work-
12 force training programs or activities supported
13 under the grant will meet the performance measures
14 described in subsection (f); and

15 “(B) an assurance that the entity will annually
16 submit to the Secretaries information on the per-
17 formance of each education and workforce training
18 program or activity supported under the grant, in
19 the context of the performance measures described
20 in subsection (f).

21 “(d) CRITERIA FOR AWARD.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section
23 shall be awarded based on criteria established by the
24 Secretaries that shall include, at a minimum, the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(A) A determination of the merits of the
2 grant proposal submitted by the eligible entity
3 to develop, offer, improve, or provide an edu-
4 cation and workforce training program or activ-
5 ity to be made available to students.

6 “(B) An assessment of the likely employ-
7 ment opportunities available in the area to indi-
8 viduals who complete an education and work-
9 force training program or activity that the eligi-
10 ble entity proposes to develop, offer, improve, or
11 provide under the grant, based on State or local
12 labor market data.

13 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
14 section, the Secretaries shall give priority to eligible
15 entities that—

16 “(A) are working with an industry or sec-
17 tor partnership that prioritizes facilitating the
18 hiring of individuals who have obtained a recog-
19 nized postsecondary credential from the edu-
20 cation and workforce training programs or ac-
21 tivities offered by the eligible entity;

22 “(B) are focused on serving individuals
23 with barriers to employment or other histori-
24 cally underrepresented students, such as vet-
25 erans, spouses of members of the Armed

1 Forces, or incumbent workers who need to in-
 2 crease their employability skills;

3 “(C) serve areas with high unemployment
 4 rates; or

5 “(D) commit to increasing access to edu-
 6 cation and workforce training programs or ac-
 7 tivities that meet the needs of employers in in-
 8 demand industry sectors or occupations.

9 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
 10 grant under this section shall use grant funds for 1 or
 11 more of the following:

12 “(1) The development, offering, improvement,
 13 or provision of 1 or more education and workforce
 14 training programs or activities leading to recognized
 15 postsecondary credentials that will meet the needs of
 16 employers in in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
 17 tions.

18 “(2) The development and implementation of
 19 policies, programs, or activities that expand opportu-
 20 nities for students to earn a recognized postsec-
 21 ondary credential in in-demand industry sectors or
 22 occupations, including by—

23 “(A) facilitating the transfer of academic
 24 credits between community colleges and public
 25 4-year institutions of higher education in the

1 State, including the transfer of academic credits
2 for courses in the same field or program of
3 study;

4 “(B) expanding articulation agreements
5 and policies that guarantee transfers between
6 such institutions described in subparagraph
7 (A), including through common course num-
8 bering and use of general core curriculum;

9 “(C) developing or enhancing student sup-
10 port service programs or activities; and

11 “(D) establishing policies and processes for
12 assessing and awarding postsecondary credit for
13 prior learning or work-based learning (as de-
14 fined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career
15 and Technical Education Act of 2006).

16 “(3) The creation or alignment of career path-
17 ways that provide a sequence of education and occu-
18 pational training that leads to a recognized postsec-
19 ondary credential, including programs or activities
20 that—

21 “(A) integrate education and training;

22 “(B) facilitate means of transitioning par-
23 ticipants from noncredit occupational, basic
24 skills, or developmental coursework to for-credit

1 coursework within and across community col-
2 leges;

3 “(C) build or enhance linkages between
4 secondary education or adult education and lit-
5 eracy programs (including those programs es-
6 tablished under the Carl D. Perkins Career and
7 Technical Education Act of 2006 or the Work-
8 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
9 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.)) and community colleges,
10 including the development of dual or concurrent
11 enrollment programs; or

12 “(D) are designed to increase the provision
13 of workforce training for students, including
14 students who are members of the Armed Forces
15 (including members of the National Guard or
16 Reserves) and veterans, in order to facilitate
17 their entry into high-skill, high-wage jobs or in-
18 demand industry sectors or occupations.

19 “(4) Carrying out the academic portion of a
20 registered apprenticeship program or other edu-
21 cation and workforce training program, which may
22 include funding to support a student’s cost of at-
23 tendance as defined under section 472.

24 “(f) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall estab-
2 lish performance measures for the education and
3 workforce training programs and activities supported
4 under this section, which shall consist of—

5 “(A) the primary indicators of perform-
6 ance, as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
8 (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)); and

9 “(B) a level of performance for each indi-
10 cator described in subparagraph (A).

11 “(2) MONITORING PROGRESS.—The Secretaries
12 shall—

13 “(A) monitor the progress of eligible enti-
14 ties that receive grants under this section to en-
15 sure their education and workforce training
16 programs or activities supported under this sec-
17 tion meet the performance measures established
18 under paragraph (1); and

19 “(B) annually publish a report regarding
20 the progress of such programs or activities in
21 meeting the performance measures, including
22 the results for each performance measure
23 disaggregated by—

24 “(i) race and ethnicity;

25 “(ii) income

1 “(iii) age intervals;
2 “(iv) sex; and
3 “(v) Federal Pell Grant recipient sta-
4 tus.

5 “(3) SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.—The Secre-
6 taries shall not continue to provide funds under a
7 grant under this section after the third year of the
8 grant period unless the eligible entity has achieved
9 satisfactory progress toward meeting the levels of
10 performance on the performance measures, as deter-
11 mined by the Secretaries.

12 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated to carry out this section such sums as
15 may be necessary.

16 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—Not more than 5
17 percent of the amounts made available under para-
18 graph (1) for a fiscal year may be used by the Sec-
19 retaries for the Federal administration of the pro-
20 gram under this section, including providing tech-
21 nical assistance and carrying out evaluations.

22 “(3) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds appro-
23 priated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall
24 remain available for obligation for that fiscal year
25 and the succeeding 4 fiscal years.

1 “(h) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date of enactment of the Community Col-
3 lege to Career Fund in Higher Education Act, the Secre-
4 taries shall enter into a formal interagency agreement es-
5 tablishing the terms by which the Secretaries shall jointly
6 administer the program under this section.”.

