

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7347

To reauthorize workforce development innovation grants for the implementation, expansion, and evaluation of evidence-based workforce programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2022

Ms. SHERRILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To reauthorize workforce development innovation grants for the implementation, expansion, and evaluation of evidence-based workforce programs, 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 “Supporting Jobs
5 through Evidence and Innovation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.**

7 Section 169 (29 U.S.C. 3224) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
9 section (d); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION
4 FUND.—

5 “(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
7 award workforce development innovation
8 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible enti-
9 ties to enable such entities to—

10 “(i) create, implement, replicate, or
11 take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-
12 based, field-initiated innovation programs
13 and services for improving the design and
14 delivery of employment and training serv-
15 ices that generate long-term improvements
16 in the performance of the workforce devel-
17 opment system, in outcomes for job-seekers
18 (including individuals with barriers to em-
19 ployment), and employers, and in the cost-
20 effectiveness of programs and services; and

21 “(ii) rigorously evaluate such pro-
22 grams and services in accordance with this
23 subsection.

1 “(B) DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS.—The
2 grants described in subparagraph (A) shall in-
3 clude—

4 “(i) early-phase grants to fund the de-
5 velopment, implementation, and feasibility
6 testing of an innovation program or serv-
7 ice, which prior research suggests has
8 promise, for the purpose of determining
9 whether such program or service can suc-
10 cessfully improve the design and delivery of
11 employment and training services that gen-
12 erate long-term improvements in the per-
13 formance of the workforce development
14 system, in outcomes for job-seekers, and in
15 the cost-effectiveness of such programs and
16 services;

17 “(ii) mid-phase grants to fund imple-
18 mentation and a well-designed and well-im-
19 plemented evaluation of such a program or
20 service that has been successfully imple-
21 mented under an early-phase grant de-
22 scribed in clause (i) or other effort meeting
23 similar criteria, for the purpose of meas-
24 uring the impact and cost effectiveness of
25 such programs or services, using data col-

1 lected pursuant to the implementation of
2 such program or service, if possible; and

3 “(iii) expansion grants to fund imple-
4 mentation and a well-designed and well-im-
5 plemented replication evaluation of such a
6 program or service that has been found to
7 produce sizable, important impacts under a
8 mid-phase grant described in clause (ii) or
9 other effort meeting similar criteria, for
10 the purposes of—

11 “(I) determining whether such
12 impacts may be successfully repro-
13 duced and sustained over time; and

14 “(II) identifying the conditions in
15 which such a program or service is
16 most effective.

17 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the funds
18 made available to carry out this subsection for a fis-
19 cal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than
20 5 percent of the funds to—

21 “(A) provide technical assistance to eligible
22 entities, which may include preapplication work-
23 shops, web-based seminars, and evaluation sup-
24 port; and

1 “(B) disseminate evidence-based best prac-
2 tices.

3 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
5 ble entity’ means any of the following:

6 “(i) A State board.

7 “(ii) A local board.

8 “(iii) An Indian tribe, tribal organiza-
9 tion, Alaska Native entity, Indian-con-
10 trolled organization serving Indians, or Na-
11 tive Hawaiian organization that is eligible
12 to receive an award under section 166.

13 “(iv) A community-based, nonprofit,
14 or nongovernmental organization serving
15 an underserved population.

16 “(v) A consortium of such entities de-
17 scribed under clause (i) through clause
18 (iv).

19 “(B) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evi-
20 dence-based’, when used with respect to an ac-
21 tivity, strategy, or intervention, means an activ-
22 ity, strategy or intervention that—

23 “(i) demonstrates a statistically sig-
24 nificant effect on improving participant

1 outcomes or other relevant outcomes based
2 on—

3 “(I) strong evidence from at least
4 1 well-designed and well-implemented
5 experimental study;

6 “(II) moderate evidence from at
7 least 1 well-designed and well-imple-
8 mented quasi-experimental study; or

9 “(III) promising evidence from at
10 least 1 well-designed and well-imple-
11 mented correlational study with statis-
12 tical controls for selection bias; or

13 “(ii)(I) demonstrates a rationale
14 based on high-quality research findings or
15 positive evaluation that such activity, strat-
16 egy, or intervention is likely to improve
17 student outcomes or other relevant out-
18 comes; and

19 “(II) includes ongoing efforts to ex-
20 amine the effects of such activity, strategy,
21 or intervention.

22 “(C) WELL-DESIGNED AND WELL-IMPLE-
23 MENTED.—The term ‘well-designed and well-
24 implemented’, as applied to an evaluation study,
25 means a study that is replicable, uses pro-

1 grammatic and control groups that are rep-
2 resentative of the type of population served by
3 the program, uses controls for aggregate shifts
4 that might affect baseline numbers, does not
5 have problems with attrition from the program,
6 and takes measures to avoid statistical cream-
7 ing.

8 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this subsection, such sums as may be necessary for
11 each of the fiscal years 2023 through 2028.”.

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