

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 731

To direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to eligible applicants to provide stipends to individuals enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to eligible applicants to provide stipends to individuals enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program, 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 “Pre-Apprenticeship
5 Wrap-around Support Services Fund Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO INDIVIDUALS**
2 **ENROLLED IN A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PRO-**
3 **GRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor may
5 make grants to eligible applicants to provide stipends to
6 individuals enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship program in ac-
7 cordance with the requirements under this Act.

8 (b) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM DEFINED.—
9 For purposes of this Act, the term “pre-apprenticeship
10 program” means a program, initiative, or set of strategies
11 that—

12 (1) is designed to prepare individuals to enroll
13 in a registered apprenticeship program, including
14 preparing individuals with the skills and com-
15 petencies necessary to succeed in such program;

16 (2) is carried out by an eligible applicant that
17 has entered into a formal agreement with one or
18 more sponsors of a registered apprenticeship pro-
19 gram; and

20 (3) includes—

21 (A) theoretical education (including the use
22 of curricula); and

23 (B) training (including hands-on train-
24 ing)—

25 (i) aligned with industry standards of
26 a registered apprenticeship program; and

1 (ii) that does not displace an employee
2 where such training takes place.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
4 under this Act, an eligible applicant shall submit an appli-
5 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

7 (d) GRANT REQUIREMENT.—Each grantee shall—

8 (1) establish primary indicators of performance
9 with respect to individuals enrolled in a pre-appren-
10 ticeship program, which shall include—

11 (A) the percentage of such individuals who
12 are enrolled in a registered apprenticeship pro-
13 gram within 6 months after completing a pre-
14 apprenticeship;

15 (B) the percentage of such individuals who
16 are enrolled in a registered apprenticeship pro-
17 gram within 12 months after completing a pre-
18 apprenticeship;

19 (C) the median earnings of such individ-
20 uals who are enrolled in a registered apprentice-
21 ship program within 6 months after completing
22 a pre-apprenticeship; and

23 (D) the percentage of such individuals who
24 obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or
25 a secondary school diploma (or the recognized

1 equivalent of such diploma) while enrolled in a
2 pre-apprenticeship or within one year after
3 completing a pre-apprenticeship; and

4 (2) on an annual basis, collect data with respect
5 to—

6 (A) the primary indicators of performance
7 under paragraph (1);

8 (B) the number of stipends provided
9 through grants funds under this Act; and

10 (C) the amount of each such stipend.

11 (e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Each grantee shall
12 prioritize the provision of stipends to individuals enrolled
13 in a pre-apprenticeship program who are also individuals
14 with a barrier to employment.

15 (f) USE OF STIPEND.—Each grantee shall ensure
16 that a stipend awarded pursuant to this section is used
17 only to reimburse for—

18 (1) necessary transportation costs with respect
19 to a pre-apprenticeship program, including vehicle
20 mileage and public transportation costs;

21 (2) lost hourly wages of an individual enrolled
22 in a pre-apprenticeship program, in the case that
23 participation in such program causes a reduction of
24 hours at the place of employment of such individual;
25 and

1 (3) financial costs of an individual enrolled in
2 a pre-apprenticeship program with respect to obtain-
3 ing industry-based certifications during the period of
4 enrollment in such program.

5 (g) REPORT.—

6 (1) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1
7 year after receiving a grant under this Act, and an-
8 nually thereafter, each grantee shall submit to the
9 Secretary a report that includes the data collected
10 pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

11 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
14 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Edu-
15 cation and Labor of the House of Representatives
16 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
17 and Pensions of the Senate a report on the progress
18 and outcomes with respect to each grant awarded
19 under this Act.

20 (h) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term “eligible
22 applicant” means an entity that currently operates
23 or sponsors a pre-apprenticeship program, including
24 a joint labor-management partnership, an industry
25 partnership, a local educational agency, a secondary

1 school, an area career and technical education
2 school, a State board, a local board, or a commu-
3 nity-based organization.

4 (2) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means an
5 eligible applicant that receives a grant under this
6 Act.

7 (3) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOY-
8 MENT.—The term “individual with a barrier to em-
9 ployment” has the meaning given the term under
10 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
11 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 (4) FORMAL AGREEMENT.—The term “formal
13 agreement” means an agreement between an eligible
14 applicant and one or more sponsors of a registered
15 apprenticeship program that includes the following:

16 (A) Enables individuals who successfully
17 complete a pre-apprenticeship program—

18 (i) to enter into a registered appren-
19 ticeship program (dependent on availability
20 and whether such individual meets the
21 qualifications of such program); and

22 (ii) to earn credit toward a registered
23 apprenticeship program.

1 (B) Provides for a sponsor to review and
2 approve the training referred to in subsection
3 (b)(3), on an annual basis.

4 (5) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
5 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
6 tial” has the meaning given the term under section
7 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
8 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

9 (6) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
10 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
11 means an apprenticeship program that—

12 (A) is registered with the Department of
13 Labor pursuant to the Act of August 16, 1937
14 (commonly known as the “National Apprentice-
15 ship Act”; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), or is recog-
16 nized by the Department of Labor as a State
17 apprenticeship agency; and

18 (B) complies with the requirements of sub-
19 part A of part 29 and subpart A of part 30 of
20 title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-
21 cessor regulations).

22 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Labor.

1 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
3 necessary to carry out this Act.

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