

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 866

To provide for the establishment of a neighborhood reconstruction corps program to award grants for the employment of disadvantaged workers for infrastructure repair activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30 (legislative day, APRIL 19), 1993

Mr. BRADLEY (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRYAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KERREY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMON, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a neighborhood reconstruction corps program to award grants for the employment of disadvantaged workers for infrastructure repair activities, 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 “Neighborhood Recon-
5 struction Corps Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to—

3 (1) create incentives for private enterprise to in-
4 vest in light infrastructure projects in cities in which
5 such enterprises do business;

6 (2) assist community based organizations in as-
7 sembling and finding employment for residents of
8 the community in neighborhood reconstruction corps
9 projects; and

10 (3) provide training, positive work habits, work
11 skills, and light construction skills for urban resi-
12 dents.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (hereafter
15 referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), shall estab-
16 lish a program, to be known as the Neighborhood Recon-
17 struction Corps Program, under which the Secretary shall
18 award competitive matching grants to eligible entities to
19 enable such entities to employ economically disadvantaged
20 adults, as described in section 202(d)(1)(A) of the Job
21 Training Partnership Act, or disadvantaged youth, as de-
22 scribed in part B of title IV of such Act, to perform infra-
23 structure repair services in Economically Distressed
24 Central Cities.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.—To be eligible
2 to receive a matching grant under the program established
3 under subsection (a), an entity shall—

4 (1) be a nonprofit community development cor-
5 poration, or a private business entity;

6 (2) serve in an area of high unemployment and
7 poverty within an Economically Distressed Central
8 City;

9 (3) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-
10 plication at such time, in such manner and contain-
11 ing such information as the Secretary may require,
12 including—

13 (A) a description of the activities to be car-
14 ried out with amounts received and matched
15 under the grant;

16 (B) a certification from the State or local
17 governmental entity with respect to such activi-
18 ties;

19 (C) assurances, satisfactory to the Sec-
20 retary, that non-Federal funds will be provided
21 by the applicant to carry out activities under
22 the grant;

23 (D) a description of the organizations to be
24 used for the management of the project; and

1 (E) any other information determined ap-
2 propriate by the Secretary;

3 (4) meet any other requirements determined ap-
4 propriate by the Secretary.

5 (c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity that receives a
7 matching grant under this section shall use amounts
8 received under such grant to employ economically
9 disadvantaged adults in projects to perform light,
10 labor-intensive infrastructure repair.

11 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Projects funded under
12 paragraph (1) shall—

13 (A) be for the repair of—

14 (i) public facilities, including schools,
15 governmental buildings, and public housing
16 facilities; or

17 (ii) publicly owned property not other-
18 wise covered under clause (i), including
19 roadways, bridges and sewers;

20 (B) include—

21 (i) construction in compliance with the
22 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

23 (ii) the removal of graffiti;

24 (iii) the replacement of sidewalks,
25 curbs, or roadsides;

1 (iv) the refurbishing or refinishing of
2 publicly owned housing or building stock;

3 (v) the construction of fences border-
4 ing publicly owned abandoned buildings;

5 (vi) demolition clean up;

6 (vii) asbestos removal; and

7 (viii) lead abatement projects;

8 (C) not cost in excess of a total of more
9 than \$1,000,000;

10 (D) provide for the contribution of match-
11 ing funds in an amount that is equal to 50 per-
12 cent of the amount of the grant, but in no case
13 in excess of \$250,000;

14 (E) with respect to projects carried out by
15 private entities, not be utilized as a condition
16 for any kind of waiver or exemption for such
17 entities from local zoning or property tax laws;

18 (F) employ individuals residing in the com-
19 munity to be served by the project;

20 (G) provide such individuals with the nec-
21 essary training in a construction trade to enable
22 such individuals to carry out their duties under
23 the project;

24 (H) provide the training required under
25 subparagraph (G) through a partnership with a

1 local contractor or a construction trade union;
2 and

3 (I) meet such other requirements as the
4 Secretary determines appropriate.

5 (3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under
6 this section, the Secretary shall give preference to
7 projects that demonstrate successful efforts to serve
8 non-custodial parents of nondependent children who
9 are recipients of assistance under title IV of the So-
10 cial Security Act, except that such project must re-
11 quire that such non-custodial parents agree in writ-
12 ing to have an appropriate portion of their earnings
13 under the project withheld to meet any child support
14 order.

15 (d) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—The Secretary shall pro-
16 vide for the establishment of a peer review panel to per-
17 form the initial review of applications for assistance under
18 this section and make recommendations to the Secretary
19 with respect to such applications. The panel shall include
20 at least one representative of—

21 (1) a contractor for public infrastructure con-
22 struction;

23 (2) a member of a private industry council
24 under section 102 of the Job Training Partnership
25 Act;

1 (3) individuals who have been instrumental in
2 developing a model construction job training pro-
3 gram;

4 (4) employees in community or urban planning
5 at a local or city government; and

6 (5) employees of a non-profit or for profit hous-
7 ing authority.

8 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant
9 awarded under this section shall not exceed the amount
10 contributed to the project by the applicant entity. Such
11 contributed amounts shall be non-Federal in nature and
12 be made available directly or through donations from pub-
13 lic or private entities.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
16 appropriated to carry out this section, \$500,000,000
17 for each of the fiscal years 1993 through 1997.

18 (2) USE.—Of the amounts appropriated for
19 each fiscal year under paragraph (1)—

20 (A) not to exceed 5 percent of such
21 amount shall be used for administrative costs;
22 and

23 (B) the remainder of such amounts shall
24 be used to award matching grants.

1 (g) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—As
 2 used in this section the term “community development
 3 corporation” means a private, nonprofit corporation whose
 4 board of directors is comprised of business, civic and com-
 5 munity leaders, and whose principal purpose includes the
 6 provision of low-income housing or community economic
 7 development projects that primarily benefit low-income in-
 8 dividuals and communities.

9 **SEC. 4. ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED CENTRAL CITIES.**

10 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—To be an Economically Dis-
 11 tressed Central City under section 4, a city shall—

12 (1) be a metropolitan city (as defined in section
 13 102(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Develop-
 14 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(4));

15 (2) be eligible to receive an allocation of funds
 16 under section 106(a)(3) of the Housing and Commu-
 17 nity Development Act of 1974 for the most recent
 18 fiscal year ending prior to the date of enactment of
 19 this title;

20 (3) have a population of at least 30,000; and

21 (4) have a need adjusted per capita income less
 22 than 1.25 (as determined under subsection (b)) on
 23 the basis of the most recent data available.

24 (b) NEED ADJUSTED PER CAPITA INCOME.—The
 25 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall deter-

1 mine the Need Adjusted Per Capita Income for each city
2 that meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2)
3 of subsection (a) under the following formula:

4 (1) DETERMINATION OF NEED INDEX.—

5 (A) For purposes of this section, the term
6 “need index” means the number equal to the
7 quotient of—

8 (i) the term “N”, as determined
9 under subparagraph (B); divided by

10 (ii) the term “P”, as determined
11 under subparagraph (C).

12 (B) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i),
13 the term “N” means the percentage constituted
14 by the ratio of—

15 (i) the amount of funds allotted to the
16 city in the fiscal year in which the calendar
17 year begins under section 106(a)(3) of the
18 Housing and Community Development Act
19 of 1974; to

20 (ii) the sum of the amount of funds
21 received by all eligible cities in such fiscal
22 year under section 106(a)(3) of the Hous-
23 ing and Community Development Act of
24 1974.

1 (C) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii),
2 the term “P” means the percentage constituted
3 by the ratio of—

4 (i) the amount equal to the total pop-
5 ulation of the city, as determined by the
6 Secretary using the most recent data that
7 is available from the Secretary of Com-
8 merce pursuant to the decennial census
9 and pursuant to reasonable estimates by
10 such Secretary of changes occurring in the
11 data in the ensuing period, to

12 (ii) the amount equal to the total pop-
13 ulation of all eligible cities in the current
14 fiscal year.

15 (D) For purposes of this paragraph, the
16 term “eligible cities” means those cities which
17 meet the requirements of paragraph (1) and (2)
18 of subsection (a).

19 (2) DETERMINATION OF NEED ADJUSTED PER
20 CAPITA INCOME FACTOR.—

21 (A) For purposes of this section (and sub-
22 ject to subparagraph (D)), the term “need ad-
23 justed per capita income factor” means the
24 amount equal to the percentage determined for

1 the city in accordance with the following for-
 2 mula:

$$1 - .15 \left(\frac{I}{Q} \right)$$

3 (B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the
 4 term “I” means the per capita income of the
 5 city for the most recent year for which data is
 6 available, as determined by the Secretary of
 7 Commerce.

8 (C) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the
 9 term “Q” means the product of—

10 (i) the need index of such city, as de-
 11 termined under paragraph (1); and

12 (ii) the amount equal to the per capita
 13 income of the United States for the most
 14 recent year for which data is available, as
 15 determined by the Secretary of Commerce.

16 (D) In the case of a city for which the
 17 quotient of the term “I” (as determined under
 18 subparagraph (B)) divided by the term “Q” (as
 19 determined under subparagraph (C)) is less
 20 than 0.2, then such quotient shall be deemed to
 21 be equal to 0.2 for such city for purposes of the
 22 formula under subparagraph (A).

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