

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 686

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment for, and retention, research, and reinvestment in, the profession, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2009

Ms. MIKULSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment for, and retention, research, and reinvestment in, the profession, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social
6 Work Reinvestment Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Findings.
 Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

- Sec. 101. Establishment of Commission.
 Sec. 102. Appointment of Commission members.
 Sec. 103. Purposes and duties of Commission.
 Sec. 104. Powers of the Commission.
 Sec. 105. Compensation for Commission members.
 Sec. 106. Termination of the Commission.
 Sec. 107. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

- Sec. 201. Workplace improvement grants.
 Sec. 202. Research grants.
 Sec. 203. Education and training grants.
 Sec. 204. Community-based programs of excellence grants.
 Sec. 205. National coordinating center.
 Sec. 206. Multimedia outreach campaign.

2 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

3 Congress finds the following:

- 4 (1) The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that
 5 employment of social workers is expected to increase.
 6 The increase is expected to be greater than the aver-
 7 age increase in employment (estimated to be 22 per-
 8 cent) during the period of 2006 through 2016, dem-
 9 onstrating a substantial need for social workers. The
 10 need is even greater for social workers in the area
 11 of aging. The National Association of Social Work-
 12 ers Center for Workforce Studies estimates that 9
 13 percent of, or 30,000, licensed social workers spe-
 14 cialize in gerontology. By 2010, as more people
 15 reach the age of 65, the National Institute on Aging

1 projects that 60,000 to 70,000 social workers will be
2 needed.

3 (2) Social work salaries are among the lowest
4 for professionals in general and for those with mas-
5 ter's level educations in particular. A survey con-
6 ducted by the John A. Hartford Foundation found
7 that between 1992 and 1999 the annual rate of
8 wage growth for degree-holding social workers was
9 0.8 percent. According to the National Association
10 of Social Workers Center for Workforce Studies, 60
11 percent of full-time social workers earn between
12 \$35,000 and \$59,999 per year, with 25 percent
13 earning between \$40,000 and \$49,999 per year. So-
14 cial workers who earn lower salaries are more likely
15 to work in challenging agency environments and to
16 serve more vulnerable clients. They are also more
17 likely to leave the profession.

18 (3) According to one study by the Council on
19 Social Work Education, 68 percent of individuals
20 surveyed who held a master's degree in social work
21 graduated with an average debt of \$26,777. Addi-
22 tionally, the United States Public Interest Research
23 Group states that 37 percent of public 4-year grad-
24 uates have too much debt to manage as a starting
25 social worker. While social workers may be in posi-

1 tions that are personally fulfilling, due to their high
2 loan debt and low income, many struggle financially.

3 (4) Social work can be a dangerous profession.
4 According to the American Federation of State,
5 County, and Municipal Employees, 70 percent of
6 caseworkers report that front line staff in their
7 agency have been victims of violence or have received
8 threats of violence. Social workers are considerably
9 safer when measures such as use of global posi-
10 tioning systems, self-defense training, and conflict
11 prevention are implemented.

12 (5) According to a study by the University of
13 Michigan, approximately 1 in 7 adults over the age
14 of 70 have some form of dementia, and 9.7 percent
15 (or 2,400,000) of those found with dementia were
16 also found to have Alzheimer's disease. Social work-
17 ers in gerontology settings work with older adults,
18 including those with dementia, to support their phys-
19 iological, psychological, and social needs through
20 mental health therapy, caregiver and family coun-
21 seling, health education, program coordination, and
22 case management. Those professionals also assist
23 the hundreds of thousands of older persons who are
24 abused, neglected, frail, or vulnerable. Between 2000
25 and 2004, there was a 19.7 percent increase in the

1 total number of reports of elder and vulnerable adult
2 abuse and neglect.

3 (6) The Children's Defense Fund states that
4 every 36 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or
5 neglected. The Administration for Children and
6 Families states that 510,000 children were in the
7 United States foster care system in 2006. Most of
8 the children in foster care are placed in foster care
9 due to parental abuse or neglect. Research shows
10 that social workers in child welfare agencies are
11 more likely to find permanent homes for children
12 who were in foster care for 2 or more years. Unfor-
13 tunately, fewer than 40 percent of child welfare
14 workers are social workers.

15 (7) The Department of Health and Human
16 Services estimates that 26.2 percent of (or 1 in 4)
17 individuals in the United States age 18 or older ex-
18 periences a diagnosable mental health disorder. Ad-
19 ditionally, 1 in 5 children and adolescents experi-
20 ences a mental health disorder. At least 1 in 10, or
21 about 6,000,000, young people have a serious emo-
22 tional disturbance. Social workers provide the major-
23 ity of mental health counseling services in the
24 United States, and are often the only providers of
25 such services in rural areas.

1 (8) The Department of Veterans Affairs esti-
2 mates that there are 23,977,000 veterans in the
3 United States. More than 1,100,000 members of the
4 Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq or Af-
5 ghanistan since 2001. A once declining veteran pop-
6 ulation is now surging and is in dire need of mental
7 health treatment to address issues such as post trau-
8 matic stress disorder, depression, drug and alcohol
9 addiction, and suicidal tendencies. Veterans make up
10 25 percent of homeless people in the United States,
11 even though veterans comprise only 11 percent of
12 the general population. Social workers working with
13 veterans and their families provide case manage-
14 ment, crisis intervention, mental health interven-
15 tions, housing and financial counseling, high risk
16 screening, and advocacy among other services. The
17 Department employs over 5,000 social workers and
18 is the single largest employer of social workers in
19 the Nation. Social workers in the Department also
20 coordinate the Community Residential Care Pro-
21 gram, the oldest and most cost effective of the De-
22 partment's extended care programs.

23 (9) The American Cancer Society estimates
24 that there were 1,437,180 new cases of cancer and
25 565,650 cancer deaths in 2008 alone. The incidence

1 of cancer will increase dramatically as the population
2 grows older. The Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention report that at the end of 2003 there were
4 1,039,000 to 1,285,000 people living with HIV or
5 AIDS in the United States. In 2006, 1,300,000 peo-
6 ple received care from hospice providers in the
7 United States. Health care and medical social work-
8 ers practice in areas related to all of those cir-
9 cumstances and provide outreach for prevention of
10 health issues, help individuals and their families
11 adapt to their circumstances, provide grief coun-
12 seling, and act as a liaison between individuals and
13 their medical team, helping patients make informed
14 decisions about their care.

15 (10) The National Center for Education Statis-
16 tics states that in 2005 the national dropout rate for
17 high school students was 9.3 percent. White stu-
18 dents dropped out at a rate of 5.8 percent. African-
19 American students dropped out at a rate of 10.7
20 percent. Hispanic students dropped out at a rate of
21 22.1 percent. Some vulnerable communities have
22 dropout rates of 50 percent or higher. Social work-
23 ers in school settings help students avoid dropping
24 out through early identification, prevention, inter-
25 vention, counseling, and support services.

1 (11) According to the Department of Justice,
2 every year more than 650,000 ex-offenders are re-
3 leased from Federal and State prisons. Social work-
4 ers employed in the corrections system address dis-
5 proportionate minority incarceration rates, provide
6 treatment for mental health problems and drug and
7 alcohol addiction, and work within as well as outside
8 of the prison to reduce recidivism and increase posi-
9 tive community reentry.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) **CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER.**—The term
13 “clinical social worker” has the meaning given the
14 term in section 1861(hh)(1) of the Social Security
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hh)(1)).

16 (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”
17 means the Social Work Reinvestment Commission.

18 (3) **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM.**—The term
19 “community-based program” means an agency, or-
20 ganization, or other entity, carrying out a program
21 that provides direct social work services, or commu-
22 nity development services, at a neighborhood, local-
23 ity, or regional level, to address human service,
24 health care, or psychosocial needs.

1 (4) HIGH NEED AND HIGH DEMAND POPU-
2 LATION.—The term “high need and high demand
3 population” means a group that lacks sufficient re-
4 sources and, as a result, has a greater probability of
5 being harmed by specific social, environmental, or
6 health problems than the population as a whole. The
7 group at issue may be a group residing in an area
8 defined by the Health Resources and Services Ad-
9 ministration as a “health professional shortage
10 area”, which has a shortage of primary medical care,
11 dental, or mental health providers.

12 (5) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
13 VERSITY.—The term “historically black college or
14 university” means a part B institution, as defined in
15 section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

17 (6) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
18 term “minority-serving institution” means an edu-
19 cational institution that serves a large percentage of
20 minority students (as determined by the Secretary of
21 Education), including Alaska Native-serving institu-
22 tions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, Asian-
23 American and Native American Pacific Islander-
24 serving institutions, Predominantly Black Institu-
25 tions, historically black colleges and universities,

1 Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and
2 Universities, and Native American-serving, nontribal
3 institutions (which shall have the meanings given the
4 terms in section 241(1) of the Higher Education Act
5 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1033(1))).

6 (7) RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER.—
7 The term “related professional researcher” means a
8 person who is professionally engaged in research in
9 a social, political, economic, health, or mental health
10 field. The research referred to in this paragraph is
11 primarily conducted by doctoral level researchers
12 under university, government, research institute, or
13 community agency auspices.

14 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

16 (9) SOCIAL WORK.—The term “social work”
17 means—

18 (A) the professional activity of helping in-
19 dividuals, groups, or communities enhance or
20 restore capacity for social and psychosocial
21 functioning and creating societal conditions fa-
22 vorable to that enhancement or restoration;

23 (B) an activity, the practice of which con-
24 sists of the professional application of values,
25 principles, and techniques related to the profes-

1 sional activity described in subparagraph (A),
2 including—

3 (i) diagnosis and treatment of mental
4 and emotional disorders with individuals,
5 families, and groups;

6 (ii) helping communities or groups
7 provide or improve social and health serv-
8 ices and participating in relevant legislative
9 processes; and

10 (iii) helping people obtain tangible
11 services; and

12 (C) an activity, the practice of which re-
13 quires knowledge of—

14 (i) human development;

15 (ii) behavior of social, economic, and
16 cultural institutions; and

17 (iii) the interaction of the factors de-
18 scribed in clauses (i) and (ii).

19 (10) SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER.—The term
20 “social work researcher” means a person who stud-
21 ies social work at the individual, family, group, com-
22 munity, policy, or organizational level, focusing
23 across the human life span on prevention of, inter-
24 vention in, treatment of, aftercare of, and rehabilita-
25 tion from acute and chronic social and psychosocial

1 conditions, and includes a person examining the ef-
 2 fect of policies on social work practice. The study re-
 3 ferred to in this paragraph is primarily conducted by
 4 researchers with doctoral degrees who are social
 5 workers or faculty under university, government, re-
 6 search institute, or community agency auspices.

7 (11) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social work-
 8 er” means a graduate of a school of social work with
 9 a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree, who
 10 uses knowledge and skills to provide social work
 11 services for clients who may be individuals, families,
 12 groups, communities, organizations, or society in
 13 general.

14 **TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK**
 15 **REINVESTMENT COMMISSION**

16 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

17 Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment
 18 of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the Social Work
 19 Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel
 20 to Congress and the Secretary on policy issues associated
 21 with recruitment for, and retention, research, and rein-
 22 vestment in, the profession of social work.

23 **SEC. 102. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

24 (a) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
 25 retary shall appoint members to the Commission. The

1 members shall include representatives of social workers
2 and other members, including the following:

3 (1) 2 deans of schools of social work.

4 (2) 1 social work researcher.

5 (3) 1 related professional researcher.

6 (4) 1 Governor.

7 (5) 2 leaders of national social work organiza-
8 tions.

9 (6) 1 senior social work State official.

10 (7) 1 senior related State official.

11 (8) 2 directors of community-based organiza-
12 tions or nonprofit organizations.

13 (9) 1 labor economist.

14 (10) 1 social work consumer.

15 (11) 1 licensed clinical social worker.

16 (b) APPOINTMENT BY OTHER OFFICERS.—Four ad-
17 ditional members shall be appointed to the Commission,
18 with 1 member appointed by each of the following officers:

19 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
20 tives.

21 (2) The minority leader of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives.

23 (3) The majority leader of the Senate.

24 (4) The minority leader of the Senate.

1 (c) ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION.—Members
2 of the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, be ap-
3 pointed—

4 (1) in a manner that assures participation of
5 individuals and representatives of groups from dif-
6 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious,
7 linguistic, and class backgrounds and different gen-
8 ders and sexual orientations; and

9 (2) from among persons who demonstrate
10 knowledge and understanding of the concerns of the
11 individuals and groups described in paragraph (1).

12 (d) SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-
13 PERSON.—The Secretary shall select a chairperson and
14 vice chairperson for the Commission from among the
15 members of the Commission.

16 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
17 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission, and
18 any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers
19 of the Commission. Any such vacancy shall be filled in the
20 same manner as the original appointment.

21 (f) SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.—The Commission
22 shall hold its first meeting not later than 6 weeks after
23 the date on which the final member of the Commission
24 is appointed, and subsequent meetings at the call of the
25 chair.

1 **SEC. 103. PURPOSES AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a com-
3 prehensive study to examine and assess—

4 (1) the professional capacity of the social work
5 workforce to successfully serve and respond to the
6 increasing biopsychosocial needs of individuals,
7 groups, and communities, in—

8 (A) areas related to—

9 (i) aging;

10 (ii) child welfare;

11 (iii) military and veterans affairs;

12 (iv) mental and behavioral health and
13 disability;

14 (v) criminal justice and correctional
15 systems; and

16 (vi) health and issues affecting women
17 and families; and

18 (B) other areas identified by the Commis-
19 sion;

20 (2)(A) the workforce challenges facing the pro-
21 fession of social work, such as high social work edu-
22 cational debt, lack of fair market compensation, the
23 need to address social work workforce trends, trans-
24 late social work research to practice, promote social
25 work safety, or develop State-level social work licen-
26 sure policies and reciprocity agreements for pro-

1 viding services across State lines, or the lack of di-
2 versity in the social work profession, or the need to
3 address any other area determined by the Secretary
4 to be appropriate; and

5 (B) the effect that such challenges have on the
6 recruitment and retention of social workers;

7 (3) current workforce challenges and shortages
8 relevant to the needs of clients served by social
9 workers;

10 (4) the social work workforce challenges de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2) and the effects that the
12 challenges will have on the provision of social work
13 related to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

14 (5) the advisability of establishing a social work
15 enhancement account, to provide direct grant assist-
16 ance to local governments to encourage the engage-
17 ment of social workers in social service programs.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
19 date of its first meeting, the Commission shall submit a
20 report to the Secretary and Congress containing specific
21 findings and conclusions regarding the need for recruit-
22 ment for, and retention, research, and reinvestment in, the
23 profession of social work. The report shall include rec-
24 ommendations and strategies for corrective actions to en-
25 sure a robust social work workforce capable of keeping up

1 with the demand for needed services. The Commission
2 may provide to Congress any additional findings or rec-
3 ommendations considered by the Commission to be impor-
4 tant.

5 **SEC. 104. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

6 (a) POWERS.—The Commission shall have the power
7 to—

8 (1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such
9 times and places, take such testimony, receive such
10 evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commis-
11 sion considers advisable to carry out the objectives
12 of this title;

13 (2) delegate the Commission powers described
14 in paragraph (1) to any Commission subcommittee
15 or member of the Commission for the purpose of
16 carrying out this Act;

17 (3) enter into contracts to enable the Commis-
18 sion to perform the Commission's work under this
19 Act; and

20 (4) consult, to the extent that the Commission
21 determines that such consultation is necessary or
22 useful, with other agencies and organizations, in-
23 cluding—

24 (A) agencies within the Department of
25 Health and Human Services, including the Ad-

1 ministration for Children and Families, the Ad-
2 ministration on Aging, the Agency for
3 Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers
4 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers
5 for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Health
6 Resources and Service Administration, the In-
7 dian Health Service, the National Institutes of
8 Health, and the Substance Abuse and Mental
9 Health Services Administration;

10 (B) the Social Security Administration;

11 (C) the Departments of Agriculture, De-
12 fense, Education, Homeland Security, Labor,
13 Justice, State, and Veterans Affairs; and

14 (D) any other agency of the Federal Gov-
15 ernment, as determined by the Commission.

16 (b) COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION.—The
17 agencies described in subsection (a)(4) shall cooperate
18 with and provide counsel to the Commission to the great-
19 est extent practicable.

20 **SEC. 105. COMPENSATION FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

21 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
22 mission shall not receive compensation for the perform-
23 ance of services for the Commission, but shall be allowed
24 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
25 at rates authorized for employees of agencies under sub-

1 chapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,
2 while away from their homes or regular places of business
3 in the performance of services for the Commission. Not-
4 withstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code,
5 the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompen-
6 sated services of members of the Commission.

7 (b) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Any
8 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
9 Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall
10 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or
11 privilege.

12 **SEC. 106. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

13 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the
14 date on which the Commission submits its report under
15 section 103.

16 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
18 retary such sums as may be necessary for use by the ac-
19 tivities of the Commission.

1 **TITLE** **II—REINVESTMENT**
 2 **GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUP-**
 3 **SUPPORT SOCIAL WORK PROFES-**
 4 **SION**

5 **SEC. 201. WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

6 (a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary may
 7 award grants to 4 eligible entities described in subsection
 8 (d) to address workplace concerns for the social work pro-
 9 fession, including caseloads, compensation, social work
 10 safety, supervision, and working conditions.

11 (b) **EQUAL AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary shall award
 12 grants under this section in equal amounts to the 4 eligible
 13 entities. The Secretary shall award the grants annually
 14 over a 4-year period.

15 (c) **LOCAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES RE-**
 16 **QUIREMENT.**—At least 2 of the grant recipients shall be
 17 State or local government agencies.

18 (d) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible for
 19 a grant under this section, an entity shall—

20 (1) work in a social work capacity that dem-
 21 onstrates a need regarding a workplace concern area
 22 described in subsection (a);

23 (2) demonstrate—

24 (A) participation in the entities' programs
 25 of individuals and groups from different racial,

1 ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic,
2 and class backgrounds, and different genders
3 and sexual orientations; and

4 (B) knowledge and understanding of the
5 concerns of the individuals and groups de-
6 scribed in subparagraph (A);

7 (3) demonstrate a record of active participation
8 of social workers in the entities' programs; and

9 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
10 uals employed by the entities as competent only
11 within the boundaries of their education, training, li-
12 censes, certification, consultation received, super-
13 vised experience, or other relevant professional expe-
14 rience.

15 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
16 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
17 ble entities that—

18 (1) are equipped with the capacity to oversee
19 and monitor a workplace improvement program car-
20 ried out under this section, including proven fiscal
21 responsibility and administrative capability; and

22 (2) are knowledgeable about relevant workforce
23 trends and have at least 2 years of experience rel-
24 evant to the workplace improvement program.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 to the Sec-
3 retary to award grants under this section.

4 **SEC. 202. RESEARCH GRANTS.**

5 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
6 award grants to not less than 25 social workers who hold
7 a doctoral degree in social work, for post-doctoral research
8 in social work—

9 (1) to further the knowledge base about effec-
10 tive social work interventions; and

11 (2) to promote usable strategies to translate re-
12 search into practice across diverse community set-
13 tings and service systems.

14 (b) AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award the grants
15 annually over a 4-year period.

16 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
17 a grant under this section, a social worker shall—

18 (1) demonstrate knowledge and understanding
19 of the concerns of individuals and groups from dif-
20 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious,
21 linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different gen-
22 ders and sexual orientations; and

23 (2) provide services and represent themselves as
24 competent only within the boundaries of their edu-
25 cation, training, licenses, certification, consultation

1 received, supervised experience, or other relevant
2 professional experience.

3 (d) **MINORITY REPRESENTATION.**—At least 10 of the
4 social workers awarded grants under subsection (a) shall
5 be employed by a historically black college or university
6 or minority-serving institution.

7 (e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Secretary
9 to award grants under this section.

10 **SEC. 203. EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS.**

11 (a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary may
12 award 20 grants to eligible institutions of higher education
13 to support the recruitment of social work students for, and
14 education of the students in, baccalaureate, master's, and
15 doctoral degree programs, as well as the development of
16 faculty in social work.

17 (b) **EQUAL AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary shall award
18 grants under this section in equal amounts of not more
19 than \$100,000 to the 20 eligible institutions. The Sec-
20 retary shall award the grants annually over a 4-year pe-
21 riod.

22 (c) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible for
23 a grant under this section, an institution shall dem-
24 onstrate—

1 (1) participation in the institutions' programs
2 of individuals and groups from different racial, eth-
3 nic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and
4 class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual
5 orientations; and

6 (2) knowledge and understanding of the con-
7 cerns of the individuals and groups described in
8 paragraph (1).

9 (d) INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT.—At least 4 of
10 the grant recipients shall be historically black colleges or
11 universities or other minority-serving institutions.

12 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
13 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to in-
14 stitutions of higher education that—

15 (1) are accredited by the Council on Social
16 Work Education;

17 (2) have a graduation rate of not less than 80
18 percent for social work students; and

19 (3) exhibit an ability to recruit social workers
20 from and place social workers in areas with a high
21 need and high demand population.

22 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000 to the Secretary
24 to award grants under this section.

1 **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE**

2 **GRANTS.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
4 award grants to 6 eligible covered entities, to further test
5 and replicate effective social work interventions.

6 (b) COVERED ENTITY.—For purposes of this section,
7 the term “covered entity” means—

8 (1) a public entity that is carrying out a com-
9 munity-based program of excellence; and

10 (2) a nonprofit organization that is carrying out
11 a program of excellence.

12 (c) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award
13 grants under this section in equal amounts of not more
14 than \$500,000 to eligible covered entities. The Secretary
15 shall award the grants annually over a 3-year period.

16 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
17 a grant under this section, a covered entity shall—

18 (1) carry out programs in the areas of aging,
19 child welfare, military and veteran’s issues, mental
20 and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice
21 and correction systems, and health and issues affect-
22 ing women and families;

23 (2) demonstrate—

24 (A) participation in the covered entities’
25 programs of individuals and groups from dif-
26 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, reli-

1 gious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and
2 different genders and sexual orientations; and

3 (B) knowledge and understanding of the
4 concerns of the individuals and groups de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A);

6 (3) demonstrate a record of active participation
7 of social workers in the covered entities' programs;
8 and

9 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
10 uals employed by the covered entities as competent
11 only within the boundaries of their education, train-
12 ing, licenses, certification, consultation received, su-
13 pervised experience, or other relevant professional
14 experience.

15 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients
16 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
17 ble covered entities that—

18 (1) have demonstrated successful and measur-
19 able outcomes that are worthy of replication;

20 (2) have been in operation for at least 2 years;
21 and

22 (3) work with high need and high demand pop-
23 ulations.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$9,000,000 to the Secretary
3 to award grants under this section.

4 **SEC. 205. NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into
6 a contract with a national social work research entity
7 that—

8 (1) has experience in coordinating the transfer
9 of information and ideas among entities engaged in
10 social work research, practice, education, and policy-
11 making; and

12 (2) maintains relationships with Federal enti-
13 ties, social work degree-granting institutions of high-
14 er education and departments of social work within
15 such institutions, and organizations and agencies
16 that employ social workers.

17 (b) GENERAL DUTIES.—The contract recipient (re-
18 ferred to in this section as the “coordinating center”) shall
19 serve as a coordinating center and shall organize informa-
20 tion and other data, collect and report data, serve as a
21 clearinghouse, and coordinate activities with the entities,
22 institutions, departments, organizations, and agencies de-
23 scribed in subsection (a)(2).

24 (c) COLLABORATION.—The coordinating center shall
25 work with institutions of higher education, research enti-

1 ties, and entities with social work practice settings to iden-
2 tify key research areas to be pursued, identify qualified
3 research fellows, and organize appropriate mentorship and
4 professional development efforts.

5 (d) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING
6 CENTER.—The coordinating center shall—

7 (1) collect, coordinate, monitor, and distribute
8 data, information on best practices and findings re-
9 garding the activities funded under grants made to
10 eligible entities and individuals under the grant pro-
11 grams described in sections 201 through 204;

12 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-
13 port that includes recommendations regarding the
14 need to recruit new social workers, retain current so-
15 cial workers, conduct social work research, and rein-
16 vestment into the profession of social work; and

17 (3) demonstrate cultural competency and pro-
18 mote the participation of diverse groups in the ac-
19 tivities of the culture.

20 (e) SELECTION.—The Secretary, in collaboration
21 with the coordinating center, shall—

22 (1) select topics to be researched under this sec-
23 tion;

24 (2) select candidates and finalists for research
25 fellow positions; and

1 (3) determine other activities to be carried out
2 under this section.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
5 section for each of fiscal years 2010 to 2014.

6 **SEC. 206. MULTIMEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.**

7 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC SERV-
8 ICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Secretary shall develop and
9 issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-
10 mote the social work profession, highlight the advantages
11 and rewards of social work, and encourage individuals to
12 enter the social work profession.

13 (b) METHOD.—The public service announcements de-
14 scribed in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through appro-
15 priate media outlets, including television or radio, in a
16 manner intended to reach as wide and diverse an audience
17 as possible.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
20 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
21 2010 through 2013.

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