

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1117

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2013

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

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## A BILL

To prepare disconnected youth for a competitive future.

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       “Reengaging Americans in Serious Education by Uniting  
6       Programs Act”.

7       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
8       this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Grants authorized.
- Sec. 5. Application.
- Sec. 6. Priority.
- Sec. 7. Selection criteria.
- Sec. 8. Use of funds.

Sec. 9. Planning grants authorized.

Sec. 10. Accountability, performance measures, and evaluation.

Sec. 11. Technical assistance and best practices.

Sec. 12. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In the United States today, millions of  
4 youth drop out of secondary school, fail to complete  
5 their studies, or do not graduate on time. While the  
6 United States has made slow progress in improving  
7 graduation rates, the dropout challenge remains a  
8 crisis that is impeding the Nation's ability to  
9 produce an educated workforce and succeed in the  
10 21st century global economy.

11 (2) Government data shows that more than 25  
12 percent of the Nation's students fail to complete sec-  
13 ondary school in 4 years. In some of the larger cities  
14 of the United States and among urban minority  
15 youth, dropout rates of 40 percent are not uncom-  
16 mon.

17 (3) According to recent research, there is an es-  
18 timated 6,700,000 youth ages 16–24 who are dis-  
19 connected from school and work, of which 3,400,000  
20 are chronic, having had no attachment to school or  
21 work since age 16, and 3,300,000 are under-at-  
22 tached to school or work and have not progressed to-  
23 ward employment or postsecondary education. While

1 disconnected youth are disproportionately male and  
2 from minority groups, substantial disconnected  
3 youth rates are found for all groups of youth.

4 (4) The impact of this dropout crisis has been  
5 likened to a permanent recession for youth, and it  
6 has consequences for the economy of the United  
7 States. Disconnected youth are more likely than  
8 other youth to engage in criminal activities, become  
9 incarcerated, and rely on public systems of support.

10 (5) The Department of Education reports that  
11 the average secondary school dropout is associated  
12 with costs to the economy of approximately  
13 \$240,000 over the individual's lifetime in terms of  
14 lower tax contributions, higher reliance on govern-  
15 ment health programs and public assistance, and  
16 higher rates of criminal activity. Over their lifetimes,  
17 secondary school dropouts are estimated to earn  
18 \$400,000 less than secondary school graduates. Fur-  
19 ther, only 37 percent of secondary school dropouts  
20 are steadily employed, and they are more than twice  
21 as likely to live in high poverty.

22 (6) Experts estimate that two-thirds of jobs  
23 created in the near future will require at least some  
24 postsecondary education. Education and training

1 pathways that help youth to earn a secondary school  
2 diploma and postsecondary credentials are essential.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

4 (1) to prepare disconnected youth for a com-  
5 petitive future;

6 (2) to challenge and support young people who  
7 have dropped out of secondary school to—

8 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

9 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential  
10 from a recognized postsecondary educational in-  
11 stitution, an industry-recognized credential, or  
12 certification from a registered apprenticeship  
13 program; and

14 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
15 porting career; and

16 (3) to support local community partnerships in  
17 integrating existing, and often disparate, services  
18 into a comprehensive, cross-systems dropout recov-  
19 ery approach.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the  
23 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
24 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
25 12102).

1           (2) DISCONNECTED YOUTH.—The term “dis-  
2           connected youth” means a young person who—

3                   (A) has left secondary school without ob-  
4                   taining a secondary school diploma;

5                   (B) is or was previously a homeless child  
6                   or youth;

7                   (C) is or was under the care and place-  
8                   ment responsibility of the State agency respon-  
9                   sible for administering a plan under parts B  
10                  and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42  
11                  U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.);

12                  (D) was under the custody of a juvenile  
13                  justice or criminal justice system;

14                  (E) has a disability; or

15                  (F) is a low-income individual and is preg-  
16                  nant or parenting and not attending any school.

17           (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
18           ty” means a partnership consisting of entities or in-  
19           dividuals qualified to represent the community as-  
20           sisted, or proposed to be assisted, by a grant under  
21           this Act, including not less than one partner from  
22           each of the following categories:

23                   (A) A mayor, or other appropriate chief ex-  
24                   ecutive officer, of a unit of general purpose  
25                   local government in the community.

1 (B) A local educational agency (as defined  
2 in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
3 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
4 7801)) serving the community.

5 (C) A local workforce system serving the  
6 community.

7 (D) An institution of higher education  
8 serving the community.

9 (E) A representative of a local or state sys-  
10 tem serving young people in the community, in-  
11 cluding—

12 (i) a juvenile justice system;

13 (ii) a criminal justice system;

14 (iii) a housing agency;

15 (iv) a mental health agency; and

16 (v) a child welfare agency.

17 (F) A representative of a community-based  
18 organization serving the community.

19 (G) A representative from business or in-  
20 dustry.

21 (H) A representative with expertise in  
22 labor management relations.

23 (I) A disconnected youth in the community  
24 and the parents or caregivers of such discon-  
25 nected youth.

1           (4) FEDERAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUN-  
2           CIL.—The term “Federal Youth Development Coun-  
3           cil” means the Federal Youth Development Council  
4           established under the Tom Osborne Federal Youth  
5           Coordination Act (Public Law 109–365; 120 Stat.  
6           2594).

7           (5) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The  
8           term “homeless children and youths” has the mean-  
9           ing given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-  
10          Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

11          (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
12          term “institution of higher education” has the  
13          meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher  
14          Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

15          (7) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop  
16          center” means a one-stop center described in section  
17          134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29  
18          U.S.C. 2864(c)).

19          (8) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.—The term  
20          “postsecondary education” means—

21                 (A) a 4-year program of instruction, or not  
22                 less than a 1-year program of instruction that  
23                 is acceptable for credit toward a baccalaureate  
24                 degree, offered by an institution of higher edu-  
25                 cation; or

1 (B) a certificate or registered apprentice-  
2 ship program at the postsecondary level offered  
3 by an institution of higher education or a non-  
4 profit educational institution.

5 (9) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—

6 The term “registered apprenticeship program”  
7 means an industry skills training program at the  
8 postsecondary level that combines technical and the-  
9 oretical training through structured on-the-job learn-  
10 ing with related instruction (in a classroom or  
11 through distance learning) while an individual is em-  
12 ployed, working under the direction of qualified per-  
13 sonnel or a mentor, and earning incremental wage  
14 increases aligned to enhanced job proficiency, result-  
15 ing in the acquisition of a nationally recognized and  
16 portable certificate, under a plan approved by the  
17 Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor  
18 or by a State agency recognized by the Department  
19 of Labor.

20 (10) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
21 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in  
22 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

24 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
25 means the Secretary of Labor.



1           (12) YOUNG PEOPLE.—The term “young peo-  
2           ple” means individuals who are between the ages of  
3           16 and 24, inclusive, at the time of commencement  
4           of participation in services funded through a grant  
5           under section 4.

6 **SEC. 4. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
8           with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health  
9           and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
10          Development, the Attorney General of the United States,  
11          the Federal Youth Development Council, and leaders in  
12          the field of working with disconnected youth, shall award  
13          grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable  
14          the eligible entities to pay the costs of—

15                 (1) developing and implementing a strategy to  
16                 identify disconnected youth; and

17                 (2) providing such disconnected youth with sup-  
18                 port needed to—

19                         (A) attain a secondary school diploma or  
20                         its recognized equivalent;

21                         (B) attain a postsecondary credential, in-  
22                         cluding a 2-year or 4-year credential from an  
23                         institution of higher education, an industry-rec-  
24                         ognized credential, or certification from a reg-  
25                         istered apprenticeship program; and

1 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
2 porting career.

3 (b) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall  
4 award a grant under this section in an amount that—

5 (1) is appropriate to achieve the goals and im-  
6 plement the activities described in the application  
7 submitted under section 5; and

8 (2) is not less than \$1,000,000 per year.

9 (c) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this sec-  
10 tion shall be awarded for a period of 5 years, and may  
11 be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary based on the  
12 effective performance of the eligible entity under the pre-  
13 ceding grant in accordance with the levels of performance  
14 determined by the eligible entity and the Secretary pursu-  
15 ant to section 9(b).

16 (d) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF  
17 FUNDS.—The Secretary shall ensure an equitable and ap-  
18 propriate distribution of grants awarded under this section  
19 among eligible entities—

20 (1) serving urban, rural, and suburban areas;  
21 and

22 (2) with varying degrees of experience and ex-  
23 pertise in serving disconnected youth.

24 (e) FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENTS.—An eli-  
25 gible entity shall choose an entity to be the fiscal agent

1 and an entity to be the administrative agent for the grant  
2 funds received under this section.

3 (f) **EXISTING PARTNERSHIP.**—An existing workforce,  
4 education, or youth development partnership, coalition, or  
5 organization may serve as the eligible entity for the pur-  
6 poses of grants under this section if the partnership, coal-  
7 tion, or organization includes, or modifies the members of  
8 the partnership, coalition, or organization to include, the  
9 individuals required to be included in the eligible entity  
10 under section 3(3).

11 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

12 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity that desires a  
13 grant under section 4 shall submit an application to the  
14 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
15 such information as the Secretary may require.

16 (b) **CONTENTS.**—An application submitted under this  
17 section shall include—

18 (1) a description of the eligible entity submit-  
19 ting the application, including a description of the  
20 fiscal agent and the administrative agent for the  
21 grant;

22 (2) a description of the strategy that the eligi-  
23 ble entity will use to carry out the purpose of this  
24 Act, which shall include—

1 (A) a well-developed education component  
2 with an emphasis on—

3 (i) multiple pathways and options to-  
4 wards secondary school diploma and post-  
5 secondary credential attainment, which  
6 may include recuperative strategies such as  
7 competency-based instruction and credit  
8 retrieval as well as basic literacy; and

9 (ii) the skills needed in the fields of  
10 science, technology, engineering, and math-  
11 ematics;

12 (B) a work preparation component, which  
13 may include a hands-on internship, work experi-  
14 ence, or national or community service, that  
15 promotes the development of applied skills such  
16 as oral and written communication, teamwork,  
17 leadership, and critical thinking; and

18 (C) a youth support component, including  
19 the array of comprehensive support services  
20 that will—

21 (i) address the challenges that caused  
22 the disconnected youth to leave school  
23 without a secondary school diploma;

24 (ii) remove barriers to and support  
25 the attainment of—

1 (I) the graduation of such young  
2 people from secondary school;

3 (II) a postsecondary credential,  
4 including a 2-year or 4-year credential  
5 from an institution of higher edu-  
6 cation, an industry-recognized creden-  
7 tial, or certification from a registered  
8 apprenticeship program; and

9 (III) success in a family-sup-  
10 porting career; and

11 (iii) provide appropriate case manage-  
12 ment to ensure young people achieve the  
13 purposes described in section 2(b);

14 (3) a needs assessment of the community to be  
15 assisted under the grant, including—

16 (A) an estimate of the number of discon-  
17 nected youth in the community; and

18 (B) an assessment of resources available in  
19 the community that can help such disconnected  
20 youth—

21 (i) address the challenges that caused  
22 such disconnected youth to leave school  
23 without a secondary school diploma;

24 (ii) return to an appropriate edu-  
25 cational setting;

1 (iii) attain a secondary school di-  
2 ploma;

3 (iv) attain a postsecondary credential,  
4 including a 2-year or 4-year credential  
5 from an institution of higher education, an  
6 industry-recognized credential, or certifi-  
7 cation from a registered apprenticeship  
8 program; and

9 (v) secure and succeed in a family-  
10 supporting career;

11 (4) a plan for identifying and engaging discon-  
12 nected youth and connecting such disconnected  
13 youth with a continuum of comprehensive and co-  
14 ordinated resources that can help such disconnected  
15 youth attain a secondary school diploma, a recog-  
16 nized postsecondary credential, including a 2-year or  
17 4-year credential from an institution of higher edu-  
18 cation, an industry-recognized credential, or certifi-  
19 cation from a registered apprenticeship program,  
20 and secure and succeed in a family-supporting ca-  
21 reer, including a description of—

22 (A) the needs of such disconnected youth  
23 that will be met by the eligible entity through  
24 the grant;

1 (B) the identities, roles, and capacity of  
2 the partners in the eligible entity to fulfill the  
3 needs described in subparagraph (A), including  
4 a description of the role to be played by—

5 (i) secondary schools and institutions  
6 of higher education in constructing edu-  
7 cation programming;

8 (ii) the local workforce system, includ-  
9 ing one-stop career centers and businesses,  
10 in developing and implementing the work-  
11 force preparation activities; and

12 (iii) systems serving young people, in-  
13 cluding the juvenile justice system, and  
14 other community-based organizations in  
15 providing outreach, support, and direct  
16 service;

17 (C) a plan to leverage non-Federal (includ-  
18 ing in-kind) resources and a plan for sustain-  
19 ability beyond the grant period;

20 (D) the services to be provided through the  
21 grant to carry out the strategy described in  
22 paragraph (2) and a description of the process  
23 that will be used to award subgrants and con-  
24 tracts under section 8 for the provision of such  
25 services;

1 (E) the research and evidence base indi-  
2 cating why the selected strategy and selection of  
3 services will be effective in meeting the com-  
4 prehensive needs of the disconnected youth  
5 identified in the community;

6 (F) the goals, intended outcomes, and per-  
7 formance measures of the eligible entity's strat-  
8 egy in accordance with the performance meas-  
9 ures under section 10(b);

10 (G) a statement of concurrence on the ap-  
11 plication, signed by the partners in the eligible  
12 entity, that outlines the specific roles and re-  
13 sponsibilities of the partners as the roles and  
14 responsibilities relate to the functioning of the  
15 eligible entity; and

16 (H) a plan to create, or include an exist-  
17 ing, youth advisory council, that is composed of  
18 disconnected youth from the community to be  
19 served, to make recommendations regarding the  
20 services to be provided under the grant;

21 (5) a description of the system that will be put  
22 in place to—

23 (A) provide case management, counseling,  
24 intensive placement and follow-up services,  
25 adult advocacy, or mentoring to help discon-



1           nected youth and their families access the var-  
2           rious systems, resources, and supports necessary  
3           to ensure such young people’s success; and

4           (B) ensure that young people receiving  
5           services through the grant will receive individ-  
6           ualized case management to ensure that the  
7           young people achieve the purposes described in  
8           section 2(b), including—

9                   (i) an assessment of needs;

10                   (ii) coordination of appropriate serv-  
11           ices; and

12                   (iii) academic preparation and support  
13           for entry, persistence, and completion of  
14           postsecondary education;

15           (6) a description of how the eligible entity will  
16           ensure that every young person served under the  
17           grant receives comprehensive services, including  
18           services from each of the categories described in  
19           paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 8(b) until the  
20           young person—

21                   (A) attains a secondary school diploma, a  
22           2-year or 4-year credential or occupational cer-  
23           tification from an institution of higher edu-  
24           cation, an industry-recognized credential, or

1 certification from a registered apprenticeship  
2 program; and

3 (B) secures employment that can lead to  
4 economic self-sufficiency;

5 (7) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
6 plemented under the grant will identify, engage, and  
7 provide services to young people who—

8 (A) left school without a secondary school  
9 diploma and have reading, mathematics, or  
10 science skills at or below the grade 8 level; and

11 (B) are disconnected youth described in  
12 any of subparagraphs (C) through (E) of sec-  
13 tion 3(2);

14 (8) a description of how public and private serv-  
15 ices that exist on the date of submission of the ap-  
16 plication will be coordinated and integrated in order  
17 to implement and sustain the strategy under the  
18 grant;

19 (9) a description of how Federal, State, and  
20 local private and public funds will be leveraged, co-  
21 ordinated, and integrated in order to implement the  
22 strategy under the grant;

23 (10) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
24 plemented under the grant strengthens, and does not  
25 duplicate, efforts within the community to be served

1 under the grant that are funded under chapter 4 of  
2 subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act  
3 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2851 et seq.);

4 (11) a description of the process to be used to  
5 review or approve the industry-recognized credentials  
6 that may be attained by the young people receiving  
7 support under the grant; and

8 (12) a description of how the strategy to be im-  
9 plemented under the grant aligns with the efforts of  
10 the local educational agency serving the community  
11 assisted under the grant to improve secondary  
12 schools, including efforts focused on—

13 (A) students who are off-track to an on-  
14 time graduation; and

15 (B) recuperative strategies.

16 (c) EXISTING PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND STRATE-  
17 GIES.—Plans, needs assessments, and strategies that have  
18 been developed by an eligible entity or the partners in the  
19 eligible entity may be used to satisfy the requirements of  
20 this section if such plans, needs assessments, or strate-  
21 gies—

22 (1) include the information required by this sec-  
23 tion, or can be modified to include the information  
24 required by this section; and

1           (2) are submitted to the Secretary with such  
2           modifications.

3 **SEC. 6. PRIORITY.**

4           In awarding grants to eligible entities under section  
5 4, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from  
6 eligible entities proposing—

7           (1) to serve areas with disproportionately high  
8           numbers or percentages of young people who have  
9           left secondary school without obtaining a secondary  
10          school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

11          (2) to serve areas with high concentrations of  
12          young people in families whose family income is not  
13          more than 200 percent of the poverty line (as deter-  
14          mined under section 673(2) of the Community Serv-  
15          ices Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))); and

16          (3) to serve areas with high numbers or per-  
17          centages of young people who are unemployed or un-  
18          deremployed.

19 **SEC. 7. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

20          The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities  
21 under section 4 based on selection criteria that includes  
22 the following:

23          (1) **BEST PRACTICES OR RESEARCH.**—The ex-  
24          tent to which the application submitted by an eligi-

1 ble entity under section 5 is rooted in documented  
2 best practices or research.

3 (2) INTEGRATION.—The extent to which the  
4 application demonstrates the integration of multiple  
5 services into a comprehensive, coordinated con-  
6 tinuum that meets the holistic needs of young peo-  
7 ple, including health services, mental health services,  
8 housing, civic opportunities, job readiness, work ex-  
9 perience, school readiness, reenrollment in school,  
10 and connections to family and community.

11 (3) LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVE-  
12 MENT.—The extent to which the application dem-  
13 onstrates the leadership and substantive involvement  
14 of the business community, the mayor or appropriate  
15 chief executive officers of the general purpose local  
16 government of the community to be served by the  
17 grant, each local educational agency serving the  
18 community, the public and nonprofit sectors of the  
19 community, and other individuals and entities de-  
20 scribed in section 3(2), of the community.

21 (4) LEVERAGING AND SUSTAINABILITY.—The  
22 extent to which the application demonstrates that re-  
23 sources from multiple sources will be leveraged to  
24 implement the grant, and the extent to which the

1 application demonstrates a plan for sustainability  
2 beyond the grant period.

3 **SEC. 8. USE OF FUNDS.**

4 (a) SUBGRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity receiving  
6 a grant under section 4 shall use the grant funds—

7 (A) to award subgrants and contracts to  
8 community-based organizations and other enti-  
9 ties to enable the organizations and entities to  
10 provide a comprehensive array of coordinated  
11 activities that will—

12 (i) support the educational, career and  
13 technical, social, emotional, and civic needs  
14 of disconnected youth; and

15 (ii) allow disconnected youth to grad-  
16 uate from secondary school, attain a post-  
17 secondary credential, including a 2-year or  
18 4-year credential from an institution of  
19 higher education, an industry-recognized  
20 credential, or certification from a reg-  
21 istered apprenticeship program, and secure  
22 and succeed in a family-supporting career;

23 (B) for training, technical assistance, and  
24 professional development for the organizations

1 and entities that is offered by local or national  
2 organizations;

3 (C) for coordinating the overall effort of  
4 the eligible entity; and

5 (D) for the reasonable costs associated  
6 with the administration and oversight of the  
7 grants under section 4.

8 (2) USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.—Each organi-  
9 zation or entity receiving a subgrant or contract  
10 under this section—

11 (A) shall use the subgrant or contract  
12 funds to carry out a workforce preparation  
13 service, an education support service, or a youth  
14 support service, described in paragraphs (1),  
15 (2), and (3) of subsection (b), respectively; and

16 (B) may use the subgrant or contract  
17 funds to carry out an activity described in para-  
18 graph (4) or (5) of subsection (b).

19 (b) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The services and ac-  
20 tivities referred to in subsection (a)(2) include the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 (1) WORK AND CAREER PREPARATION.—

23 (A) WORKFORCE PREPARATION.—Job  
24 training, youth entrepreneurship, technological  
25 and career and technical skill building, mean-

1           ingful internship and apprenticeship opportuni-  
2           ties, and other workforce preparation activities  
3           developed in partnership with the business com-  
4           munity and other employers.

5           (B) EXPOSURE AND PREPARATION FOR  
6           CAREERS.—Strategies that will expose discon-  
7           nected youth to, and prepare such disconnected  
8           youth for, careers, including careers in high-  
9           growth, high-demand industries that require the  
10          use of science, technology, engineering, and  
11          mathematics skills.

12          (C) APPLIED SKILLS.—Strategies that pro-  
13          mote the development of applied skills in such  
14          young people, including oral and written com-  
15          munication, teamwork, leadership, critical  
16          thinking, and a commitment to social and civic  
17          responsibility, including service-learning activi-  
18          ties.

19          (D) COMPENSATION.—Compensation for  
20          employment opportunities for such young peo-  
21          ple, including summer and year-round employ-  
22          ment opportunities, national and community  
23          service, service-learning, and work experience.

24          (2) EDUCATION SUPPORT.—



1           (A) EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.—Edu-  
2           cation programming for such young people, in-  
3           cluding assessment, instruction, tutoring, and  
4           technology supports to academic instruction.

5           (B) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDU-  
6           CATION.—Career and technical education.

7           (C) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS AND  
8           EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.—Participation  
9           in dual enrollment programs, early college high  
10          schools, and other proven models for supporting  
11          the educational achievement of disconnected  
12          youth.

13          (D) POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS.—Pro-  
14          grams that provide young people with a postsec-  
15          ondary credential from an institution of higher  
16          education, a non-profit postsecondary edu-  
17          cational institution that offers an industry rec-  
18          ognized credential, or a registered apprentice-  
19          ship program.

20          (E) TRANSITION SUPPORT.—Support for  
21          young people in their transition into and their  
22          successful completion of postsecondary edu-  
23          cation.

1 (F) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial  
2 assistance for such young people for education  
3 support services and for higher education.

4 (3) YOUTH SUPPORT.—

5 (A) CASE MANAGEMENT.—Case manage-  
6 ment, including using subgrant or contract  
7 funds for youth centers to serve as points of ac-  
8 cess and continued support.

9 (B) HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, OR DRUG  
10 TREATMENT SERVICES.—Health services, men-  
11 tal health services, or drug treatment services.

12 (C) HOUSING.—Housing.

13 (D) TRANSPORTATION.—Transportation.

14 (E) CHILDCARE OR FAMILY SUPPORT  
15 SERVICES.—Childcare services or family sup-  
16 port services.

17 (F) MENTORING ACTIVITIES.—Mentoring  
18 activities for such young people, including one-  
19 to-one relationship building and tutoring.

20 (4) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.—Curriculum  
21 development that promotes contextual learning.

22 (5) OTHER SERVICES OR OPPORTUNITIES.—  
23 Other services or opportunities that the Secretary or  
24 the eligible entity determine will help carry out the  
25 purposes of this Act.

1           (c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—An eligible entity re-  
2 ceiving a grant under section 4 shall ensure that, of the  
3 group of young people who receive the services and partici-  
4 pate in the activities described in subsections (a) and (b)  
5 under the grant, not less than 75 percent of the group  
6 shall be disconnected youth as defined in section 3(2).

7           (d) WAIVER OF MULTIPLE SERVICE REQUIRE-  
8 MENT.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of sub-  
9 section (a) regarding the provision of a comprehensive  
10 array of coordinated activities for an eligible entity receiv-  
11 ing a grant under section 4 to permit not more than 25  
12 percent of the young people served by the eligible entity  
13 under the grant to receive only 1 or more services among  
14 the allowable activities described in subsection (b) if the  
15 eligible entity determines that such young people only need  
16 1 or more such services in order to—

- 17           (1) attain a secondary school diploma;
- 18           (2) attain a recognized postsecondary creden-  
19 tial, including a 2-year or 4-year credential from an  
20 institution of higher education, an industry-recog-  
21 nized credential, or certification from a registered  
22 apprenticeship program; and
- 23           (3) secure and succeed in a family-supporting  
24 career.

1 **SEC. 9. PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award plan-  
3 ning grants to eligible entities to develop the components  
4 of the application described in section 5, in order to allow  
5 eligible entities to become competitive for grants under  
6 section 4.

7 (b) DURATION; AMOUNT.—Planning grants under  
8 this section shall be—

9 (1) for a duration of not more than 6 months  
10 in an amount of not more than \$50,000; or

11 (2) for a duration of more than 6 months and  
12 not more than one year and in an amount of not  
13 more than \$100,000.

14 (c) RECIPIENTS.—Recipients of grants under this  
15 section shall include—

16 (1) eligible entities that applied for and did not  
17 receive a grant under section 4, and demonstrate the  
18 ability to submit a competitive application after ad-  
19 ditional local planning; and

20 (2) eligible entities that intend to apply for a  
21 grant under section 4 after undergoing a thorough  
22 planning process.

1 **SEC. 10. ACCOUNTABILITY, PERFORMANCE MEASURES,**  
2 **AND EVALUATION.**

3 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to es-  
4 tablish an accountability system, comprised of the activi-  
5 ties described in this section, in order to—

6 (1) assess the effectiveness of grants under sec-  
7 tion 4 in helping disconnected youth—

8 (A) attain a secondary school diploma;

9 (B) attain a 2-year or 4-year credential  
10 from an institution of higher education, an in-  
11 dustry recognized credential, or certification  
12 from a registered apprenticeship program; and

13 (C) secure and succeed in a family-sup-  
14 porting career;

15 (2) identify and disseminate effective practices  
16 to strengthen performance; and

17 (3) maximize the return on investment of Fed-  
18 eral funds in activities assisted pursuant to a grant  
19 under section 4.

20 (b) **PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each eligible entity, per-  
22 formance measures shall consist of the indicators of  
23 performance described in paragraph (2) and the  
24 level of performance described in paragraph (3).

1           (2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—The indi-  
2           cators of performance referred to in paragraph (1)  
3           shall consist of the following:

4           (A) INTERIM INDICATORS.—

5           (i) YOUTH PARTICIPATION.—The par-  
6           ticipation of young people in activities  
7           funded under section 4.

8           (ii) YOUTH PROGRESS.—The progress  
9           of young people towards all of the fol-  
10          lowing:

11           (I) Attainment of a secondary  
12           school diploma or its recognized equiv-  
13           alent.

14           (II) Job readiness.

15           (iii) YOUTH ATTAINMENT.—The at-  
16           tainment by young people of a secondary  
17           school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

18          (B) TRANSITIONAL INDICATORS.—

19           (i) DIPLOMA, AND ENTRANCE INTO  
20           EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT.—The at-  
21           tainment by young people of a secondary  
22           school diploma, and entrance into postsec-  
23           ondary education or employment.

24           (ii) CREDENTIAL.—The attainment by  
25           young people of 1 or more recognized post-

1 secondary credentials, which may include a  
2 certificate, a license, a journey-status card,  
3 or an associate degree or baccalaureate de-  
4 gree.

5 (C) LONG-TERM INDICATORS.—

6 (i) EMPLOYMENT, DIPLOMA, AND CRE-  
7 DENTIAL.—Employment of individuals who  
8 participated in activities funded under sec-  
9 tion 4, attained a secondary school di-  
10 ploma, and attained 1 or more recognized  
11 credentials, which may include a certifi-  
12 cate, license, journey-status card, or asso-  
13 ciate degree or baccalaureate degree.

14 (ii) INITIAL WAGE OR SALARY  
15 LEVEL.—The initial wage or salary level of  
16 individuals described in clause (i).

17 (3) LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.—For each indi-  
18 cator of performance described in paragraph (2), the  
19 Secretary, in coordination with the eligible entity,  
20 shall determine a level of performance expressed in  
21 objective, quantifiable, and measurable form and in  
22 a way to show the progress of the eligible entity to-  
23 ward continuously improving performance.

24 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY MEASURES.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity  
2           that receives a grant under section 4 shall reach  
3           agreement with the Secretary on the levels of  
4           performance for the years covered by the grant.  
5           The levels of performance shall take into ac-  
6           count the economic conditions of the area  
7           served, the characteristics of young people in  
8           the area, secondary school graduation rates,  
9           and the activities or services provided in the  
10          community served under the grant.

11          (B) ADJUSTMENTS.—If unanticipated cir-  
12          cumstances arise resulting in a significant  
13          change in the economic conditions of the area,  
14          the characteristics of young people in the area,  
15          secondary school graduation rates, or activities  
16          or services provided in the community served  
17          under the grant, then the eligible entity may re-  
18          quest that the Secretary adjust the level of per-  
19          formance for the eligible entity.

20          (c) ASSURANCE.—Each eligible entity that receives a  
21          grant under section 4 shall provide an assurance to the  
22          Secretary, as part of the application submitted under sec-  
23          tion 5, that the eligible entity will—



1           (1) report progress toward achieving the indica-  
2           tors under subsection (b) beyond the grant period  
3           for young people served under the grant; and

4           (2) use funds provided under the grant for such  
5           progress reporting.

6           (d) REPORTS.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that re-  
8           ceives a grant under section 4 shall annually, for  
9           each year of the grant, provide a report to the Sec-  
10          retary that includes the progress of the eligible enti-  
11          ty in accomplishing the performance measures for  
12          the eligible entity. The annual report shall include—

13           (A) information on the progress each eligi-  
14          ble entity made in accomplishing its perform-  
15          ance measures, disaggregated by the categories  
16          described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the  
17          Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
18          1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II));

19           (B) the costs of the activities supported  
20          under the grant under section 4, including—

21           (i) the type of cost, such as cash, per-  
22          sonnel, equipment, supplies, or materials,  
23          or other cost;

24           (ii) the sources used to pay such  
25          costs, such as—

1 (I) funding from other Federal,  
2 State, or local public programs; or

3 (II) private sector or philan-  
4 thropic contributions; and

5 (iii) the dollar value of the resources  
6 leveraged to cover such costs and support  
7 the activities;

8 (C) any fiscal and management account-  
9 ability information required by the Secretary,  
10 which information shall use sound financial and  
11 management practices;

12 (D) the characteristics and number of dis-  
13 connected youth served by the services and ac-  
14 tivities provided under the grant; and

15 (E) the services and supports provided  
16 under the grant.

17 (2) VALID AND RELIABLE INFORMATION.—In  
18 preparing the reports under this subsection, each eli-  
19 gible entity shall establish procedures, consistent  
20 with guidelines issued by the Secretary, to ensure  
21 that the information contained in the reports is valid  
22 and reliable.

23 (e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award  
25 a grant or a contract to an entity outside the Department

1 of Labor for an evaluation of the activities assisted under  
2 the grants awarded under section 4. Such evaluation  
3 shall—

4 (1) evaluate a subgroup of eligible entities that  
5 received a grant under section 4;

6 (2) include an analysis and documentation of  
7 the strategies implemented by the eligible entities as-  
8 sisted under the grants awarded under section 4 and  
9 the key lessons learned, as such lessons relate to  
10 program design, systems coordination, and imple-  
11 mentation;

12 (3) measure the outcomes, and progress toward  
13 the outcomes, of the strategies implemented under  
14 the grants under section 4 in terms of the interim  
15 and transitional indicators of performance under  
16 subsection (b)(2), and if feasible, the long-term indi-  
17 cators of performance under such subsection;

18 (4) document the incremental progress of such  
19 young people over time on the outcomes measured  
20 under paragraph (3);

21 (5) measure the return on investment resulting  
22 from the activities funded with grants under section  
23 4; and

24 (6) begin as soon as practicable after the  
25 awarding of the grant or contract under this section

1 and continue throughout the duration of the periods  
2 of the grants under section 4 so that the plans in-  
3 cluded in the applications under section 5 may be in-  
4 formed by, and conducive to, the evaluation.

5 **SEC. 11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES.**

6 The Secretary shall—

7 (1) in consultation with the Federal Youth De-  
8 velopment Council, the Coordinating Council on Ju-  
9 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estab-  
10 lished under section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and  
11 Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.  
12 5616), the Shared Youth Vision, and other related  
13 agencies, disseminate best practices that emerge  
14 from the programs assisted under this Act in identi-  
15 fying disconnected youth, and in implementing effec-  
16 tive public and private strategies for preparing such  
17 young people to be successful students, workers, and  
18 citizens during and after implementation of the pro-  
19 gram; and

20 (2) provide, directly or through a grant or con-  
21 tract with 1 or more nonprofit organizations selected  
22 through a competitive process, training, technical as-  
23 sistance, and professional development for organiza-  
24 tions serving disconnected youth, including organiza-

1        tions serving such disconnected youth that do not re-  
2        ceive funding under this Act.

3        **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4        (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
5        priated to carry out this Act such sums as may be nec-  
6        essary for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

7        (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to  
8        carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary  
9        shall use—

10            (1) not less than 90 percent of such amount for  
11            grants to eligible entities under section 4 and section  
12            9; and

13            (2) a total of not more than 10 percent of such  
14            amount for the evaluation under section 10(b) and  
15            the training, technical assistance, and dissemination  
16            of best practices under section 11.

○