

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 997

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2013

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. STABENOW) 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 provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, 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 United States economy has faced for-
 5 midable obstacles since the country entered an eco-
 6 nomic recession in 2008. Homeowners face chal-
 7 lenges with high mortgage delinquency and fore-
 8 closure, unemployment is high, particularly for the
 9 most vulnerable in society, and poverty continues to
 10 rise, as the rate stood at 15 percent in 2011, the
 11 highest rate since 1994. Joblessness and economic
 12 insecurity contribute to the incidence of mental ill-
 13 ness, family violence, suicide, substance abuse,
 14 crime, and diminished capacity for health, family,
 15 and community functioning. Social workers form so-

1 ciety’s social safety net. They provide assistance,
2 guidance, and resources to individuals, families, and
3 communities in poverty. They understand the dev-
4 astating costs and consequences of poverty and un-
5 employment and provide direct services in order to
6 prevent and abate economic inequality.

7 (2) The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that
8 employment for social workers is expected to in-
9 crease faster than the average for all occupations
10 through the year 2018, demonstrating a substantial
11 need for social workers.

12 (3) Social work salaries are among the lowest
13 for professionals in general and for those with mas-
14 ter’s level education in particular. According to the
15 National Association of Social Workers Center for
16 Workforce Studies, 60 percent of full-time social
17 workers earn between \$35,000 and \$59,999 per
18 year. Social workers who earn lower salaries are
19 more likely to work in challenging agency environ-
20 ments, serve more vulnerable clients, and leave the
21 profession.

22 (4) The Department of Education stated that
23 72 percent of students graduating from Master of
24 Social Work programs incurred debt to earn their

1 graduate degree. The average debt was approxi-
2 mately \$35,500.

3 (5) Social workers often deal with the most vul-
4 nerable clients in emotional or traumatic situations,
5 and face possible danger as a result. The National
6 Association of Social Workers Center for Workforce
7 Studies found that 44 percent of survey respondents
8 faced personal safety issues on the job. The Occupa-
9 tional Safety and Health Administration states that
10 48 percent of assaults occur in the health care and
11 social services industry.

12 (6) The Alzheimer's Association of America
13 states that 5,300,000 Americans, or 1 in every 8 in-
14 dividuals over the age of 65, have Alzheimer's dis-
15 ease. Social workers in gerontology settings work
16 with older adults, including those with dementia, to
17 support their physiological, psychological, and social
18 needs through mental health therapy, caregiver and
19 family counseling, health education, program coordi-
20 nation, and case management.

21 (7) The Children's Defense Fund states that
22 every 41 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or
23 neglected and every 6 hours a child is killed from
24 abuse or neglect. The Administration for Children
25 and Families of the Department of Health and

1 Human Services states that 423,000 children were
2 in the United States foster care system in 2009.
3 Most children placed in foster care are placed due to
4 parental abuse or neglect. Research shows that pro-
5 fessional social workers employed in child welfare
6 agencies are more likely to find permanent homes
7 for children who were in foster care for 2 or more
8 years. Unfortunately, fewer than 40 percent of child
9 welfare workers are professional social workers.

10 (8) The Department of Health and Human
11 Services estimates that 26.2 percent of (or 1 in 4)
12 individuals in the United States age 18 or older ex-
13periences a diagnosable mental health disorder. Ad-
14ditionally, 1 in 5 children and adolescents experi-
15ences a mental health disorder. At least 1 in 10, or
16about 6,000,000, young people have a serious emo-
17tional disturbance. Social workers provide the major-
18ity of mental health counseling services in the
19United States, and are often the only providers of
20such services in rural areas.

21 (9) Social workers working with veterans and
22their families provide case management, crisis inter-
23ventions, mental health interventions, housing and
24financial counseling, high-risk screening, and advo-
25cacy, among other services. The Department of Vet-

1 erans Affairs, which is the largest employer of social
2 workers (over 10,000 of whom are Master's pre-
3 pared) in the Nation, estimates that there are
4 22,658,000 veterans in the United States. A once-
5 declining veteran population is now surging and is in
6 dire need of mental health treatment to address
7 issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, de-
8 pression, drug and alcohol addiction, and suicidal
9 tendencies.

10 (10) The American Cancer Society estimates
11 that there were 1,529,560 new cases of cancer and
12 569,490 deaths, or 1,500 deaths a day, in 2010
13 alone. The Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
14 tion report that there are over 1,000,000 people liv-
15 ing with HIV or AIDS in the United States, with
16 approximately 56,300 new cases diagnosed each
17 year. In 2009, 1,560,000 people received care from
18 the Nation's hospice providers. Health care and
19 medical social workers practice in areas related to all
20 of these circumstances and provide outreach for pre-
21 vention and health promotion, help individuals and
22 their families adapt to their health conditions, con-
23 nect patients and family caregivers with community
24 services and supports, provide grief counseling, and
25 act as a liaison between individuals and their med-

1 ical team, helping patients make informed decisions
2 about their care.

3 (11) The Children’s Defense Fund notes that
4 every second a public school student is suspended
5 and that every 11 seconds a high school student
6 drops out. The National Center for Education Sta-
7 tistics states that in 2008 the national dropout rate
8 for high school students was 8 percent. Some vulner-
9 able communities have dropout rates of 50 percent
10 or higher. Social workers in school settings help stu-
11 dents avoid dropping out through early identifica-
12 tion, prevention, intervention, counseling, and sup-
13 port services.

14 (12) According to the Department of Justice,
15 every year more than 650,000 ex-offenders are re-
16 leased from Federal and State prisons. Social work-
17 ers employed in the corrections system address dis-
18 proportionate minority incarceration rates, provide
19 treatment for mental health problems and drug and
20 alcohol addiction, and work within as well as outside
21 of the prison to reduce recidivism and increase posi-
22 tive community reentry.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

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

5 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the Social Work Reinvestment Commission
7 established under section 101.

8 (3) COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM.—The term
9 “community-based program” means an agency, or-
10 ganization, or other entity, carrying out a program
11 that provides direct social work services, or commu-
12 nity development services, at a neighborhood, local-
13 ity, or regional level, to address human service,
14 health care, or psychosocial needs.

15 (4) HIGH NEED AND HIGH DEMAND POPU-
16 LATION.—The term “high need and high demand
17 population” means a group that lacks sufficient re-
18 sources and, as a result, has a greater probability of
19 being harmed by specific social, environmental, or
20 health problems than the population as a whole. The
21 group at issue may be a group residing in an area
22 defined by the Health Resources and Services Ad-
23 ministration as a “health professional shortage
24 area”, which has a shortage of primary medical care,
25 dental, or mental health providers.

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

6 (6) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
7 term “minority-serving institution” means an edu-
8 cational institution that serves a large percentage of
9 minority students (as determined by the Secretary of
10 Education), including Alaska Native-serving institu-
11 tions, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, Asian-
12 American and Native American Pacific Islander-
13 serving institutions, Predominantly Black Institu-
14 tions, historically black colleges and universities,
15 Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and
16 Universities, and Native American-serving, nontribal
17 institutions (which shall have the meanings given the
18 terms in section 241(1) of the Higher Education Act
19 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1033(1))).

20 (7) RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER.—
21 The term “related professional researcher” means a
22 person who is professionally engaged in research in
23 a social, political, economic, health, or mental health
24 field. The research referred to in this paragraph is
25 primarily conducted by doctoral level researchers

1 under university, government, research institute, or
2 community agency auspices.

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

5 (9) SOCIAL WORK.—The term “social work”
6 means—

7 (A) the professional activity of helping in-
8 dividuals, groups, or communities enhance or
9 restore capacity for social and psychosocial
10 functioning and creating societal conditions fa-
11 vorable to that enhancement or restoration;

12 (B) an activity, the practice of which con-
13 sists of the professional application of values,
14 principles, and techniques related to the profes-
15 sional activity described in subparagraph (A),
16 including—

17 (i) diagnosis and treatment of mental
18 and emotional disorders with individuals,
19 families, and groups;

20 (ii) helping communities or groups
21 provide or improve social and health serv-
22 ices and participating in relevant legislative
23 processes; and

24 (iii) helping people obtain tangible
25 services; and

1 (C) an activity, the practice of which re-
2 quires knowledge of—

3 (i) human development;

4 (ii) behavior of social, economic, and
5 cultural institutions; and

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

8 (10) SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER.—The term
9 “social work researcher” means a person who stud-
10 ies social work at the individual, family, group, com-
11 munity, policy, or organizational level, focusing
12 across the human life span on prevention of, inter-
13 vention in, treatment of, aftercare of, and rehabilita-
14 tion from acute and chronic social and psychosocial
15 conditions, and includes a person examining the ef-
16 fect of policies on social work practice. The study re-
17 ferred to in this paragraph is primarily conducted by
18 researchers with doctoral degrees who are social
19 workers or faculty under university, government, re-
20 search institute, or community agency auspices.

21 (11) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social work-
22 er” means a graduate of a school of social work with
23 a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree, who
24 uses knowledge and skills to provide social work
25 services for clients who may be individuals, families,

1 groups, communities, organizations, or society in
2 general.

3 **TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK**
4 **REINVESTMENT COMMISSION**

5 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

6 Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the Social Work
8 Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel
9 to Congress and the Secretary on policy issues associated
10 with recruitment for, and retention, research, and rein-
11 vestment in, the profession of social work.

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

13 (a) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later
14 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 Secretary shall appoint members to the Commission. The
16 members shall include representatives of social workers
17 and other members, including the following:

18 (1) 2 deans of schools of social work.

19 (2) 1 social work researcher.

20 (3) 1 related professional researcher.

21 (4) 1 Governor.

22 (5) 2 leaders of national social work organiza-
23 tions.

24 (6) 1 senior social work State official.

25 (7) 1 senior related State official.

1 (8) 2 directors of community-based organiza-
2 tions or nonprofit organizations.

3 (9) 1 labor economist.

4 (10) 1 social work consumer.

5 (11) 1 licensed clinical social worker.

6 (b) APPOINTMENT BY OTHER OFFICERS.—Four ad-
7 ditional members shall be appointed to the Commission,
8 with one member appointed by each of the following offi-
9 cers:

10 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
11 tives.

12 (2) The minority leader of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives.

14 (3) The majority leader of the Senate.

15 (4) The minority leader of the Senate.

16 (c) ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION.—Members
17 of the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, be ap-
18 pointed—

19 (1) in a manner that assures participation of
20 individuals and representatives of groups from dif-
21 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious,
22 linguistic, and class backgrounds and different gen-
23 ders and sexual orientations; and

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

4 (d) SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-
5 PERSON.—The Secretary shall select a chairperson and
6 vice chairperson for the Commission from among the
7 members of the Commission.

8 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-
9 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission, and
10 any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers
11 of the Commission. Any such vacancy shall be filled in the
12 same manner as the original appointment, and shall be
13 filled not later than 60 days after the date of vacancy.

14 (f) SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.—The Commission
15 shall hold its first meeting not later than 6 weeks after
16 the date on which the final member of the Commission
17 is appointed, and subsequent meetings at the call of the
18 chair.

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

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

22 (1) the professional capacity of the social work
23 workforce to successfully serve and respond to the
24 increasing biopsychosocial needs of individuals,
25 groups, and communities, in—

- 1 (A) areas related to—
2 (i) aging;
3 (ii) child welfare;
4 (iii) military and veterans affairs;
5 (iv) mental and behavioral health and
6 disability;
7 (v) criminal justice and correctional
8 systems; and
9 (vi) health and issues affecting women
10 and families; and

11 (B) other areas identified by the Commis-
12 sion;

13 (2)(A) the workforce challenges facing the pro-
14 fession of social work, such as high social work edu-
15 cational debt, lack of fair market compensation, the
16 need to address social work workforce trends, trans-
17 late social work research to practice, promote social
18 work safety, or develop State-level social work licen-
19 sure policies and reciprocity agreements for pro-
20 viding services across State lines, or the lack of di-
21 versity in the social work profession, or the need to
22 address any other area determined by the Secretary
23 to be appropriate; and

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

1 (3) current workforce challenges and shortages
2 relevant to the needs of clients served by social
3 workers;

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

8 (5) the advisability of establishing a social work
9 enhancement account, to provide direct grant assist-
10 ance to local governments to encourage the engage-
11 ment of social workers in social service programs.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
13 date of its first meeting, the Commission shall submit a
14 report to the Secretary and Congress containing specific
15 findings and conclusions regarding the need for recruit-
16 ment for, and retention, research, and reinvestment in, the
17 profession of social work. The report shall include rec-
18 ommendations and strategies for corrective actions to en-
19 sure a robust social work workforce capable of keeping up
20 with the demand for needed services. The Commission
21 may provide to Congress any additional findings or rec-
22 ommendations considered by the Commission to be impor-
23 tant.

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

2 (a) POWERS.—The Commission shall have the power
3 to—

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

9 (2) delegate the Commission powers described
10 in paragraph (1) to any Commission subcommittee
11 or member of the Commission for the purpose of
12 carrying out this Act;

13 (3) enter into contracts to enable the Commis-
14 sion to perform the Commission's work under this
15 Act; and

16 (4) consult, to the extent that the Commission
17 determines that such consultation is necessary or
18 useful, with other agencies and organizations, in-
19 cluding—

20 (A) agencies within the Department of
21 Health and Human Services, including the Ad-
22 ministration for Children and Families, the Ad-
23 ministration on Aging, the Agency for
24 Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers
25 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers
26 for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Health

1 Resources and Service Administration, the In-
2 dian Health Service, the National Institutes of
3 Health, and the Substance Abuse and Mental
4 Health Services Administration;

5 (B) the Social Security Administration;

6 (C) the Departments of Agriculture, De-
7 fense, Education, Homeland Security, Labor,
8 Justice, State, and Veterans Affairs; and

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

11 (b) COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION.—The
12 agencies described in subsection (a)(4) shall cooperate
13 with and provide counsel to the Commission to the great-
14 est extent practicable.

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

16 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
17 mission shall not receive compensation for the perform-
18 ance of services for the Commission, but shall be allowed
19 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
20 at rates authorized for employees of agencies under sub-
21 chapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,
22 while away from their homes or regular places of business
23 in the performance of services for the Commission. Not-
24 withstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code,

1 the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompen-
 2 sated services of members of the Commission.

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

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

9 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the
 10 date on which the Commission submits its report under
 11 section 103.

12 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
 14 retary such sums as may be necessary for use by the ac-
 15 tivities of the Commission.

16 **TITLE II—REINVESTMENT**
 17 **GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUP-**
 18 **PORT SOCIAL WORK PROFES-**
 19 **SION**

20 **SEC. 201. WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

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

1 (b) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award
2 grants under this section in equal amounts to the 4 eligible
3 entities. The Secretary shall award the grants annually
4 over a 4-year period.

5 (c) LOCAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES RE-
6 QUIREMENT.—At least 2 of the grant recipients shall be
7 State or local government agencies.

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

10 (1) work in a social work capacity that dem-
11 onstrates a need regarding a workplace concern area
12 described in subsection (a);

13 (2) demonstrate—

14 (A) participation in the entities' programs
15 of individuals and groups from different racial,
16 ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic,
17 and class backgrounds, and different genders
18 and sexual orientations; and

19 (B) knowledge and understanding of the
20 concerns of the individuals and groups de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (A);

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

24 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
25 uals employed by the entities as competent only

1 within the boundaries of their education, training, li-
2 censes, certification, consultation received, super-
3 vised experience, or other relevant professional expe-
4 rience.

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

8 (1) are equipped with the capacity to oversee
9 and monitor a workplace improvement program car-
10 ried out under this section, including proven fiscal
11 responsibility and administrative capability; and

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

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

18 **SEC. 202. RESEARCH GRANTS.**

19 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
20 award grants to not less than 25 social workers who hold
21 a doctoral degree in social work, for post-doctoral research
22 in social work—

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

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

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

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

8 (1) demonstrate knowledge and understanding
9 of the concerns of individuals and groups from dif-
10 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious,
11 linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different gen-
12 ders and sexual orientations; and

13 (2) provide services and represent themselves as
14 competent only within the boundaries of their edu-
15 cation, training, licenses, certification, consultation
16 received, supervised experience, or other relevant
17 professional experience.

18 (d) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—At least 10 of the
19 social workers awarded grants under subsection (a) shall
20 be employed by a historically black college or university
21 or minority-serving institution.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Secretary
24 to award grants under this section.

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

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
3 award 20 grants to eligible institutions of higher education
4 to support the recruitment of social work students for, and
5 education of the students in, baccalaureate, master's, and
6 doctoral degree programs, as well as the development of
7 faculty in social work.

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

13 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for
14 a grant under this section, an institution shall dem-
15 onstrate—

16 (1) participation in the institutions' programs
17 of individuals and groups from different racial, eth-
18 nic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and
19 class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual
20 orientations; and

21 (2) knowledge and understanding of the con-
22 cerns of the individuals and groups described in
23 paragraph (1).

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

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

4 (1) are accredited by the Council on Social
 5 Work Education;

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

8 (3) exhibit an ability to recruit social workers
 9 from and place social workers in areas with a high
 10 need and high demand population.

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

14 **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE**
 15 **GRANTS.**

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

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

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

23 (2) a nonprofit organization that is carrying out
 24 a program of excellence.

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

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

7 (1) carry out programs in the areas of aging,
8 child welfare, military and veteran’s issues, mental
9 and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice
10 and correction systems, and health and issues affect-
11 ing women and families;

12 (2) demonstrate—

13 (A) participation in the covered entities’
14 programs of individuals and groups from dif-
15 ferent racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, reli-
16 gious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and
17 different genders and sexual orientations; and

18 (B) knowledge and understanding of the
19 concerns of the individuals and groups de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A);

21 (3) demonstrate a record of active participation
22 of social workers in the covered entities’ programs;
23 and

24 (4) provide services and represent the individ-
25 uals employed by the covered entities as competent

1 only within the boundaries of their education, train-
2 ing, licenses, certification, consultation received, su-
3 pervised experience, or other relevant professional
4 experience.

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

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

10 (2) have been in operation for at least 2 years;
11 and

12 (3) work with high need and high demand pop-
13 ulations.

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

17 **SEC. 205. NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into
19 a contract with a national social work entity that—

20 (1) has experience in coordinating the transfer
21 of information and ideas among entities engaged in
22 social work research, practice, education, and policy-
23 making; and

24 (2) maintains relationships with Federal enti-
25 ties, social work degree-granting institutions of high-

1 er education and departments of social work within
2 such institutions, and organizations and agencies
3 that employ social workers.

4 (b) GENERAL DUTIES.—The contract recipient (re-
5 ferred to in this section as the “coordinating center”) shall
6 serve as a coordinating center and shall organize informa-
7 tion and other data, collect and report data, serve as a
8 clearinghouse, and coordinate activities with the entities,
9 institutions, departments, organizations, and agencies de-
10 scribed in subsection (a)(2).

11 (c) COLLABORATION.—The coordinating center shall
12 work with institutions of higher education, research enti-
13 ties, and entities with social work practice settings to iden-
14 tify key research areas to be pursued, identify qualified
15 research fellows, and organize appropriate mentorship and
16 professional development efforts.

17 (d) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING
18 CENTER.—The coordinating center shall—

19 (1) build on the efforts of the National Associa-
20 tion of Social Workers National Center for Work-
21 force Studies;

22 (2) collect, coordinate, monitor, and distribute
23 data, information on best practices and findings re-
24 garding the activities funded under grants made to

1 eligible entities and individuals under the grant pro-
2 grams described in sections 201 through 204;

3 (3) prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-
4 port that includes recommendations regarding the
5 need to recruit new social workers, retain current so-
6 cial workers, conduct social work research, and rein-
7 vest in the profession of social work; and

8 (4) demonstrate cultural competency and pro-
9 mote the participation of diverse groups.

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

12 (1) select topics to be researched under this sec-
13 tion;

14 (2) select candidates and finalists for research
15 fellow positions; and

16 (3) determine other activities to be carried out
17 under this section.

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
20 section for each of fiscal years 2013 to 2017.

21 **SEC. 206. MULTIMEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.**

22 (a) DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC SERV-
23 ICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Secretary shall develop and
24 issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-
25 mote the social work profession, highlight the advantages

1 and rewards of social work, and encourage individuals to
2 enter the social work profession.

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

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
10 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
11 2013 through 2016.

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