

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4643

To improve the literacy and English skills of limited English proficient individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To improve the literacy and English skills of limited English proficient individuals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Families Learning and
5 Understanding English Together Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Census Bureau reports that in 2011,
9 20.8 percent of United States households speak a
10 language other than English at home.

1 (2) Many parents in many recently immigrated
2 families speak little to no English, possess low lit-
3 eracy skills in their native language due to limited
4 education, and frequently struggle to assist their
5 children’s English language development.

6 (3) The United States is a nation of immi-
7 grants, and even today, according to the 2010 up-
8 date of the Census, nearly 40,000,000 individuals
9 who live in the United States were born outside the
10 country.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

12 The purpose of this Act is to improve the educational,
13 social, and economic advancement of families with limited
14 English proficient individuals in need of literacy skills by
15 expanding and enhancing family literacy services for such
16 families.

17 **SEC. 4. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds made
19 available pursuant to section 9, and after reserving funds
20 under section 9(b), the Secretary may award grants to
21 family literacy providers to provide, directly or through a
22 contract with another provider, family literacy services de-
23 signed for families with limited English proficient individ-
24 uals. Each grant under this Act shall be for a period of

1 1 year and may be renewed for a total of 5 additional
2 years.

3 (b) APPLICATION.—Family literacy providers who de-
4 sire to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an ap-
5 plication at such time, containing such information, and
6 in such manner as the Secretary may require. Such appli-
7 cation shall include the following:

8 (1) An assurance that services provided with
9 funds under this Act shall be provided to the hard-
10 est-to-reach populations, including populations with
11 the greatest economic and social need.

12 (2) A description of the services that will be
13 provided with funds under this Act, including how
14 the services will be based on research-based reading
15 instruction for children who are English learners
16 and parents who are limited English proficient.

17 (3) A description of the outcome measures, con-
18 sistent with section 6, that are based on scientifically
19 based research and will be employed by the family
20 literacy provider to measure the effectiveness of
21 services provided with funds under this Act.

22 (4) An assurance that, in providing family lit-
23 eracy services through the grant, the family literacy
24 provider will collaborate with one or more of the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (A) A local educational agency.

2 (B) An elementary school.

3 (C) A secondary school.

4 (D) A nonprofit entity.

5 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
6 this Act for a fiscal year shall not be less than \$150,000
7 or more than \$1,000,000.

8 (d) SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.—Family literacy
9 services under this Act shall be provided in sufficient in-
10 tensity in terms of hours, and shall be of sufficient dura-
11 tion, to make sustainable changes in a family and shall
12 integrate all of the following activities:

13 (1) Interactive literacy activities between par-
14 ents and their children.

15 (2) Training for parents regarding how to be
16 the primary teacher for their children and full part-
17 ners in the education of their children.

18 (3) Parent literacy training that leads to eco-
19 nomic self-sufficiency.

20 (4) An age-appropriate education to prepare
21 children for success in school and life experiences.

22 (e) SPECIAL RULE.—Family literacy services under
23 this Act may be provided to a family only if—

24 (1) each parent in the family has attained 16
25 years of age; and

1 (2) the family has at least one child from birth
2 who has not yet attained 8 years of age.

3 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

4 (a) ACTIVITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary, act-
5 ing through the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and
6 Secondary Education, shall, through grants or contracts
7 as described in subsection (b), provide technical assistance
8 and training to grantees under this Act for the purposes
9 described in subsection (c).

10 (b) ACTIVITIES BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
12 grants to, or enter into contracts with, at least 2 eli-
13 gible national organizations to provide technical as-
14 sistance and training to grantees under this Act for
15 the purposes described in subsection (c).

16 (2) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “el-
17 igible national organization” means a national orga-
18 nization with expertise in providing family literacy
19 services to limited English proficient populations.

20 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of technical assistance
21 and training provided under this section are the following:

22 (1) Assisting grantees under this Act to im-
23 prove the quality of their family literacy services.

24 (2) Enabling such grantees that demonstrate
25 the effective provision of family literacy services,

1 based on improved outcomes for children and their
2 parents, to provide technical assistance and training
3 to government agencies and to family literacy pro-
4 viders that work in collaboration with such agencies
5 to improve the quality of their family literacy serv-
6 ices.

7 (3) Assisting such grantees in the implementa-
8 tion of literacy curriculum and training activities, in-
9 cluding curriculum and training activities that sup-
10 port building on a child's native language.

11 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
12 after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall sub-
13 mit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce
14 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a
16 report on the technical assistance and training provided
17 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b). Each such report
18 shall describe the actions taken by the Secretary to ensure
19 that such technical assistance and training is of high-qual-
20 ity and is responsive to the needs of grantees under this
21 Act.

22 **SEC. 6. OUTCOME MEASURES.**

23 The Secretary shall require each family literacy pro-
24 vider receiving a grant under this Act to meet culturally
25 appropriate and competent outcome measures described in

1 the provider's application under section 4, including out-
2 come measures with respect to—

3 (1) acquisition of the English language, includ-
4 ing improved educational levels;

5 (2) literacy skills and building of a home lan-
6 guage;

7 (3) improved parenting and life skills;

8 (4) the improved ability of parents with limited
9 English proficiency to effectively interact with offi-
10 cials of the schools their children attend;

11 (5) improved developmental skills and inde-
12 pendent learning of the children; and

13 (6) increased parental participation in their
14 children's education and home environments that are
15 supportive of educational endeavors.

16 **SEC. 7. EVALUATION.**

17 The Secretary shall conduct an annual evaluation of
18 the grant program under this Act. Such evaluation shall
19 be used by the Secretary—

20 (1) for program improvement;

21 (2) to further define the program's goals and
22 objectives; and

23 (3) to determine program effectiveness.

24 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

25 For purposes of this Act:

1 (1) APPLICATION OF ESEA TERMS.—The terms
2 “elementary school”, “English learner”, “local edu-
3 cational agency”, and “secondary school” have the
4 meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the
5 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

7 (2) FAMILY LITERACY PROVIDER.—The term
8 “family literacy provider” means an entity that—

9 (A) is located in a geographic area con-
10 taining at least one public elementary school or
11 secondary school with a majority enrollment of
12 children who are English learners; and

13 (B) is one of the following:

14 (i) A grantee under the Head Start
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), or any other
16 Federal or State early childhood program.

17 (ii) An adult education provider.

18 (iii) A local educational agency.

19 (iv) A public or private nonprofit
20 agency.

21 (v) Another entity that has the dem-
22 onstrated ability to provide family literacy
23 services to limited English proficient adults
24 and families.

1 (3) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED READING RE-
2 SEARCH.—The term “scientifically based reading re-
3 search” means research that—

4 (A) applies rigorous, systematic, and objec-
5 tive procedures to obtain valid knowledge rel-
6 evant to reading development, reading instruc-
7 tion, and reading difficulties; and

8 (B) includes research that—

9 (i) employs systematic, empirical
10 methods that draw on observation or ex-
11 periment;

12 (ii) involves rigorous data analyses
13 that are adequate to test the stated
14 hypotheses and justify the general conclu-
15 sions drawn;

16 (iii) relies on measurements or obser-
17 vational methods that provide valid data
18 across evaluators and observers and across
19 multiple measurements and observations;
20 and

21 (iv) has been accepted by a peer-re-
22 viewed journal or approved by a panel of
23 independent experts through a comparably
24 rigorous, objective, and scientific review.

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
5 priated to carry out this Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2017 through 2021.

7 (b) RESERVATIONS.—From funds made available
8 pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary
9 shall reserve—

10 (1) not more than 2 percent of such funds for
11 conducting the annual evaluation required by section
12 7; and

13 (2) \$5,000,000 for technical assistance and
14 training under section 5.

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