

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1532

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

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2019

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. YARMUTH, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. LEWIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

---

## 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 related to 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
 6 this Act is as follows:

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

TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

Sec. 101. Establishment.  
 Sec. 102. Members.  
 Sec. 103. Duties.  
 Sec. 104. Powers.  
 Sec. 105. Compensation.  
 Sec. 106. Termination.

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.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Although the United States poverty rate has  
 10 had a slight decline to 12.3 percent in 2017, poverty  
 11 remains a social issue for our Nation, especially for  
 12 communities of color and women and children who  
 13 continue to experience higher than average poverty  
 14 rates. Homeowners and those seeking to become  
 15 homeowners continue to face challenges with high  
 16 mortgage delinquency, mortgage loan interest rates,

1       and threats of foreclosure. Joblessness and economic  
2       insecurity contribute to the incidence of mental ill-  
3       ness, family violence, suicide, substance abuse,  
4       crime, and diminished capacity for health, family,  
5       and community functioning.

6           (2) Social workers form society's social safety  
7       net. Social workers provide assistance, guidance, and  
8       resources to individuals, families, and communities  
9       in poverty. Additionally, they understand the dev-  
10      astating costs and consequences of poverty and un-  
11      employment on our society and provide direct serv-  
12      ices in order to prevent and abate economic inequal-  
13      ity.

14          (3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects  
15      that the social work profession will grow at an  
16      above-average rate through the year 2026, with a  
17      16-percent growth rate overall and a 20-percent pro-  
18      jected growth rate for health care social workers.  
19      This increase is faster than the 7-percent average  
20      for all occupations, demonstrating a substantial need  
21      for social workers in our Nation.

22          (4) Social work salaries, on average, are among  
23      the lowest for all occupations in the United States  
24      and for those with master's level education in par-  
25      ticular. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

1 the median annual income for social workers in  
2 2017 was \$47,980.

3 (5) The report titled “2017 Statistics on Social  
4 Work Education in the United States” by the Coun-  
5 cil on Social Work Education stated that 77.7 per-  
6 cent of students graduating from Master of Social  
7 Work programs incurred debt to earn their graduate  
8 degree. The average debt for a Master of Social  
9 Work degree was approximately \$44,296.

10 (6) Social workers often deal with the most vul-  
11 nerable clients in emotional or traumatic situations,  
12 and face possible danger as a result. The National  
13 Association of Social Workers Center for Workforce  
14 Studies found that 44 percent of survey respondents  
15 faced personal safety issues on the job. In 2015, the  
16 Occupational Safety and Health Administration re-  
17 ported that 75 percent of workplace assaults that oc-  
18 curred between 2011 and 2013 took place in the  
19 health care and social services industries.

20 (7) The Alzheimer’s Association of America  
21 states that 5.7 million Americans, or 1 in every 10  
22 individuals over the age of 65, have Alzheimer’s dis-  
23 ease. Social workers in gerontology settings work  
24 with older adults, including those with dementia, to  
25 support their physiological, psychological, and social

1 needs through mental health therapy, caregiver and  
2 family counseling, health education, program coordi-  
3 nation, and case management.

4 (8) The Children’s Defense Fund states that  
5 every 47 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or  
6 neglected and every 5½ hours a child is killed from  
7 abuse or neglect. The Administration for Children  
8 and Families of the Department of Health and  
9 Human Services states that 437,500 children were  
10 in the United States foster care system at the end  
11 of fiscal year 2016. Most children placed in foster  
12 care are placed due to parental abuse or neglect. Re-  
13 search shows that professional social workers em-  
14 ployed in child welfare agencies are more likely to  
15 find permanent homes for children who have been in  
16 foster care for 2 or more years. Unfortunately, less  
17 than 40 percent of child welfare workers are profes-  
18 sional social workers.

19 (9) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
20 Services Administration of the Department of  
21 Health and Human Services estimates that 46.6 mil-  
22 lion individuals (nearly 1 in 5 or 18.9 percent) in  
23 the United States age 18 or older experienced a  
24 diagnosable mental illness in 2017. Additionally, at  
25 least 3 million (1 in 10 or 13.3 percent) youth be-

1       tween the ages of 12 and 17 experienced at least one  
2       major depressive episode in the past year. Social  
3       workers provide the majority of mental health coun-  
4       seling services in the United States, and are often  
5       the only providers of such services in rural areas.

6           (10) Social workers working with veterans and  
7       their families provide services that include case man-  
8       agement, crisis interventions, mental health inter-  
9       ventions, housing and financial counseling, high-risk  
10      screening, and advocacy. The Department of Vet-  
11      erans Affairs, which is the largest employer of social  
12      workers in the Nation, employs over 12,000 social  
13      workers who are available to serve an estimated 20.4  
14      million veterans in the United States. A once-declin-  
15      ing veteran population is now surging and is in dire  
16      need of mental health treatment to address issues  
17      such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,  
18      drug and alcohol addiction, and suicidal tendencies.

19          (11) The American Cancer Society estimated  
20      that there would be 1,735,350 new cases of cancer  
21      and 609,640 cancer deaths, or 1,670 deaths a day,  
22      in 2018 alone. The Centers for Disease Control and  
23      Prevention report that there are over 1,100,000 peo-  
24      ple living with HIV in the United States, with ap-  
25      proximately 38,500 new cases diagnosed in 2015. In

1       2017, 1,430,000 to 1,700,000 people received care  
2       from the Nation's hospice providers. Health care  
3       and medical social workers practice in areas related  
4       to all of these circumstances and provide outreach  
5       for prevention and health promotion, help individ-  
6       uals and their families adapt to their health condi-  
7       tions, connect patients and family caregivers with  
8       community services and supports, provide grief  
9       counseling, and act as a liaison between individuals  
10      and their medical team, helping patients make in-  
11      formed decisions about their care.

12           (12) The Children's Defense Fund notes that  
13      every 2 seconds a public school student is suspended  
14      and that every 9 seconds a high school student drops  
15      out. The National Center for Education Statistics  
16      states that in 2016 the national dropout rate for  
17      high school students was 6.1 percent. Some vulner-  
18      able communities have dropout rates of 50 percent  
19      or higher. Social workers in school settings help stu-  
20      dents avoid dropping out through early identifica-  
21      tion, prevention, intervention, counseling, and sup-  
22      port services.

23           (13) According to the Department of Justice,  
24      every year more than 650,000 ex-offenders are re-  
25      leased from Federal and State prisons. Social work-

1       ers employed in the correctional system address dis-  
2       proportionate minority incarceration rates, provide  
3       treatment for mental health problems and drug and  
4       alcohol addiction, and work within, as well as out-  
5       side of, prisons to reduce recidivism and increase  
6       positive community reentry.

7       **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8       In this Act:

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

13              (2) COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM.—The term  
14       “community-based program” means an agency, or-  
15       ganization, or other entity carrying out a program  
16       that provides direct social work services or commu-  
17       nity development services at a neighborhood, local,  
18       or regional level, to address human service, health  
19       care, or psychosocial needs.

20              (3) HIGH NEED AND HIGH DEMAND POPU-  
21       LATION.—The term “high need and high demand  
22       population” means a group of individuals that lacks  
23       sufficient resources and, as a result, has a greater  
24       probability of being harmed by specific social, envi-  
25       ronmental, or health problems than the population



1 as a whole. Such term includes a group of individ-  
2 uals residing in an area designated by the Health  
3 Resources and Services Administration as a “health  
4 professional shortage area” due to a shortage of pri-  
5 mary medical care, dental, or mental health pro-  
6 viders.

7 (4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-  
8 VERSITY.—The term “historically black college or  
9 university” has the meaning given the term “part B  
10 institution” in section 322(2) of the Higher Edu-  
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

12 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
13 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-  
14 tution of higher education that serves a large per-  
15 centage of minority students, as determined by the  
16 Secretary of Education, including the following:

17 (A) Alaska Native-serving institutions, as  
18 defined in section 317(b)(2) of the Higher Edu-  
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(2)).

20 (B) Native Hawaiian-serving institutions,  
21 as defined in section 317(b)(4) of such Act (20  
22 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(4)).

23 (C) Asian American and Native American  
24 Pacific Islander-serving institutions, as defined

1 in section 320(b)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
2 1059g(b)(2)).

3 (D) Hispanic-serving institutions, as de-  
4 fined in section 502(a)(5) of such Act (20  
5 U.S.C. 1101(a)(5)).

6 (E) Tribal Colleges and Universities, as de-  
7 fined in section 316(b)(3) of such Act (20  
8 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3)).

9 (F) Native American-serving, nontribal in-  
10 stitutions, as defined in section 319(b)(2) of  
11 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)(2)).

12 (G) Predominantly Black Institutions, as  
13 defined in section 318(b)(6) of such Act (20  
14 U.S.C. 1059e(b)(6)).

15 (H) Historically black colleges or univer-  
16 sities.

17 (6) PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.—The term  
18 “program of excellence” means a program of distinc-  
19 tion in a field related to human service, hosted by  
20 a public or private agency, that has received State  
21 or national recognition or another clearly defined in-  
22 dicator appropriate to the mission of the program,  
23 has clearly defined and measurable goals and objec-  
24 tives, regularly assesses outcomes, and can provide

1 evidence of a strong assessment plan that utilizes as-  
2 sessment data to improve the program.

3 (7) RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER.—

4 The term “related professional researcher” means a  
5 doctoral level researcher or any other individual who  
6 is professionally engaged in research in a social, po-  
7 litical, economic, health, or mental health field other  
8 than social work for an entity such as a university,  
9 government entity, research institute, or community  
10 agency.

11 (8) SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.—The term

12 “school of social work” means a school that is ac-  
13 credited by the Council on Social Work Education  
14 (the sole accrediting agency recognized by the Coun-  
15 cil for Higher Education Accreditation for social  
16 work education in the United States) within an in-  
17 stitution of higher education, that offers bacca-  
18 laureate, master’s, or doctoral degrees in social  
19 work.

20 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means

21 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

22 (10) SOCIAL WORK.—The term “social work”

23 means—

24 (A) the professional activity of helping in-

25 dividuals, groups, or communities enhance or

1 restore capacity for social and psychosocial  
2 functioning and creating societal conditions fa-  
3 vorable to such enhancement or restoration;

4 (B) the professional application of values,  
5 principles, and techniques related to the activity  
6 described in subparagraph (A), including—

7 (i) diagnosing mental and emotional  
8 disorders and treating individuals, families,  
9 or groups for such disorders;

10 (ii) helping communities or groups  
11 provide or improve social and health serv-  
12 ices and participating in relevant legislative  
13 processes to achieve such goals; and

14 (iii) helping individuals, families, or  
15 groups obtain tangible services, including  
16 personal, protective, informational, advi-  
17 sory, community, or maintenance services  
18 in order to improve the overall well-being  
19 of individuals; and

20 (C) a professional activity that requires  
21 knowledge of human development, the behavior  
22 of social, economic, and cultural institutions,  
23 and the interaction between such development  
24 and behavior.

1           (11) SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER.—The term  
 2           “social work researcher” means a faculty member of  
 3           an institution of higher education, doctoral level re-  
 4           searcher, or any other individual who is profes-  
 5           sionally engaged in the study of social work for an  
 6           entity such as a university, government entity, re-  
 7           search institute, or community agency at an indi-  
 8           vidual, family, group, community, organizational, or  
 9           policy level, focusing across the human life span on  
 10          prevention, treatment, and aftercare of, intervention  
 11          in, and rehabilitation from, acute and chronic social  
 12          and psychosocial conditions, including the study of  
 13          the effect of policies on social work practice.

14          (12) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social work-  
 15          er” means an individual with a baccalaureate, mas-  
 16          ter’s, or doctoral degree in social work from an insti-  
 17          tution of higher education who uses knowledge and  
 18          skills to provide social work services for individuals,  
 19          families, groups, communities, organizations, or soci-  
 20          ety in general.

## 21                   **TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK** 22                   **REINVESTMENT COMMISSION**

### 23   **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.**

24          Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
 25          ment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the Social

1 Work Reinvestment Commission (referred to in this title  
2 as the “Commission”) to provide independent counsel to  
3 Congress and the Secretary on policy issues related to re-  
4 cruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the  
5 profession of social work.

6 **SEC. 102. MEMBERS.**

7 (a) APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than  
8 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
9 Secretary shall appoint members to the Commission. The  
10 members shall include—

11 (1) 2 deans of schools of social work;

12 (2) 1 social work researcher;

13 (3) 1 related professional researcher;

14 (4) 1 Governor of a State;

15 (5) 2 leaders of national social work organiza-  
16 tions;

17 (6) 1 senior State government employee who is  
18 not an elected official who has a baccalaureate, mas-  
19 ter’s, or doctoral degree in social work;

20 (7) 1 related senior State government employee  
21 who is not an elected official;

22 (8) 2 directors of community-based organiza-  
23 tions or nonprofit organizations that provide human  
24 services;

25 (9) 1 labor economist;

1 (10) 1 social work consumer; and

2 (11) 1 licensed clinical social worker.

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

6 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representa-  
7 tives.

8 (2) The minority leader of the House of Rep-  
9 resentatives.

10 (3) The majority leader of the Senate.

11 (4) The minority leader of the Senate.

12 (c) ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION.—To the ex-  
13 tent practicable, members of the Commission shall be ap-  
14 pointed—

15 (1) in a manner that ensures participation of  
16 individuals of different racial, ethnic, cultural, geo-  
17 graphic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds  
18 and of different genders and sexual orientations; and

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

22 (d) SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-  
23 PERSON.—The Secretary shall appoint a Chairperson and  
24 Vice Chairperson for the Commission from among the  
25 members of the Commission.

1 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Mem-  
 2 bers shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any  
 3 vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of  
 4 the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner  
 5 as the original appointment not later than 60 days after  
 6 the date of vacancy.

7 (f) SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.—The Commission  
 8 shall hold its first meeting not later than 6 weeks after  
 9 the date on which the final member of the Commission  
 10 is appointed, and subsequent meetings shall be held at the  
 11 call of the Chairperson.

12 **SEC. 103. DUTIES.**

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

15 (1) the professional capacity of the social work  
 16 workforce to successfully serve and respond to the  
 17 increasing biopsychosocial needs of individuals,  
 18 groups, and communities in areas related to—

19 (A) aging;

20 (B) child welfare;

21 (C) military and veterans affairs;

22 (D) mental and behavioral health and dis-  
 23 ability;

24 (E) criminal justice and correctional sys-  
 25 tems;



1 (F) health and other issues affecting  
2 women and families; and

3 (G) other topics identified by the Commis-  
4 sion;

5 (2) workforce challenges facing the profession  
6 of social work, including high educational debt, lack  
7 of fair market compensation, the need to translate  
8 social work research to practice, the need to improve  
9 social worker safety, the need to develop State-level  
10 social work licensure policies and reciprocity agree-  
11 ments for social workers providing services across  
12 State lines, the lack of diversity in the social work  
13 profession, and any other issue determined by the  
14 Secretary to be appropriate;

15 (3) the effect of such challenges on the recruit-  
16 ment and retention of social workers;

17 (4) the effect of such challenges and of social  
18 worker shortages on the needs of clients served by  
19 social workers; and

20 (5) the advisability of establishing in the Treas-  
21 ury a social work enhancement account to provide  
22 direct grant assistance to local governments to en-  
23 courage the engagement of social workers in social  
24 service programs.

1       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
2 date of its first meeting, the Commission shall submit a  
3 report to the Secretary and to Congress containing specific  
4 findings and conclusions regarding the need to recruit and  
5 retain social workers, to conduct research on the social  
6 work profession, and to reinvest in the profession. The re-  
7 port shall include recommendations and strategies for cor-  
8 rective actions to ensure a robust social work workforce  
9 capable of keeping up with the demand for services. The  
10 Commission may provide to the Secretary and to Congress  
11 any additional findings or recommendations considered by  
12 the Commission to be important.

13 **SEC. 104. POWERS.**

14       (a) POWERS.—In carrying out the duties of the Com-  
15 mission, the Commission shall have the power to—

16           (1) hold hearings, take testimony, receive evi-  
17 dence, administer oaths, and sit and act at such  
18 times and places as the Commission considers advis-  
19 able;

20           (2) enter into contracts; and

21           (3) consult, to the extent that the Commission  
22 determines that such consultation is necessary or  
23 useful, with Federal agencies that include—

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           and

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

15       (b) COOPERATION WITH COMMISSION.—The agen-  
 16       cies described in subsection (a)(3) shall cooperate with,  
 17       and provide counsel to, the Commission to the greatest  
 18       extent practicable.

19       **SEC. 105. COMPENSATION.**

20       (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-  
 21       mission shall not receive compensation for the perform-  
 22       ance of services for the Commission, but shall be provided  
 23       travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,  
 24       at rates authorized for employees of Federal agencies  
 25       under subchapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States

1 Code, while away from their homes or regular places of  
2 business in the performance of services for the Commis-  
3 sion.

4 (b) VOLUNTARY AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—  
5 Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States  
6 Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncom-  
7 pensated services of members of the Commission.

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

13 **SEC. 106. TERMINATION.**

14 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the  
15 date on which the Commission submits the report under  
16 section 103(b).

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

21 **SEC. 201. WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

22 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
23 award grants to 4 eligible entities described in subsection  
24 (d) to assist the entities in carrying out a workplace im-  
25 provement program to address concerns for the social

1 work profession, including caseloads, compensation, social  
2 worker safety, supervision, and working conditions.

3 (b) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to  
4 each of the 4 grant recipients under this section  
5 \$1,000,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years  
6 beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the  
7 date of the enactment of this Act.

8 (c) GRANTS TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—  
9 At least 2 of the grant recipients under this section shall  
10 be agencies of State or local governments.

11 (d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—An entity eligible  
12 for a grant under this section shall—

13 (1) work in a social work capacity;

14 (2) demonstrate that the entity needs to im-  
15 prove in one or more of the workplace concern areas  
16 described in subsection (a);

17 (3) provide services to individuals of different  
18 racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, lin-  
19 guistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders  
20 and sexual orientations;

21 (4) demonstrate knowledge and understanding  
22 of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph  
23 (3); and

24 (5) employ individuals who represent themselves  
25 as competent to provide social work services only

1 within the boundaries of their education, training, li-  
2 censes, certification, professional case consultation,  
3 supervised experience, or other relevant professional  
4 experience.

5 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under  
6 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible en-  
7 tities—

8 (1) that have proven to be fiscally responsible,  
9 administratively capable, and otherwise equipped to  
10 oversee and monitor a workplace improvement pro-  
11 gram under this section, including through a labor-  
12 management partnership;

13 (2) that are knowledgeable about relevant social  
14 work workforce trends; and

15 (3) that have not less than 2 years of experi-  
16 ence relevant to the workplace improvement pro-  
17 gram.

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 are authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 to the Sec-  
20 retary to award grants under this section.

21 **SEC. 202. RESEARCH GRANTS.**

22 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
23 award grants to 25 social workers who hold a doctoral de-  
24 gree in social work for postdoctoral research in social  
25 work—

1           (1) to further the knowledge base about effective social work interventions; and

3           (2) to promote usable strategies to translate research into practice across diverse community settings and service systems.

6           (b) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to each of the 25 grant recipients under this section \$50,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

13           (1) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concerns of individuals from different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations; and

18           (2) represent themselves as competent to provide social work services only within the boundaries of their education, training, licenses, certification, professional case consultation, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience.

23          (d) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—Not less than 10 of the grant recipients under this section shall be employed

1 by a historically black college or university or minority-  
2 serving institution.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Sec-  
5 retary to award grants under this section.

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

7 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
8 award grants to 20 eligible institutions of higher education  
9 to support the recruitment and education of social work  
10 students in baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree  
11 programs and the professional development of social work  
12 faculty.

13 (b) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to  
14 each of the 20 grant recipients under this section  
15 \$200,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years be-  
16 ginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date  
17 of the enactment of this Act.

18 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for  
19 a grant under this section, an institution shall dem-  
20 onstrate that—

21 (1) the institution enrolls social work students  
22 from different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, re-  
23 ligious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and dif-  
24 ferent genders and sexual orientations; and



1           (2) the institution has knowledge and under-  
2           standing of the concerns of the groups described in  
3           paragraph (1).

4           (d) INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 4  
5           of the grant recipients under this section shall be histori-  
6           cally black colleges or universities or other minority-serv-  
7           ing institutions.

8           (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under  
9           this section, the Secretary shall give priority to institutions  
10          of higher education—

11           (1) that are accredited by the Council on Social  
12          Work Education;

13           (2) that have a graduation rate of not less than  
14          80 percent for social work students; and

15           (3) that exhibit an ability to recruit social work-  
16          ers from, and place social workers in, areas with a  
17          high need and high demand population.

18          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19          are authorized to be appropriated \$16,000,000 to the Sec-  
20          retary to award grants under this section.

21      **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE**  
22                                      **GRANTS.**

23          (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
24          award grants to 6 eligible covered entities to test and rep-  
25          licate effective social work interventions.

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

3 (1) a State or local government or a depart-  
4 ment, agency, special-purpose district, or other in-  
5 strumentality of a State or local government, that is  
6 carrying out a community-based program of excel-  
7 lence; or

8 (2) a nonprofit organization that is carrying out  
9 a program of excellence.

10 (c) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to  
11 each of the 6 grant recipients under this section \$500,000  
12 per fiscal year for 3 consecutive fiscal years beginning with  
13 the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enact-  
14 ment of this Act.

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

17 (1) carry out programs in the areas of aging,  
18 child welfare, military and veterans issues, mental  
19 and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice  
20 and correction systems, and health and other issues  
21 affecting women and families;

22 (2) provide services to individuals of different  
23 racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, lin-  
24 guistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders  
25 and sexual orientations;

1           (3) demonstrate knowledge and understanding  
2       of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph  
3       (2);

4           (4) demonstrate a record of active participation  
5       of social workers in the programs of the entity; and

6           (5) employ individuals who represent themselves  
7       as competent to provide social work services only  
8       within the boundaries of their education, training, li-  
9       censes, certification, professional case consultation,  
10      supervised experience, or other relevant professional  
11      experience.

12      (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients  
13   under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
14   ble covered entities—

15           (1) that have demonstrated successful and  
16      measurable outcomes that the Secretary considers  
17      worthy of replication, including labor-management  
18      partnerships that have improved retention of social  
19      workers;

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

22           (3) that work with high need and high demand  
23      populations.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$9,000,000 to the Sec-  
3 retary 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 entity such as the  
7 National Association of Social Workers or the Council on  
8 Social Work Education. Such entity shall—

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

13 (2) maintain relationships with Federal entities,  
14 social work degree-granting institutions of higher  
15 education, departments of social work within such  
16 institutions, and organizations and agencies that em-  
17 ploy social workers.

18 (b) GENERAL DUTIES.—The entity with which the  
19 Secretary enters into a contract under subsection (a) (re-  
20 ferred to in this section as the “coordinating center”) shall  
21 organize, collect, and report to the Secretary and to Con-  
22 gress data and information related to the social work pro-  
23 fession, serve as a clearinghouse, and coordinate activities  
24 with the entities, institutions, departments, organizations,  
25 and agencies described in subsection (a)(2).

1       (c) COLLABORATION.—The coordinating center shall  
2 work with institutions of higher education, research enti-  
3 ties, and organizations with social work practice settings,  
4 including government entities, military departments, ele-  
5 mentary and secondary schools, social services agencies,  
6 private practices, inpatient and outpatient mental health  
7 service providers, child welfare agencies, correctional fa-  
8 cilities, and nursing homes, to identify key research areas,  
9 establish research fellowships, and organize appropriate  
10 mentorship and professional development efforts.

11       (d) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING  
12 CENTER.—The coordinating center shall—

13           (1) engage in activities to build on the efforts  
14 of the National Association of Social Workers Na-  
15 tional Center for Workforce Studies;

16           (2) collect, coordinate, monitor, and distribute  
17 data and information on best practices and findings  
18 regarding the activities funded by grants awarded  
19 under sections 201 through 204;

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

1           (4) demonstrate cultural competency and pro-  
2       mote the participation of diverse groups; and

3           (5) in collaboration with the Secretary, select  
4       research topics to further the goals of this section,  
5       establish new research fellowships to conduct such  
6       research, and identify and appoint qualified individ-  
7       uals to such fellowship positions from among individ-  
8       uals who hold master's or doctoral degrees in social  
9       work or are enrolled in master's or doctoral degree  
10      programs at schools of social work.

11      (e) POWERS OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary may  
12      conduct and authorize such other activities as the Sec-  
13      retary considers appropriate to carry out this section.

14      (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15      are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out  
16      this section for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

17      **SEC. 206. MULTIMEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.**

18      (a) DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC SERV-  
19      ICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Secretary shall develop and  
20      issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-  
21      mote the social work profession, highlight the advantages  
22      and rewards of social work, and encourage individuals to  
23      enter the social work profession.

24      (b) METHOD.—The public service announcements de-  
25      scribed in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through appro-

1 priate media outlets, including television or radio, in a  
2 manner intended to reach as wide and diverse of an audi-  
3 ence as possible.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
6 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years  
7 2020 through 2024.

○