

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2458

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish an emergency preparedness grant program for higher education institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish an emergency preparedness grant program for higher education institutions, 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 “Emergency Prepared-
5 ness in Higher Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION EMERGENCY**
2 **PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of FEMA
5 shall establish a grant program within FEMA to create
6 or expand programs at higher education institutions that
7 foster, promote, and increase programs, initiatives, and
8 opportunities for higher education institutions and emer-
9 gency management and preparedness among higher edu-
10 cation institutions.

11 (b) APPLICATIONS.—A higher education institution
12 seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Ad-
13 ministrator an application that contains a description of—

14 (1) the need for and proposed use of grant
15 funds to promote emergency management and pre-
16 paredness among students, administrators, and fac-
17 ulty at such higher education institution;

18 (2) how the programs, initiatives, or opportuni-
19 ties created or expanded with the grant funds will
20 provide support to students, administrators, and fac-
21 ulty at such higher education institution who—

22 (A) seek support for an established emer-
23 gency management concern; or

24 (B) need assistance in establishing an
25 emergency management concern; and

1 (3) how the higher education institution will
2 create or expand programs, initiatives, or opportuni-
3 ties that—

4 (A) increase higher education institutions
5 recovery efforts to disasters or emergencies;

6 (B) expand access to construction, replace-
7 ment, renovation, and operations costs resulting
8 from the disaster or emergency;

9 (C) assist enrolled students displaced from
10 disasters and emergencies which operations
11 were disrupted by a disaster or emergency; and

12 (D) assist for activities replacing instruc-
13 tional materials and equipment, paying educa-
14 tor and staff incentives, modernizing, ren-
15 ovating, or repairing school buildings.

16 (c) SELECTION.—In making grants under this sec-
17 tion, the Administrator shall evaluate applications from
18 among the same type of higher education institution.

19 (d) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant awarded under
20 this section shall be not less than \$250,000.

21 (e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A higher education in-
22 stitution that receives a grant under the Program shall
23 use grant amounts to support the creation or expansion
24 of program initiatives, or opportunities that offer emer-

1 gency preparedness resources that support students en-
2 rolled at the higher education institution, such as—

3 (1) increasing higher education institutions re-
4 covery efforts to disasters or emergencies;

5 (2) expanding access to construction, replace-
6 ment, renovation, and operations costs resulting
7 from the disaster or emergency;

8 (3) assisting enrolled students displaced from
9 disasters and emergencies which operations were dis-
10 rupted by a disaster or emergency; and

11 (4) assisting for activities replacing instruc-
12 tional materials and equipment; paying educator and
13 staff incentives; modernizing, renovating, or repair-
14 ing school buildings.

15 (f) SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.—A higher education
16 institution awarded a grant under this section shall, not
17 less than 6 months and not more than 12 months after
18 the receipt of a grant, submit to the Administrator a re-
19 port that contains, for the period covered by the report,
20 the number of—

21 (1) students enrolled at the higher education in-
22 stitution who were impacted by an emergency and
23 were assisted with the grant funds; and

1 (2) emergency and disaster relief concerns cre-
2 ated through the expenditure of the grant funds, in-
3 cluding, with respect to each such concern—

4 (A) the name of such concern;

5 (B) a description of the emergency or dis-
6 aster of the concern; and

7 (C) the amount of grant funds expended in
8 creating the concern.

9 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
10 months after the date on which the first grant is awarded
11 under the program under this section, and annually there-
12 after, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report
13 that contains information regarding the higher education
14 institutions to which grants were made under the program
15 for the period covered by the report, which shall include—

16 (1) the name of each such higher education in-
17 stitution and the amount of each such grant;

18 (2) the number of students assisted with grant
19 funds—

20 (A) at each higher education institution to
21 which a grant was made under the program;
22 and

23 (B) in total under the program;

1 (3) the number of emergency and disaster con-
2 cerns created through the expenditure of grant
3 funds—

4 (A) at each higher education institution to
5 which a grant was made under the program;
6 and

7 (B) in total under the program;

8 (4) the number of students impacted by emer-
9 gency or disaster concerns created through the ex-
10 penditure of grant funds—

11 (A) at each higher education institution to
12 which a grant was made under the program;
13 and

14 (B) in total under the program;

15 (5) the number of students referred to re-
16 sources of FEMA—

17 (A) at each higher education institution to
18 which a grant was made under the program;
19 and

20 (B) in total under the program;

21 (6) the number of students participating in the
22 programs, initiatives, or opportunities created or ex-
23 panded through the expenditure of grant funds,
24 disaggregated, to the maximum extent possible, by
25 sex, race, and ethnicity—

1 (A) at each higher education institution to
2 which a grant was made under the program;
3 and

4 (B) in total under the program;

5 (7) a statement regarding whether any amounts
6 made available to carry out this section remain un-
7 expended, as of the date on which the report is sub-
8 mitted.

9 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) FEMA.—The term “FEMA” means the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency.

12 (2) HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION.—The
13 term “higher education institution” means any of
14 the following types of institutions:

15 (A) A historically Black college or univer-
16 sity.

17 (B) A Hispanic-serving institution, as that
18 term is defined in section 502(a) of the Higher
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

20 (C) A Tribal College or University, as that
21 term is defined in section 316(b) of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

23 (D) An Alaska Native-serving institution,
24 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1059d(b)).

3 (E) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution,
4 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1059d(b)).

7 (F) A Predominantly Black Institution, as
8 that term is defined in section 318(b) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
10 1059e(b)).

11 (G) A Native American-serving, nontribal
12 institution, as that term is defined in section
13 319(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
14 (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)).

15 (H) An Asian-American and Native Amer-
16 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as that
17 term is defined in section 320(b) of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)).

19 (I) An institution of higher education, as
20 such term is defined in section 101(a) of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1001(a)).

23 (J) A vocational-technical college or uni-
24 versity.

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(K) A career college or university.

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