

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3028

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program to facilitate the transition to tuition-free community college in certain States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program to facilitate the transition to tuition-free community college in certain States, 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 “Community and Technical College Investment Act of
6 2023”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sec. 101. Tuition-free community college grant program.

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TITLE II—INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Sec. 201. Institutional capacity and wraparound service support grant program.
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TITLE V—DEFINITIONS

Sec. 501. Definitions.

1 **TITLE I—TUITION-FREE** 2 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 3 **SEC. 101. TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT** 4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 6 program to provide grants to each State that submits a
 7 complete application to facilitate tuition-free community
 8 college for all eligible students.

1 (b) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall deter-
2 mine grant amounts under subsection (a) with respect to
3 each State based on the following:

4 (1) Statewide unemployment and underemploy-
5 ment rates that are 1 percentage point above the na-
6 tional average.

7 (2) The number of local educational agencies in
8 a State that elect to receive special assistance pay-
9 ments under section 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B.
10 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1759a(a)(1)(F)).

12 (3) A statewide official poverty rate that is 1
13 percentage point above the national average.

14 (c) FUNDS.—

15 (1) TIMING.—A grant under this title shall be
16 awarded for a period of 5 years, of which—

17 (A) a maximum of 1 year may be used for
18 planning; and

19 (B) a minimum of 4 years shall be used
20 for implementation.

21 (2) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—The Federal cost
22 share of an activity carried out with a grant under
23 subparagraph (a) shall not be less than 100 percent
24 for costs incurred during the 5-year grant period de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 102. APPLICATIONS.**

2 To be eligible for a grant under this title, a State
3 shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form,
4 at such time, and containing such information as the Sec-
5 retary determines appropriate, including a State plan de-
6 scribing the following:

7 (1) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to formalize an
9 interagency committee within such State to—

10 (i) evaluate gaps and opportunities in
11 the State workforce, higher education,
12 childcare, and human services systems; and

13 (ii) maximize Federal and State re-
14 sources to support pathway development
15 that increases economic mobility and rec-
16 ognized postsecondary credential attain-
17 ment.

18 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—An assurance that
19 such committee shall consist of members from
20 the following entities:

21 (i) State board.

22 (ii) State unemployment insurance
23 agency.

24 (iii) Office of the State higher edu-
25 cation executive officer and public college
26 boards.

1 (iv) State community college system.

2 (v) State departments of health and
3 human services.

4 (vi) State departments of economic
5 development.

6 (vii) Workforce development agencies.

7 (viii) State or local housing authori-
8 ties.

9 (ix) Other relevant State agencies as
10 determined by the Governor of such State.

11 (2) EDUCATION ALIGNMENT.—A plan to—

12 (A) with respect to eligible individuals
13 without a secondary school diploma or its recog-
14 nized equivalent, facilitate the completion of
15 such diploma or recognized equivalent at a com-
16 munity college;

17 (B) ensure that credits received for Ad-
18 vanced Placement or International Bacca-
19 laureate classes are applied to an equivalent
20 community college course; and

21 (C) otherwise align the requirements be-
22 tween secondary schools and community col-
23 leges in order to increase the accessibility of
24 community college for eligible individuals.

25 (3) DEVELOPMENT.—A plan to—

1 (A) improve career pathway development,
2 with special attention to career pathways re-
3 lated to in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
4 tions described in paragraph (9);

5 (B) increase economic mobility of State
6 residents; and

7 (C) provide access to affordable postsec-
8 ondary education for State residents through a
9 network of coordinated State and Federal sup-
10 port systems designed and implemented by
11 State agencies in partnership with public insti-
12 tutions of higher education and public higher
13 education systems.

14 (4) CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT.—A plan to
15 prioritize secondary and recognized postsecondary
16 credential attainment through—

17 (A) integrated education and training mod-
18 els;

19 (B) dual enrollment programs; and

20 (C) an increased number of navigators.

21 (5) PRIORITY.—A plan to prioritize assistance
22 to individuals—

23 (A) with a barrier to employment; or

24 (B) with incomes below 200 percent of the
25 poverty level.

1 (6) PUBLIC RESOURCES.—A plan to maximize
2 public resources to support the attainment of a rec-
3 ognized postsecondary credential, including with re-
4 spect to—

5 (A) transportation;

6 (B) on-campus or off-campus housing;

7 (C) childcare; and

8 (D) food assistance.

9 (7) OUTREACH.—A plan to reach eligible indi-
10 viduals without a recognized postsecondary creden-
11 tial, including with respect to individuals who—

12 (A) live in high-poverty areas;

13 (B) are first-generation students;

14 (C) are low-income students; and

15 (D) identify as belonging to other under-
16 represented student groups.

17 (8) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL
18 RETENTION AND COMPLETION.—A plan to increase
19 retention and credential completion by—

20 (A) developing new, or expanding existing,
21 degree and credential programs based on the
22 needs of in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
23 tions described in paragraph (9); and

24 (B) increasing the number of career coun-
25 selors and navigators.

1 (9) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTORS OR OCCU-
2 PATIONS.—A plan to—

3 (A) identify in-demand industry sectors or
4 occupations in such State; and

5 (B) develop and provide access to path-
6 ways to credential and degree programs for jobs
7 in such industries, giving priority to credential
8 and degree programs that correspond to high-
9 quality jobs in consultation with—

10 (i) the State board;

11 (ii) the State health and human serv-
12 ices agency;

13 (iii) the State board of higher edu-
14 cation; and

15 (iv) business industry groups within
16 the State.

17 (10) FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—A description of how
19 the State will use amounts under covered pro-
20 grams, to the extent otherwise permitted by
21 law, to reduce eligibility and participation re-
22 quirement barriers in such programs in order
23 to—

24 (i) treat the pursuit of a recognized
25 postsecondary credential as meeting any

1 compliance, work participation, and core
2 activity requirements for each such pro-
3 gram; and

4 (ii) increase access to and completion
5 of recognized postsecondary credential pro-
6 grams.

7 (B) COVERED PROGRAMS DEFINED.—In
8 this paragraph, the term “covered programs”
9 means—

10 (i) the temporary assistance for needy
11 families program under part A of title IV
12 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601);

13 (ii) the supplemental nutrition assist-
14 ance program employment and training
15 program under section 6 of the Food and
16 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015);

17 (iii) the child care development fund
18 under the Child Care and Development
19 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858
20 et seq.); and

21 (iv) housing assistance programs car-
22 ried out by the Secretary of Housing and
23 Urban Development.

24 (11) COST ANALYSES.—Cost analyses for—

1 (A) providing tuition-free community and
2 technical college pathways to individuals who
3 have not attained—

4 (i) a secondary school diploma or its
5 recognized equivalent; or

6 (ii) a recognized postsecondary cre-
7 dential, up to and including a bachelor's
8 degree; and

9 (B) expanding institutional capacity to
10 meet an increased demand for recognized post-
11 secondary credentials by expanding supportive
12 services, including with respect to hiring addi-
13 tional—

14 (i) career counselors;

15 (ii) navigators; and

16 (iii) other support staff.

17 (12) DATA COLLECTION.—A plan for data col-
18 lection efforts to measure program outcomes and
19 evaluate program success, including by leveraging
20 existing administrative data to track any change in
21 participation in recognized postsecondary credential
22 programs at community colleges.

23 (13) DATA SHARING.—A State shall—

1 (A) provide an interagency data-sharing
2 agreement that facilitates statewide data collec-
3 tion efforts between—

4 (i) State agencies that oversee the dis-
5 persal of State and Federal benefits;

6 (ii) the State educational agency;

7 (iii) the State higher education sys-
8 tem;

9 (iv) the State board; and

10 (v) other agencies determined by the
11 Secretary to be necessary; and

12 (B) detail how such agreement will pro-
13 mote cross-agency collaboration and improve
14 recognized postsecondary credential completion.

15 (14) TRANSFER AGREEMENTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—A description of—

17 (i) transfer agreements between 2-
18 year and 4-year public institutions of high-
19 er education in such State; and

20 (ii) the ways in which the State will
21 expand the number of transfer agreements,
22 including with respect to the facilitation
23 and improvement of credit transfers be-
24 tween institutions.

1 (B) TRANSFER AGREEMENT.—An assur-
2 ance that the transfer agreement required
3 under subparagraph (A)(i) shall include, at a
4 minimum—

5 (i) a general education curriculum
6 that consists of not fewer than 30 credit
7 hours that are transferrable to any public
8 institution of higher education in such
9 State;

10 (ii) common course numbering for
11 substantively similar courses in such gen-
12 eral education curriculum; and

13 (iii) assurance that an eligible associ-
14 ate's degree shall be fully transferrable to,
15 and credited as, the first 2 years of a re-
16 lated baccalaureate program at a public in-
17 stitution of higher education in such State.

18 **SEC. 103. GRANT USES.**

19 A State shall use grant funds awarded under this title
20 for the following:

21 (1) Implementing the State plan submitted
22 under section 102.

23 (2) Ensuring that eligible students enrolled in
24 community colleges—

25 (A) are not charged tuition or fees; and

1 (B) are not required to apply Federal,
2 State, or private financial assistance (including
3 scholarships) to tuition or fees.

4 **SEC. 104. REPORTS.**

5 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date on which a grant is made under this title, and
7 annually thereafter, a State shall submit to the Secretary
8 a report describing—

9 (1) the uses of funds;

10 (2) progress made in fulfilling the requirements
11 under section 103;

12 (3) rates of—

13 (A) graduation and attainment of recog-
14 nized postsecondary credentials at participating
15 community colleges; and

16 (B) transfer to 4-year institutions at par-
17 ticipating community colleges; and

18 (4) other information determined by the Sec-
19 retary to be necessary.

20 (b) CERTIFICATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
22 the date on which a State receives a grant under
23 this title, such State shall provide certification of im-
24 plementation of the—

1 (A) education alignment plan required
2 under section 102(2); and

3 (B) transfer agreements required under
4 section 102(14).

5 (2) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If a State does not
6 provide the certification required under paragraph
7 (1), such State shall submit to the Secretary—

8 (A) a report describing the reasons for the
9 failure of such State to provide certification;
10 and

11 (B) a plan to ensure that, not later than
12 5 years after the date on which the State re-
13 ceived a grant under this title, such State will
14 provide such certification.

15 (c) SUSTAINING FUNDS.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date that is the conclusion of the 5-year grant
17 period described in section 101(c), a State shall submit
18 a report to the Secretary describing—

19 (1) the ways in which such State will sustain a
20 tuition-free community college model; and

21 (2) the amount of Federal assistance needed to
22 sustain the model described in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this title for fiscal year 2023
4 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

5 **SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this title:

7 (1) **BUSINESS INDUSTRY GROUP.**—The term
8 “business industry group” means an organization
9 that represents businesses (including small busi-
10 nesses), individual employers, industry clusters, and
11 individuals from—

12 (A) business or trade organizations;

13 (B) economic development organizations;

14 (C) nonprofit organizations, community-
15 based organizations, or intermediaries;

16 (D) philanthropic organizations;

17 (E) industry associations; or

18 (F) other organizations determined nec-
19 essary by the State.

20 (2) **ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE.**—The term
21 “eligible associate’s degree” means an associate’s de-
22 gree that—

23 (A) is in an academic major in the arts or
24 sciences;

25 (B) is awarded by a public institution of
26 higher education in a State; and

1 (C) is awarded on or after the date that is
2 not later than 3 years after the date on which
3 the State first received a grant under this Act.

4 (3) HIGH-QUALITY JOB.—The term “high-quality
5 job” means a job with—

6 (A) wages and benefits in the top 20 per-
7 cent for the relevant industry or occupation;

8 (B) access to training and advancement
9 opportunities;

10 (C) paid sick leave;

11 (D) paid family leave; and

12 (E) paid medical leave or short-term dis-
13 ability leave.

14 (4) NAVIGATOR.—The term “navigator” means
15 an individual who is integrated into the existing
16 community college operation and who works with
17 students to—

18 (A) understand the eligibility of such stu-
19 dents for Federal, State, and local financial aid
20 and benefit options;

21 (B) assist such students with the applica-
22 tion process for such options; and

23 (C) connect students with resources on
24 campus and in the community.

1 **TITLE II—INSTITUTIONAL**
2 **CAPACITY**

3 **SEC. 201. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND WRAPAROUND**
4 **SERVICE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
6 program to award grants to each eligible State that sub-
7 mits a complete application under section 202 to provide
8 institutional capacity and wraparound service support
9 with respect to the implementation of tuition-free commu-
10 nity college under title I.

11 (b) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall deter-
12 mine grant amounts under subsection (a) with respect to
13 each eligible State based on the following:

14 (1) The cost analysis required under section
15 202(1).

16 (2) The number of adults in such State without
17 a secondary credential or recognized postsecondary
18 credential.

19 (3) The number of adults in such State with a
20 recognized postsecondary credential that is not an
21 associate or baccalaureate degree.

22 (4) The unemployment rate in such State.

23 **SEC. 202. APPLICATION.**

24 To be eligible for a grant under this title, an eligible
25 State shall submit to the Secretary an application in such

1 form, at such time, and containing such information as
2 the Secretary determines appropriate, including—

3 (1) a cost analysis for, with respect to commu-
4 nity colleges—

5 (A) the expansion of institutional capacity;
6 and

7 (B) the provision of wraparound services
8 for students; and

9 (2) a plan detailing how the State will award
10 subgrants in accordance with section 204(b)
11 among—

12 (A) community colleges that are located in
13 geographic areas that serve local educational
14 agencies that participate, through the commu-
15 nity eligibility provision authorized by the
16 Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 (42
17 U.S.C. 1758 note et seq.) in—

18 (i) the national school lunch program
19 under the Richard B. Russell National
20 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et
21 seq.); and

22 (ii) the school breakfast program
23 under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
24 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

1 (B) community colleges that are located in
2 geographic areas with 40 percent of the popu-
3 lation at or below the Federal poverty line;

4 (C) institutions of higher education with
5 admissions rates of 50 percent or higher; and

6 (D) institutions that are eligible to receive
7 a grant under part A or B of title III or title
8 V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), including—

10 (i) historically Black colleges or uni-
11 versities;

12 (ii) Hispanic-serving institutions;

13 (iii) Tribal colleges or universities;

14 (iv) minority-serving institutions; and

15 (v) rural-serving institutions of higher
16 education.

17 **SEC. 203. SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a se-
19 lection committee to review each application and award
20 grants under this title.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deter-
23 mine the number of members, of whom not less than
24 50 percent—

1 (A) may not be employed by the Federal
2 government;

3 (B) shall have relevant research or prac-
4 tical experience with respect to student support
5 programs;

6 (C) shall have relevant research or prac-
7 tical experience with respect to designing and
8 implementing tuition-free community college
9 programs; and

10 (D) shall identify as belonging to an
11 underrepresented group in higher education, in-
12 cluding—

13 (i) African Americans;

14 (ii) Hispanics;

15 (iii) Native Americans;

16 (iv) Alaska Natives;

17 (v) Asian Americans; and

18 (vi) Native American Pacific Island-
19 ers, including Native Hawaiians.

20 (2) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—With respect to
21 each application, a member having a conflict of in-
22 terest may not review such application.

1 **SEC. 204. GRANT USES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State shall use grant
3 funds awarded under this title to award subgrants to eligi-
4 ble institutions in accordance with subsection (b).

5 (b) SUBGRANTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State shall award
7 subgrants to eligible institutions.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this
9 subsection, the term “eligible institution” means an
10 institution—

11 (A) listed in subparagraphs (A) through
12 (D) of section 202(2); and

13 (B) located in the eligible State.

14 (3) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seek-
15 ing a subgrant under this subsection shall submit to
16 the eligible State an application in such form, at
17 such time, and containing such information as the
18 State may require.

19 (4) SUBGRANT USES.—An eligible institution
20 that receives a subgrant under this subsection shall
21 use such subgrant funds for implementing activities
22 and services that improve retention and completion
23 of recognized postsecondary credentials, including—

24 (A) identifying and addressing the needs of
25 students, including affordable housing,
26 childcare, transportation, and food;

1 (B) supporting the work of navigators, in-
2 cluding—

3 (i) providing information to students
4 with respect to eligibility for assistance
5 under other Federal, State, and institu-
6 tional assistance programs; and

7 (ii) connecting students with on-cam-
8 pus and off-campus supportive services;

9 (C) hiring additional staff;

10 (D) increasing access to supportive services
11 by centralizing such services on-campus;

12 (E) offering additional scheduling options
13 for classes with respect to the day, time, and lo-
14 cation of such classes;

15 (F) improving the transfer of credits be-
16 tween institutions of higher education, including
17 community colleges;

18 (G) expanding pathways related to in-de-
19 mand industry sectors or occupations; and

20 (H) providing access to technology, includ-
21 ing—

22 (i) digital literacy courses;

23 (ii) computers;

24 (iii) software; and

1 (iv) other equipment necessary to at-
2 tain a recognized postsecondary credential.

3 **SEC. 205. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FOOD AND HOUSING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish,
5 with respect to each eligible institution that receives a
6 subgrant under section 204(b), a Committee on Student
7 Food and Housing (in this section referred to as the
8 “Committee”).

9 (b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall assist such eligi-
10 ble institution in carrying out the activities required under
11 section 204(b)(4).

12 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be com-
13 posed of a number of members determined by the Sec-
14 retary as follows:

15 (1) Students enrolled at the institution who
16 have experienced food or housing insecurity.

17 (2) Student government representatives from
18 the institution.

19 (3) Individuals employed by or working for the
20 institution, including such individuals from the fol-
21 lowing departments:

22 (A) Financial aid.

23 (B) Housing.

24 (C) Dining.

25 (D) Student affairs.

1 (E) Other well-being services on campus.

2 **SEC. 206. REPORTS.**

3 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
5 the date on which a grant is made under this title,
6 and annually thereafter, an eligible State shall sub-
7 mit to the Secretary a report describing—

8 (A) the uses of funds under this title;

9 (B) progress made in fulfilling the require-
10 ments of the grant;

11 (C) with respect to participating commu-
12 nity colleges, rates of—

13 (i) graduation;

14 (ii) transfer; and

15 (iii) attainment of recognized postsec-
16 ondary credentials;

17 (D) the institutional reports submitted
18 under subsection (b);

19 (E) the ways in which the State is commu-
20 nicating with institutions to—

21 (i) understand the barriers of stu-
22 dents, with respect to eligibility and access,
23 to public supports; and

24 (ii) use the information described in
25 subparagraph (A) to inform any changes;

1 (F) the ways in which the State human
2 services agency and State board are aligning
3 the policy goals of such agencies with the policy
4 goals of the State higher education agency;

5 (G) changes in completion of secondary
6 and postsecondary degrees for target eligible
7 students;

8 (H) changes in access to, and use of, pub-
9 lic benefits;

10 (I) changes in employment with respect to
11 in-demand industry sectors and high-quality
12 jobs;

13 (J) changes in rates of unemployment and
14 underemployment;

15 (K) other data as provided by the State;
16 and

17 (L) other data as required by the Sec-
18 retary.

19 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information de-
20 scribed in subparagraphs (G) through (K) shall be
21 disaggregated, where possible, by—

22 (A) race;

23 (B) ethnicity; and

24 (C) income level.

1 (b) INSTITUTION REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
2 after receiving a subgrant under section 204(b), and on
3 an annual basis thereafter, an institution shall submit to
4 the State a report describing—

5 (1) the uses of funds;

6 (2) with respect to the period beginning on the
7 date on which a subgrant was received and ending
8 on the date on which the report is submitted,
9 changes in rates of—

10 (A) retention; and

11 (B) graduation;

12 (3) the ways in which such institution increased
13 awareness of, and access to, public supports made
14 available through State agencies; and

15 (4) the ways in which such institution made im-
16 provements to tracking data with respect to—

17 (A) the basic needs of students;

18 (B) the financial barriers of students; and

19 (C) the connection of students to public
20 supports.

21 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
23 as are necessary to carry out this title for fiscal year 2023
24 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

1 **SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—The term “eligible
4 State” means a State that is a recipient of a grant
5 under title I.

6 (2) **HEA TERMS.**—

7 (A) **HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.**—
8 The term “Hispanic-serving institution” has
9 the meaning given such term in section 502 of
10 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 1101a).

12 (B) **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR**
13 **UNIVERSITY.**—The term “historically Black col-
14 lege or university” has the meaning given the
15 term “part B institution” in section 322 of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1061).

18 (C) **MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.**—
19 The term “minority-serving institution” in-
20 cludes the entities described in paragraphs (1)
21 through (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

23 (D) **TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.**—
24 The term “Tribal college or university” has the
25 meaning given such term in section 316(b) of

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

3 (E) RURAL-SERVING INSTITUTION OF
4 HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “rural-serving
5 institution of higher education” has the mean-
6 ing given such term in section 861(b) of the
7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
8 1161q(b)).

9 **TITLE III—EMERGENCY FUNDS**
10 **FOR STUDENTS**

11 **SEC. 301. EMERGENCY GRANT FUND PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
13 program to provide grants to each State that submits a
14 complete application to provide emergency aid subgrants
15 to eligible students enrolled at a public institution of high-
16 er education.

17 (b) FUNDS.—

18 (1) TIMING.—A grant under this title shall be
19 awarded for a period of 5 years.

20 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 20 per-
21 cent of funds awarded under this title may be used
22 for the administration of emergency aid at institu-
23 tions of higher education.

1 (3) DIRECT AID.—Not less than 80 percent of
2 funds awarded under this title shall be used to
3 award emergency aid subgrants to eligible students.

4 (c) ELIGIBLE STUDENT DEFINED.—In this title, the
5 term “eligible student” means a student enrolled at a pub-
6 lic institution of higher education, without regard to
7 whether such student submits an application under section
8 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 1090), experiencing financial challenges that may affect
10 the ability of such student to remain enrolled at such insti-
11 tution, including—

12 (1) loss of—

13 (A) employment (including a temporary
14 loss of employment);

15 (B) transportation;

16 (C) child care;

17 (D) utilities (including water and elec-
18 tricity); or

19 (E) housing;

20 (2) food insecurity;

21 (3) with respect to a student or the dependent
22 of such student, a medical condition or need, includ-
23 ing—

24 (A) pregnancy; and

25 (B) mental health conditions; and

1 (4) with respect to a student who is a depend-
2 ent—

3 (A) the death of a parent or guardian; or

4 (B) a parent or guardian with a medical
5 condition that results in temporary or perma-
6 nent loss of employment of such parent or
7 guardian.

8 **SEC. 302. APPLICATION.**

9 To be eligible for a grant under this title, a State
10 shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form,
11 at such time, and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary determines appropriate, including—

13 (1) a data-sharing agreement between the State
14 agency administering the program and the institu-
15 tions of higher education in such State;

16 (2) the ways in which such State will ensure
17 publicity and availability of emergency aid on cam-
18 puses of participating institutions of higher edu-
19 cation;

20 (3) the estimated amount of funding needed,
21 based on, with respect to such State—

22 (A) income distribution of eligible students;

23 (B) the number of open-access and rural
24 institutions; and

25 (C) poverty rates;

1 (4) the populations of students such State will
2 prioritize in awarding subgrants;

3 (5) a description of the ways in which such
4 State will administer subgrants, including with re-
5 spect to—

6 (A) responding to applications;

7 (B) approving applications; and

8 (C) disbursing emergency aid subgrants
9 outside of business hours; and

10 (6) an assurance that such State will notify stu-
11 dents enrolled in institutions of higher education in
12 such State if such students, or dependents of such
13 students, become eligible for assistance under—

14 (A) the special supplemental nutrition pro-
15 gram for women, infants, and children under
16 section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
17 (42 U.S.C. 1786);

18 (B) the supplemental nutrition assistance
19 program under the Food and Nutrition Act of
20 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

21 (C) the free and reduced price school lunch
22 program under the Richard B. Russell National
23 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

1 (D) the temporary assistance for needy
 2 families program under part A of title IV of the
 3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601);

4 (E) the supplemental security income pro-
 5 gram under title XVI of the Social Security Act
 6 (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

7 (F) Medicaid under title XIX of the Social
 8 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

9 (G) Federal housing assistance programs
 10 under the United States Housing Act of 1937,
 11 including—

12 (i) public housing as defined in sec-
 13 tion 3(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 14 1437a(b)); and

15 (ii) tenant-based assistance under sec-
 16 tion 8(o) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o));
 17 and

18 (H) any other means-tested program deter-
 19 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

20 **SEC. 303. GRANT USES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State shall use grant funds
 22 awarded under this title to award subgrants to eligible stu-
 23 dents for emergency aid.

24 (b) SUBGRANTS.—

1 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—In awarding subgrants
2 under this subsection, a State may award a contract
3 to a scholarship-granting organization for purposes
4 of—

5 (A) accepting applications from eligible
6 students; and

7 (B) disbursing subgrant funds to eligible
8 students.

9 (2) APPLICATIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a
11 subgrant under this title, an eligible student
12 shall submit to the State an application in such
13 form, at such time, and containing such infor-
14 mation as the State determines appropriate.

15 (B) APPEAL.—If an application for an
16 emergency aid subgrant submitted by an eligi-
17 ble student under subparagraph (A) is denied
18 by the State, such student may appeal such de-
19 nial in a manner to be determined by the State.

20 (3) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of an appli-
21 cation from an eligible student under paragraph (2),
22 the State shall notify such student of such receipt in
23 a manner to be determined by the State.

24 (4) FUNDS.—

25 (A) SUBGRANT AMOUNTS.—

1 (i) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITHOUT
2 DEPENDENTS.—With respect to an aca-
3 demic year, a subgrant awarded to an eli-
4 gible student that does not have a depend-
5 ent may not exceed \$1,500.

6 (ii) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITH DE-
7 PENDENTS.—With respect to an academic
8 year, a subgrant awarded to an eligible
9 student with a dependent may not exceed
10 \$2,500.

11 (B) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—A State
12 shall disburse funds to eligible students in a
13 timely manner, as determined by the State.

14 (C) FEDERAL TAXES.—A subgrant under
15 this title may not be considered income for pur-
16 poses of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

17 **SEC. 304. DATA COLLECTION.**

18 A State that awards subgrants under this title shall
19 collect the following data:

20 (1) With respect to each public institution of
21 higher education—

22 (A) the number and percentage of students
23 receiving emergency aid; and

24 (B) the average grant amount for each
25 student.

1 (2) With respect to each semester or quarter at
2 a public institution of higher education—

3 (A) rate of retention; and

4 (B) rate of completion of a recognized sec-
5 ondary credential.

6 (3) The grade point averages of students receiv-
7 ing emergency aid subgrants.

8 (4) Other data reported by the State.

9 (5) Other data required by the Secretary.

10 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
12 as are necessary to carry out this title for fiscal year 2023
13 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

14 **TITLE IV—TECHNICAL**
15 **ASSISTANCE**

16 **SEC. 401. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
18 program to provide grants to eligible entities to provide
19 technical assistance to States applying for grants under
20 title I, II, or III of this Act.

21 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this title, the
22 term “eligible entity” means an entity—

23 (1) that is—

24 (A) a nonprofit organization;

25 (B) a think tank;

1 (C) a State board of education;

2 (D) a research center at an institution of
3 higher education; or

4 (E) an other entity as determined by the
5 Secretary;

6 (2) that has expertise with respect to—

7 (A) developing, designing, researching, or
8 evaluating—

9 (i) tuition-free community college pro-
10 grams;

11 (ii) emergency aid programs; or

12 (iii) initiatives addressing the basic
13 needs of students; or

14 (B) implementing supportive services pro-
15 grams for students; and

16 (3) that has a demonstrated record of sup-
17 porting institutions of higher education or States
18 with respect to—

19 (A) the activities described in paragraph

20 (2); and

21 (B) connecting students to public benefits.

22 **SEC. 402 APPLICATION.**

23 To be eligible for a grant under this title, an eligible
24 entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such

1 form, at such time, and containing such information as
2 the Secretary determines appropriate.

3 **SEC. 403. GRANT USES.**

4 An eligible entity shall use grant funds awarded
5 under this title for the following:

6 (1) Assisting States with respect to—

7 (A) the application process for a grant
8 under title I, II, or III of this Act; and

9 (B) the development or new, or expansion
10 or improvement of existing, tuition-free commu-
11 nity college models.

12 (2) Assisting the Secretary with respect to—

13 (A) evaluating applications from States for
14 grants under title I, II, or III of this Act; and

15 (B) providing feedback to such States.

16 **SEC. 404. REPORTS.**

17 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date on which a grant is made under this title, and
19 on an annual basis thereafter, a State receiving assistance
20 from an eligible entity that received a grant under this
21 title shall submit to the Secretary a report on—

22 (1) the effectiveness of such assistance, includ-
23 ing, as applicable, progress with respect to applying
24 for a grant under this Act; and

1 (2) as of the date of the submission of the re-
 2 port, any outcomes of programs funded by a grant
 3 under this Act and carried out by such State, de-
 4 scribing—

5 (A) any Federal policies that prevent suc-
 6 cessful implementation of such programs; and

7 (B) any recommendations for changes with
 8 respect to Federal policies described in para-
 9 graph (1).

10 (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
 11 date on which each report is submitted under subsection
 12 (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a
 13 report on the policy barriers described in subsection
 14 (a)(2), including policy recommendations based on such
 15 barriers.

16 **SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 18 as are necessary to carry out this title for fiscal year 2023
 19 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

20 **TITLE V—DEFINITIONS**

21 **SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
 24 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior

1 or community college” in Section 312 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

3 (2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term “eligible
4 student” means an individual who—

5 (A) is at least 18 years of age;

6 (B) a resident of the State; and

7 (C) does not have a postsecondary creden-
8 tial that is less than a bachelor’s degree.

9 (3) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “secondary
10 school” and “Secretary” have the meanings given
11 such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
12 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

13 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
14 term “institution of higher education” has the
15 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
16 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17 (5) WIOA TERMS.—

18 (A) The terms “in-demand industry sector
19 or occupation”, “individual with a barrier to
20 employment”, “recognized postsecondary cre-
21 dential”, “State board”, and “supportive serv-
22 ices” have the meanings given such terms in
23 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
24 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

1 (B) The term “integrated education and
2 training” has the meaning given such term in
3 section 203 of the Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

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