

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7099

To increase access to higher education and center-based Head Start programs by providing public transit grants.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2026

Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KEAN, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To increase access to higher education and center-based Head Start programs by providing public transit grants.

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 “Promoting Advance-
5 ment Through Transit Help to Education Act” or the
6 “PATH to Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION THROUGH**
2 **PUBLIC TRANSIT GRANTS.**

3 Chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in section 5307, by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(i) **PROMOTING ADVANCEMENT THROUGH TRANSIT**
8 **HELP TO EDUCATION GRANTS.**—

9 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

10 “(A) **CENTER-BASED HEAD START PRO-**
11 **GRAM.**—The term ‘center-based Head Start

12 program’ means a center-based Head Start pro-

13 gram, including a center-based Early Head

14 Start program, under the Head Start Act (42

15 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

16 “(B) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—The term

17 ‘eligible institution’ means—

18 “(i) a community college;

19 “(ii) a minority-serving institution;

20 “(iii) a Head Start agency, including

21 an Early Head Start agency, that operates

22 a center-based Head Start program;

23 “(iv) an area career and technical

24 education school, as defined in section 3 of

25 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical

1 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302);
2 or

3 “(v) a rural-serving institution of
4 higher education, as defined in section 861
5 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1161q).

7 “(C) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eli-
8 gible recipient’ means a public transportation
9 provider that is eligible for assistance under
10 this section in partnership with 1 or more eligi-
11 ble institutions.

12 “(D) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—
13 The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means
14 an eligible institution under section 371(a) of
15 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 1067q(a)).

17 “(2) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make
18 grants under this subsection to eligible recipients to
19 enable those eligible recipients to carry out projects
20 described in paragraph (3) to better connect stu-
21 dents with transportation to eligible institutions.

22 “(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipi-
23 ent receiving a grant under this subsection shall use
24 grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following
25 activities to better connect students with transpor-

tation to 1 or more eligible institutions that are served by the eligible recipient partnership:

“(A) Adding bus or rail stops or routes and complementary paratransit service that serve eligible institution campuses and connect to surrounding areas or other cities.

“(B) Increasing the frequency of service or adjusting the time of bus, rail, or paratransit routes to—

“(i) allow students of an eligible institution to get to and from their classes; and

“(ii) allow participants in a center-based Head Start program, and their families, to get to and from the Head Start program.

“(C) Operating costs for service described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), if such costs are eligible under this section.

“(4) APPLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient that desires a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including information on the extent to which the pro-

posed projects using grant funds will improve the availability of transit access for students of eligible institutions and participants, and families of participants, in center-based Head Start programs.

“(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible recipient whose partnership includes an eligible institution with respect to which more than 25 percent of students enrolled in that eligible institution receive a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a).”;

(2) in section 5311—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “and”;

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) there shall be set aside to carry out subsection (k)—

“(i) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,000,000;

1 “(ii) for fiscal year 2028, \$2,000,000;

2 “(iii) for fiscal year 2029, \$3,000,000;

3 “(iv) for fiscal year 2030, \$4,000,000;

4 and

5 “(v) for fiscal year 2031,

6 \$5,000,000.”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(k) PROMOTING ADVANCEMENT THROUGH TRANSIT

9 HELP TO EDUCATION GRANTS.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) CENTER-BASED HEAD START PRO-

12 GRAM.—The term ‘center-based Head Start

13 program’ means a center-based Head Start pro-

14 gram, including a center-based Early Head

15 Start program, under the Head Start Act (42

16 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term

18 ‘eligible institution’ means—

19 “(i) a community college;

20 “(ii) a minority-serving institution;

21 “(iii) a Head Start agency, including

22 an Early Head Start agency, that operates

23 a center-based Head Start program;

24 “(iv) an area career and technical

25 education school, as defined in section 3 of

1 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
2 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302);
3 or

4 “(v) a rural-serving institution of
5 higher education, as defined in section 861
6 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
7 U.S.C. 1161q).

8 “(C) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eli-
9 gible recipient’ means a public transportation
10 provider that is eligible for assistance under
11 this section in partnership with 1 or more eligi-
12 ble entities.

13 “(2) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make
14 grants under this subsection to eligible recipients to
15 enable those eligible recipients to carry out projects
16 described in paragraph (3) to better connect stu-
17 dents with transportation to eligible institutions.

18 “(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipi-
19 ent receiving a grant under this subsection shall use
20 grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following
21 activities to better connect students with transpor-
22 tation to 1 or more eligible institutions that are
23 served by the eligible recipient partnership:

24 “(A) Adding bus or rail stops or routes
25 and complementary paratransit service that

1 serve eligible institution campuses and connect
2 to surrounding areas or other cities.

3 “(B) Increasing the frequency of service or
4 adjusting the time of bus, rail, or paratransit
5 routes to—

6 “(i) allow students of an eligible insti-
7 tution to get to and from their classes; and

8 “(ii) allow participants in a center-
9 based Head Start program, and their fami-
10 lies, to get to and from the Head Start
11 program.

12 “(C) Operating costs for service described
13 in subparagraphs (A) and (B), if such costs are
14 eligible under this section.

15 “(4) APPLICATION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient
17 that desires a grant under this subsection shall
18 submit an application to the Secretary at such
19 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
20 formation as the Secretary may require, includ-
21 ing information on the extent to which the pro-
22 posed projects using grant funds will improve
23 the availability of transit access for students of
24 eligible institutions and participants, and fami-

1 lies of participants, in center-based Head Start
2 programs.

3 “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
4 under this subsection, the Secretary shall give
5 priority to an eligible recipient whose partner-
6 ship includes an eligible institution with respect
7 to which more than 25 percent of students en-
8 rolled in that eligible institution receive a Fed-
9 eral Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a).”;
11 and

12 (3) in section 5336(h)—

13 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
14 through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), re-
15 spectively;

16 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
17 following:

18 “(3) there shall be set aside to carry out section
19 5307(i)—

20 “(A) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,000,000;

21 “(B) for fiscal year 2028, \$2,000,000;

22 “(C) for fiscal year 2029, \$3,000,000;

23 “(D) for fiscal year 2030, \$4,000,000; and

24 “(E) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,000,000.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “and (2),” and inserting “, (2), and
3 (3),”; and

4 (D) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
5 by striking “and (4)” and inserting “(4), and
6 (5)”.

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