

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3342

To establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2021

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Mrs. MCCLAIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

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 “Youth Workforce  
5 Readiness Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish or expand ac-  
3 tivities to—

4 (1) increase access and opportunities for youth  
5 to obtain the education and training that youth need  
6 to succeed in the labor market;

7 (2) support engagement in and the integration  
8 of programs and activities offered during out-of-  
9 school-time hours through the workforce investment,  
10 education, and economic development systems;

11 (3) improve the quality of the workforce and  
12 meet the skill requirements of employers;

13 (4) engage employers in addressing the train-  
14 ing, skill, and employment needs of youth and youth  
15 jobseekers, and fostering opportunities for connec-  
16 tion and economic mobility; and

17 (5) include younger youth in the education and  
18 workforce investment activities in an age and devel-  
19 opmentally appropriate manner.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The  
23 term “community-based organization” means a  
24 youth-serving private nonprofit organization (which  
25 may include a faith-based organization) that—

1 (A) is representative of a community or a  
2 significant segment of a community;

3 (B) has demonstrated expertise and effec-  
4 tiveness in workforce development; and

5 (C) has demonstrated expertise—

6 (i) in the planning and delivery of  
7 education, training, and related activities  
8 that are included in a career pathway;

9 (ii) in forging coordination and co-  
10 operation between educators and other  
11 members of the community; and

12 (iii) in development and implementa-  
13 tion of data systems that measure the  
14 progress of students and outcomes of ca-  
15 reer pathways.

16 (2) COVERED PARTNERSHIP.—The term “cov-  
17 ered partnership” means a partnership between—

18 (A) a community-based organization; and

19 (B) an industry or sector partnership, a  
20 local educational agency, and another public en-  
21 tity or private employer, as appropriate.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The term “eligible  
23 youth” has the meaning given the term in section 3  
24 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

1 (29 U.S.C. 3102), except that the individual involved  
2 shall be—

3 (A) not younger than age 6; and

4 (B) not older than age 18 (or age 19 if en-  
5 rolled in secondary school).

6 (4) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The  
7 term “industry or sector partnership” means—

8 (A) an industry or sector partnership, as  
9 defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innova-  
10 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102);  
11 and

12 (B) a collaborative that meets the require-  
13 ments of paragraph (26) of that section 3 but  
14 also includes—

15 (i) an Indian tribe or tribal organiza-  
16 tion (as such terms are defined in section  
17 166(b) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3221(b))),  
18 as appropriate; or

19 (ii) a community-based organization.

20 (5) OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME.—The term “out-of-  
21 school-time”, used with respect to a program de-  
22 scribed in section 7, means a supervised program  
23 regularly attended by eligible youth, that fosters  
24 learning and development during out-of-school-time  
25 hours, which includes hours before school, after

1 school, during summer vacation or another school  
2 holiday, or on a Saturday or Sunday.

3 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Labor.

5 (7) WIOA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “career  
6 pathway”, “customized training”, “in-demand indus-  
7 try sector or occupation”, “local area”, “local  
8 board”, “local educational agency”, and “recognized  
9 postsecondary credential” have the meanings given  
10 the terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation  
11 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

12 (8) WORKFORCE READINESS PROGRAM.—The  
13 term “workforce readiness program” means an out-  
14 of-school-time program that—

15 (A) meets the requirements of section 7;

16 (B) is offered by a community-based orga-  
17 nization of an eligible entity or a related cov-  
18 ered partnership; and

19 (C) is intended to help prepare eligible  
20 youth for the workforce.

21 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

22 (a) GRANTS.—Using the amounts made available  
23 under section 9, the Secretary shall award grants, on a  
24 competitive basis, to eligible entities.

1 (b) GENERAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall  
2 award the grants, on a competitive basis, to assist eligible  
3 entities in planning, developing, and implementing nation-  
4 wide, comprehensive workforce readiness programs, that  
5 are—

6 (1) in out-of-school-time programs;

7 (2) carried out by community-based organiza-  
8 tions of the eligible entity or related covered partner-  
9 ships; and

10 (3) for eligible youth.

11 (c) PERIODS OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall  
12 award the grants for periods of not less than 3 years and  
13 not more than 5 years.

14 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**

15 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 4, an  
16 entity shall—

17 (1)(A) be a national youth-serving organization  
18 with active chapters, affiliates, or subgrant recipi-  
19 ents, that are community-based organizations (in-  
20 cluding such organizations that are facility-based or-  
21 ganizations) in not fewer than 35 States; and

22 (B) provide programming focused on youth  
23 workforce readiness in an out-of-school-time pro-  
24 gram; and

1           (2) obtain approval of an application under sec-  
2           tion 6.

3 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

4           To be eligible to receive a grant under section 4, an  
5           entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such  
6           time, in such manner, and containing such information as  
7           the Secretary may require, including—

8           (1) a description of how the entity will imple-  
9           ment a youth workforce readiness program in a  
10          manner that ensures an equitable geographic dis-  
11          tribution of program activities, including an equi-  
12          table distribution between urban and rural commu-  
13          nities;

14          (2) a description of the proposed program ac-  
15          tivities to be funded and their locations;

16          (3) a description of populations of eligible youth  
17          to be served, including populations living in or from  
18          underserved communities or communities with em-  
19          ployment disparities;

20          (4) a description of the effective strategies, best  
21          practices, or evidence-based practices the workforce  
22          readiness program will use;

23          (5) an assurance that the program will take  
24          place in safe and easily accessible facilities;

1           (6) a demonstration of how, in implementing  
2 the proposed program activities, the entity will co-  
3 ordinate activities with Federal, State, and local pro-  
4 grams and make the most effective use of public re-  
5 sources;

6           (7) a description of—

7                 (A) the community-based organizations or  
8 the covered partnerships through which the en-  
9 tity will implement the program; and

10                (B) if a covered partnership will assist in  
11 implementing the program, the collaboration  
12 and coordination activities that the community-  
13 based organization in the partnership has car-  
14 ried out or will carry out with other entities in  
15 the partnership, related to that implementation;

16           (8) if the program includes an opportunity to  
17 earn a recognized postsecondary credential, a de-  
18 scription of the activities leading to the credential;

19           (9) an assurance that funds provided under this  
20 Act will be used to supplement and not supplant  
21 other Federal, State, or local funds expended to pro-  
22 vide youth programs or workforce readiness pro-  
23 grams; and

24           (10) a budget detailing program activities and  
25 administrative costs.



1 **SEC. 7. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a  
3 grant under section 4 shall use the grant funds—

4 (1) if the entity seeks to implement the work-  
5 force readiness program through a covered partner-  
6 ship, to establish the partnership; and

7 (2) to carry out the development and implemen-  
8 tation of a youth workforce readiness program—

9 (A) that includes services to help prepare  
10 eligible youth who are not younger than age 15  
11 for the workforce, which services shall include—

12 (i) support for the use of career path-  
13 ways;

14 (ii) paid and unpaid work experiences  
15 that have as a component academic and  
16 occupational education, which may in-  
17 clude—

18 (I) summer employment opportu-  
19 nities and other employment opportu-  
20 nities available throughout the school  
21 year;

22 (II) pre-apprenticeship and ap-  
23 prenticeship programs registered  
24 under the National Apprenticeship  
25 Act;

1 (III) internships and job shad-  
2 owing; and

3 (IV) on-the-job training opportu-  
4 nities;

5 (iii) work-based learning (as defined  
6 in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career  
7 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
8 U.S.C. 2302)) that provides opportunities  
9 for the application of employability skills,  
10 and hands-on work experiences through  
11 covered partnerships;

12 (iv) occupational skill training, which  
13 shall include priority consideration for  
14 training programs that lead to recognized  
15 postsecondary credentials that are aligned  
16 with in-demand industry sectors or occupa-  
17 tions in the local area involved, if the local  
18 board determines that the programs meet  
19 the quality criteria described in section 123  
20 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-  
21 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3153);

22 (v) the provision of customized train-  
23 ing;

24 (vi) education offered concurrently  
25 with and in the same context as workforce

1 readiness activities and training for a spe-  
2 cific occupation or occupational cluster;  
3 and

4 (vii) activities that help youth prepare  
5 for and transition to postsecondary edu-  
6 cation and training;

7 (B) that includes services to help prepare  
8 eligible youth for the workforce, which services  
9 shall include—

10 (i) leadership development opportuni-  
11 ties, which may include community service  
12 and peer-centered activities encouraging  
13 responsibility and other positive social and  
14 civic behaviors, as appropriate;

15 (ii) workforce or workforce readiness  
16 opportunities;

17 (iii) supportive services;

18 (iv) adult mentoring for the period of  
19 participation and a subsequent period, for  
20 a total of not less than 12 months;

21 (v) comprehensive guidance and coun-  
22 seling, which may include drug and alcohol  
23 abuse, prevention services, counseling and  
24 referral, as appropriate;

25 (vi) financial literacy education;

1 (vii) entrepreneurial skills training;

2 (viii) services that provide labor mar-  
3 ket and employment information about in-  
4 demand industry sectors or occupations  
5 available in the local area, such as career  
6 awareness, career counseling, and career  
7 exploration services;

8 (ix) activities to develop fundamental  
9 workforce readiness skills, or to develop  
10 employability skills (such as communica-  
11 tion, creativity, collaboration, and critical  
12 thinking) that support social-emotional de-  
13 velopment through every developmental  
14 stage, in both formal and informal learning  
15 experiences;

16 (x) academic counseling to support  
17 workforce readiness; and

18 (xi) career exposure, through men-  
19 toring and targeted programming, offered  
20 by local industry or sector partnerships, to  
21 provide career assessments and education  
22 and career planning; and

23 (C) that may include—

24 (i) the provision of professional devel-  
25 opment (as defined in section 3 of the Carl

1 D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-  
2 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) for  
3 training educators and other providers of  
4 educational services who participate in the  
5 workforce readiness program; and

6 (ii) developing assets and resources  
7 that assist an employer or groups of em-  
8 ployers or sectors in working with eligible  
9 youth.

10 (b) SUBGRANTS.—The eligible entity may use the  
11 grant funds, with the approval of the Secretary, to award  
12 subgrants to eligible organizations to carry out activities  
13 through a youth workforce readiness program.

14 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION AND REPORTING.**

15 (a) MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that imple-  
17 ments a youth workforce readiness program under  
18 this Act shall—

19 (A) ensure that the program is—

20 (i) based upon an assessment of objec-  
21 tive data regarding the need for such a  
22 program in the communities served; and

23 (ii) evaluated on an established set of  
24 performance measures aimed at ensuring  
25 the availability of high-quality opportuni-

1           ties by measuring eligible youth success;  
2           and

3           (B) collect the data necessary for the  
4           measures of eligible youth success described in  
5           subparagraph (A)(ii).

6           (2) MEASURES.—The performance measures  
7           (including indicators) that will be used to evaluate  
8           the youth workforce readiness programs—

9           (A) shall be aligned with the regular aca-  
10          demic program of the school of and the aca-  
11          demic needs of participating eligible youth;

12          (B) shall include performance measures  
13          that—

14               (i) are able to track the success (such  
15               as improvement over time) of eligible  
16               youth; and

17               (ii) include assessment results and  
18               other indicators of eligible youth success,  
19               such as improved attendance during the  
20               school day, better classroom grades, reg-  
21               ular (or consistent) program attendance,  
22               and on-time advancement to the next  
23               grade level; and

24               (C) for high school students, may include  
25               indicators such as achievement of career com-

1           petencies, or successful completion of intern-  
2           ships, apprenticeships, or work-based learning  
3           opportunities, or high school graduation.

4           (b) PERIODIC EVALUATION.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
6           a periodic evaluation of the eligible entity, to assess  
7           the progress of the entity’s youth workforce readi-  
8           ness program toward ensuring high-quality opportu-  
9           nities by measuring eligible youth success.

10          (2) USE OF RESULTS.—The results of evalua-  
11         tions under paragraph (1) shall be—

12                 (A) used to refine, improve, and strengthen  
13                 the program, and to refine the performance  
14                 measures; and

15                 (B) used by the Secretary to determine  
16                 whether a grant for a program is eligible to be  
17                 renewed under section 4.

18          (c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall submit a re-  
19         port containing the results of the evaluation to the appro-  
20         priate committees of Congress, and make the report avail-  
21         able to the public.

22         **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23                 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24         this Act \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
25         through 2026.

1 **SEC. 10. REESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH COUNCILS.**

2 Section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-  
3 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 “(j) YOUTH COUNCIL.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be estab-  
7 lished, as a subgroup within each local board, a  
8 youth council appointed by the local board, in co-  
9 operation with the chief elected official for the local  
10 area.

11 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of each  
12 youth council shall include representatives with spe-  
13 cial interest or professional expertise with youth  
14 workforce development programs, activities related  
15 to youth workforce readiness, youth workforce in-  
16 vestment activities, local labor or joint labor-man-  
17 agement organizations, and education related rep-  
18 resentatives—

19 “(A) membership may include—

20 “(i) members of the local board with  
21 special interest or expertise in youth work-  
22 force readiness or youth workforce develop-  
23 ment;

24 “(ii) local labor or joint labor-manage-  
25 ment organizations with a special interest  
26 or expertise in youth workforce readiness



1 or youth workforce development; represent-  
2 atives of the workforce, in the local area,  
3 with a special interest or expertise in youth  
4 workforce readiness or youth workforce de-  
5 velopment;

6 “(iii) representatives of entities ad-  
7 ministering education and training activi-  
8 ties, including career and technical edu-  
9 cation activities, in the local area, with  
10 special interest or expertise in youth work-  
11 force readiness or youth workforce develop-  
12 ment;

13 “(iv) representatives of youth service  
14 agencies, including juvenile justice, local  
15 law enforcement agencies, and representa-  
16 tives of local public housing authorities;

17 “(v) parents of eligible youth, and  
18 current or former youth program partici-  
19 pants;

20 “(vi) representatives of vulnerable  
21 populations (including but not limited to  
22 foster youth, minority youth, and youth  
23 with disabilities);

24 “(vii) community representatives, em-  
25 ployers of eligible youth, and Workplace

1 Learning Advisors (as defined in section 3  
2 of WIOA), with experience relating to  
3 youth workforce activities; and

4 “(viii) representatives of the Job  
5 Corps; and

6 “(B) may include such other individuals as  
7 the chairperson of the local board, in coopera-  
8 tion with the chief elected official, determines to  
9 be appropriate.

10 “(3) RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL BOARD.—Mem-  
11 bers of the youth council who are not otherwise  
12 members of the local board shall be voting members  
13 of the youth council and nonvoting members of the  
14 board.

15 “(4) DUTIES.—The duties of the youth council  
16 shall include—

17 “(A) representing the interests of youth  
18 before the local board;

19 “(B) collaborating with the local board to  
20 ensure programs address youth workforce devel-  
21 opment and youth workforce readiness; and

22 “(C) advising the local board on the inclu-  
23 sion and incorporation of the local youth work-  
24 force in decisions as appropriate.

1       “(k) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Amend WIOA to include  
2 Youth Councils as a required section of the State and local  
3 plan, including how they are incorporating the rec-  
4 ommendations of the youth councils, including in the an-  
5 nual report have a requirement to report on activities re-  
6 lated to council’s recommendations.”.

○