

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7355

To direct the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to eligible partnerships to establish, expand, or support career and technical education programs of study in early childhood education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to eligible partnerships to establish, expand, or support career and technical education programs of study in early childhood education.

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 “Early Childhood Work-
5 force Advancement Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
2 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF STUDY IN EARLY**
3 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

4 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
5 of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health
6 and Human Services, shall award grants, on a competitive
7 basis, to eligible partnerships for the purpose of estab-
8 lishing, supporting, or expanding career and technical edu-
9 cation programs of study in early childhood education.

10 (b) GRANT DURATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
12 grant awarded under this section may not exceed a
13 5-year grant period.

14 (2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend
15 the grant period for an eligible partnership for not
16 more than 1 additional 2-year period if the eligible
17 partnership demonstrates to the Secretary that the
18 eligible partnership—

19 (A) is achieving the program objectives for
20 which the eligible partnership is receiving the
21 grant; and

22 (B) has improved education outcomes for
23 students participating in the programs funded
24 by such grant, including special populations.

25 (c) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
26 under this section, an eligible partnership shall submit an

1 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
2 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
3 quire, including—

4 (1) a description of how the eligible partnership
5 will use such grant to establish, support, or expand
6 a career and technical education program of study
7 in early childhood education;

8 (2) a description of the roles and responsibil-
9 ities of each partner of the eligible partnership;

10 (3) the grant budget, how the partnership will
11 fund necessary expenses for the career and technical
12 education program of study described in paragraph
13 (1), which will not be covered by the grant (such as
14 any funds to be provided by State, local, or private
15 entities), and how the eligible partnership will con-
16 tinue the program after the grant period ends;

17 (4) a description of how the grant will directly
18 benefit students, including special populations,
19 served by the eligible partnership;

20 (5) a description of how such career and tech-
21 nical education program of study will be coordinated
22 with the activities carried out under section 124 or
23 135 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
24 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2344; 2355);

1 (6) a description of how the program reflects
2 the needs of regional, State, or local employers, as
3 demonstrated by the local comprehensive needs as-
4 sessment under section 134(c) of Carl D. Perkins
5 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006;

6 (7) a description of how the program will ben-
7 efit the child care industry and early childhood edu-
8 cation workforce;

9 (8) an assurance that the eligible partnership
10 will—

11 (A) provide information to the Secretary of
12 Education, as requested, for evaluations that
13 the Secretary may carry out; and

14 (B) make data available to third parties
15 for validation, in accordance with applicable
16 data privacy laws, including section 444 of the
17 General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.
18 1232g, commonly known as the “Family Edu-
19 cational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”);

20 (9) a description on how the program will in-
21 clude curriculum and practical training opportunities
22 focused on infant and toddler development and the
23 learning and development of infants or toddlers with
24 a disability (as defined in section 632 of the Individ-

1 uals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
2 1432)); and

3 (10) a description, if applicable, about how the
4 program will respond to the needs or goals identified
5 by the applicable State in the statewide needs as-
6 sessment or statewide strategic plan developed, up-
7 dated, or implemented for purposes of a preschool
8 development grant under section 9212 of the Every
9 Student Succeeds Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 note).

10 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
11 tion, the Secretary, jointly with the Secretary of Health
12 and Human Services, shall—

13 (1) ensure an equitable national geographic dis-
14 tribution of the grants;

15 (2) award grants to applicants that propose to
16 serve communities in rural areas and to applicants
17 that propose to serve communities in urban areas;

18 (3) give priority to applicants located in areas
19 with a documented shortage of childcare providers;

20 (4) give priority to applicants that include an
21 institution of higher education with a program of
22 study in early childhood education or a consortium
23 of such institutions; and

24 (5) give priority, if applicable, to applicants
25 that demonstrate, in the application submitted under

1 subsection (c) for a grant under this section, that
2 the program to be funded with such grant will re-
3 spond to the needs or goals identified by the applica-
4 ble State in the statewide needs assessment or state-
5 wide strategic plan developed, updated, or imple-
6 mented for purposes of a preschool development
7 grant under section 9212 of the Every Student Suc-
8 ceeds Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 note).

9 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Each eligible partnership re-
10 ceiving a grant under this section shall use such grant to
11 establish, support, or expand career and technical edu-
12 cation programs of study in early childhood education,
13 which shall include one or more of the following:

14 (1) curriculum development and delivery, in-
15 cluding classroom instruction, work-based learning,
16 support attainment of dual or concurrent enrollment
17 credits, industry credentials such as a Child Devel-
18 opment Associate, a preapprenticeship, and an ap-
19 prenticeship through career and technical student
20 organizations;

21 (2) supporting the recruiting, hiring, and train-
22 ing of effective educators in early childhood edu-
23 cation, including educators who became certified
24 through State and local alternative routes to certifi-
25 cation;

1 (3) improving career and technical education
2 outcomes of students served by the eligible partner-
3 ship through activities such as—

4 (A) supporting the development and en-
5 hancement of innovative delivery models for ca-
6 reer and technical education-related work-based
7 learning (including school-based simulated work
8 sites, mentoring, apprenticeship programs, work
9 site visits, job shadowing, project-based learn-
10 ing, and skills-based and paid internships); and

11 (B) providing academic and nonacademic
12 wrap-around supports and services, including
13 advising, tutoring, test preparation, child care
14 assistance, transportation, and financial assist-
15 ance (which may include scholarships or sti-
16 pends), during the period in which such stu-
17 dents—

18 (i) complete a Child Development As-
19 sociate credential, early childhood edu-
20 cation associate degree program, or bacca-
21 laurate degree program, as applicable;

22 (ii) access and complete State licen-
23 sure or certification examinations; or

1 (iii) receive opportunities to practice
2 and develop teaching in early childhood
3 education; and

4 (4) creating or expanding recruitment, reten-
5 tion, or professional development activities for career
6 and technical education teachers, faculty, school
7 leaders, administrators, specialized instructional sup-
8 port personnel, career guidance and academic coun-
9 selors, and paraprofessionals, which may include—

10 (A) high-quality teacher mentoring by ex-
11 periented teachers in early childhood education;

12 (B) providing resources and training to im-
13 prove instruction for, and provide appropriate
14 accommodations to, special populations, includ-
15 ing the unique needs of teaching in rural or
16 urban communities;

17 (C) the integration of coherent and rig-
18 orous academic content standards and career
19 and technical education curricula, including
20 through opportunities for appropriate academic
21 and career and technical education teachers to
22 jointly develop and implement curricula and
23 pedagogical strategies;

1 (D) providing resources or assistance with
2 meeting State teacher licensure and credential
3 requirements;

4 (E) implementing initiatives that increase
5 compensation for early childhood educators who
6 attain a Child Development Associate creden-
7 tial, or an associate or baccalaureate degree in
8 early childhood education; or

9 (F) training for career guidance and aca-
10 demic counselors at the secondary level to im-
11 prove awareness of postsecondary education and
12 postsecondary career options in early childhood
13 education, and improve the ability of such coun-
14 selors to communicate to students career oppor-
15 tunities and employment trends in early child-
16 hood education.

17 (f) EVALUATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligi-
18 ble partnership receiving a grant under this section shall
19 provide for an independent evaluation of the activities car-
20 ried out using such grant and submit to the Secretary an
21 annual report that includes—

22 (1) a description of how funds received under
23 this section were used; and

24 (2) the performance of the career and technical
25 education program of study funded with such grant

1 with respect to, at a minimum, the performance in-
2 dicators described under section 113 of the Carl D.
3 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
4 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2323), as applicable, and
5 disaggregated—

6 (A) by subgroups of students described in
7 section 1111(c)(2)(B) of the Elementary and
8 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 6311(c)(2)(B)); and

10 (B) by each special population; and

11 (3) a quantitative analysis of the effectiveness
12 of such program.

13 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—The term “child
15 care provider” has the meaning given such term in
16 section 658H(i) of the Child Care and Development
17 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(i)).

18 (2) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.—The term
19 “early childhood education program” has the mean-
20 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

22 (3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
23 recipient” has the meaning given the term in section
24 3(21)(A) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-

1 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
2 2302(21)(A)).

3 (4) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-
4 ble partnership” means a partnership between or
5 among—

6 (A) an eligible recipient; and

7 (B) one or more of the following:

8 (i) An institution of higher education
9 with a program of study in early childhood
10 education or a consortium of such institu-
11 tions.

12 (ii) A child care provider.

13 (iii) A community stakeholder relevant
14 to a career and technical education pro-
15 grams of study in early childhood edu-
16 cation to be funded under this section, in-
17 cluding a labor organization, a local or re-
18 gional business or industry, or a local
19 workforce development board.

20 (iv) A Child Care Resource and Refer-
21 ral Organization (as described in section
22 658E(c)(3)(B)(iii) of the Child Care and
23 Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
24 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3)(B)(iii)).

1 (v) A staffed family child care net-
2 work.

3 (5) PERKINS TERMS.—Except as otherwise pro-
4 vided, any term used in this Act that is defined in
5 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
6 nical Education Act of 2006 has the meaning given
7 that term in such section.

8 (6) STAFFED FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK.—
9 The term “staffed family child care network” means
10 a nonprofit organization—

11 (A) that may be a component of a child
12 care resource and referral organization;

13 (B) that has at least one paid staff mem-
14 ber; and

15 (C) that offers evidence-based professional
16 development, quality improvement support,
17 business support, and technical assistance, in-
18 cluding on achieving licensure as a child care
19 provider, to family child care providers.

○