

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7748

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to award grants to States to develop, convene, or expand industry or sector partnerships, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2022

Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to award grants to States to develop, convene, or expand industry or sector partnerships, 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 “Community-Based  
5 Workforce Development Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CAREER**  
2 **TRAINING FOR OCCUPATIONAL READINESS**  
3 **(SECTOR) PROGRAM.**

4 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and  
5 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended by  
6 adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 173. SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT THROUGH CAREER**  
8 **TRAINING FOR OCCUPATIONAL READINESS**  
9 **(SECTOR) PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated  
11 under subsection (e)(1), and not reserved under subsection  
12 (e)(2), the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) use not less than 80 percent of such  
14 amounts to award grants under subsection (b) to  
15 each State to develop, convene, or expand industry  
16 or sector partnerships; and

17 “(2) use not less than 20 percent of such  
18 amounts to award grants under subsection (c), on a  
19 competitive basis, to eligible industry or sector part-  
20 nerships for the purposes of expanding workforce de-  
21 velopment and employment opportunities for high-  
22 skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or  
23 occupations, as determined by the Secretary.

24 “(b) FORMULA GRANTS.—

25 “(1) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

1           “(A) STATE ALLOTMENT.—From the  
2 amount determined by the Secretary under sub-  
3 section (a)(1), the Secretary shall allot funds to  
4 each State on the basis of the relative allotment  
5 the State received under section 132(b) for such  
6 fiscal year, compared to the total amount allot-  
7 ted to all States under section 132(b) for such  
8 fiscal year.

9           “(B) LOCAL AREA ALLOCATIONS.—The  
10 Secretary shall use the amounts allotted under  
11 subparagraph (A) to distribute funds in the  
12 State to carry out the activities described in  
13 paragraph (2) by—

14           “(i) allocating funds to each local area  
15 of the State on the basis of the relative al-  
16 location the local area received under sec-  
17 tion 133(b) for such fiscal year, compared  
18 to the total amount allocated to all local  
19 areas in the State under section 133(b) for  
20 such fiscal year; or

21           “(ii) allocating funds to local areas of  
22 the State that have the highest rates of  
23 unemployment or poverty, or the highest  
24 numbers of individuals with barriers to em-  
25 ployment in the State.

1           “(C) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—A local  
2 board may transfer, if such a transfer is ap-  
3 proved by the Governor, up to and including  
4 100 percent of the funds allocated to the local  
5 area under section 133(b), and up to and in-  
6 cluding 100 percent of the funds allocated to  
7 the local area under this subsection for a fiscal  
8 year between—

9                   “(i) adult employment and training  
10                   activities; and

11                   “(ii) activities under this section.

12           “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The funds awarded  
13 under paragraph (1) may be used to—

14                   “(A) regularly convene stakeholders in a  
15 collaborative structure to identify, develop, im-  
16 prove, or expand training, employment, and  
17 growth opportunities for high-skill, high-wage,  
18 or in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

19                   “(B) form, expand, and improve training  
20 programs, to be managed by eligible industry  
21 and sector partnerships that include attainment  
22 of industry-recognized credentials, the integra-  
23 tion of work-based learning activities with train-  
24 ing curricula and occupational certification pro-  
25 grams, and that address specific workforce

1 issues and needs of groups of workers, with a  
2 priority on individuals with a barrier to employ-  
3 ment, within regional labor markets in the  
4 State;

5 “(C) strengthen the coordination of eligible  
6 industry and sector partnerships and programs  
7 with the programs administered under subtitle  
8 B of this title and with the one-stop partners  
9 described in section 121; and

10 “(D) to directly provide, or arrange for the  
11 provision of, services to help individuals with  
12 barriers to employment and other participants  
13 complete and successfully transition out of  
14 training described in subparagraph (B), which  
15 services shall include career services, supportive  
16 services, or the provision of needs-related pay-  
17 ments.

18 “(c) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

19 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amount  
20 determined by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2),  
21 the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive  
22 basis, to eligible industry or sector partnerships for  
23 the purposes described in subsection (a)(2).

24 “(2) APPLICATION.—

1           “(A) FORM AND PROCEDURE.—To receive  
2 a grant under this subsection, the lead appli-  
3 cant on behalf of an eligible industry or sector  
4 partnership shall submit to the Secretary an  
5 application at such time, in such manner, and  
6 containing such information as specified by the  
7 Secretary.

8           “(B) CONTENTS.—An application sub-  
9 mitted under paragraph (1) shall contain at a  
10 minimum the following:

11                   “(i) Identification of the high-skill,  
12 high-wage, or in-demand industry sector or  
13 occupation on which such partnership is  
14 focused.

15                   “(ii) A description of the activities to  
16 be carried out under the grant.

17                   “(iii) A description of the workers  
18 that will be targeted for recruitment as  
19 program participants, how a priority of  
20 service under the grant will be provided to  
21 individuals with barriers to employment,  
22 and how the activities will be designed to  
23 maximize access and eliminate barriers to  
24 entry to training and other activities for  
25 such individuals.

1                   “(iv) A description of other Federal or  
2                   non-Federal resources that will be lever-  
3                   aged in support of the eligible industry or  
4                   sector partnership (including cash or in-  
5                   kind contributions from private-sector  
6                   partners).

7                   “(3) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible industry or  
8                   sector partnership awarded a grant under this sub-  
9                   section shall use such grant funds—

10                   “(A) to engage and regularly convene  
11                   stakeholders in a collaborative structure to  
12                   identify, develop, improve, or expand training,  
13                   employment, and growth opportunities for the  
14                   high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry  
15                   sector or occupation on which such partnership  
16                   is focused;

17                   “(B) to directly provide, or arrange for the  
18                   provision of, high-quality, evidence-based train-  
19                   ing for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand in-  
20                   dustry sectors or occupations on which such  
21                   partnership is focused, which shall include  
22                   training that leads to the attainment of nation-  
23                   ally or regionally portable and stackable recog-  
24                   nized postsecondary credentials for the industry

1 sector or occupations described in paragraph  
2 (A), including—

3 “(i) training provided through appren-  
4 ticeship programs, or pre-apprenticeship  
5 programs that articulate to apprenticeship  
6 programs, labor organizations, or joint  
7 labor-management partnerships;

8 “(ii) on-the-job training, customized  
9 training, and paid internships and work  
10 experience;

11 “(iii) incumbent worker training to  
12 support lower wage workers in upgrading  
13 skills and advancing along a career path-  
14 way; and

15 “(iv) training services, in addition to  
16 those described in clauses (i) through (iii),  
17 that are authorized under section  
18 134(e)(3)(D), including occupational skills  
19 training; and

20 “(C) to directly provide, or arrange for the  
21 provision of, services to help individuals with  
22 barriers to employment and other participants  
23 complete and successfully transition out of  
24 training described in subparagraph (B), which  
25 services shall include career services, supportive

1 services, or the provision of needs-related pay-  
2 ments authorized under subsections (c)(2),  
3 (c)(4), and (d)(3) of section 134.

4 “(4) PRIORITY IN SELECTION OF GRANTS.—

5 The Secretary shall give priority consideration in ap-  
6 plications that demonstrate the ability to serve eligi-  
7 ble individuals in targeted economic regions that are  
8 experiencing high poverty, have traditionally been  
9 underserved by regional economic development and  
10 sector partnership activities (including rural areas),  
11 or is facing or at risk of facing significant worker  
12 dislocation due to a disruption or change in the re-  
13 gional or State economy or labor market.

14 “(d) PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUA-  
15 TION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The grants awarded under  
17 this section are subject to—

18 “(A) the primary indicators of performance  
19 under section 116(b)(2)(A) and expected levels  
20 of performance relating to such indicators; and

21 “(B) such additional measures as the Sec-  
22 retary deems appropriate, which may include  
23 skills attainment, wage or career progression,  
24 training-related employment, and additional job  
25 quality measures.

1           “(2) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years  
2 after the first award of funds under this section is  
3 made the Secretary (acting through the chief evalua-  
4 tion officer) shall design and conduct an evaluation  
5 to evaluate the effectiveness of the program carried  
6 out this section.

7           “(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall pub-  
8 lish the outcomes of grantees under the indicators  
9 and measures described in paragraph (1) and the  
10 evaluation described in paragraph (2) on a publicly  
11 accessible website, and submit the evaluation find-  
12 ings to the Committee on Education and Labor of  
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
14 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-  
15 ate.

16           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RES-  
17 ERVATIONS.—

18           “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
19 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
20 this section—

21                   “(A) \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

22                   “(B) \$1,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

23                   “(C) \$1,210,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

24                   “(D) \$1,331,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

1           “(E) \$1,464,100,000 for fiscal year 2027;

2           and

3           “(F) \$1,610,510,000 for fiscal year 2028.

4           “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds  
5           appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year,  
6           the Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent  
7           which—

8                   “(A) may be used for administration of the  
9                   program described in this section, in addition to  
10                  any other funds available for these activities, in-  
11                  cluding providing comprehensive technical as-  
12                  sistance, targeted outreach to eligible partner-  
13                  ships serving local areas with high unemploy-  
14                  ment rates or high percentages of low-income  
15                  individuals or individuals with barriers to em-  
16                  ployment; and oversight to support eligible part-  
17                  nerships; and

18                   “(B) shall be used to conduct an evalua-  
19                  tion of the activities carried out under this sec-  
20                  tion and for reporting on the performance and  
21                  impact of programs funded under this section.

22           “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23                   “(1) ELIGIBLE INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PART-  
24                  NERSHIP.—The term ‘eligible industry or sector  
25                  partnership’ means—

1           “(A) an industry or sector partnership,  
2           which shall include multiple representatives de-  
3           scribed in each of clauses (i) through (iii) of  
4           paragraph (26)(A) of section 3; or

5           “(B) a partnership of multiple entities de-  
6           scribed in section 3(26) and a State board or  
7           local board, that is in the process of estab-  
8           lishing an industry or sector partnership.

9           “(2) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term ‘lead appli-  
10          cant’ means an applicant for a grant under this sec-  
11          tion that is a State board, local board, institution of  
12          higher education, labor-management partnership,  
13          labor organization, industry association, or other  
14          State and regional nonprofit organizations with ex-  
15          perience in designing, convening, and expanding in-  
16          dustry or sector partnerships.”.

17 **SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

18          The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce  
19 Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended by inserting  
20 after the item relating to section 172, the following:

“Sec. 173. Sectoral employment through career training for occupational readi-  
ness (sector) program.”.

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