

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9079

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

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

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## 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 2022”.

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.

- Sec. 102. Applications.
- Sec. 103. Grant uses.
- Sec. 104. Reports.
- Sec. 105. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 106. Definitions.

TITLE II—INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- Sec. 201. Institutional capacity and wraparound service support grant program.
- Sec. 202. Application.
- Sec. 203. Selection committee.
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TITLE III—EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR STUDENTS

- Sec. 301. Emergency grant fund program.
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TITLE IV—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 401. Technical assistance 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) Other relevant State agencies as  
7 determined by the Governor of such State.

8 (2) EDUCATION ALIGNMENT.—A plan to—

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

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

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

22 (3) DEVELOPMENT.—A plan to—

23 (A) improve career pathway development,  
24 with special attention to career pathways re-

1           lated to in-demand industry sectors or occupa-  
2           tions described in paragraph (9);

3           (B) increase economic mobility of State  
4           residents; and

5           (C) provide access to affordable postsec-  
6           ondary education for State residents through a  
7           network of coordinated State and Federal sup-  
8           port systems designed and implemented by  
9           State agencies.

10          (4) CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT.—A plan to  
11          prioritize secondary and recognized postsecondary  
12          credential attainment through—

13               (A) integrated education and training mod-  
14               els;

15               (B) dual enrollment programs; and

16               (C) an increased number of navigators.

17          (5) PRIORITY.—A plan to prioritize assistance  
18          to individuals—

19               (A) with a barrier to employment; or

20               (B) with incomes below 200 percent of the  
21               poverty level.

22          (6) PUBLIC RESOURCES.—A plan to maximize  
23          public resources to support the attainment of a rec-  
24          ognized postsecondary credential, including with re-  
25          spect to—

1 (A) transportation;

2 (B) on-campus or off-campus housing; and

3 (C) childcare.

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

7 (A) live in high-poverty areas;

8 (B) are first-generation students;

9 (C) are low-income students; and

10 (D) identify as belonging to other under-  
11 represented student groups.

12 (8) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL  
13 RETENTION AND COMPLETION.—A plan to increase  
14 retention and credential completion by—

15 (A) developing new, or expanding existing,  
16 degree and credential programs based on the  
17 needs of in-demand industry sectors or occupa-  
18 tions described in paragraph (9); and

19 (B) increasing the number of career coun-  
20 selors and navigators.

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

23 (A) identify in-demand industry sectors or  
24 occupations in such State; and

1 (B) develop and provide access to path-  
2 ways to credential and degree programs for jobs  
3 in such industries, giving priority to credential  
4 and degree programs that correspond to high-  
5 quality jobs in consultation with—

6 (i) the State board;

7 (ii) the State health and human serv-  
8 ices agency;

9 (iii) the State board of higher edu-  
10 cation; and

11 (iv) business industry groups within  
12 the State.

13 (10) FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—

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

20 (i) treat the pursuit of a recognized  
21 postsecondary credential as meeting any  
22 compliance, work participation, and core  
23 activity requirements for each such pro-  
24 gram; and



1           (ii) increase access to and completion  
2           of recognized postsecondary credential pro-  
3           grams.

4           (B) COVERED PROGRAMS DEFINED.—In  
5           this paragraph, the term “covered programs”  
6           means—

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

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

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

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

20          (A) providing tuition-free community and  
21          technical college pathways to individuals who  
22          have not attained—

23          (i) a secondary school diploma or its  
24          recognized equivalent; or

1 (ii) a recognized postsecondary cre-  
2 dential; and

3 (B) expanding institutional capacity to  
4 meet an increased demand for recognized post-  
5 secondary credentials by expanding supportive  
6 services, including with respect to hiring addi-  
7 tional—

8 (i) career counselors;

9 (ii) navigators; and

10 (iii) other support staff.

11 (12) DATA COLLECTION.—A plan for data col-  
12 lection efforts to measure program outcomes and  
13 evaluate program success, including by leveraging  
14 existing administrative data to track any change in  
15 participation in recognized postsecondary credential  
16 programs at community colleges.

17 (13) DATA SHARING.—A State shall—

18 (A) provide an interagency data sharing  
19 agreement that facilitates statewide data collec-  
20 tion efforts between—

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

23 (ii) the State educational agency;

24 (iii) the State higher education sys-  
25 tem;

1 (iv) the State board; and

2 (v) other agencies determined by the  
3 Secretary to be necessary; and

4 (B) detail how such agreement will pro-  
5 mote cross-agency collaboration and improve  
6 recognized postsecondary credential completion.

7 (14) TRANSFER AGREEMENTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A description of—

9 (i) transfer agreements between 2-  
10 year and 4-year public institutions of high-  
11 er education in such State; and

12 (ii) the ways in which the State will  
13 expand the number of transfer agreements,  
14 including with respect to the facilitation  
15 and improvement of credit transfers be-  
16 tween institutions.

17 (B) TRANSFER AGREEMENT.—An assur-  
18 ance that the transfer agreement required  
19 under subparagraph (A)(i) shall include, at a  
20 minimum—

21 (i) a general education curriculum  
22 that consists of not fewer than 30 credit  
23 hours that are transferrable to any public  
24 institution of higher education in such  
25 State;

1 (ii) common course numbering for  
2 substantively similar courses in such gen-  
3 eral education curriculum; and

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

9 **SEC. 103. GRANT USES.**

10 A State shall use grant funds awarded under this title  
11 for the following:

12 (1) Implementing the State plan submitted  
13 under section 102.

14 (2) Ensuring that eligible students enrolled in  
15 community colleges—

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

17 (B) are not required to apply financial as-  
18 sistance to tuition or fees.

19 **SEC. 104. REPORTS.**

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

24 (1) the uses of funds;

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

3           (3) rates of—

4                 (A) graduation and attainment of recog-  
5 nized postsecondary credentials at participating  
6 community colleges; and

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

9           (4) other information determined by the Sec-  
10 retary to be necessary.

11         (b) CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

18                 (B) transfer agreements required under  
19 section 102(14).

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

23                 (A) a report describing the reasons for the  
24 failure of such State to provide certification;  
25 and

1 (B) a plan to ensure that, not later than  
2 5 years after the date on which the State re-  
3 ceived a grant under this title, such State will  
4 provide such certification.

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

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

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

13 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

17 **SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) BUSINESS INDUSTRY GROUP.—The term  
20 “business industry group” means an organization  
21 that represents businesses (including small busi-  
22 nesses), individual employers, industry clusters, and  
23 individuals from—

24 (A) business or trade organizations;

25 (B) economic development organizations;

- 1 (C) nonprofit organizations, community-  
2 based organizations, or intermediaries;  
3 (D) philanthropic organizations;  
4 (E) industry associations; or  
5 (F) other organizations determined nec-  
6 essary by the State.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE.—The term  
8 “eligible associate’s degree” means an associate’s de-  
9 gree that—

10 (A) is in an academic major in the arts or  
11 sciences;

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

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

17 (3) HIGH-QUALITY JOB.—The term “high-qual-  
18 ity job” means a job with—

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

21 (B) access to training and advancement  
22 opportunities;

23 (C) paid sick leave;

24 (D) paid family leave; and

1 (E) paid medical leave or short-term dis-  
2 ability leave.

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

7 (A) understand the eligibility of such stu-  
8 dents for Federal, State, and local financial aid  
9 and benefit options;

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

12 (C) connect students with resources on  
13 campus and in the community.

14 **TITLE II—INSTITUTIONAL**  
15 **CAPACITY**

16 **SEC. 201. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND WRAPAROUND**  
17 **SERVICE SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
19 program to award grants to each eligible State that sub-  
20 mits a complete application under section 202 to provide  
21 institutional capacity and wraparound service support  
22 with respect to the implementation of tuition-free commu-  
23 nity college under title I.



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

4 (1) The cost analysis required under section  
5 202(1).

6 (2) The number of adults in such State without  
7 a secondary credential or recognized postsecondary  
8 credential.

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

12 (4) The unemployment rate in such State.

13 **SEC. 202. APPLICATION.**

14 To be eligible for a grant under this title, an eligible  
15 State shall submit to the Secretary an application in such  
16 form, at such time, and containing such information as  
17 the Secretary determines appropriate, including—

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

20 (A) the expansion of institutional capacity;

21 and

22 (B) the provision of wraparound services  
23 for students;

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

4           (A) community colleges that are located in  
5 geographic areas that serve local educational  
6 agencies that participate, through the commu-  
7 nity eligibility provision authorized by the  
8 Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 (42  
9 U.S.C. 1758 note et seq.) in—

10           (i) the national school lunch program  
11 under the Richard B. Russell National  
12 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et  
13 seq.); and

14           (ii) the school breakfast program  
15 under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
16 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

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

20           (C) institutions of higher education with  
21 admissions rates of 50 percent or higher;

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

- 1 (i) historically Black colleges or uni-  
2 versities;
- 3 (ii) Hispanic-serving institutions;
- 4 (iii) Tribal colleges or universities;
- 5 (iv) minority-serving institutions; and
- 6 (v) rural-serving institutions of higher  
7 education.

8 **SEC. 203. SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

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

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deter-  
14 mine the number of members, of whom not less than  
15 50 percent—

16 (A) may not be employed by the Federal  
17 Government;

18 (B) shall have relevant research or prac-  
19 tical experience with respect to student support  
20 programs;

21 (C) shall have relevant research or prac-  
22 tical experience with respect to designing and  
23 implementing tuition-free community college  
24 programs; and

1 (D) shall identify as belonging to an  
2 underrepresented group in higher education, in-  
3 cluding—

4 (i) African Americans;

5 (ii) Hispanics;

6 (iii) Native Americans;

7 (iv) Alaska Natives;

8 (v) Asian Americans; and

9 (vi) Native American Pacific Island-  
10 ers, including Native Hawaiians.

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

14 **SEC. 204. GRANT USES.**

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

18 (b) SUBGRANTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State shall award  
20 subgrants to eligible institutions.

21 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this  
22 subsection, the term “eligible institution” means an  
23 institution—

24 (A) listed in subparagraphs (A) through  
25 (D) of section 202(2); and

1 (B) located in the eligible State.

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

7 (4) SUBGRANT USES.—An eligible institution  
8 that receives a subgrant under this subsection shall  
9 use such subgrant funds for implementing activities  
10 and services that improve retention and completion  
11 of recognized postsecondary credentials, including—

12 (A) identifying and addressing the needs of  
13 students, including affordable housing,  
14 childcare, transportation, and food;

15 (B) supporting the work of navigators, in-  
16 cluding—

17 (i) providing information to students  
18 with respect to eligibility for assistance  
19 under other Federal, State, and institu-  
20 tional assistance programs; and

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

23 (C) hiring additional staff;

24 (D) increasing access to supportive services  
25 by centralizing such services on-campus;

1 (E) offering additional scheduling options  
2 for classes with respect to the day, time, and lo-  
3 cation of such classes;

4 (F) improving the transfer of credits be-  
5 tween institutions of higher education, including  
6 community colleges;

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

9 (H) providing access to technology, includ-  
10 ing—

11 (i) digital literacy courses;

12 (ii) computers;

13 (iii) software; and

14 (iv) other equipment necessary to at-  
15 tain a recognized postsecondary credential.

16 **SEC. 205. REPORTS.**

17 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—

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

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

23 (B) progress made in fulfilling the require-  
24 ments of the grant;

- 1 (C) with respect to participating commu-  
2 nity colleges, rates of—
- 3 (i) graduation;
  - 4 (ii) transfer; and
  - 5 (iii) attainment of recognized postsec-  
6 ondary credentials;
- 7 (D) the institutional reports submitted  
8 under subsection (b);
- 9 (E) the ways in which the State is commu-  
10 nicating with institutions to—
- 11 (i) understand the barriers of stu-  
12 dents, with respect to eligibility and access,  
13 to public supports; and
  - 14 (ii) use the information described in  
15 subparagraph (A) to inform any changes;
- 16 (F) the ways in which the State human  
17 services agency and State board are aligning  
18 the policy goals of such agencies with the policy  
19 goals of the State higher education agency;
- 20 (G) changes in completion of secondary  
21 and postsecondary degrees for target eligible  
22 students;
- 23 (H) changes in access to, and use of, pub-  
24 lic benefits;

1 (I) changes in employment with respect to  
2 in-demand industry sectors and high-quality  
3 jobs;

4 (J) changes in rates of unemployment and  
5 underemployment;

6 (K) other data as provided by the State;  
7 and

8 (L) other data as required by the Sec-  
9 retary;

10 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information de-  
11 scribed in subparagraphs (G) through (K) shall be  
12 disaggregated, where possible, by—

13 (A) race;

14 (B) ethnicity; and

15 (C) income level.

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

20 (1) the uses of funds;

21 (2) with respect to the period beginning on the  
22 date on which a subgrant was received and ending  
23 on the date on which the report is submitted,  
24 changes in rates of—

25 (A) retention; and



1 (B) graduation;

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

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

7 (A) the basic needs of students;

8 (B) the financial barriers of students; and

9 (C) the connection of students to public  
10 supports.

11 **SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

15 **SEC. 207. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this title:

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

20 (2) **HEA TERMS.**—

21 (A) **HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.**—

22 The term “Hispanic-serving institution” has  
23 the meaning given such term in section 502 of  
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
25 1101a).

1           (B) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR  
2 UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black col-  
3 lege or university” has the meaning given the  
4 term “part B institution” in section 322 of the  
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
6 1061).

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

12           (D) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—  
13 The term “Tribal college or university” has the  
14 meaning given such term in section 316(b) of  
15 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
16 1059c(b)).

17           (E) RURAL-SERVING INSTITUTION OF  
18 HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “rural-serving  
19 institution of higher education” has the mean-  
20 ing given such term in section 861(b) of the  
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
22 1161q(b)).

1     **TITLE III—EMERGENCY FUNDS**  
2                     **FOR STUDENTS**

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

4             (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
5 program to provide grants to each State that submits a  
6 complete application to provide emergency aid subgrants  
7 to eligible students enrolled at a public institution of high-  
8 er education.

9             (b) FUNDS.—

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

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

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

19             (c) ELIGIBLE STUDENT DEFINED.—In this title, the  
20 term “eligible student” means a student enrolled at a pub-  
21 lic institution of higher education, without regard to  
22 whether such student submits an application under section  
23 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
24 1090), experiencing financial challenges that may affect

1 the ability of such student to remain enrolled at such insti-  
2 tution, including—

3 (1) loss of—

4 (A) employment (including a temporary  
5 loss of employment);

6 (B) transportation;

7 (C) child care;

8 (D) utilities (including water and elec-  
9 tricity); or

10 (E) housing;

11 (2) food insecurity;

12 (3) with respect to a student or the dependent  
13 of such student, a medical condition or need, includ-  
14 ing—

15 (A) pregnancy; and

16 (B) mental health conditions;

17 (4) with respect to a student who is a depend-  
18 ent—

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

20 (B) a parent or guardian with a medical  
21 condition that results in temporary or perma-  
22 nent loss of employment of such parent or  
23 guardian.

1 **SEC. 302. APPLICATION.**

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—

6 (1) a data-sharing agreement between the State  
7 agency administering the program and the institu-  
8 tions of higher education in such State;

9 (2) the ways in which such State will ensure  
10 publicity and availability of emergency aid on cam-  
11 puses of participating institutions of higher edu-  
12 cation;

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

15 (A) income distribution of eligible students;

16 (B) the number of open-access and rural  
17 institutions; and

18 (C) poverty rates;

19 (4) the populations of students such State will  
20 prioritize in awarding subgrants;

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

24 (A) responding to applications;

25 (B) approving applications; and

1 (C) disbursing emergency aid subgrants  
2 outside of business hours; and

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

7 (A) the special supplemental nutrition pro-  
8 gram for women, infants, and children under  
9 section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966  
10 (42 U.S.C. 1786);

11 (B) the supplemental nutrition assistance  
12 program under the Food and Nutrition Act of  
13 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

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

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

20 (E) the supplemental security income pro-  
21 gram under title XVI of the Social Security Act  
22 (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

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

1 (G) Federal housing assistance programs  
2 under the United States Housing Act of 1937,  
3 including—

4 (i) public housing as defined in sec-  
5 tion 3(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 1437a(b)); and

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

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

12 **SEC. 303. GRANT USES.**

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

16 (b) SUBGRANTS.—

17 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—In awarding subgrants  
18 under this subsection, a State may award a contract  
19 to a scholarship-granting organization for purposes  
20 of—

21 (A) accepting applications from eligible  
22 students; and

23 (B) disbursing subgrant funds to eligible  
24 students.

25 (2) APPLICATIONS.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a  
2           subgrant under this title, an eligible student  
3           shall submit to the State an application in such  
4           form, at such time, and containing such infor-  
5           mation as the State determines appropriate.

6           (B) APPEAL.—If an application for an  
7           emergency aid subgrant submitted by an eligi-  
8           ble student under subparagraph (A) is denied  
9           by the State, such student may appeal such de-  
10          nial in a manner to be determined by the State.

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

15          (4) FUNDS.—

16                (A) SUBGRANT AMOUNTS.—

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

22                   (ii) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITH DE-  
23                   PENDENTS.—With respect to an academic  
24                   year, a subgrant awarded to an eligible



1 student with a dependent may not exceed  
2 \$2,500.

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

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

9 **SEC. 304. DATA COLLECTION.**

10 A State that awards subgrants under this title shall  
11 collect the following data:

12 (1) With respect to each public institution of  
13 higher education—

14 (A) the number and percentage of students  
15 receiving emergency aid; and

16 (B) the average grant amount for each  
17 student.

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

20 (A) rate of retention; and

21 (B) rate of completion of a recognized sec-  
22 ondary credential.

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

25 (4) Other data reported by the State.

1 (5) Other data required by the Secretary.

2 **SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

6 **TITLE IV—TECHNICAL**  
7 **ASSISTANCE**

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

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

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

15 (1) that is—

16 (A) a nonprofit organization;

17 (B) a think tank;

18 (C) a State board of education;

19 (D) a research center at an institution of  
20 higher education; or

21 (E) an other entity as determined by the  
22 Secretary;

23 (2) that has expertise with respect to—

24 (A) developing, designing, researching, or  
25 evaluating—

- 1 (i) tuition-free community college pro-  
2 grams;  
3 (ii) emergency aid programs; or  
4 (iii) initiatives addressing the basic  
5 needs of students; or  
6 (B) implementing supportive services pro-  
7 grams for students; and  
8 (3) that has a demonstrated record of sup-  
9 porting institutions of higher education or States  
10 with respect to—  
11 (A) the activities described in paragraph  
12 (2); and  
13 (B) connecting students to public benefits.

14 **SEC. 402. APPLICATION.**

15 To be eligible for a grant under this title, an eligible  
16 entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such  
17 form, at such time, and containing such information as  
18 the Secretary determines appropriate.

19 **SEC. 403. GRANT USES.**

20 An eligible entity shall use grant funds awarded  
21 under this title for the following:

- 22 (1) Assisting States with respect to—  
23 (A) the application process for a grant  
24 under title I, II, or III of this Act; and

1 (B) the development or new, or expansion  
2 or improvement of existing, tuition-free commu-  
3 nity college models.

4 (2) Assisting the Secretary with respect to—

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

7 (B) providing feedback to such States.

8 **SEC. 404. REPORTS.**

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

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

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

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

23 (B) any recommendations for changes with  
24 respect to Federal policies described in para-  
25 graph (1).

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

7 **SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

11 **TITLE V—DEFINITIONS**

12 **SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The term “commu-  
15 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior  
16 or community college” in Section 312 of the Higher  
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

18 (2) **ELIGIBLE STUDENT.**—The term “eligible  
19 student” means an individual who—

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

21 (B) a resident of the State; and

22 (C) does not have a recognized postsec-  
23 ondary credential.

24 (3) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “secondary  
25 school” and “Secretary” have the meanings given

1 such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and  
2 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

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

7 (5) WIOA TERMS.—

8 (A) The terms “in-demand industry sector  
9 or occupation”, “individual with a barrier to  
10 employment”, “recognized postsecondary cre-  
11 dential”, “State board”, and “supportive serv-  
12 ices” have the meanings given such terms in  
13 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-  
14 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

15 (B) The term “integrated education and  
16 training” has the meaning given such term in  
17 section 203 of the Workforce Innovation and  
18 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

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