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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, 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 “Opening Doors for
5 Youth Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The time between the early teens and mid-
4 twenties represents a critical developmental period in
5 which individuals can gain the education and train-
6 ing, entry-level work experiences, work-readiness
7 skills, and social networks needed to smoothly tran-
8 sition into the labor market and build towards fu-
9 ture professional success.

10 (2) Yet, nearly 5 million young people ages 16
11 to 24 are out of school and unemployed, leaving
12 them disconnected from the systems and institutions
13 critical for developing the building blocks of inde-
14 pendence and self-sufficiency.

15 (3) Communities of color experience the highest
16 rates of youth disconnection: 25.4 percent of Native
17 American youth, 18.9 percent of Black youth, and
18 14.3 percent of Latino youth between the ages of 16
19 and 24 were disconnected from school and work in
20 2015.

21 (4) Disconnected youth are also three times
22 more likely than other youth to have a disability,
23 twice as likely to live below the federal poverty
24 threshold, and significantly more likely to live in ra-
25 cially segregated neighborhoods. Disconnected young
26 women and girls are three times more likely to have

1 a child, and young people involved in the juvenile
2 justice system or aging out of the foster care system
3 are at high risk of disconnection.

4 (5) Disconnection from school and work can
5 have significant consequences for youth, including
6 decreased earning power and fewer future employ-
7 ment opportunities. According to the 2012 report,
8 “The Economic Value of Opportunity Youth”, dis-
9 connected youth will, on average, earn \$392,070 less
10 than the average worker over their lifetimes.

11 (6) Failure to successfully connect young people
12 to employment and educational opportunities also re-
13 sults in a significant loss in productivity for the
14 overall economy, as well as increases in government
15 spending. According to a recent report from Meas-
16 ure of America, in 2013, youth disconnection re-
17 sulted in \$26.8 billion in public expenditures, includ-
18 ing spending on health care, public assistance, and
19 incarceration.

20 (7) Disconnected young people, commonly re-
21 ferred to as “opportunity youth” because of their
22 tremendous potential, can add great social and eco-
23 nomic value to our communities and the economy, if
24 given the appropriate supports and resources. Ac-
25 cording to the Opportunity Index, an annual meas-

1 urement of opportunity in a geographic region, the
2 number of opportunity youth, along with educational
3 attainment and poverty rates, are strongly linked to
4 overall opportunity in communities. When young
5 adults do well, communities do well.

6 (8) Despite their talent and motivation, many
7 opportunity youth lack access to the training, edu-
8 cation, and entry-level jobs that can help them gain
9 the work experience and credentials needed to suc-
10 cessfully transition into the labor market.

11 (9) Lack of access to entry-level jobs can limit
12 a young adult's ability to accrue early work experi-
13 ence and demonstrate productivity and work readi-
14 ness to potential employers. Labor market shifts
15 have also limited opportunities for young people
16 without a high school diploma or with limited post-
17 secondary credentials. According to a 2013 report
18 from the Georgetown University Center on Edu-
19 cation and the Workforce, by the year 2020, an esti-
20 mated 65 percent of all U.S. jobs will require post-
21 secondary education and training.

22 (10) Summer and year-round youth employ-
23 ment programs that connect young people with
24 entry-level jobs give youth the work experience and
25 opportunity for skill development needed to transi-

1 tion into the labor market and prevent points of dis-
2 connection, such as involvement in the criminal and
3 juvenile justice systems.

4 (11) Evidence suggests that summer youth em-
5 ployment programs may help in-school youth remain
6 connected to the education system. A study of the
7 New York City Summer Youth Employment Pro-
8 gram found that after program participation, youth
9 older than 16 increased their school attendance by
10 four or five additional days compared to their pre-
11 vious fall semester attendance. This attendance in-
12 crease represented 25 percent of the total days stu-
13 dents were permitted to miss school and still con-
14 tinue on to the next grade.

15 (12) Evidence shows that participation in sum-
16 mer youth employment programs also reduces the
17 rate of violent crimes arrests. For example, studies
18 of Chicago's One Summer Plus program show that
19 the program reduced violent crime arrests among at-
20 risk youth by approximately 43 percent, with crime
21 reduction benefits lasting over a year after the pro-
22 gram had ended. This reduction can have significant
23 impact for young people, given the impact of a
24 criminal record on future employment prospects and
25 wages.

1 (13) Despite its benefits, summer youth em-
2 ployment has declined by more than 40 percent dur-
3 ing the past 12 years, at a loss of more than 3 mil-
4 lion summer jobs for young Americans. A J.P. Mor-
5 gan Chase study of 14 major U.S. cities found that
6 summer youth employment programs were only able
7 to provide opportunities for 46 percent of applicants
8 in 2014.

9 (14) According to research by Measure of
10 America, the overwhelming number of youth discon-
11 nected from school and work come from discon-
12 nected communities marked by high adult unemploy-
13 ment, poverty, and racial segregation, as well as low
14 levels of adult education attainment. These commu-
15 nities often lack the resources and supports needed
16 to prevent and reverse youth disconnection.

17 (15) Many at-risk or opportunity youth, finding
18 that traditional pathways to educational attainment
19 or employment are ill-matched to their individual
20 needs, struggle to remain connected or reconnect to
21 school and work.

22 (16) For some youth, individual barriers—such
23 as unstable housing, lack access to affordable child
24 care or transportation, or involvement in the juvenile
25 or criminal justice system—make it difficult to take

1 advantage of existing employment and education
2 pathways.

3 (17) According the 2016 report, “Supportive
4 Services in Job Training and Education: A Research
5 Review,” studies suggest that education and training
6 programs that offer supportive services, such as
7 child care, transportation, and financial assistance,
8 are associated with improved outcomes.

9 (18) Community-based preventions and inter-
10 ventions can address the distinct problems oppor-
11 tunity youth may face in the local community and
12 provide a connection to the education and training,
13 re-engagement, and supportive services needed to
14 help these young people succeed.

15 (19) Previous Federal grant programs targeting
16 communities with high rates of poverty have been
17 successful in building such communities’ capacity to
18 improve labor market participation and education at-
19 tainment rates for young people.

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary of Labor—

23 (1) \$1,500,000,000 to carry out section 5;

24 (2) \$2,000,000,000 to carry out section 6; and

1 (3) \$2,000,000,000 to provide competitive
2 grants in accordance with section 7.

3 **SEC. 4. RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**
4 **AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

5 (a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of
6 Labor shall reserve—

7 (1) not more than 5 percent of amounts avail-
8 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
9 section 3 for the costs of innovation and learning ac-
10 tivities under section 10;

11 (2) not more than 5 percent of amounts avail-
12 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
13 section 3 for the costs of Federal administration of
14 this Act; and

15 (3) not more than 2 percent of amounts avail-
16 able under each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of
17 section 3 for the costs of evaluations conducted
18 under section 11.

19 (b) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—The amounts appro-
20 priated under this Act shall be available for obligation by
21 the Secretary of Labor until the date that is 4 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AT-**
2 **RISK YOUTH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
4 section 3(1) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
5 retary of Labor shall, for the purpose of carrying out sum-
6 mer employment programs under this section,—

7 (1) make an allotment in accordance with sec-
8 tion 127(b)(1)(C)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation
9 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3162(b)(1)(C)(ii))
10 to each State that meets the requirements of section
11 102 or 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113);

12 (2) reserve not more than one-quarter of 1 per-
13 cent of such amounts to provide assistance to the
14 outlying areas; and

15 (3) reserve not more than 1 ½ percent of such
16 amount to, on a competitive basis, make grants to,
17 or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements
18 with, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Na-
19 tive entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving
20 Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry
21 out the activities described in subsection (d)(2).

22 (b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State, in
24 accordance with the State plan developed under sec-
25 tion 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and
26 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113), shall allo-

1 cate the amounts that are allotted to the State
2 under subsection (a)(1) to eligible local areas in ac-
3 cordance with section 128(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce
4 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
5 3163(b)(2)(A)) for the purpose of developing and ex-
6 panding summer employment programs under this
7 section.

8 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
9 made available for summer youth employment pro-
10 grams under this section shall supplement and not
11 supplant other State or local public funds expended
12 for summer youth employment programs or other
13 youth activities funded under section 129 of the
14 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
15 U.S.C. 3163).

16 (3) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—The
17 Governor may, after consultation with the State
18 board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the
19 State amounts that are made available to local areas
20 from allocations made under this section and that
21 are available for reallocation in accordance with sec-
22 tion 128(c)(2)–(4) of the Workforce Innovation and
23 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3163(c)(2)–(4)).

24 (4) LOCAL RESERVATION.—Of the amounts al-
25 located to a local area under paragraph (1), not

1 more than 7 percent of such amounts may be used
2 for the administrative costs, including costs for par-
3 ticipating in regional and national opportunities for
4 in-person peer learning under section 10.

5 (c) LOCAL PLANS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The local board of the local
7 area shall develop and submit, in partnership with
8 the chief elected official, a 4-year plan. The plan
9 shall be consistent with the local plan submitted by
10 the local board under section 108 of the Workforce
11 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3123),
12 as determined by the Governor.

13 (2) SUBMISSION.—The plan shall be submitted
14 to the Governor at such time and in such manner
15 as the Governor may reasonably require. A local
16 area may develop and submit to the Governor a local
17 plan for programs under this section and a local
18 plan for programs under section 6 in lieu of submit-
19 ting two plans.

20 (3) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, each plan
21 shall include—

22 (A) a description of how the local area will
23 use program funds, in accordance with sub-
24 section (d), to develop or expand summer youth
25 employment programs for each program year;

1 (B) a description of how the local area will
2 recruit eligible youth into the program;

3 (C) the number of individuals expected to
4 participate in the summer employment program
5 each program year;

6 (D) a description of the services, including
7 supportive services, that the summer employ-
8 ment program is expected to provide;

9 (E) reasonable goals for performance ac-
10 countability measures outlined in subsection (i);

11 (F) an assurance that the summer employ-
12 ment program will be aligned with the youth
13 services provided under the Workforce Innova-
14 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
15 seq.);

16 (G) an assurance that the local area will
17 adhere to the labor standards outlined in sec-
18 tion 8; and

19 (H) any other information as the Governor
20 may reasonably require.

21 (d) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—

22 (1) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—To be
23 eligible to participate in activities carried out under
24 this section during any program year, an individual
25 shall, at the time the eligibility determination is

1 made, be either an out-of-school youth or an in-
2 school youth.

3 (2) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—

4 (A) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A local
5 area that has, at the beginning of the program
6 year, no summer youth employment programs
7 or programs that do not have all program ele-
8 ments described in paragraph (3)(B) shall use
9 unreserved allotted funds to—

10 (i) plan, develop, and carry out activi-
11 ties described in paragraph (3)(B);

12 (ii) at the local area’s discretion, de-
13 velop technology infrastructure, including
14 data and management systems, to support
15 program activities;

16 (iii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
17 pants and employers; and

18 (iv) at the local area’s discretion, use
19 not more than 25 percent of allocated pro-
20 gram funds to subsidize not more than 75
21 percent of the wages of each youth partici-
22 pant.

23 (B) EXPANSION ACTIVITIES.—A local area
24 that has, at the beginning of the program year,
25 a summer youth employment program that has

1 all program elements described in paragraph
2 (3)(B) shall use unreserved allotted funds to—
3 (i) increase the number of summer
4 employment opportunities, including un-
5 subsidized or partly subsidized opportuni-
6 ties and opportunities in the private sector;
7 (ii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
8 pants and employers;
9 (iii) use allocated program funds to
10 subsidize not more than 50 percent of the
11 wages of each youth participant; and
12 (iv) at the local area’s discretion, en-
13 hance activities described in paragraph
14 (3)(B).

15 (3) LOCAL ELEMENTS.—

16 (A) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Programs funded
17 under this section shall match each youth par-
18 ticipant with an appropriate employer, based on
19 factors including the needs of the employer and
20 the age, skill, and informed aspirations of the
21 youth participant, for a high-quality summer
22 employment opportunity, which may not—
23 (i) be less than 4 weeks; and
24 (ii) pay less than the highest of the
25 Federal, State, or local minimum wage.

1 (B) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Program ele-
2 ments include—

3 (i) work-readiness training and edu-
4 cational programs to enhance the summer
5 employment opportunity;

6 (ii) coaching and mentoring services
7 for youth participants to enhance the sum-
8 mer employment opportunity and encour-
9 age program completion;

10 (iii) coaching and mentoring services
11 for employers on how to successfully em-
12 ploy each youth participant in meaningful
13 work;

14 (iv) career and college planning serv-
15 ices;

16 (v) high-quality financial literacy edu-
17 cation, including education on the use of
18 credit and financing higher education, and
19 access to safe and affordable banking ac-
20 counts with consumer protections;

21 (vi) supportive services, or connection
22 to existing supportive services, to enable
23 participation in the program;

24 (vii) integration of services provided
25 by the program with existing year-round

1 employment programs, youth development
2 programs, secondary school programs,
3 youth services provided under the Work-
4 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
5 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and skills training
6 programs funded by the State or Federal
7 Government;

8 (viii) referral of at least 30 percent of
9 participants from or to providers of youth,
10 adult, vocational rehabilitation services,
11 and adult education and literacy services
12 under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
13 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or
14 skills training programs funded by the
15 State or Federal Government;

16 (ix) rigorous evaluation of programs
17 using research approaches appropriate to
18 programs in different levels of development
19 and maturity, including random assign-
20 ment or quasi-experimental impact evalua-
21 tions, implementation evaluations, pre-ex-
22 perimental studies, and feasibility studies;
23 and

24 (x) commitment and support from
25 mayors or county executives.

1 (C) PRIORITY.—Priority shall be given to
2 summer employment opportunities—

3 (i) in existing or emerging in-demand
4 industry sectors or occupations or

5 (ii) that meet community needs in the
6 public, private, or nonprofit sector.

7 (5) IN-SCHOOL YOUTH PRIORITY.—For any
8 program year, not less than 75 percent of the unre-
9 served funds allotted to local area under this section
10 shall be used to provide summer employment oppor-
11 tunities for in-school youth.

12 (e) REPORTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that a local
14 area receives funds under this section, the local area
15 shall submit to the Secretary of Labor and Governor
16 a report with—

17 (A) the number of youth participants in
18 the program, including the number of in-school
19 and out-of-school youth;

20 (B) the number of youth participants who
21 completed the summer employment opportunity;

22 (C) the expenditures made from the
23 amounts allocated under this section, including
24 expenditures made to provide youth participants
25 with supportive services;

1 (D) a description of how the local area has
2 used program funds to develop or expand sum-
3 mer youth employment programs, including a
4 description of program activities and services
5 provided, including supportive services provided
6 and the number of youth participants accessing
7 such services;

8 (E) the source and amount of funding for
9 the wages of each youth participant;

10 (F) information specifying the levels of
11 performance achieved with respect to the pri-
12 mary indicators of performance described in
13 subsection (i) for the program;

14 (G) the average number of hours and
15 weeks worked and the average amount of wages
16 earned by youth participants in the program;

17 (H) the percent of youth participants
18 placed in employment opportunities in the non-
19 profit, public, and private sectors; and

20 (I) any other information that the Sec-
21 retary of Labor determines necessary to mon-
22 itor the effectiveness of the program.

23 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information re-
24 quired to be reported pursuant to subparagraphs
25 (A), (B), and (G) of paragraph (1) shall be

1 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, and sub-
2 populations described in section 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–
3 (VI) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
4 Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VI)).

5 (f) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—Primary indi-
6 cators of performance shall be the performance metrics de-
7 scribed in sections 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(V) and
8 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
9 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(V),
10 3141(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)) and a work-readiness indicator es-
11 tablished by the Secretary of Labor.

12 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL AREA FAIL-
13 URE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY
14 MEASURES.—If a local area fails to meet performance ac-
15 countability goals established under local plans for any
16 program year, the Governor, or, upon request by the Gov-
17 ernor, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical as-
18 sistance, which may include assistance in the development
19 of a performance improvement plan.

20 **SEC. 6. YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT FOR OPPORTUNITY**
21 **YOUTH.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
23 section 3(1) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
24 retary of Labor shall, for the purpose of carrying out year-
25 round employment programs under this section,—

1 (1) make an allotment in accordance with sec-
2 tion 127(b)(1)(C)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation
3 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3162(b)(1)(C)(ii))
4 to each State that meets the requirements of section
5 102 or 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113); and

6 (2) reserve not more than one-quarter of 1 per-
7 cent of such amounts to provide assistance to the
8 outlying areas.

9 (b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State, in
11 accordance with the State plan developed under sec-
12 tion 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and
13 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112, 3113), shall allo-
14 cate the amounts that are allotted to the State
15 under subsection (a)(1) to eligible local areas in ac-
16 cordance with section 128(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce
17 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
18 3163(b)(2)(A)) for the purpose of developing and ex-
19 panding year-round employment programs under
20 this section.

21 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
22 made available for year-round youth employment
23 programs under this section shall supplement and
24 not supplant other State or local public funds ex-

1 pended for year-round youth employment programs
2 or other youth activities funded under section 129 of
3 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
4 U.S.C. 3163).

5 (3) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—The
6 Governor may, after consultation with the State
7 board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the
8 State amounts that are made available to local areas
9 from allocations made under this section and that
10 are available for reallocation in accordance with sec-
11 tion 128(c)(2)–(4) of the Workforce Innovation and
12 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3163(c)(2)–(4)).

13 (4) LOCAL RESERVATION.—Of the amounts al-
14 located to a local area under paragraph (1), not
15 more than 7 percent of such amounts may be used
16 for the administrative costs, including costs for par-
17 ticipating regional and national opportunities for in-
18 person peer learning under section 10.

19 (c) LOCAL PLANS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The local board of the local
21 area shall develop and submit, in partnership with
22 the chief elected official, a 4-year plan. The plan
23 shall be consistent with the local plan submitted by
24 the local board under section 108 of the Workforce

1 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3123),
2 as determined by the Governor.

3 (2) SUBMISSION.—The plan shall be submitted
4 to the Governor at such time and in such manner
5 as the Governor may reasonably require. A local
6 area may develop and submit to the Governor a local
7 plan for programs under this section and a local
8 plan for programs under section 5 in lieu of submit-
9 ting two plans.

10 (3) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, each plan
11 shall include—

12 (A) a description of how the local area will
13 use program funds, in accordance with sub-
14 section (d), to develop or expand year-round
15 youth employment programs for each program
16 year;

17 (B) a description of how the local area will
18 recruit eligible youth into the program;

19 (C) the number of individuals expected to
20 participate in the year-round employment pro-
21 gram each program year;

22 (D) a description of the services, including
23 supportive services, that the year-round employ-
24 ment program is expected to provide;

1 (E) reasonable goals for performance ac-
2 countability measures outlined in subsection (i).

3 (F) an assurance that the year-round em-
4 ployment program will be aligned with the
5 youth services provided under the Workforce
6 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
7 3101 et seq.);

8 (G) an assurance that the local area will
9 adhere to the labor standards outlined in sec-
10 tion 8; and

11 (H) any other information as the Governor
12 may reasonably require.

13 (d) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—To be
15 eligible to participate in activities carried out under
16 this section during any program year, an individual
17 shall, at the time the eligibility determination is
18 made be an out-of-school youth and unemployed in-
19 dividual.

20 (2) LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—

21 (A) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A local
22 area that has, at the beginning of the program
23 year, no year-round youth employment pro-
24 grams or programs that do not have all pro-

1 gram elements described in paragraph (3)(B)
2 shall use unreserved allotted funds to—

3 (i) plan, develop, and carry out activi-
4 ties described in paragraph (3)(B);

5 (ii) at the local area’s discretion, de-
6 velop technology infrastructure, including
7 data and management systems, to support
8 program activities;

9 (iii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
10 pants and employers; and

11 (iv) at the local area’s discretion, use
12 not more than 30 percent of allocated pro-
13 gram funds to subsidize the wages of each
14 youth participant.

15 (B) EXPANSION ACTIVITIES.—A local area
16 that has at the beginning of the program year,
17 a year-round youth employment program that
18 have all program elements described in para-
19 graph (3)(B) shall use unreserved allotted
20 funds to—

21 (i) increase the number of year-round
22 employment opportunities, including un-
23 subsidized or partly subsidized opportuni-
24 ties and opportunities in the private sector;

1 (ii) conduct outreach to youth partici-
2 pants and employers;

3 (iii) use allocated program funds to
4 subsidize wages of each youth participant;
5 and

6 (iv) at the local area's discretion, en-
7 hance activities described in paragraph
8 (3)(B).

9 (3) LOCAL ELEMENTS.—

10 (A) PROGRAM DESIGN.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—Programs funded
12 under this section shall match each youth
13 participant with an appropriate employer,
14 based on factors including the needs of the
15 employer and the age, skill, and informed
16 aspirations of the youth participant, for
17 high-quality year-round employment, which
18 may not—

19 (I) be less than 180 days and
20 more than 1 year;

21 (II) pay less than the highest of
22 the Federal, State, or local minimum
23 wage; and

24 (III) employ the youth partici-
25 pant for less than 20 hours per week.

1 (ii) EMPLOYER SHARE OF WAGES.—

2 Programs funded under this section shall
3 require not less than 25 percent of the
4 wages of each youth participant to be paid
5 by the employer, except this requirement
6 may be waived for not more than 10 per-
7 cent of youth participants with significant
8 barriers to employment.

9 (B) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Program ele-
10 ments include—

11 (i) work-readiness training and edu-
12 cational programs to enhance year-round
13 employment;

14 (ii) coaching and mentoring services
15 for youth participants to enhance the year-
16 round employment opportunity and encour-
17 age program completion;

18 (iii) coaching and mentoring services
19 for employers on how to successfully em-
20 ploy each youth participant in meaningful
21 work;

22 (iv) career and college planning serv-
23 ices;

24 (v) high-quality financial literacy edu-
25 cation, including education on the use of

1 credit and financing higher education, and
2 access to safe and affordable banking ac-
3 counts with consumer protections;

4 (vi) supportive services, or connection
5 to existing supportive services, to enable
6 participation in the program;

7 (vii) integration of services provided
8 by the program with existing youth devel-
9 opment programs, secondary school pro-
10 grams, youth services provided under the
11 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
12 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and skills train-
13 ing programs funded by the State or Fed-
14 eral Government;

15 (viii) referral of at least 30 percent of
16 participants from or to providers of youth,
17 adult, vocational rehabilitation services,
18 and adult education and literacy services
19 under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
20 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), or
21 skills training programs funded by the
22 State or Federal Government;

23 (ix) rigorous evaluation of programs
24 using research approaches appropriate to
25 programs in different levels of development

1 and maturity, including random assign-
2 ment or quasi-experimental impact evalua-
3 tions, implementation evaluations, pre-ex-
4 perimental studies, and feasibility studies;
5 and

6 (x) commitment and support from
7 mayors or county executives.

8 (C) PRIORITY.—Priority shall be given to
9 year-round employment opportunities—

10 (i) in existing or emerging in-demand
11 industry sectors or occupations or

12 (ii) that meet community needs in the
13 public, private, or nonprofit sector.

14 (h) REPORTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each year that a local
16 area receives funds under this section, the local area
17 shall submit to the Secretary of Labor and Governor
18 a report with—

19 (A) the number of youth participants in
20 the program;

21 (B) the number of youth participants who
22 completed the year-round employment oppor-
23 tunity;

24 (C) the expenditures made from the
25 amounts allocated under this section, including

1 expenditures made to provide youth participants
2 with supportive services;

3 (D) a description of how the local area has
4 used program funds to develop or expand year-
5 round youth employment programs, including a
6 description of program activities and services
7 provided, including supportive services provided
8 and the number of youth participants accessing
9 such services;

10 (E) the source and amount of funding for
11 the wages of each youth participant;

12 (F) information specifying the levels of
13 performance achieved with respect to the pri-
14 mary indicators of performance described in
15 subsection (i) for the program;

16 (G) the average number of hours and
17 weeks worked and the average amount of wages
18 earned by youth participants in the program;

19 (H) the percent of youth participants
20 placed in employment opportunities in the non-
21 profit, public, and private sectors; and

22 (I) the number of youth participants who
23 are asked to remain after the end of the year-
24 round employment and the number of youth

1 participants actually retained for not less than
2 90 days;

3 (J) any other information that the Sec-
4 retary of Labor determines necessary to mon-
5 itor the effectiveness of the program.

6 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information re-
7 quired to be reported pursuant to subparagraphs
8 (A), (B), and (G) of paragraph (1) shall be
9 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, and sub-
10 populations described in section 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–
11 (VI) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
12 Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VI)).

13 (i) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—Primary indi-
14 cators of performance shall be the performance metrics de-
15 scribed in sections 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(III),
16 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(V), and 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II) of the
17 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
18 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(III), 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(V),
19 3141(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II)) and a work-readiness indicator
20 established by the Secretary of Labor.

21 (j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL AREA FAIL-
22 URE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY
23 MEASURES.—If a local area fails to meet performance ac-
24 countability goals established under local plans for any
25 program year, the Governor, or upon request by the Gov-

1 error, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical as-
2 sistance, which may include assistance in the development
3 of a performance improvement plan.

4 **SEC. 7. CONNECTING-FOR-OPPORTUNITIES COMPETITIVE**
5 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts available under
7 section 3(3) that are not reserved under section 4, the Sec-
8 retary of Labor shall, in consultation with the Secretary
9 of Education, award grants on a competitive basis to as-
10 sist local community partnerships in improving high school
11 graduation and youth employment rates.

12 (b) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—

13 (1) MANDATORY PARTNERS.—A local commu-
14 nity partnership shall include at a minimum—

15 (A) one unit of general local government;

16 (B) one local educational agency;

17 (C) one institution of higher education;

18 (D) one local workforce development board;

19 (E) one community-based organization
20 with experience or expertise in working with
21 youth;

22 (F) one public agency serving youth under
23 the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or
24 criminal justice system;

1 (G) a State or local child welfare agency;

2 and

3 (H) an agency administering programs
4 under part A of title IV of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

6 (2) OPTIONAL PARTNERS.—A local community
7 partnership may also include within the partner-
8 ship—

9 (A) American Job Centers;

10 (B) employers or employer associations;

11 (C) representatives of labor organizations;

12 (D) programs that receive funding under
13 the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-
14 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.);

15 (E) public agencies or community-based
16 organizations with expertise in providing coun-
17 seling services, including trauma-informed and
18 gender-responsive counseling;

19 (F) public housing agencies, collaborative
20 applicants, as defined by the McKinney-Vento
21 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et
22 seq.), or private nonprofit organizations that
23 serve homeless youth and households or foster
24 youth; and

1 (G) and other appropriate State and local
2 agencies.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—A local community partnership
4 desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
5 retary of Labor an application at such time, in such man-
6 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
7 reasonably require. At a minimum, each application shall
8 include a comprehensive plan that—

9 (1) demonstrates sufficient need for the grant
10 in the local population (indicators of need may in-
11 clude high rates of high school dropouts and youth
12 unemployment and a high percentage or number of
13 low-income individuals in the local population);

14 (2) demonstrates the capacity of each local
15 community partnership to carry out the activities de-
16 scribed in subsection (d);

17 (3) is consistent with the local plan submitted
18 by the local board under section 108 of the Work-
19 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
20 3123), the local plan for career and technical edu-
21 cation programs authorized under the Carl D. Per-
22 kins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
23 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (if not part of the Work-
24 force Innovation and Opportunity Act local plan)
25 and the State plan for programs under part A of

1 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601
2 et seq.); and

3 (4) includes an assurance that the local commu-
4 nity partnership will adhere to the labor standards
5 outlined in section 8.

6 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A local community partnership
7 receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant
8 funds—

9 (1) to target individuals not younger than age
10 14 or older than age 24;

11 (2) to make appropriate use of existing edu-
12 cation, child welfare, social services, and workforce
13 development data collection systems to facilitate the
14 local community partnership's ability to target the
15 individuals described in paragraph (1);

16 (3) to develop wide-ranging paths to higher
17 education and employment, including—

18 (A) using not less than 50 percent of the
19 grant funds to help individuals described in
20 paragraph (1) complete their secondary school
21 education through various alternative means,
22 including through high-quality, flexible pro-
23 grams that utilize evidence-based interventions
24 and provide differentiated services (or path-
25 ways) to students returning to education after

1 exiting secondary school without a regular high
2 school diploma or who, based on their grade or
3 age, are significantly off track to accumulate
4 sufficient academic credits to meet high school
5 graduation requirements, as established by the
6 State;

7 (B) creating career pathways focused on
8 paid work-based learning consisting of on-the-
9 job training and classroom instruction that will
10 lead to credential attainment and prioritize con-
11 nections to registered apprenticeship programs
12 and pre-apprenticeship programs;

13 (C) providing career navigators to provide
14 individuals described in paragraph (1) with pre-
15 employment and employment counseling and to
16 assist such individuals in—

17 (i) finding and securing employment
18 or work-based learning opportunities that
19 pay not less than the highest of the Fed-
20 eral, State, or local minimum wage;

21 (ii) identifying and assessing eligibility
22 for training programs and funding for such
23 programs;

24 (iii) completing necessary paperwork;
25 and

1 (iv) identifying additional services, if
2 needed;

3 (D) connecting individuals described in
4 paragraph (1) with providers of youth services,
5 adult services, vocational rehabilitation services,
6 and adult education and literacy services, under
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
8 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), career planning serv-
9 ices, and federally and state funded programs
10 that provide skills training; and

11 (E) ensuring that such individuals success-
12 fully transition into pre-apprenticeship pro-
13 grams, registered apprenticeship programs, or
14 programs leading to recognized postsecondary
15 credentials in in-demand industry sectors or oc-
16 cupations;

17 (4) to provide a comprehensive system aimed at
18 preventing the individuals described in paragraph
19 (1) from disconnecting from education, training, and
20 employment and aimed at re-engaging any such indi-
21 vidual who has been disconnected by—

22 (A) providing school-based dropout preven-
23 tion and community-based dropout recovery
24 services, including establishing or improving
25 school district early warning systems that—

1 (i) connect such systems to existing
2 data gathering and reporting systems es-
3 tablished under the Workforce Innovation
4 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
5 seq.) for the purpose of identifying the in-
6 dividuals described in paragraph (1); and

7 (ii) engage any such identified indi-
8 vidual using targeted, evidence-based inter-
9 ventions to address the specific needs and
10 issues of the individual, including chronic
11 absenteeism; and

12 (B) providing the individuals described in
13 paragraph (1) with access to re-engagement
14 services for training programs and employment
15 opportunities and using providers of youth serv-
16 ices under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
17 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to con-
18 duct intake and refer such individuals and their
19 families to the appropriate re-engagement serv-
20 ice; and

21 (5) to provide a comprehensive system of sup-
22 port for the individuals described in paragraph (1),
23 including—

24 (A) connecting such individuals with pro-
25 fessionals who can—

1 (i) provide case management and
2 counseling services; and

3 (ii) assist such individuals in—

4 (I) developing achievable short-
5 term goals and long-term goals; and

6 (II) overcoming any social, ad-
7 ministrative, or financial barrier that
8 may hinder the achievement of such
9 goals; and

10 (B) providing or connecting participants
11 with available supportive services.

12 (e) PRIORITY IN AWARDS.—In awarding grants
13 under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give pri-
14 ority to applications submitted by local community part-
15 nerships that include a comprehensive plan that—

16 (1) serves and targets communities with a high
17 percentage or high numbers of low-income individ-
18 uals and high rates of high school dropouts and
19 youth unemployment; and

20 (2) allows the individuals described in para-
21 graph (1) to earn academic credit through various
22 means, including high-quality career and technical
23 education, dual enrollment programs, or work-based
24 learning.

1 (f) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
2 shall ensure that consideration is given to geographic dis-
3 tribution (such as urban and rural areas) in the awarding
4 of grants under section.

5 (g) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—For activities
6 funded under this section, the primary indicators of per-
7 formance shall include—

8 (1) the performance metrics described in sec-
9 tions 116(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)–(V) and
10 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–(II) of the Workforce Innovation
11 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
12 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)–(V), 3141 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)–
13 (II));

14 (2) the four-year adjusted cohort graduation
15 rate and the extended-year adjusted cohort gradua-
16 tion rate in a State that chooses to use such a grad-
17 uation rate, as defined in section 8101(25) of the
18 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
19 as amended; and

20 (3) the rate of attaining a recognized equivalent
21 of a diploma, such as a general equivalency diploma.

22 (h) REPORTS.—For each year that a local community
23 partnership administers a program under this section, the
24 local community partnership shall submit to the Secretary
25 of Labor and, if applicable, the State a report on—

1 (1) the number of youth participants in the pro-
2 gram, including the number of in-school and out-of-
3 school youth, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex,
4 age, and subpopulations described in section
5 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII) of the Workforce Innova-
6 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
7 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII));

8 (2) the expenditures made from the amounts al-
9 located under this section, including any expendi-
10 tures made to provide youth participants with sup-
11 portive services;

12 (3) a description of program activities and serv-
13 ices provided, including supportive services provided
14 and the number of youth participants accessing such
15 services;

16 (4) information specifying the levels of perform-
17 ance achieved with respect to the primary indicators
18 of performance described in subsection (f) for the
19 program, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age,
20 and subpopulations described in section
21 129(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII) of the Workforce Innova-
22 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
23 3164(a)(1)(B)(iii)(I)–(VII)); and

1 (5) any other information that the Secretary of
2 Labor determines necessary to monitor the effective-
3 ness of the program.

4 **SEC. 8. LABOR STANDARDS.**

5 Activities funded under this Act shall be subject to
6 the requirements and restrictions, including the labor
7 standards, described in section 181 of the Workforce In-
8 vestment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931) and the non-
9 discrimination provisions of section 188 of such Act (29
10 U.S.C. 2938), in addition to other applicable Federal laws.

11 **SEC. 9. PRIVACY.**

12 Nothing in this Act—

13 (1) shall be construed to supersede the privacy
14 protections afforded parents and students under sec-
15 tion 444 of the General Education Provisions Act
16 (20 U.S.C. 1232g); or

17 (2) shall be construed to permit the develop-
18 ment of a national database of personally identifi-
19 able information on individuals receiving services
20 under this Act.

21 **SEC. 10. INNOVATION AND LEARNING.**

22 Using funds reserved under section 4, the Secretary
23 shall—

24 (1) provide technical assistance to ensure pro-
25 viders have sufficient organizational capacity, staff

1 training, and expertise to effectively implement pro-
2 grams, described under this Act;

3 (2) create regional and national opportunities
4 for in-person peer learning; and

5 (3) provide on a competitive basis sub-grants to
6 States and local areas to conduct pilots and dem-
7 onstrations using emerging and evidence-based best
8 practices, and models for youth employment pro-
9 grams and to evaluate such programs using designs
10 that employ the most rigorous analytical and statisti-
11 cal methods that are reasonably feasible.

12 **SEC. 11. EVALUATION AND REPORTS.**

13 (a) EVALUATION.—Not earlier than 1 year or later
14 than 2 years after the end of the award grant period, the
15 Secretary of Labor shall conduct an evaluation of the pro-
16 grams administered under this Act.

17 (b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
18 Labor shall transmit to the Committee on Education and
19 the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the
20 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
21 the Senate not later than 5 years after the end of the
22 award grant period, a final report on the results of the
23 evaluation conducted under subsection (a).

24 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “extended-year
2 adjusted cohort graduation rate”, “evidence-based”,
3 “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate”, “local
4 educational agency”, and “secondary school” have
5 the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of
6 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

8 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
9 term “institution of higher education” has the
10 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
11 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

12 (3) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
13 The term “registered apprenticeship program” has
14 the meaning given such term in section 171(b) of
15 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
16 U.S.C. 3226(b)).

17 (4) OTHER WIOA TERMS.—The terms “adminis-
18 trative costs”, “career and technical education”,
19 “career pathway”, “career planning”, “community-
20 based organization”, “Governor”, “in-demand indus-
21 try sector or occupation”, “in-school youth”, “local
22 area”, “local board”, “low-income individual”, “one-
23 stop center”, “on-the-job training”, “outlying area”,
24 “out-of-school youth”, “school dropout”, “State”,
25 “supportive services”, “unemployed individual”, and

1 “unit of general local government” have the mean-
2 ings given such terms in section 3 of the Workforce
3 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).