



# The Fostering Success in Higher Education Act

## Section by Section

*Senator Al Franken, Rep. Danny K. Davis and  
Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi*



### Sec. 1: Short Title

The Act may be cited as the Fostering Success in Higher Education Act of 2017.

### Sec. 2: Formula Grants to States to Improve Higher Education Opportunities for Foster Youth and Homeless Youth

Amends Title VII of the Higher Education Act (HEA) to include a new Part F titled Grants for Improving Access to and Success in Higher Education for Foster and Homeless Youth. The following are new sections created in the HEA:

#### Sec. 791: Definitions

Establishes definitions for foster youth (as defined under Part B or E under title IV of the Social Security Act) and homeless youth (as defined under section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act); adopts the definitions of tribe and tribal organization given in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; adopts the definition of Institution of Higher Education from section 101 of the *Higher Education Act*; defines states as each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and defines territories to include Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

#### Sec. 792: Formula Grants to States to Improve Access to and Success in Higher Education for Foster and Homeless Youth

Directs the Secretary of Education (the Secretary) to establish a formula grant program to states to enable each state to establish or expand statewide initiatives that improve the transition between K-12 and higher education for foster and homeless youth and develop Institutions of Excellence committed to serving these youth from entrance to completion via robust financial aid and support services.

The Secretary may reserve no more than 3 percent of funds for tribes and 2 percent for territories. The Secretary may also reserve no more than 7 percent of funds to provide technical assistance, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and execute program evaluations, and no more than 3 percent of funds for administrative expenses. Requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress about the progress of the grant program.

From the remaining amount of funds, the Secretary must allocate to each state a minimum grant of \$500,000. Grant size is based on a state's foster and homeless youth population, compared with the number of foster and homeless youth nationwide. To receive funds, states must submit a yearly application and an annual report.

States receiving a grant award must use 25 percent of funds to establish intensive, statewide transition initiatives to improve the college-going culture among foster and homeless youth and increase their enrollment in colleges and universities. States must also dedicate 70 percent of funds to develop Institutions of Excellence committed to serving foster and homeless youth via robust campus-based, support services and substantial financial assistance. An eligible institution of higher education receiving a grant must collaborate with the state child welfare agency and an organization that serves homeless youth. The institution must use the funds to execute the following activities for foster and homeless youth: offer flexibility and assistance in completing the college application process; provide institutional aid to cover the remaining cost of attendance beyond federal and state grants; provide outreach to students to ensure such youth are aware of housing resources during holiday breaks; subsidize any fees associated with orientation and offer free transportation to college orientation or move-in week; hire and provide training for at least one full-time case manager; establish or enhance comprehensive wraparound services; establish or expand early alert systems to identify and support such students; and collect, review, and monitor data for program improvement.

This section authorizes \$150 million a year to carry out this program for fiscal year 2018, and the same authorization for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.