

THE URBAN UNIVERSITY RENAISSANCE ACT OF THE 21ST CENTURY

TITLE I: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

PART A: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Part A amends the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 by reauthorizing the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Centers program as well as creating four new programs and an advisory council.

Community Outreach Partnerships Centers

The bill reauthorizes and significantly expands the funding level of the Community Outreach Partnership Centers program. It clarifies the purpose of the grant to encourage more partnerships between institutions of higher education and their local communities and align teaching, research, and service with the needs and expectations of community members. The bill adds additional selection criteria for determining grant recipients, including the extent to which the projects and activities will contribute to the goals of community partners as well as the ability of the applicant to communicate, coordinate, and involve community representatives in the policy formulation and decision-making process. The bill also establishes various evaluative reporting requirements for grantees. Grants would be awarded for no more than a five-year period.

Urban Capacity Building Community Engagement Grants

The bill creates a new competitive grant program to encourage institutions of higher education to create and sustain a campus-wide infrastructure and culture around working with and strengthening their local neighborhoods and communities. Grants shall be used for establishing a task force, creating or strengthening a central administrative unit or center to coordinate community engagement, and developing funding mechanisms to sustain community engagement. They may also be used to recruit and reward faculty and administrators, create scholarships, develop programs, and provide technical assistance and training. The grant shall be awarded for no more than a five-year period and requires grantees to match awards with non-federal funds.

Early Career Awards Grants for Researchers

The bill creates a new competitive grant program for early career researchers to conduct research in fields relevant to the mission of HUD. The program is modeled after the National Science Foundation's successful Early Career Research Grant program. Grants between \$50,000 and \$100,000 shall be awarded to individuals that received a doctorate degree within the last decade and are employed in a tenure track position. Grants would be awarded for no more than a five-year period.

National Urban Grant University Program

The bill creates a new program to designate urban universities as leaders in community engagement. Designated universities shall receive federal support for graduate fellowships and special projects and activities. The National Urban Grant University program is modeled after the Land, Sea, Space, and Sun Grant programs. To be selected as an urban grant university an institution of higher education must be recognized for excellence in such fields related to the mission of HUD and demonstrate a record of institutional-wide commitment to community engagement.

University Partnerships Advisory Council

The bill establishes an independent advisory council to advise the Secretary of HUD on oversight and evaluation of the various university partnership programs. The council shall consist of 19 members, including representatives from institutions of higher education, State and local governments, community organizations or non-profits, and the private sector.

Housing Assistance

The bill creates new competitive grants for institutions of higher education to provide technical and financial assistance to non-profit organizations to undertake community development and affordable housing projects. The grant shall be awarded for no more than a five-year period and requires grantees to match awards with non-federal funds.

PART B: NATIONAL INNOVATION

Part B creates a new National Innovation Council and establishes competitive grant programs to promote regional economic growth. These programs are part of provisions included in the National Innovation and Job Creation Act of 2008 (S.3078) that was introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) during the 110th Congress.

National Innovation Council

The bill establishes in the Executive Office of the President a National Innovation Council, to be responsible for formulating and advocating for the federal government's innovation policy. It requires the Council to collaborate with major statistical agencies, collect data concerning the impact on productivity of the Council's programs, and annually report to Congress on national innovation and productivity. The bill requires the Council to coordinate research and innovation programs at the National Institute of Standards of Technology, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Labor.

CLUSTER Grant Program

The bill establishes the Competitive Leadership for the United States Through its Economic Regions (CLUSTER) program to create and sustain a series of initiatives to promote economic growth in industry groups. The Council shall award CLUSTER grants for: (1) efforts to promote cluster growth and competitiveness through collaborative activities; (2) research partnerships between academic institutions and industry research alliances; (3) early-stage research, by academic institutions and joint

ventures, into methods of increasing productivity and innovation; (4) state innovation-based economic development partnerships; and (5) diffusion of technological innovations by manufacturing extension partnership centers.

**PART C: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
(AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT)**

Part C amends the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 by reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration's University Centers program. It gives priority to applicants that identify that a substantial part of their activities will benefit distressed areas, demonstrate a history of working in distressed communities, and are located in major metropolitan areas. The bill also strengthens evaluation and performance reporting requirements so that they capture such results as scale of activities, leveraging of resources, portion of activities benefiting distressed areas, and short- and long-term outcomes.

PART D: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Part D amends the National Environmental Education Act by creating a new grant program modeled after the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Outreach Partnerships Centers. The program offers competitive grants to universities to develop research and provide direct service for distressed areas around environmental issues impacting local communities, such as air quality, clean water, toxins, pesticides, human health, ecosystems, and land protection and restoration. Priority shall be given to applicants that are located in environmentally distressed urban and rural regions; undertake research and outreach activities that address environmental problems impacted by climate change; undertake research and outreach activities that are a key component of students curricula, internship, externship, service-learning requirement, etc.; and demonstrate a record of high impact engagement with distressed regions in ways that build knowledge, teach students and generate programs that will positively advance and address environmental problems.

TITLE II: THE EDUCATION PIPELINE

PART A: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Title II, Part A amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish P-16 councils and strengthen efforts directed toward urban teachers.

Urban Teachers

The bill amends several aspects of Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase efforts targeted specifically for urban teachers. It creates a pilot program for urban school districts and urban universities to design and implement programs to improve teacher effectiveness specifically in urban schools and communities. In particular, the pilot program shall focus on enhancing pedagogical skills needed to successfully teach in urban environments. Grants shall be used for the following types of activities: urban teacher preparation programs (both traditional and those for mid-career professionals); transition programs for new urban teachers, such as residency programs, induction programs, and peer mentors; ongoing professional development; conducting scientifically-based research to update curriculum; creating financial incentives to recruit and retain highly-qualified teachers in urban schools; and establishing local data systems that enable both local educational agencies and the universities to track teacher mobility and attrition.

The bill establishes a national clearinghouse for urban teachers to assist with collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on improving teacher effectiveness in urban schools and communities. It adds “urban university” to the list of entities that may be included as part of the eligible partnership for teacher training and recruiting funds and Math and Science Partnership grants. The bill also redirects the use of funds under partnership grants to be utilized toward specific educational needs of communities, such as school districts in urban and rural settings experiencing high teacher turnover and shortages (with a special focus on high-need subject areas).

State and Local Alignment Grants

The bill amends the America COMPETES Act competitive grant program to align state secondary school graduation requirements with college and workforce expectations as well as improve their P-16 education data systems. The program is placed under the Fund for Improvement of Education in Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. A state that receives a grant shall reserve 25% of its funds to make subgrants to local P-16 councils.

The bill also creates a local alignment program for states to award grants to local P-16 councils. Local P-16 councils shall convene key stakeholders for the purpose of enacting collaborative and comprehensive policy initiatives to improve high school graduation rates, college and workforce readiness, and college enrollment and persistence (including adequate financial assistance). Specifically, P-16 councils shall conduct a community-wide assessment of local education needs; set developmental and identifiable educational milestones for students based on community needs; collect, analyze, and report on data

that measures these milestones; identify strategies, programs, and projects to improve student outcomes across the educational system; and organize efforts of various stakeholders who provide support services to improving student outcomes. As a requirement of receiving a grant, local P-16 councils must align their standards and data systems to those coordinated by the State under the state alignment grant program.

PART B: HIGHER EDUCATION

The bill amends Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by re-establishing an urban program. The program offers competitive grants for urban universities to expand their capacity to develop initiatives geared toward improving the communities in which they are located. Grants focus on addressing the urgent and unique challenges of these communities: enhancing teacher quality and college access, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; revitalizing the economy of local neighborhoods; and preparing the future urban health workforce to address health disparities.

A designated urban university can use grant funds to perform research on public health outreach, education, and intervention activities, with the goal of reducing health disparities and improving care. The research should be done by the university in partnership with community-based organizations and other public or nonprofit private entities.

TITLE III: DIVERSIFYING THE HEALTH CARE WORKPLACE

Title III creates Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act for the purpose of strengthening federal reporting on workforce diversity. These programs are part of provisions included in the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 (H.R.3090) that was introduced by Representative Donna Christensen (D-VI) during the 111th Congress.

The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to report on federal grants supporting health workforce diversity and the impact and effectiveness of these grants. It also establishes a clearinghouse on workforce diversity that will provide statistical information on minority representation in the health professions and highlight model practices and programs. The bill creates a grant program for government and non-profit entities to evaluate health workforce diversity initiatives funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Grants may be used to assess such measures as cultural competency, community engagement, effectiveness of care, and patient outcomes. Grants may also assess such items as partnerships, barriers, and policy changes.

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