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2^D SESSION

H. R. 3030

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to
provide for quality improvements.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Improving the Commu-
3 nity Services Block Grant Act of 2004”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT AMEND-**
5 **MENTS.**

6 (a) **PURPOSES AND GOALS.**—Section 672 of the Com-
7 munity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 note)
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 672 PURPOSES AND GOALS.**

10 “The purpose of this subtitle is to reduce poverty—

11 “(1) by strengthening and coordinating local ef-
12 forts to expand opportunities for individuals and
13 families to become economically self-sufficient and to
14 improve and revitalize low-income communities in
15 urban and rural areas, by providing resources to
16 States for support of local eligible entities, including
17 community action agencies and other community-
18 based organizations—

19 “(A) to plan, coordinate, and mobilize a
20 broad range of Federal, State, local, and pri-
21 vate assistance or investment in such a manner
22 as to use these resources effectively to reduce
23 poverty and in initiatives that are responsive to
24 specific local needs and conditions;

25 “(B) to coordinate a range of services that
26 meet the needs of low-income families and indi-

1 individuals, that support strong and healthy fami-
2 lies, and that assist them in developing the
3 skills needed to become self sustaining while en-
4 suring that these services are provided effec-
5 tively and efficiently; and

6 “(C) to design and implement comprehen-
7 sive approaches to assist eligible individuals in
8 gaining employment and achieving economic
9 self-sufficiency;

10 “(2) by improving and revitalizing the low-in-
11 come communities in urban and rural areas by pro-
12 viding resources to States for support of local eligi-
13 ble entities and their partners—

14 “(A) to broaden the resource base of initia-
15 tives and projects directed to the elimination of
16 poverty and the redevelopment of the low-in-
17 come community, including partnerships with
18 nongovernmental and governmental institutions
19 to develop the community assets and services
20 that reduce poverty, such as—

21 “(i) other private, religious, chari-
22 table, and community-based organizations;

23 “(ii) individual citizens, and business,
24 labor, and professional groups, that are
25 able to influence the quantity and quality

1 of opportunities and services for the poor;
2 and

3 “(iii) local government leadership; and

4 “(B) to coordinate community-wide re-
5 sources and services that will have a significant,
6 measurable impact on the causes of poverty in
7 the community and that will help families and
8 individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency
9 and to test innovative, community-based ap-
10 proaches to attacking the causes and effects of
11 poverty and of community breakdown, includ-
12 ing—

13 “(i) innovative initiatives to prevent
14 and reverse loss of investment, jobs, public
15 services, and infrastructure in low- and
16 moderate-income communities; and

17 “(ii) innovative partnerships to lever-
18 age the assets and services that reduce
19 poverty, as provided in subparagraph (A);
20 and

21 “(3) by ensuring maximum participation of
22 residents of low-income communities and of mem-
23 bers of the groups served by grants made under this
24 subtitle in guiding the eligible entities and in their
25 programs funded under this subtitle, to ameliorate

1 the particular problems and needs of low-income
2 residents and to develop the permanent social and
3 economic assets of the low-income community in
4 order to reduce the incidence of poverty.”.

5 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 673(1)(A) of the Com-
6 munity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(1)(A))
7 is amended—

8 (1) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the end;

9 (2) in clause (ii) by striking the period at the
10 end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(iii) that successfully develops and
13 meets the locally determined goals de-
14 scribed in section 678E(b)(1), as deter-
15 mined by the State, and meets State goals,
16 standards, and performance requirements
17 as provided for in section 678B(a).”.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
19 674 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
20 U.S.C. 9903) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “1999 through 2003” and
23 inserting “2004 through 2009”; and

24 (B) by striking “681” and inserting
25 “675C(b)(3), 681,”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

2 (A) by striking “678F” and inserting
3 “678E to assist States, eligible entities, and
4 their partners in projects supported by this sub-
5 title”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “mon-
7 itoring (to correct programmatic deficiencies of
8 eligible entities)” and inserting “monitoring (in-
9 cluding technical assistance and training to cor-
10 rect programmatic deficiencies of eligible enti-
11 ties)”;

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(c) ASSISTANCE RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT.—
14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may
15 be necessary for fiscal year 2004 to carry out section
16 675C(b)(3).”.

17 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 675C of the Commu-
18 nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in subsection (a)(3)(A) by striking “Begin-
21 ning on October 1, 2000, a” and inserting “A”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)(F) by striking
24 “neighborhood-based” and inserting “commu-
25 nity-based”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(3) ASSISTANCE RELATING TO UNEMPLOY-
3 MENT.—With the amount appropriated under sec-
4 tion 674(c), the Secretary shall make grants to
5 States to provide financial and employment support
6 to individuals who cannot find employment, who
7 have exhausted their State unemployment benefits,
8 and who, after the week of December 20, 2003, can
9 no longer receive Federal extended temporary unem-
10 ployment compensation. The eligibility criteria and
11 benefit amounts under this paragraph for such indi-
12 viduals shall be the same as for such individuals
13 prior to December 20, 2003, under the Federal ex-
14 tended temporary unemployment compensation pro-
15 gram.”; and

16 (3) in subsection (c)(1) by inserting “para-
17 graphs (1) and (2) of” after “under”.

18 (e) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—Section 676 of the
19 Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by striking “Beginning with fiscal year
23 2000, to” and inserting “To”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1)—

25 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (I) by striking “youth develop-
2 ment programs that support” and in-
3 serting “youth development programs,
4 which may include mentoring pro-
5 grams, that support”; and

6 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (C) by adding
8 “and” at the end; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(D) initiatives to improve economic condi-
12 tions and mobilize new resources in rural areas
13 to eliminate obstacles to the self-sufficiency of
14 families and individuals in rural communities;”;

15 (C) in paragraph (2) by striking “commu-
16 nity and neighborhood-based” and inserting
17 “community-based”;

18 (D) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A) by striking “information pro-
21 vided by eligible entities in the State, con-
22 taining” and inserting “an assurance that
23 the State will provide information, includ-
24 ing”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking
2 “community and neighborhood-based” and
3 inserting “community-based”;

4 (E) in paragraph (9) by striking “and
5 community organizations” and inserting “and
6 community-based organizations”;

7 (F) in paragraph (10) by striking “com-
8 munity organization” and inserting “commu-
9 nity-based organization”;

10 (G) in paragraph (12) by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (H) by redesignating paragraph (13) as
13 paragraph (15); and

14 (I) by inserting after paragraph (12) the
15 following:

16 “(13) an assurance that the State will take
17 swift action to improve performance or, when appro-
18 priate, to terminate the funding under this subtitle
19 of low-performing eligible entities that do not meet
20 the applicable locally determined goals described in
21 section 678E(b)(1) or do not meet the State goals,
22 standards, and requirements as provided for in sec-
23 tion 678B(a);

24 “(14) an assurance that the State will provide
25 a justification to the Secretary if it continues to

1 fund persistently low-performing eligible entities;
2 and”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “plan, or”
4 and all that follows through the period at the end,
5 and inserting “plan, to meet a State requirement, as
6 described in section 678C(a), or to meet the locally
7 determined goals as described in section
8 678E(b)(1).”; and

9 (3) by striking subsection (f).

10 (f) TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER
11 ACTIVITIES.—Section 678A(a)(1)(A) of the Community
12 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9913(a)(1)(A)) is
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting “dissemination regarding best
15 practices,” after “technical assistance,”; and

16 (2) by inserting “(including to assist in the de-
17 velopment of reporting systems and electronic data
18 systems)” after “collection activities”.

19 (g) MONITORING OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section
20 678B of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42
21 U.S.C. 9914) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
24 by inserting “and the locally determined per-

1 formance goals described in section
2 678E(b)(1)” after “a State”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (3)—

4 (i) by inserting “appropriate” before
5 “goals”; and

6 (ii) by striking “established by the
7 State”; and

8 (2) in the last sentence of subsection (c) by
9 striking “Chairperson of the Committee on Edu-
10 cation” and all that follows through “Human Re-
11 sources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate
12 congressional committees”.

13 (h) CORRECTIVE ACTION; TERMINATION AND RE-
14 Duction OF FUNDING.—Section 678C(a) of the Commu-
15 nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9915(a)) is
16 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
17 ing “established by the State”.

18 (i) ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIRE-
19 MENTS.—Section 678E of the Community Services Block
20 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9917) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “By
23 October 1, 2001, each” and inserting “Each”;
24 and

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in the 1st sentence by inserting
2 “including any activities under section
3 678C” before the period at the end;

4 (ii) by striking the 2d sentence;

5 (iii) in the 3d sentence by striking
6 “also”; and

7 (iv) in the 3d sentence by inserting
8 “information on the timeliness of the dis-
9 tribution of block grant funds to eligible
10 entities as provided in section 675C(a),”
11 after “including”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2) in the matter pre-
14 ceding subparagraph (A) by striking “beginning
15 after September 30, 1999”;

16 (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “Com-
17 mittee on Education” and all that follows
18 through “Human Resources of the Senate” and
19 inserting “appropriate congressional commit-
20 tees”;

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(5) COORDINATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
23 MENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the Sec-
24 retary shall coordinate reporting requirements for all
25 programs of the Department of Health and Human

1 Services managed by eligible entities so as to consoli-
2 date and reduce the number of reports required
3 about individuals, families, and uses of grant
4 funds.”; and

5 (D) by redesignating such subsection as
6 subsection (c); and

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(b) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING RE-
10 QUIREMENTS.—

11 “(1) LOCALLY DETERMINED GOALS.—In order
12 to be designated as an eligible entity and to receive
13 a grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall
14 establish locally determined goals for reducing pov-
15 erty in the community, including goals for—

16 “(A) leveraging and mobilizing community
17 resources;

18 “(B) fostering coordination of Federal,
19 State, local, private, and other assistance; and

20 “(C) promoting community involvement.

21 “(2) DEMONSTRATION THAT GOALS WERE
22 MET.—In order for an eligible entity to receive a
23 second or subsequent grant made under this subtitle
24 after the effective date of this paragraph, such entity

1 shall demonstrate to the State that it has met the
2 goals described in paragraph (1).”.

3 (j) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—Section 679 of
4 the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
5 9920) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(f) TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.—In providing
7 assistance under a program described in subsection (a),
8 a religious organization shall not discriminate against a
9 beneficiary, or a potential beneficiary, of such assistance
10 on the basis of religion or of a religious belief.”.

11 (k) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—
12 Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 9921) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A) by inserting
17 “(including financial assistance for con-
18 struction or substantial rehabilitation of
19 buildings and facilities, and for loans or in-
20 vestments in private business enterprises
21 owned by community development corpora-
22 tions)” after “assistance”;

23 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
24 (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs
25 (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
2 (A) the following:

3 “(B) FEDERAL INTEREST.—The Secretary
4 shall establish procedures that permit funds
5 provided under a grant made under this para-
6 graph, or intangible assets acquired with such
7 funds, to become the sole property of the grant-
8 ee before the expiration of the 12-year period
9 beginning after the fiscal year for which such
10 grant is made if such grantee agrees to use
11 such funds or such property for purposes and
12 uses consistent with the purposes and uses for
13 which such grant is made.

14 “(C) REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The
15 Secretary shall establish procedures to allow a
16 grant made under this paragraph to be used by
17 a grantee to carry out activities substantially
18 similar to the activities for which such grant is
19 made if, due to no fault of such grantee, such
20 grantee cannot carry out the activities for which
21 such grant is made. Such procedures shall re-
22 quire that the substantially similar activities
23 serve the same impact area and have the same
24 goals, objectives, and outcomes as the activities
25 for which such grant is made.”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)(B) by inserting
2 “water and wastewater” after “community”;
3 and

4 (C) in paragraph (4) by striking “neigh-
5 borhood-based” and inserting “community-
6 based”; and

7 (2) in subsection (c) by striking “Chairperson
8 of the Committee on Education” and all that follows
9 through “Human Resources of the Senate” and in-
10 sserting “appropriate congressional committees”.

11 (l) COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION PRO-
12 GRAMS.—Section 681 of the Community Services Block
13 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9922) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c) in the matter preceding
15 paragraph (1) by striking “Committee on Edu-
16 cation” and all that follows through “Human Re-
17 sources of the Senate” and inserting “appropriate
18 congressional committees”; and

19 (2) in subsection (d) by striking “1999 through
20 2003” and inserting “2004 through 2009”.

21 (m) NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED
22 TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-IN-
23 COME YOUTH.—Section 682 of the Community Services
24 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9923) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

1 (A) by inserting “(which may be accom-
2 plished through mentoring)” after “youth”; and

3 (B) by inserting “to improve academic
4 achievement” after “study practices”; and

5 (2) in subsection (g) by striking “1999 through
6 2003” and inserting “2004 through 2009”.

7 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
9 take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 4,
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.