

Union Calendar No. 186

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3030

[Report No. 108-310]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

Mr. OSBORNE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

OCTOBER 10, 2003

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 5, 2003]

A BILL

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 2003”.*

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) is*
8 *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 private*
21 *assistance or investment in such a manner as to*
22 *use these resources effectively to reduce poverty*
23 *and in initiatives that are responsive to specific*
24 *local needs and conditions;*

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

1 *viduals, that support strong and healthy fami-*
2 *lies, and that assist them in developing the skills*
3 *needed to become self sustaining while ensuring*
4 *that these services are provided effectively and ef-*
5 *ficiently; 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 eligible*
13 *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-income*
17 *community, including partnerships with non-*
18 *governmental and governmental institutions to*
19 *develop the community assets and services that*
20 *reduce poverty, such as—*

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

23 *“(ii) individual citizens, and business,*
24 *labor, and professional groups, that are able*

1 to influence the quantity and quality of op-
2 portunities and services for the poor; 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 pov-
19 erty, as provided in subparagraph (A); and

20 “(3) by ensuring maximum participation of resi-
21 dents of low-income communities and of members of
22 the groups served by grants made under this subtitle
23 in guiding the eligible entities and in their programs
24 funded under this subtitle, to ameliorate the par-
25 ticular problems and needs of low-income residents

1 *and to develop the permanent social and economic as-*
2 *sets of the low-income community in order to reduce*
3 *the incidence of poverty.”.*

4 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—*Section 673(1)(A) of the Commu-*
5 *nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(1)(A)) is*
6 *amended—*

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

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

10 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

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

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

20 (1) *in subsection (a) by striking “1999 through*
21 *2003” and inserting “2004 through 2009”; and*

22 (2) *in subsection (b)(2)—*

23 (A) *by striking “678F” and inserting*
24 *“678E to assist States, eligible entities, and their*

1 *partners in projects supported by this subtitle*”;
2 *and*

3 *(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “mon-*
4 *itoring (to correct programmatic deficiencies of*
5 *eligible entities)” and inserting “monitoring (in-*
6 *cluding technical assistance and training to cor-*
7 *rect programmatic deficiencies of eligible enti-*
8 *ties)”.*

9 *(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 675C of the Community*
10 *Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9907) is amended—*

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

13 *(2) in subsection (b)(1)(F) by striking “neighbor-*
14 *hood-based” and inserting “community-based”.*

15 *(e) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—Section 676 of the Com-*
16 *munity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908) is*
17 *amended—*

18 *(1) in subsection (b)—*

19 *(A) by striking “Beginning with fiscal year*
20 *2000, to” and inserting “To”;*

21 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

22 *(i) in subparagraph (B)—*

23 *(I) by striking “youth develop-*
24 *ment programs that support” and in-*
25 *serting “youth development programs,*

1 *which may include mentoring pro-*
2 *grams, that support”;* and

3 (II) *by striking “and” at the end;*

4 (ii) *in subparagraph (C) by adding*
5 *“and” at the end; and*

6 (iii) *by adding at the end the fol-*
7 *lowing:*

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

12 (C) *in paragraph (2) by striking “commu-*
13 *nity and neighborhood-based” and inserting*
14 *“community-based”;*

15 (D) *in paragraph (3)—*

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

22 (ii) *in subparagraph (D) by striking*
23 *“community and neighborhood-based” and*
24 *inserting “community-based”;*

1 (E) in paragraph (9) by striking “and com-
2 munity organizations” and inserting “and com-
3 munity-based organizations”;

4 (F) in paragraph (10) by striking “commu-
5 nity organization” and inserting “community-
6 based organization”;

7 (G) in paragraph (12) by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (H) by redesignating paragraph (13) as
10 paragraph (15); and

11 (I) by inserting after paragraph (12) the
12 following:

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

20 “(14) an assurance that the State will provide a
21 justification to the Secretary if it continues to fund
22 persistently low-performing eligible entities; and”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “plan, or”
24 and all that follows through the period at the end,
25 and inserting “plan, to meet a State requirement, as

1 *described in section 678C(a), or to meet the locally de-*
2 *termined goals as described in section 678E(b)(1).”;*
3 *and*

4 *(3) by striking subsection (f).*

5 *(f) TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER*
6 *ACTIVITIES.—Section 678A(a)(1)(A) of the Community*
7 *Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9913(a)(1)(A)) is*
8 *amended—*

9 *(1) by inserting “dissemination regarding best*
10 *practices,” after “technical assistance,”; and*

11 *(2) by inserting “(including to assist in the de-*
12 *velopment of reporting systems and electronic data*
13 *systems)” after “collection activities”.*

14 *(g) MONITORING OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section*
15 *678B of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42*
16 *U.S.C. 9914) is amended—*

17 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

18 *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)*
19 *by inserting “and the locally determined per-*
20 *formance goals described in section 678E(b)(1)”*
21 *after “a State”; and*

22 *(B) in paragraph (3)—*

23 *(i) by inserting “appropriate” before*
24 *“goals”; and*

1 (ii) by striking “established by the
2 State”; and

3 (2) in the last sentence of subsection (c) by strik-
4 ing “Chairperson of the Committee on Education”
5 and all that follows through “Human Resources of the
6 Senate” and inserting “appropriate congressional
7 committees”.

8 (h) *CORRECTIVE ACTION; TERMINATION AND REDUC-*
9 *TION OF FUNDING.*—Section 678C(a) of the Community
10 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9915(a)) is amended
11 in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “estab-
12 lished by the State”.

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

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “By
18 October 1, 2001, each” and inserting “Each”;

19 and

20 (B) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in the 1st sentence by inserting “in-
22 cluding any activities under section 678C”
23 before the period at the end;

24 (ii) by striking the 2d sentence;

1 (iii) in the 3d sentence by striking
2 “also”; and

3 (iv) in the 3d sentence by inserting
4 “information on the timeliness of the dis-
5 tribution of block grant funds to eligible en-
6 tities as provided in section 675C(a),” after
7 “including”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2) in the matter pre-
10 ceding subparagraph (A) by striking “beginning
11 after September 30, 1999”;

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

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

18 “(5) COORDINATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
19 MENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the Sec-
20 retary shall coordinate reporting requirements for all
21 programs of the Department of Health and Human
22 Services managed by eligible entities so as to consoli-
23 date and reduce the number of reports required about
24 individuals, families, and uses of grant funds.”; and

1 (D) by redesignating such subsection as sub-
2 section (c); and

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

5 “(b) *LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING RE-*
6 *QUIREMENTS.*—

7 “(1) *LOCALLY DETERMINED GOALS.*—*In order to*
8 *be designated as an eligible entity and to receive a*
9 *grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall es-*
10 *tablish locally determined goals for reducing poverty*
11 *in the community, including goals for—*

12 “(A) *leveraging and mobilizing community*
13 *resources;*

14 “(B) *fostering coordination of Federal,*
15 *State, local, private, and other assistance; and*

16 “(C) *promoting community involvement.*

17 “(2) *DEMONSTRATION THAT GOALS WERE*
18 *MET.*—*In order for an eligible entity to receive a sec-*
19 *ond or subsequent grant made under this subtitle*
20 *after the effective date of this paragraph, such entity*
21 *shall demonstrate to the State that it has met the*
22 *goals described in paragraph (1).”.*

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

1 “(f) *TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES.*—In providing
2 assistance under a program described in subsection (a), a
3 religious organization shall not discriminate against a ben-
4 eficiary, or a potential beneficiary, of such assistance on
5 the basis of religion or of a religious belief.”

6 (k) *DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.*—
7 Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 9921) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A) by inserting
12 “(including financial assistance for con-
13 struction or substantial rehabilitation of
14 buildings and facilities, and for loans or in-
15 vestments in private business enterprises
16 owned by community development corpora-
17 tions)” after “assistance”;

18 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
19 (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs
20 (D), (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

21 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
22 (A) the following:

23 “(B) *FEDERAL INTEREST.*—The Secretary
24 shall establish procedures that permit funds pro-
25 vided under a grant made under this paragraph,

1 *or intangible assets acquired with such funds, to*
2 *become the sole property of the grantee before the*
3 *expiration of the 12-year period beginning after*
4 *the fiscal year for which such grant is made if*
5 *such grantee agrees to use such funds or such*
6 *property for purposes and uses consistent with*
7 *the purposes and uses for which such grant is*
8 *made.*

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

21 *(B) in paragraph (3)(B) by inserting*
22 *“water and wastewater” after “community”; and*

23 *(C) in paragraph (4) by striking “neighbor-*
24 *hood-based” and inserting “community-based”;*
25 *and*

1 (2) *in subsection (c) by striking “Chairperson of*
2 *the Committee on Education” and all that follows*
3 *through “Human Resources of the Senate” and insert-*
4 *ing “appropriate congressional committees”.*

5 (l) *COMMUNITY FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS.—*
6 *Section 681 of the Community Services Block Grant Act*
7 *(42 U.S.C. 9922) is amended—*

8 (1) *in subsection (c) in the matter preceding*
9 *paragraph (1) by striking “Committee on Education”*
10 *and all that follows through “Human Resources of the*
11 *Senate” and inserting “appropriate congressional*
12 *committees”; and*

13 (2) *in subsection (d) by striking “1999 through*
14 *2003” and inserting “2004 through 2009”.*

15 (m) *NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED*
16 *TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-INCOME*
17 *YOUTH.—Section 682 of the Community Services Block*
18 *Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9923) is amended—*

19 (1) *in subsection (b)(5)—*

20 (A) *by inserting “(which may be accom-*
21 *plished through mentoring)” after “youth”; and*

22 (B) *by inserting “to improve academic*
23 *achievement” after “study practices”; and*

24 (2) *in subsection (g) by striking “1999 through*
25 *2003” and inserting “2004 through 2009”.*

1 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 *This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall*
3 *take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning*
4 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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