

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3368

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2008

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, 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 “Strengthening Employ-
5 ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2008”
6 or the “SECTORS Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT.**

2 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act
3 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after section 174 the following:

5 **“SEC. 174A. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
8 create designated capacity to promote industry or sector
9 partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource
10 alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for
11 a range of workers employed or potentially employed by
12 a targeted industry cluster, in order to encourage industry
13 growth and competitiveness and to improve worker train-
14 ing, retention, and advancement in targeted industry clus-
15 ters, including by developing—

16 “(1) immediate strategies for regions and com-
17 munities to fulfill pressing skilled workforce needs;

18 “(2) long-term plans to grow targeted industry
19 clusters with better training and a more productive
20 workforce;

21 “(3) core competencies and competitive advan-
22 tages for regions and communities undergoing struc-
23 tural economic redevelopment; and

24 “(4) cross-firm skill standards, career ladders,
25 job redefinitions, employer practices, and shared

1 training and support capacities that facilitate the
2 advancement of workers at all skill levels.

3 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CAREER LADDER.—The term ‘career lad-
5 der’ means an identified series of positions, work ex-
6 periences, and educational benchmarks or credentials
7 that offer occupational and financial advancement
8 within a specified career field or related fields over
9 time.

10 “(2) ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.—The term
11 ‘economic self-sufficiency’ means, with respect to a
12 worker, earning a wage sufficient to support a fam-
13 ily adequately, based on factors such as—

14 “(A) family size;

15 “(B) the number and ages of children in
16 the family;

17 “(C) the cost of living in the worker’s com-
18 munity; and

19 “(D) other factors that may vary by re-
20 gion.

21 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
22 tity’ means—

23 “(A) an industry or sector partnership; or

24 “(B) an eligible State agency.

1 “(4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘eli-
2 gible State agency’ means a State agency designated
3 by the Governor of the State for the purposes of the
4 grant program under this section.

5 “(5) HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATION.—The term
6 ‘high-priority occupation’ means an occupation
7 that—

8 “(A) has a significant presence in an in-
9 dustry cluster;

10 “(B) is in demand by employers;

11 “(C) pays family-sustaining wages that en-
12 able workers to achieve economic self-suffi-
13 ciency, or can reasonably be expected to lead to
14 such wages;

15 “(D) has a documented career ladder; and

16 “(E) has a significant impact on a region’s
17 economic development strategy.

18 “(6) HIGH ROAD EMPLOYER.—The term ‘high
19 road employer’ means an employer interested in ad-
20 vancing workers through processes and investments
21 in education, training, and research and develop-
22 ment.

23 “(7) INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The term ‘industry
24 cluster’ means a concentration of interconnected
25 businesses, suppliers, service providers, and associ-

1 ated institutions in a particular field that are linked
2 by common workforce needs.

3 “(8) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—

4 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a
5 workforce collaborative that—

6 “(A) organizes key stakeholders in a tar-
7 geted industry cluster into a working group
8 that focuses on the human capital needs of a
9 targeted industry cluster and that includes, at
10 the appropriate stage of development of the
11 partnership—

12 “(i) representatives of multiple firms
13 or employers, including workers, in a tar-
14 geted industry cluster, including small- and
15 medium-sized employers when practicable;

16 “(ii) 1 or more representatives of
17 State labor organizations or central labor
18 coalitions;

19 “(iii) 1 or more representatives of
20 local boards;

21 “(iv) 1 or more representatives of
22 postsecondary educational institutions or
23 other training providers; and

1 “(v) 1 or more representatives of
2 State workforce agencies or other entities
3 providing employment services; and

4 “(B) may include representatives of—

5 “(i) State or local government;

6 “(ii) State or local economic develop-
7 ment agencies;

8 “(iii) other State or local agencies;

9 “(iv) chambers of commerce;

10 “(v) nonprofit organizations;

11 “(vi) industry associations; and

12 “(vii) other organizations, as deter-
13 mined necessary by the members com-
14 prising the industry or sector partnership.

15 “(9) TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The
16 term ‘targeted industry cluster’ means an industry
17 cluster that has—

18 “(A) economic impact in a local or regional
19 area;

20 “(B) immediate workforce development
21 needs; and

22 “(C) documented career opportunities.

23 “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-
25 priated under subsection (i), the Secretary shall

1 award, on a competitive basis, planning grants de-
2 scribed in paragraph (3) and implementation grants
3 described in paragraph (4) to eligible entities, to en-
4 able the eligible entities to plan and implement, re-
5 spectively, the eligible entities' strategic objectives in
6 accordance with subsection (f).

7 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

8 “(A) PLANNING GRANTS.—A planning
9 grant awarded under paragraph (3) shall not
10 exceed \$250,000.

11 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An im-
12 plementation grant awarded under paragraph
13 (4)(A) shall not exceed a total of \$2,500,000
14 for a 3-year period.

15 “(C) RENEWAL GRANTS.—A renewal grant
16 awarded under paragraph (4)(C) shall not ex-
17 ceed a total of \$1,500,000 for a 3-year period.

18 “(3) PLANNING GRANTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 award a planning grant under this section to an
21 eligible entity that—

22 “(i) is a newly formed industry or sec-
23 tor partnership; and

24 “(ii) has not received a grant under
25 this section.

1 “(B) DURATION.—A planning grant shall
2 be for a duration of 1 year.

3 “(4) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
5 award an implementation grant under this sec-
6 tion to—

7 “(i) an eligible entity that has already
8 received a planning grant under this sec-
9 tion; or

10 “(ii) an eligible entity that is an es-
11 tablished industry or sector partnership.

12 “(B) DURATION.—An implementation
13 grant shall be for a duration of not more than
14 3 years, and may be renewed in accordance
15 with subparagraph (C).

16 “(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may
17 renew an implementation grant for not more
18 than 3 years. A renewal of such grant shall be
19 subject to the requirements of this section, ex-
20 cept that the Secretary shall—

21 “(i) prioritize renewals to eligible enti-
22 ties that can demonstrate the long-term
23 sustainability of an industry or sector part-
24 nership funded under this section;

1 “(ii) as a condition of renewing the
 2 grant, and notwithstanding subsection (d),
 3 decrease the amount of the Federal share
 4 and increase the amount of the non-Fed-
 5 eral share required for the grant, which
 6 must include at least a 25 percent cash
 7 match from the State, the industry cluster,
 8 or some combination thereof; and

9 “(iii) require assurances that the eligi-
 10 ble entity will leverage, each year, addi-
 11 tional funding sources in accordance with
 12 subparagraph (D)(ii) than the eligible enti-
 13 ty provided for the preceding year of the
 14 grant.

15 “(D) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL
 16 SHARE.—

17 “(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as
 18 provided in subparagraph (C)(ii), the Fed-
 19 eral share of an implementation grant
 20 under this section shall be—

21 “(I) 90 percent of the costs of
 22 the activities described in subsection
 23 (g), in the first year of the grant;

24 “(II) 80 percent of such costs in
 25 the second year of the grant; and

1 “(III) 70 percent of such costs in
2 the third year of the grant.

3 “(ii) NON-FEDERAL.—The non-Fed-
4 eral share of an implementation grant
5 under this section may be in cash or in-
6 kind, and may come from State, local, phil-
7 anthropic, private, or other sources.

8 “(5) FISCAL AGENT.—Each eligible entity re-
9 ceiving a grant under this section that is an industry
10 or sector partnership shall designate an entity in the
11 partnership as the fiscal agent for purposes of this
12 grant.

13 “(6) USE OF GRANT FUNDS DURING GRANT PE-
14 RIODS.—An eligible entity receiving grant funds
15 under a planning grant, implementation grant, or a
16 renewal grant under this section shall expend grant
17 funds or obligate grant funds to be expended by the
18 last day of the grant period.

19 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

20 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF A TARGETED INDUS-
21 TRY CLUSTER.—In order to qualify for a grant
22 under this section, an eligible entity shall identify a
23 targeted industry cluster that could benefit from
24 such grant by—

1 “(A) working with businesses, industry as-
2 sociations and organizations, labor organiza-
3 tions, State boards, local boards, economic de-
4 velopment agencies, and other organizations
5 that the eligible entity determines necessary, to
6 identify an appropriate targeted industry clus-
7 ter based on criteria that include, at a min-
8 imum—

9 “(i) data showing the competitiveness
10 of the industry cluster;

11 “(ii) the importance of the industry
12 cluster to the economic development of the
13 area served by the eligible entity;

14 “(iii) the identification of supply and
15 distribution chains within the industry
16 cluster; and

17 “(iv) research studies on industry
18 clusters; and

19 “(B) working with appropriate employment
20 agencies, workforce investment boards, eco-
21 nomic development agencies, community organi-
22 zations, and other organizations that the eligi-
23 ble entity determines necessary to ensure that
24 the targeted industry cluster identified under

1 subparagraph (A) should be targeted for invest-
2 ment, based primarily on the following criteria:

3 “(i) Demonstrated demand for job
4 growth potential.

5 “(ii) Competitiveness.

6 “(iii) Employment base.

7 “(iv) Wages and benefits.

8 “(v) Demonstrated importance of the
9 targeted industry cluster to the area’s
10 economy.

11 “(vi) Workforce development needs.

12 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring
13 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
14 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
15 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
16 retary may require. An application submitted under
17 this paragraph shall contain, at a minimum, the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(A) A description of the eligible entity,
20 evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to carry
21 out activities in support of the strategic objec-
22 tives identified in the application under sub-
23 paragraph (D), and, if the eligible entity is an
24 industry or sector partnership, a description of
25 the expected participation and responsibilities of

1 each of the mandatory partners described in
2 subsection (b)(8)(A).

3 “(B) A description of the targeted industry
4 cluster for which the eligible entity intends to
5 carry out activities through a grant under this
6 section, and a description of how such targeted
7 industry cluster was identified in accordance
8 with paragraph (1).

9 “(C) A description of the workers that will
10 be targeted or recruited by the partnership, in-
11 cluding an analysis of the existing labor market,
12 a description of potential barriers to employ-
13 ment for targeted workers, and a description of
14 strategies that will be employed to help workers
15 overcome such barriers.

16 “(D) A description of the strategic objec-
17 tives that the eligible entity intends to carry out
18 for the targeted industry cluster, which objec-
19 tives shall include—

20 “(i) recruiting key stakeholders in the
21 targeted industry cluster, such as busi-
22 nesses and employers, labor organizations,
23 industry associations, local boards, State
24 boards, and education and training pro-
25 viders, and regularly convening the stake-

1 holders in a collaborative structure that
2 supports the sharing of information, ideas,
3 and challenges common to the targeted in-
4 dustry cluster;

5 “(ii) identifying the training needs of
6 multiple businesses, especially skill gaps
7 critical to competitiveness and innovation
8 to the targeted industry cluster;

9 “(iii) facilitating economies of scale by
10 aggregating training and education needs
11 of multiple employers;

12 “(iv) helping postsecondary edu-
13 cational institutions and training institu-
14 tions align curricula and programs to in-
15 dustry demand, particularly for higher
16 skill, high-priority occupations validated by
17 the industry;

18 “(v) ensuring that the State agency
19 that administers the Wagner-Peyser Act
20 program shall inform recipients of unem-
21 ployment insurance and trade adjustment
22 assistance under chapter 2 or 6 of title II
23 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271
24 et seq., 2401 et seq.) of the job and train-

1 ing opportunities that may result from the
2 implementation of this grant;

3 “(vi) informing and collaborating with
4 organizations such as youth councils, busi-
5 ness-education partnerships, apprenticeship
6 programs, secondary schools, and postsec-
7 ondary educational institutions, and with
8 parents and career counselors, for the pur-
9 pose of addressing the challenges of con-
10 necting disadvantaged adults as defined in
11 section 132(b)(1)(B)(v) and disadvantaged
12 youth as defined in section 127(b) to ca-
13 reers;

14 “(vii) helping companies identify, and
15 work together to address, common organi-
16 zational and human resource challenges,
17 such as—

18 “(I) recruiting new workers;

19 “(II) implementing effective
20 workplace practices;

21 “(III) retaining dislocated and
22 incumbent workers;

23 “(IV) implementing a high-per-
24 formance work organization;

1 “(V) recruiting and retaining
2 women in nontraditional occupations;

3 “(VI) adopting new technologies;
4 and

5 “(VII) fostering experiential and
6 contextualized on-the-job learning;

7 “(viii) developing and strengthening
8 career ladders within and across companies
9 (in cooperation with labor organizations if
10 the labor organizations represent employ-
11 ees engaged in similar work in the industry
12 cluster), in order to enable dislocated, in-
13 cumbent and entry-level workers to im-
14 prove skills and advance to higher-wage
15 jobs;

16 “(ix) improving job quality through
17 improving wages, benefits, and working
18 conditions;

19 “(x) helping partner companies in in-
20 dustry or sector partnerships to attract po-
21 tential employees from a diverse job seeker
22 base, including individuals with barriers to
23 employment (such as job seekers who are
24 economically disadvantaged, youth, older
25 workers, and individuals who have com-

1 pleted a term of imprisonment), by identi-
2 fying such barriers through analysis of the
3 existing labor market and implementing
4 strategies to help such workers overcome
5 such barriers; and

6 “(xi) strengthening connections
7 among businesses in the targeted industry
8 cluster, leading to cooperation beyond
9 workforce issues that will improve competi-
10 tiveness and job quality, such as joint pur-
11 chasing, market research, or centers for
12 technology and innovation.

13 “(E) A description of the manner in which
14 the eligible entity intends to make sustainable
15 progress toward the strategic objectives de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (D).

17 “(F) Performance measures, with quantifi-
18 able benchmarks, for measuring progress to-
19 ward the strategic objectives. Such measures
20 shall consider, at a minimum, the benefits pro-
21 vided by the grant activities funded under this
22 section for—

23 “(i) workers employed in the targeted
24 industry cluster, disaggregated by gender
25 and race, including—

1 “(I) the number of workers re-
2 ceiving portable industry-recognized
3 credentials;

4 “(II) the number of workers with
5 increased wages, the percentage of
6 workers with increased wages, and the
7 average wage increase; and

8 “(III) for dislocated or non-
9 incumbent workers, the number of
10 workers placed in sector-related jobs;
11 and

12 “(ii) firms and industries in the tar-
13 geted industry cluster, including—

14 “(I) the creation or updating of
15 an industry plan to meet current and
16 future workforce demand;

17 “(II) the creation or updating of
18 published industry-wide skill stand-
19 ards or career pathways;

20 “(III) the creation or updating of
21 portable, industry-recognized creden-
22 tials, or where there is not such a cre-
23 dential, the creation or updating of a
24 training curriculum that can lead to
25 the development of such a credential;

1 “(IV) in the case of an eligible
2 entity that is an industry or sector
3 partnership, the number of firms, and
4 the percentage of the local industry,
5 participating in the industry or sector
6 partnership; and

7 “(V) the number of firms, and
8 the percentage of the local industry,
9 receiving workers or services through
10 the grant funded under this section.

11 “(G) A timeline for achieving progress to-
12 ward the strategic objectives.

13 “(H) In the case of an eligible entity desir-
14 ing an implementation grant under this section,
15 an assurance that the eligible entity will lever-
16 age other funding sources, in addition to the
17 amount required for the non-Federal share
18 under subsection (d), to provide training or
19 supportive services to workers under the grant
20 program. Such additional funding sources may
21 include—

22 “(i) funding under this title used for
23 such training and supportive services;

1 “(ii) funding under the Adult Edu-
2 cation and Family Literacy Act of 1998
3 (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

4 “(iii) funding under chapter 2 or 6 of
5 title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
6 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.);

7 “(iv) economic development funding;

8 “(v) employer contributions to train-
9 ing initiatives; or

10 “(vi) providing employees with em-
11 ployee release time for such training or
12 supportive services.

13 “(e) AWARD BASIS.—

14 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
15 retary shall award grants under this section in a
16 manner to ensure geographic diversity.

17 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under
18 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
19 ble entities that—

20 “(A) work with high road employers within
21 a targeted industry cluster to retain and expand
22 employment in high wage, high growth areas;

23 “(B) focus on helping workers move to-
24 ward economic self-sufficiency and ensuring the

1 workers have access to adequate supportive
2 services;

3 “(C) address the needs of firms with lim-
4 ited human resources or in-house training ca-
5 pacity, including small- and medium-sized
6 firms; and

7 “(D) coordinate with entities carrying out
8 State and local workforce investment, economic
9 development, and education activities.

10 “(f) ACTIVITIES.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
12 a grant under this section shall carry out the activi-
13 ties necessary to meet the strategic objectives de-
14 scribed in the entity’s application in a manner
15 that—

16 “(A) integrates services and funding
17 sources in a way that enhances the effectiveness
18 of the activities; and

19 “(B) uses grant funds awarded under this
20 section efficiently.

21 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-
22 ty may retain a portion of a grant awarded under
23 this section for a fiscal year to carry out the admin-
24 istration of this section in an amount not to exceed
25 10 percent of the grant amount.

1 “(g) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—

2 “(1) ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUA-
3 TION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant
4 under this section, and annually thereafter, an eligi-
5 ble entity shall—

6 “(A) report to the Secretary, and to the
7 Governor of the State that the eligible entity
8 serves, on the activities funded pursuant to a
9 grant under this section; and

10 “(B) evaluate the progress the eligible enti-
11 ty has made toward the strategic objectives
12 identified in the application under subsection
13 (d)(2)(D), and measure the progress using the
14 performance measures identified in the applica-
15 tion under subsection (d)(2)(F).

16 “(2) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—An eligible
17 entity receiving a grant under this section shall sub-
18 mit to the Secretary a report containing the results
19 of the evaluation described in subparagraph (B) at
20 such time and in such manner as the Secretary may
21 require.

22 “(h) ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

23 “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
24 may retain not more than 10 percent of the funds
25 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appro-

1 priations under subsection (j) for each fiscal year to
2 administer this section.

3 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OVER-
4 SIGHT.—The Secretary shall provide technical assist-
5 ance and oversight to assist the eligible State and
6 local agencies or eligible entities in applying for and
7 administering grants awarded under this section.
8 The Secretary shall also provide technical assistance
9 to eligible entities in the form of conferences and
10 through the collection and dissemination of informa-
11 tion on best practices developed by eligible partner-
12 ships. The Secretary may award a grant or contract
13 to 1 or more national or State organizations to pro-
14 vide technical assistance to foster the planning, for-
15 mation, and implementation of industry cluster part-
16 nerships.

17 “(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Sec-
18 retary shall issue a range of performance measures,
19 with quantifiable benchmarks, and methodologies
20 that eligible entities may use to evaluate the effec-
21 tiveness of each type of activity in making progress
22 toward the strategic objectives described in sub-
23 section (d)(2)(D). Such measures shall consider the
24 benefits of the industry or sector partnership and its

1 activities for workers, firms, industries, and commu-
2 nities.

3 “(4) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
4 Secretary shall—

5 “(A) coordinate the annual review of each
6 eligible entity receiving a grant under this sec-
7 tion and produce an overview report that, at a
8 minimum, includes—

9 “(i) the critical learning of each in-
10 dustry or sector partnership, such as—

11 “(I) the training that was most
12 effective;

13 “(II) the human resource chal-
14 lenges that were most common;

15 “(III) how technology is changing
16 the targeted industry cluster; and

17 “(IV) the changes that may im-
18 pact the targeted industry cluster over
19 the next 5 years; and

20 “(ii) a description of what eligible en-
21 tities serving similar targeted industry
22 clusters consider exemplary practices, such
23 as—

24 “(I) how to work effectively with
25 postsecondary educational institutions;

- 1 “(II) the use of internships;
- 2 “(III) coordinating with appren-
3 ticeships and cooperative education
4 programs;
- 5 “(IV) how to work effectively
6 with schools providing vocational edu-
7 cation;
- 8 “(V) how to work effectively with
9 adult populations, including—
- 10 “(aa) dislocated workers;
- 11 “(bb) women in nontradi-
12 tional occupations; and
- 13 “(cc) individuals with bar-
14 riers to employment, such as job
15 seekers who—
- 16 “(AA) are economically
17 disadvantaged;
- 18 “(BB) have limited
19 English proficiency;
- 20 “(CC) require remedial
21 education;
- 22 “(DD) are older work-
23 ers;
- 24 “(EE) are individuals
25 who have completed a sen-

1 tence for a criminal offense;

2 and

3 “(FF) have other bar-
4 riers to employment;

5 “(VI) employer practices that are
6 most effective;

7 “(VII) the types of training that
8 are most effective; and

9 “(VIII) other areas where indus-
10 try or sector partnerships can assist
11 each other;

12 “(B) make resource materials, including all
13 reports published and all data collected under
14 this section, available on the Internet; and

15 “(C) conduct conferences and seminars
16 to—

17 “(i) disseminate information on best
18 practices developed by eligible entities re-
19 ceiving a grant under this section; and

20 “(ii) provide information to the com-
21 munities of eligible entities.

22 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 shall transmit a report to Congress on the industry
25 or sector partnership grant program established by

1 this section. The report shall include a description
2 of—

3 “(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;

4 “(B) the activities carried out by the eligi-
5 ble entities;

6 “(C) how the eligible entities were selected
7 to receive funding under this section; and

8 “(D) an assessment of the results achieved
9 by the grant program including findings from
10 the annual reviews described in paragraph
11 (4)(A).

12 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated to carry out this section such sums as
15 may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and for each
16 succeeding fiscal year.

17 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated
18 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
19 under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year shall remain
20 available until the end of the second fiscal year fol-
21 lowing the fiscal year in which such amounts were
22 first appropriated.”.

23 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.**

24 (a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The head of each
25 Federal department or agency whose funding, regulations,

1 or other policies impact workers shall cooperate with the
2 Secretary of Labor to—

3 (1) maintain up-to-date information on jobs,
4 wages, benefits, skills, and careers of workers im-
5 pacted by the actions of such agency or department;

6 (2) develop and implement policies that would
7 improve the jobs and careers of workers impacted by
8 the actions of such agency or department; and

9 (3) report the department or agency's job cre-
10 ation and economic development strategies to the
11 Secretary.

12 (b) ALIGNMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
13 sion of law, the Secretary and the heads of other Federal
14 departments or agencies shall work together to align exist-
15 ing education and training programs with the dem-
16 onstrated needs of industry or sector partnerships, as de-
17 fined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce Investment Act.
18 These collaborative efforts shall include the following:

19 (1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Sec-
20 retary of Commerce shall advise the Secretary of
21 Labor of the Department of Commerce's workforce
22 and economic development strategies, programs, and
23 initiatives.

24 (2) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.—The Attorney
25 General shall—

1 (A) align federally funded programs offer-
2 ing training for inmates with industry clusters
3 (as defined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce
4 Investment Act) and high-priority occupations,
5 and annually review these training programs to
6 assure that the training programs prepare indi-
7 viduals for high-priority occupations; and

8 (B) align federally funded reentry pro-
9 grams to take advantage of information and ca-
10 reer opportunities provided by industry and sec-
11 tor partnerships.

12 (3) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The Sec-
13 retary of Education shall—

14 (A) develop and support career ladders for
15 high-priority occupations critical to targeted in-
16 dustry clusters served by a grant under section
17 174A of the Workforce Investment Act;

18 (B) develop and support innovative pro-
19 grams to address literacy (including English as
20 a second language) and numeracy short-
21 comings, especially in those occupations critical
22 to such targeted industry clusters;

23 (C) develop and support programs and
24 strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;

1 (D) develop and support career education
2 initiatives in middle and high schools; and

3 (E) support initiatives to develop industry-
4 recognized credentials and new credit-bearing
5 programs in public and private postsecondary
6 educational institutions, especially in occupa-
7 tions critical to such targeted industry clusters.

8 (4) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
9 SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human
10 Services shall—

11 (A) develop and support innovative pro-
12 grams that connect qualified individuals receiv-
13 ing assistance under the State temporary assist-
14 ance for needy families program funded under
15 part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
16 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with employment opportuni-
17 ties in the targeted industry clusters served by
18 a grant under section 174A of the Workforce
19 Investment Act;

20 (B) develop and support strategies to pre-
21 pare individuals receiving assistance under the
22 State temporary assistance for needy families
23 programs funded under part A of title IV of the
24 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) for

1 success in postsecondary education and training
2 programs; and

3 (C) develop and support career education
4 initiatives that provide such individuals with in-
5 formation to guide the clients' education and
6 training plans.

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