Attachment 1: **Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Section 171**

Linking Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) Evaluation

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Public Law 105-220--Aug. 7, 1998 112 Stat. 936

Public Law 105-220

105th Congress

An Act

To consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for

other purposes.

(EXCERPT: SECTION 171)

SEC. 171. DEMONSTRATION, PILOT, MULTISERVICE, RESEARCH, AND MULTISTATE PROJECTS.

 (a) Strategic Plan.--

 (1) In general.--After consultation with States, localities,

 and other interested parties, the Secretary shall, every 2 years,

 publish in the Federal Register, a plan that describes the

 demonstration and pilot (including dislocated worker demonstration

 and pilot), multiservice, research, and multistate project

 priorities of the Department of Labor concerning employment and

 training for the 5-year period following the submission of the

 plan. Copies of the plan shall be transmitted to the appropriate

 committees of Congress.

 (2) Factors.--The plan published under paragraph (1) shall

 contain strategies to address national employment and training

 problems and take into account factors such as--

 (A) the availability of existing research (as of the date

 of the publication);

 (B) the need to ensure results that have interstate

 validity;

 (C) the benefits of economies of scale and the efficiency

 of proposed projects; and

 (D) the likelihood that the results of the projects will be

 useful to policymakers and stakeholders in addressing

 employment and training problems.

 (b) Demonstration and Pilot Projects.--

 (1) In general.--Under a plan published under subsection (a),

 the Secretary shall, through grants or contracts, carry out

 demonstration and pilot projects for the purpose of developing and

 implementing techniques and approaches, and demonstrating the

 effectiveness of specialized methods, in addressing employment and

 training needs. Such projects shall include the provision of direct

 services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities and an

 evaluation component and may include--

 (A) the establishment of advanced manufacturing technology

 skill centers developed through local partnerships of industry,

 labor, education, community-based organizations, and economic

 development organizations to meet unmet, high-tech skill needs

 of local communities;

 (B) projects that provide training to upgrade the skills of

 employed workers who reside and are employed in enterprise

 communities or empowerment zones;

 (C) programs conducted jointly with the Department of

 Defense to develop training programs utilizing computer-based

 and other innovative learning technologies;

 (D) projects that promote the use of distance learning,

 enabling students to take courses through the use of media

 technology such as videos, teleconferencing computers, and the

 Internet;

 (E) projects that assist in providing comprehensive

 services to increase the employment rates of out-of-school

 youth residing in targeted high poverty areas within

 empowerment zones and enterprise communities;

 (F) the establishment of partnerships with national

 organizations with special expertise in developing, organizing,

 and administering employment and training services, for

 individuals with disabilities, at the national, State, and

 local levels;

 (G) projects to assist public housing authorities that

 provide, to public housing residents, job training programs

 that demonstrate success in upgrading the job skills and

 promoting employment of the residents; and

 (H) projects that assist local areas to develop and

 implement local self-sufficiency standards to evaluate the

 degree to which participants in programs under this title are

 achieving self-sufficiency.

 (2) Limitations.--

 (A) Competitive awards.--Grants or contracts awarded for

 carrying out demonstration and pilot projects under this

 subsection shall be awarded only on a competitive basis, except

 that a noncompetitive award may be made in the case of a

 project that is funded jointly with other public or private

 sector entities that provide a portion of the funding for the

 project.

 (B) Eligible entities.--Grants or contracts may be awarded

 under this subsection only to--

 (i) entities with recognized expertise in--

 (I) conducting national demonstration projects;

 (II) utilizing state-of-the-art demonstration

 methods; or

 (III) conducting evaluations of workforce

 investment projects; or

 (ii) State and local entities with expertise in

 operating or overseeing workforce investment programs.

 (C) Time limits.--The Secretary shall establish appropriate

 time limits for carrying out demonstration and pilot projects

 under this subsection.

 (c) Multiservice Projects, Research Projects, and Multistate

Projects.--

 (1) Multiservice projects.--Under a plan published under

 subsection (a), the Secretary shall, through grants or contracts,

 carry out multiservice projects--

 (A) that will test an array of approaches to the provision

 of employment and training services to a variety of targeted

 populations;

 (B) in which the entity carrying out the project, in

 conjunction with employers, organized labor, and other groups

 such as the disability community, will design, develop, and

 test various training approaches in order to determine

 effective practices; and

 (C) that will assist in the development and replication of

 effective service delivery strategies for targeted populations

 for the national employment and training system as a whole.

 (2) Research projects.--

 (A) In general.--Under a plan published under subsection

 (a), the Secretary shall, through grants or contracts, carry

 out research projects that will contribute to the solution of

 employment and training problems in the United States.

 (B) Formula improvement study and report.--

 (i) Study.--The Secretary shall conduct a 2-year study

 concerning improvements in the formulas described in

 section 132(b)(1)(B) and paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of

 section 133(b) (regarding distributing funds under subtitle

 B to States and local areas for adult employment and

 training activities). In conducting the study, the

 Secretary shall examine means of improving the formulas

 by--

 (I) developing formulas based on statistically

 reliable data;

 (II) developing formulas that are consistent with

 the goals and objectives of this title; and

 (III) developing formulas based on organizational

 and financial stability of State boards and local

 boards.

 (ii) Report.--The Secretary shall prepare and submit to

 Congress a report containing the results of the study,

 including recommendations for improved formulas.

 (3) Multistate projects.--

 (A) In general.--

 (i) Authority.--Under a plan published under subsection

 (a), the Secretary may, through grants or contracts, carry

 out multistate projects that require demonstrated expertise

 that is available at the national level to effectively

 disseminate best practices and models for implementing

 employment and training services, address the specialized

 employment and training needs of particular service

 populations, or address industry-wide skill shortages.

 (ii) Design of grants.--Grants or contracts awarded

 under this subsection shall be designed to obtain

 information relating to the provision of services under

 different economic conditions or to various demographic

 groups in order to provide guidance at the national and

 State levels about how best to administer specific

 employment and training services.

 (4) Limitations.--

 (A) Competitive awards.--Grants or contracts awarded for

 carrying out projects under this subsection in amounts that

 exceed $100,000 shall be awarded only on a competitive basis,

 except that a noncompetitive award may be made in the case of a

 project that is funded jointly with other public or private

 sector entities that provide a substantial portion of

 assistance under the grant or contract for the project.

 (B) Time limits.--A grant or contract shall not be awarded

 under this subsection to the same organization for more than 3

 consecutive years unless such grant or contract is

 competitively reevaluated within such period.

 (C) Peer review.--

 (i) In general.--The Secretary shall utilize a peer

 review process--

 (I) to review and evaluate all applications for

 grants in amounts that exceed $500,000 that are

 submitted under this section; and

 (II) to review and designate exemplary and

 promising programs under this section.

 (ii) Availability of funds.--The Secretary is

 authorized to use funds provided under this section to

 carry out peer review activities under this subparagraph.

 (D) Priority.--In awarding grants or contracts under this

 subsection, priority shall be provided to entities with

 nationally recognized expertise in the methods, techniques, and

 knowledge of workforce investment activities and shall include

 appropriate time limits, established by the Secretary, for the

 duration of such projects.

 (d) Dislocated Worker Projects.--Of the amount made available

pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A) for any program year, the Secretary

shall use not more than 10 percent of such amount to carry out

demonstration and pilot projects, multiservice projects, and multistate

projects, relating to the employment and training needs of dislocated

workers. Of the requirements of this section, such projects shall be

subject only to the provisions relating to review and evaluation of

applications under subsection (c)(4)(C). Such projects may include

demonstration and pilot projects relating to promoting self-employment,

promoting job creation, averting dislocations, assisting dislocated

farmers, assisting dislocated fishermen, and promoting public works.

Such projects shall be administered through the dislocated worker

office described in section 173(b).