

ATTACHMENT A

AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2014 (THE 2014 FARM BILL)

“(B) improvements in administration and distribution;
and
“(C) actions to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.”.

SEC. 4022. PILOT PROJECTS TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY AND INCREASE WORK REQUIREMENTS AND WORK EFFORT UNDER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “15 months” and inserting “24 months”; and

(ii) by striking “, except that for fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014, the amount shall be \$79,000,000”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “If a State” and inserting the following:

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If a State”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) **TIMING.**—The Secretary shall collect such information as the Secretary determines to be necessary about the expenditures and anticipated expenditures by the State agencies of the funds initially allocated to the State agencies under subparagraph (A) to make reallocations of unexpended funds under clause (i) within a timeframe that allows each State agency to which funds are reallocated at least 270 days to expend the reallocated funds.

“(iii) **OPPORTUNITY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that all State agencies have an opportunity to obtain reallocated funds.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) **PILOT PROJECTS TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY AND INCREASE WORK REQUIREMENTS AND WORK EFFORT UNDER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—

“(i) **PILOT PROJECTS REQUIRED.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out pilot projects under which State agencies shall enter into cooperative agreements with the Secretary to develop and test methods, including operating work programs with certain features comparable to the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), for employment and training programs and services to raise the number of work registrants under section 6(d) of this Act who obtain unsubsidized employment, increase the earned income of the registrants, and reduce the reliance of the registrants on public assistance, so as to reduce the need for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits.

“(II) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Pilot projects shall—

“(aa) meet such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate; and

“(bb) except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, be in accordance with the requirements of sections 6(d) and 20.

“(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select pilot projects under this subparagraph in accordance with the criteria established under this clause and additional criteria established by the Secretary.

“(II) QUALIFYING CRITERIA.—To be eligible to participate in a pilot project, a State agency shall—

“(aa) agree to participate in the evaluation described in clause (vii), including providing evidence that the State has a robust data collection system for program administration and cooperating to make available State data on the employment activities and post-participation employment, earnings, and public benefit receipt of participants to ensure proper and timely evaluation;

“(bb) commit to collaborate with the State workforce board and other job training programs in the State and local area; and

“(cc) commit to maintain at least the amount of State funding for employment and training programs and services under paragraphs (2) and (3) and under section 20 as the State expended for fiscal year 2013.

“(III) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting pilot projects, the Secretary shall—

“(aa) consider the degree to which the pilot project would enhance existing employment and training programs in the State;

“(bb) consider the degree to which the pilot project would enhance the employment and earnings of program participants;

“(cc) consider whether there is evidence that the pilot project could be replicated easily by other States or political subdivisions;

“(dd) consider whether the State agency has a demonstrated capacity to operate high quality employment and training programs; and

“(ee) ensure the pilot projects, when considered as a group, test a range of strategies, including strategies that—

“(AA) target individuals with low skills or limited work experience, individuals subject to the requirements under section 6(o), and individuals who are working;

“(BB) are located in a range of geographic areas and States, including rural and urban areas;

“(CC) emphasize education and training, rehabilitative services for individuals with barriers to employment,

rapid attachment to employment, and mixed strategies; and

“(DD) test programs that assign work registrants to mandatory and voluntary participation in employment and training activities.

“(iii) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a process to terminate a pilot project for which the State has failed to meet the criteria described in clause (ii) or other criteria established by the Secretary.

“(II) TIMING.—The process shall include a reasonable time period, not to exceed 180 days, for State agencies found noncompliant to correct the noncompliance.

“(iv) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.— Allowable programs and services carried out under this subparagraph shall include those programs and services authorized under this Act and employment and training activities authorized under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), including:

“(I) Employment in the public or private sector that is not subsidized by any public program.

“(II) Employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from public funds to offset all or a part of the wages and costs of employing an adult.

“(III) Employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from public funds to offset all or a part of the wages and costs of employing an adult.

“(IV) A work activity that—

“(aa) is performed in return for public benefits;

“(bb) provides an adult with an opportunity to acquire the general skills, knowledge, and work habits necessary to obtain employment;

“(cc) is designed to improve the employability of those who cannot find unsubsidized employment; and

“(dd) is supervised by an employer, work site sponsor, or other responsible party on an ongoing basis.

“(V) Training in the public or private sector that—

“(aa) is given to a paid employee while the employee is engaged in productive work; and

“(bb) provides knowledge and skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job.

“(VI) Job search, obtaining employment, or preparation to seek or obtain employment, including—

“(aa) life skills training;

“(bb) substance abuse treatment or mental health treatment, determined to be necessary and documented by a qualified medical, substance abuse, or mental health professional; and

“(cc) rehabilitation activities, supervised by a public agency or other responsible party on an ongoing basis.

“(VII) Structured programs and embedded activities—

“(aa) in which adults perform work for the direct benefit of the community under the auspices of public or nonprofit organizations;

“(bb) that are limited to projects that serve useful community purposes in fields such as health, social service, environmental protection, education, urban and rural redevelopment, welfare, recreation, public facilities, public safety, and child care;

“(cc) that are designed to improve the employability of adults not otherwise able to obtain unsubsidized employment;

“(dd) that are supervised on an ongoing basis; and

“(ee) with respect to which a State agency takes into account, to the maximum extent practicable, the prior training, experience, and skills of a recipient in making appropriate community service assignments.

“(VIII) Career and technical training programs that are—

“(aa) directly related to the preparation of adults for employment in current or emerging occupations; and

“(bb) supervised on an ongoing basis.

“(IX) Training or education for job skills that are—

“(aa) required by an employer to provide an adult with the ability to obtain employment or to advance or adapt to the changing demands of the workplace; and

“(bb) supervised on an ongoing basis.

“(X) Education that is—

“(aa) related to a specific occupation, job, or job offer; and

“(bb) supervised on an ongoing basis.

“(XI) In the case of an adult who has not completed secondary school or received a certificate of general equivalence, regular attendance that is—

“(aa) in accordance with the requirements of the secondary school or course of study, at a secondary school or in a course of study

leading to a certificate of general equivalence;
and

“(bb) supervised on an ongoing basis.

“(XII) Providing child care to enable another recipient of public benefits to participate in a community service program that—

“(aa) does not provide compensation for the community service;

“(bb) is a structured program designed to improve the employability of adults who participate in the program; and

“(cc) is supervised on an ongoing basis.

“(v) SANCTIONS.—Subject to clause (vi), no work registrant shall be eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program if the individual refuses without good cause to participate in an employment and training program under this subparagraph, to the extent required by the State agency.

“(vi) STANDARDS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Employment and training activities under this subparagraph shall be considered to be carried out under section 6(d), including for the purpose of satisfying any conditions of participation and duration of ineligibility.

“(II) STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall establish standards for employment activities described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (iv) that ensure that failure to work for reasons beyond the control of an individual, such as involuntary reduction in hours of employment, shall not result in ineligibility.

“(III) PARTICIPATION IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—Before assigning a work registrant to mandatory employment and training activities, a State agency shall—

“(aa) assess whether the work registrant is participating in substantial employment and training activities outside of the pilot project that are expected to result in the work registrant gaining increased skills, training, work, or experience consistent with the objectives of the pilot project; and

“(bb) if determined to be acceptable, count hours engaged in the activities toward any minimum participation requirement.

“(vii) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—

“(I) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, conduct for each State agency that enters into a cooperative agreement under clause (i) an independent longitudinal evaluation of each pilot project of the State agency under this subparagraph, with results reported not less

frequently than in consecutive 12-month increments.

“(bb) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the independent evaluation shall be to measure the impact of employment and training programs and services provided by each State agency under the pilot projects on the ability of adults in each pilot project target population to find and retain employment that leads to increased household income and reduced reliance on public assistance, as well as other measures of household well-being, compared to what would have occurred in the absence of the pilot project.

“(cc) METHODOLOGY.—The independent evaluation shall use valid statistical methods that can determine, for each pilot project, the difference, if any, between supplemental nutrition assistance and other public benefit receipt expenditures, employment, earnings and other impacts as determined by the Secretary—

“(AA) as a result of the employment and training programs and services provided by the State agency under the pilot project; as compared to

“(BB) a control group that is not subject to the employment and training programs and services provided by the State agency under the pilot project.

“(II) REPORTING.—Not later than December 31, 2015, and each December 31 thereafter until the completion of the last evaluation under subclause (I), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and share broadly, including by posting on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture, a report that includes a description of—

“(aa) the status of each pilot project carried out under this subparagraph;

“(bb) the results of the evaluation completed during the previous fiscal year;

“(cc) to the maximum extent practicable, baseline information relevant to the stated goals and desired outcomes of the pilot project;

“(dd) the employment and training programs and services each State tested under the pilot, including—

“(AA) the system of the State for assessing the ability of work registrants to participate in and meet the requirements of employment and training activities and assigning work registrants to appropriate activities; and

“(BB) the employment and training activities and services provided under the pilot;

“(ee) the impact of the employment and training programs and services on appropriate employment, income, and public benefit receipt as well as other outcomes among households participating in the pilot project, relative to households not participating; and

“(ff) the steps and funding necessary to incorporate into State employment and training programs and services the components of the pilot projects that demonstrate increased employment and earnings.

“(viii) FUNDING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), from amounts made available under section 18(a)(1), the Secretary shall use to carry out this subparagraph—

“(aa) for fiscal year 2014, \$10,000,000; and

“(bb) for fiscal year 2015, \$190,000,000.

“(II) LIMITATIONS.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not fund more than 10 pilot projects under this subparagraph.

“(bb) DURATION.—Each pilot project shall be in effect for not more than 3 years.

“(III) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under subclause (I) shall remain available through September 30, 2018.

“(ix) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under this subparagraph for pilot projects shall be used only for—

“(aa) pilot projects that comply with this Act;

“(bb) the program and administrative costs of carrying out the pilot projects;

“(cc) the costs incurred in developing systems and providing information and data for the independent evaluations under clause (vii); and

“(dd) the costs of the evaluations under clause (vii).

“(II) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds made available under this subparagraph shall be used only to supplement, not to supplant, non-Federal funds used for existing employment and training activities or services.

“(III) OTHER FUNDS.—In carrying out pilot projects, States may contribute additional funds obtained from other sources, including Federal, State, or private funds, on the condition that the use of the contributions is permissible under Federal law.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) MONITORING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall monitor the employment and training programs carried out by State agencies under section 6(d)(4) and assess the effectiveness of the programs in—

“(i) preparing members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program for employment, including the acquisition of basic skills necessary for employment; and

“(ii) increasing the number of household members who obtain and retain employment subsequent to participation in the employment and training programs.

“(B) REPORTING MEASURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall develop State reporting measures that identify improvements in the skills, training, education, or work experience of members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Measures shall—

“(I) be based on common measures of performance for Federal workforce training programs; and

“(II) include additional indicators that reflect the challenges facing the types of members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program who participate in a specific employment and training component.

“(iii) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall require that each State employment and training plan submitted under section 11(e)(19) identifies appropriate reporting measures for each proposed component that serves a threshold number of participants determined by the Secretary of at least 100 people a year.

“(iv) INCLUSIONS.—Reporting measures described in clause (iii) may include—

“(I) the percentage and number of program participants who received employment and training services and are in unsubsidized employment subsequent to the receipt of those services;

“(II) the percentage and number of program participants who obtain a recognized credential, including a registered apprenticeship, or a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, while participating in, or within 1 year after receiving, employment and training services;

“(III) the percentage and number of program participants who are in an education or training program that is intended to lead to a recognized credential, including a registered apprenticeship or on-the-job training program, a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or unsubsidized employment;

“(IV) subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, measures developed by each State agency to assess the skills acquisition of employment and training program participants that reflect the goals of the specific employment

and training program components of the State agency, which may include, at a minimum—

“(aa) the percentage and number of program participants who are meeting program requirements in each component of the education and training program of the State agency;

“(bb) the percentage and number of program participants who are gaining skills likely to lead to employment as measured through testing, quantitative or qualitative assessment, or other method; and

“(cc) the percentage and number of program participants who do not comply with employment and training requirements and who are ineligible under section 6(b); and

“(V) other indicators approved by the Secretary.

“(C) OVERSIGHT OF STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall assess State employment and training programs on a periodic basis to ensure—

“(i) compliance with Federal employment and training program rules and regulations;

“(ii) that program activities are appropriate to meet the needs of the individuals referred by the State agency to an employment and training program component;

“(iii) that reporting measures are appropriate to identify improvements in skills, training, work and experience for participants in an employment and training program component; and

“(iv) for States receiving additional allocations under paragraph (1)(E), any information the Secretary may require to evaluate the compliance of the State agency with paragraph (1), which may include—

“(I) a report for each fiscal year of the number of individuals in the State who meet the conditions of paragraph (1)(E)(ii), the number of individuals the State agency offers a position in a program described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 6(o)(2), and the number who participate in such a program;

“(II) a description of the types of employment and training programs the State agency uses to comply with paragraph (1)(E) and the availability of those programs throughout the State; and

“(III) any additional information the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(D) STATE REPORT.—Each State agency shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the State employment and training program that includes, using measures identified under subparagraph (B), the numbers of supplemental nutrition assistance program participants who have gained skills, training, work, or experience that will increase the ability of the participants to obtain regular employment.

“(E) MODIFICATIONS TO THE STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PLAN.—Subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, if the Secretary determines that the performance of a State agency with respect to employment and training outcomes is inadequate, the Secretary may require the State agency to make modifications to the State employment and training plan to improve the outcomes.

“(F) PERIODIC EVALUATION.—Subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, not later than October 1, 2016, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a study to review existing practice and research to identify employment and training program components and practices that—

“(i) effectively assist members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will increase the ability of the participants to obtain regular employment; and

“(ii) are best integrated with statewide workforce development systems.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(14), by inserting “or a pilot project under section 16(h)(1)(F)” after “6(d)(4)(I)”;

(B) in subsection (e)(3)(B)(iii), by inserting “or a pilot project under section 16(h)(1)(F)” after “6(d)(4)”; and

(C) in subsection (g)(3), in the first sentence, by inserting “or a pilot project under section 16(h)(1)(F)” after “6(d)”.

(2) Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or a pilot project under paragraph (1)(F)” after “6(d)(4)”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or a pilot project under paragraph (1)(F)” after “6(d)(4)”.

(3) Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(hh) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(hh)) is amended by inserting “(h)(1)(F),” after “(g),”.

(c) APPLICATION DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section (other than the amendments made by subsection (a)(2)) shall apply beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROCESS FOR SELECTING PILOT PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) develop and publish the process for selecting pilot projects under section 16(h)(1)(F) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as added by subsection (a)(1)(C)); and

(ii) issue such request for proposals for the independent evaluation as is determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(B) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall begin considering proposals not earlier than 90 days after the date

7 USC 2014 note.

7 USC 2025 note.

on which the Secretary completes the actions described in subparagraph (A).

(C) SELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the actions described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall select pilot projects from the applications submitted in response to the request for proposals issued under subparagraph (A).

(3) MONITORING OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.— 7 USC 2025 note.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue interim final regulations implementing the amendments made by subsection (a)(2).

(B) STATE ACTION.—States shall include reporting measures required under section 16(h)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by subsection (a)(2)) in the employment and training plans of the States for the first full fiscal year that begins not earlier than 180 days after the date that the regulations described in subparagraph (A) are published.

SEC. 4023. COOPERATION WITH PROGRAM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.

Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) COOPERATION WITH PROGRAM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—Subject to the requirements of this Act, including protections under section 11(e)(8), States, State agencies, local agencies, institutions, facilities such as data consortiums, and contractors participating in programs authorized under this Act shall—

“(1) cooperate with officials and contractors acting on behalf of the Secretary in the conduct of evaluations and studies under this Act; and

“(2) submit information at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.”.

SEC. 4024. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2012” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 4025. REVIEW, REPORT, AND REGULATION OF CASH NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS PROVIDED IN PUERTO RICO.

Section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REVIEW, REPORT, AND REGULATION OF CASH NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS PROVIDED IN PUERTO RICO.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a review of the provision of nutrition assistance in Puerto Rico in the form of cash benefits under this section that shall include—

“(A) an examination of the history of and purpose for distribution of a portion of monthly benefits in the form of cash;

“(B) an examination of current barriers to the redemption of non-cash benefits by current program participants and retailers;