

URBAN SERVING UNIVERSITIES

Higher Education Act

Changes to current law are formatted in “bold”

TITLE VII – GRADUATE AND POSTSECONDARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

PART A – GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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PART B – FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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PART C – URBAN ~~COMMUNITY SERVICE~~ **SERVING UNIVERSITIES**

SEC. 751. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that –

~~(1) the Nation’s urban centers are facing increasingly pressing problems and needs in the areas of economic development, community infrastructure and service, social policy, public health, housing, crime, education, environmental concerns, planning and work force preparation;~~

~~(2) there are, in the Nation’s urban institutions, people with underutilized skills, knowledge, and experience who are capable of providing a vast range of services toward the amelioration of the problems described in paragraph (1);~~

~~(3) the skills, knowledge and experience in these urban institutions, if applied in a systematic and sustained manner, can make a significant contribution to the solution of such problems; and~~

~~(4) the application of such skills, knowledge and experience is hindered by the limited funds available to redirect attention to solutions to such urban problems.~~

(1) Urban serving research universities are preparing the well educated, highly skilled workers who are essential to the nation’s future, particularly in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine;

(2) Urban serving research universities create jobs, seed ideas and incubate businesses, purchase goods and services, and attract visitors and high-tech industry who rely on young, creative talent; and

(3) In the knowledge economy of the 21st Century, urban universities are increasingly economic engines.

SEC. 752. PURPOSE; PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) PURPOSE. – It is the purpose of this part to provide incentives to urban ~~academic institutions~~ **urban serving research universities** to enable such institutions to ~~work with private and civic organizations to devise and implement solutions to pressing and severe problems in their communities~~ **expand research knowledge and to develop and implement initiatives in partnership with community-based organizations and other public or nonprofit private entities to strengthen city economies, foster innovation and opportunity, and solve urban challenges.**

(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED. – The Secretary is authorized to ~~carry out a program of providing assistance~~ **award grants to eligible institutions urban serving research universities** to enable such institutions to carry out the activities described in section 754 in accordance with the provisions of this part.

SEC. 753. APPLICATION FOR URBAN ~~COMMUNITY SERVICE~~ **SERVING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY GRANTS.**

(a) APPLICATION. –

~~(1) IN GENERAL. – An eligible institution~~ **urban serving research university** seeking assistance under this part shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, ~~and containing or accompanied by such information and assurances as the Secretary may require by regulation.~~ **manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.**

~~(2) CONTENTS. – Each application submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall –~~

~~(A) describe the activities and services for which assistance is sought; and~~

~~(B) include a plan that is agreed to by the members of a consortium that includes, in addition to the eligible institution, one or more of the following entities:~~

~~(i) A community college.~~

~~(ii) An urban school system.~~

~~(iii) A local government.~~

~~(iv) A business or other employer.~~

~~(v) A nonprofit institution.~~

~~(3) WAIVER. – The Secretary may waive the consortium requirements described in paragraph (2) for any applicant who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the~~

~~Secretary that the applicant has devised an integrated and coordinated plan which meets the purpose of this part.~~

(b) **PRIORITY IN SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS.** – The Secretary shall give priority to applications that propose to conduct joint projects supported by other local, State, and Federal programs. In addition, the Secretary shall give priority to **eligible institutions urban serving research universities** ~~submitting applications that demonstrate the eligible institution's commitment to urban community service~~ **with a demonstrated record of effective engagement in serving the communities in which such institutions are located.**

~~(c) SELECTION PROCEDURES.— The Secretary shall, by regulation, develop a formal procedure for the submission of applications under this part and shall publish in the Federal Register an announcement of that procedure and the availability of funds under this part.~~

SEC. 754. ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.

~~Funds made available under this part shall be used to support planning, applied research, training, resource exchanges or technology transfers, the delivery of services, or other activities the purpose of which is to design and implement programs to assist urban communities to meet and address their pressing and severe problems, such as the following:~~

- ~~(1) Work force preparation.~~
- ~~(2) Urban poverty and the alleviation of such poverty.~~
- ~~(3) Health care, including delivery and access.~~
- ~~(4) Underperforming school systems and students.~~
- ~~(5) Problems faced by the elderly and individuals with disabilities in urban settings.~~
- ~~(6) Problems faced by families and children.~~
- ~~(7) Campus and community crime prevention, including enhanced security and safety awareness measures as well as coordinated programs addressing the root causes of crime.~~
- ~~(8) Urban housing.~~
- ~~(9) Urban infrastructure.~~
- ~~(10) Economic development.~~
- ~~(11) Urban environmental concerns.~~
- ~~(12) Other problem areas which participants in the consortium described in section 753(a)(2)(B) concur are of high priority in the urban area.~~

~~(13)(A) Problems faced by individuals with disabilities regarding accessibility to institutions of higher education and other public and private community facilities.~~

~~(B) Amelioration of existing attitudinal barriers that prevent full inclusion by individuals with disabilities in their community.~~

~~(14) Improving access to technology in local communities.~~

An urban serving research university shall use funds awarded under this part to further develop and apply research findings to the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of –

(1) systemic initiatives with elementary and secondary schools, and other educational organizations designed to –

(A) improve teacher quality and retention; or

(B) develop strategies to improve post-secondary and workplace readiness, particularly in fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

(2) innovative economic revitalization efforts in conjunction with community-based organizations and other public or nonprofit private entities; or

(3) public health outreach, education, and intervention activities designed to reduce health disparities in urban areas, in partnership with community-based organizations and other public or nonprofit private entities.

~~SEC. 755. PEER REVIEW.~~

~~The Secretary shall designate a peer review panel to review applications submitted under this part and make recommendations for funding to the Secretary. In selecting the peer review panel, the Secretary may consult with other appropriate Cabinet-level officials and with non-Federal organizations, to ensure that the panel will be geographically balanced and be composed of representatives from public and private institutions of higher education, labor, business, and State and local government, who have expertise in urban community service or in education.~~

~~SEC. 756. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.~~

~~(a) MULTIYEAR AVAILABILITY.— Subject to the availability of appropriations, grants under this part may be made on a multiyear basis, except that no institution, individually or as a participant in a consortium of such institutions, may receive such a grant for more than 5 years.~~

~~(b) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. — The Secretary shall award grants under this part in a manner that achieves an equitable geographic distribution of such grants.~~

~~(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT. — An applicant under this part and the local governments associated with the application shall contribute to the conduct of the program supported by the grant an amount from non-Federal funds equal to at least one-fourth of the amount of the grant, which contribution may be in cash or in kind.~~

~~SEC. 757. DESIGNATION OF URBAN GRANT INSTITUTIONS.~~

~~The Secretary shall publish a list of eligible institutions under this part and shall designate these institutions of higher education as “Urban Grant Institutions”. The Secretary shall establish a national network of Urban Grant Institutions so that the results of individual projects achieved in one metropolitan area can then be generalized, disseminated, replicated, and applied throughout the Nation. The information developed as a result of this section shall be made available to Urban Grant Institutions and to any other interested institution of higher education by any appropriate means.~~

~~SEC. 758~~ **755. DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this part:

(1) **URBAN AREA.** — The term “urban area” means a **city with a population of not less than 200,000 within a metropolitan statistical area.** ~~having a population of not less than 350,000, or two contiguous metropolitan statistical areas having a population of not less than 350,000, or, in any State which does not have a metropolitan statistical area which has such a population, the eligible entity in the State submitting an application under section 753, or, if no such entity submits an application, the Secretary, shall designate one urban area for the purposes of this part.~~

(2) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION URBAN SERVING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.** — The term “**eligible institution urban serving research university**” means a **public institution of higher education that —**

~~(A) a nonprofit municipal university, established by the governing body of the city in which it is located, and operating as of the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 under that authority; or~~

~~(B) an institution of higher education, or a consortium of such institutions any one of which meets all of the requirements of this paragraph, which —~~

(A) meets the requirements of section 101 of this Act;

(B) is located in an urban area;

(C) has the capacity to conduct applicable research, as demonstrated by awarding more than 10 doctoral degrees per academic year;

~~(i) is located in an urban area;~~

(D) ~~(ii)~~ draws a substantial portion of its undergraduate students from the urban area in which such institution is located, ~~or from contiguous areas;~~ **and**

~~(iii) carries out programs to make postsecondary educational opportunities more accessible to residents of such urban area, or contiguous areas;~~

~~(iv) has the present capacity to provide resources responsive to the needs and priorities of such urban area and contiguous areas;~~

~~(v) offers a range of professional, technical, or graduate programs sufficient to sustain the capacity of such institution to provide such resources; and~~

(E) ~~(vi)~~ has demonstrated and sustained a sense of responsibility to such urban area ~~and contiguous areas~~ and the people of such areas.

SEC. ~~759~~ 756. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated ~~\$20,000,000~~ **\$100,000,000** for fiscal year ~~1999~~ **2008** and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this part.