



## **The Urban University Community Partnerships to Promote America's Metropolitan Areas Act Summary**

The bill is a comprehensive package to provide federal support through the Department of Housing and Urban Development to strengthen the overall role and investment of universities with their communities, and in particular those that are public urban research universities. The bill addresses various levels of institutional community involvement. This ranges from establishing individual centers, building campus-wide capacity, and designating universities as urban leaders in community engagement that are eligible for special federal funds.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP CENTERS**

The bill reauthorizes and significantly expands the funding level of the Community Outreach Partnership Centers program. It clarifies the purpose of the grant to encourage more partnerships between institutions of higher education and their local communities and align teaching, research, and service with the needs and expectations of community members. The bill adds additional selection criteria for determining grant recipients, including the extent to which the projects and activities will contribute to the goals of community partners as well as the ability of the applicant to communicate, coordinate, and involve community representatives in the policy formulation and decision-making process. The bill also establishes various evaluative reporting requirements for grantees. Grants shall be awarded for no more than a five year period and the program is to be authorized at \$100 million.

### **URBAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY GRANTS**

The bill creates a new competitive grant program to encourage institutions of higher education to create and sustain a campus-wide infrastructure and culture around working with and strengthening their local neighborhoods and communities. Grants shall be used for establishing a task force, creating or strengthening a central administrative unit or center to coordinate community engagement, and developing funding mechanisms to sustain community engagement. They may also be used to recruit and reward faculty and administrators, create scholarships, develop programs, and provide technical assistance and training. In awarding grants, the Secretary of HUD shall give priority to public urban research universities. The grant shall be awarded for no more than a five year period and requires grantees to match awards with non-federal funds. The program is to be authorized at \$150 million.

## **HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR RESEARCHERS**

The bill creates a new competitive grant program for early career researchers to conduct research in fields relevant to the mission of HUD. The program is modeled after the National Science Foundation's successful early career research grant program. Grants between \$50,000 and \$100,000 shall be awarded to individuals that received a doctorate degree within the last decade and are employed in a tenure track position. Grants shall be awarded for no more than a five year period and the program is to be authorized at \$50 million.

## **NATIONAL URBAN GRANT UNIVERSITY PROGRAM**

The bill creates a new program to designate public urban research universities as leaders in community engagement. Designated universities shall receive federal support for graduate fellowships and special projects and activities. The National Urban Grant University program is modeled after the Land, Sea, Space, and Sun Grant programs. To be selected as an urban grant university a public urban research university must be recognized for excellence in such fields related to the mission of HUD and demonstrate a record of institutional-wide commitment to community engagement. The program is authorized at \$200 million.

## **UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The bill establishes an independent advisory council to advise the Secretary of HUD regarding oversight and evaluation of the various university partnerships program. The council shall consist of 15 members, including representatives from institutions of higher education, State and local governments, community organizations or non-profits, and the private sector.

## **HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

The bill creates new competitive grants for institutions of higher education to provide technical and financial assistance to non-profit organizations to undertake community development and affordable housing projects. In awarding grants, the Secretary of HUD shall give priority to public urban research universities. The grant shall be awarded for no more than a five year period and requires grantees to match awards with non-federal funds. The program is to be authorized at \$200 million.