[~118H9521]

.....

(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand the eligibility of students to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, establish college student food insecurity demonstration programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. HAYES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand the eligibility of students to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, establish college student food insecurity demonstration programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Student Food Security Act of 2026''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Eligibility of students to participate in supplemental nutrition assistance program.
Sec. 102. Communication of information on student eligibility for nutrition assistance programs.
Sec. 103. Demonstration program.

TITLE II—REDUCING STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY

Sec. 201. Data sharing to inform students of benefit programs.
Sec. 202. National report on student basic needs insecurity.
Sec. 203. Questions on basic needs in national postsecondary student aid study.
Sec. 204. Grants to support the basic needs of students.
Sec. 205. Effective date.

TITLE I—STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD.—Section 3(m)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(4) In no event'' and inserting the following:

''(4) INSTITUTION OR BOARDING HOUSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in no event''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) STUDENTS.—An individual (including any dependents of the individual) may constitute a household if the individual is a student and resident of an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS.—Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**QUALIFICATIONS AND**'' after ''**ELIGIBILITY**'';

(2) in subsection (d)(2)(C)—

(A) by inserting ''who is'' after ''student'';

(B) by striking ''half time'' and inserting ''half-time''; and

(C) by striking ''(except'' and all that follows through ''section)'' and inserting ''(as determined by the school, training program, or institution of higher education, as applicable) and meets the requirements for eligibility under subsection (e)''; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)

and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in paragraph (5), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(D) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking ''20'' and inserting ''10'';

(E) in subparagraph (E)(ii) (as so redesignated), by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (D)'';

(F) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated), by striking ''or'' at the end after the semicolon;

(G) in subparagraph (H) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(H) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''(e) No in-

dividual'' and all that follows through ''individual—'' and inserting the following:

''(e) QUALIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS.—A student enrolled in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) shall be eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program if—

''(1) the student satisfies the other requirements of this section; and

''(2) the student—''; and

(I) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by adding at the end the following:

''(I) is eligible to participate in a State or federally financed work study program, including the program authorized under part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.);

''(J)(i) is not an independent student (as defined in section 480(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(d))); and

''(ii)(I) has a student aid index of not more than 0, as determined in accordance with part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk et seq.); or

''(II) meets the financial eligibility criteria for receiving a maximum Federal Pell Grant under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.)—

''(aa) regardless of whether the student has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1090); and

''(bb) which may be determined by a State using the income of the student, as determined under—

''(AA) the supplemental nutrition assistance program or another Federal or State means-tested program; or

''(BB) another reasonable simplifying assumption; or

''(K)(i) is an independent student (as defined in section 480(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(d))); and

''(ii) is a member of a household otherwise eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.''.

SEC. 102. COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term ''college student'' means a student enrolled in an institution of higher education.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

(3) PROGRAM.—The term ''program'' means the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) STRATEGIES REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this title, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the strategy to be used by the Secretary—

(1) to increase the awareness of State agencies and institutions of higher education about—

(A) college student food insecurity;

(B) the eligibility of college students and their families for the program; and

(C) the procedures and resources available to college students who are not participating in the program to access benefits under the program;

(2) to identify—

(A) existing or potential informational, educational, policy, and psychological barriers to enrolling in the program and barriers to complying with program requirements;

(B) mitigation strategies with respect to those barriers; and

(C) opportunities for collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other relevant Federal agencies; and

(3) to update the State Outreach Plan Guidance under subsection (c).

(c) UPDATED STATE OUTREACH PLAN GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary submits to Congress a report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall publish an updated State Outreach Plan Guidance that—

(1) describes existing data on college student food insecurity;

(2) describes the manner in which college students can access the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(3) recommends outreach activities to address college student food insecurity and encourages States to conduct those and other outreach activities;

(4) provides a template for a State to submit information to the Secretary describing the outreach activities being carried out by the State to address college student food insecurity; and

(5) contains updated guidance based on the contents of that report.

SEC. 103. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

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

''(o) COLLEGE STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term 'college student' means a student enrolled in an institution of higher education.

''(B) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—The term 'demonstration program' means the dem-

onstration program established under paragraph (2).

''(C) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

''(ii) INCLUSION.—The term 'institution of higher education' includes a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).

''(2) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Education, shall establish a demonstration program under which the Secretary shall carry out demonstration projects in accordance with paragraph (3)—

''(A) to decrease student food insecurity at institutions of higher education; and

''(B) to reduce barriers to college students fully utilizing supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits at institutions of higher edu-

cation available to college students and their families.

''(3) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—To carry out the demonstration program, the Secretary shall carry out demonstration projects that test the following new supplemental nutrition assistance program delivery methods:

''(A) Allowing a college student receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits—

''(i) to use those benefits to purchase prepared foods from a campus dining hall, on-campus store, or other on-campus merchant or provider that typically sells prepared meals and participates in the student meal program at the institution of higher education at which the student is enrolled; and

''(ii) to be exempt from requirements to purchase a campus meal plan as part of the attendance of the college student at the institution of higher education.

''(B) Allowing a college student to use an EBT card or a campus-specific card at any of

the locations described in subparagraph (A)(i) or a retailer authorized under section 9.

''(4) PROJECT LIMIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out not more than 10 demonstration projects under the demonstration program simultaneously.

''(B) INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out not more than 1 demonstration project under the demonstration program at any single institution of higher education.

''(5) PRIORITY.—In selecting an institution of higher education at which to carry out a demonstration project, the Secretary shall give priority to an institution of higher education—

''(A) at which not less than 25 percent of enrolled students are students that are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.); or

''(B) that is described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

''(6) PROJECT ADMINISTRATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish criteria and parameters for selecting, operating, monitoring, and terminating each demonstration project under the demonstration program.

''(B) PRICES CHARGED.—The Secretary shall ensure that prices charged by food providers participating in a demonstration project under the demonstration program are comparable to prices charged by those food providers prior to participation.

''(7) PROJECT TERMINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the termination of a demonstration project under the demonstration program shall not cause sudden adverse changes, including a reduction of institutional financial aid or the elimination of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, for students participating in the demonstration project.

''(8) PROGRAM TERMINATION.—The demonstration program shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the demonstration program is established.

''(9) EVALUATION.—For the duration of the demonstration program, the Secretary shall, in collaboration with the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, conduct an annual evaluation of each demonstration project carried out under the demonstration program during the year covered by the evaluation, including an analysis of the extent to which the project is meeting the desired outcomes, which include reduction in food insecurity and improved academic performance.

''(10) REPORT.—For the duration of the demonstration program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Education and Labor of the House of Representatives an annual report that includes—

''(A) a description of each demonstration project carried out under the demonstration program during the year covered by the report;

''(B) the evaluation conducted under paragraph (9); and

''(C) recommendations for legislation to improve the supplemental nutrition assistance program to better serve college students.

''(11) WAIVER AND MODIFICATION AUTHORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, as may be necessary solely to carry out the demonstration program—

''(i) waive any provision under this Act, including—

''(I) the requirement relating to local sales tax under section 4(a);

''(II) requirements relating to the issuance and use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits under section 7; and

''(III) requirements for approval of retail food stores under section 9; and

''(ii) modify the definitions under this Act for the purposes of the demonstration program, including the definitions of the terms 'food', 'household', and 'retail food store' under section 3.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not waive a provision or modify a definition

under subparagraph (A) if the waiver or modification will—

''(i) cause increased difficulty for any household to apply for or access supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; or

''(ii) reduce the value of those benefits for any household.

''(12) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.''.

TITLE II—REDUCING STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY

SEC. 201. DATA SHARING TO INFORM STUDENTS OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 483(c)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) DATA-SHARING AGREEMENTS FOR BENEFIT PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into and maintain data sharing agreements that meet the requirements of subparagraph (B) with each appropriate Federal or

State agency that handles applications for federally funded benefit programs described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII) to—

''(i) identify applicants who are potentially eligible for one or more of such federally funded benefit programs;

''(ii) in the case of applicants identified under clause (i) who have not received benefits under a federally funded benefit program during the most recent 2 years—

''(I) notify such applicants they may enroll in such program; and

''(II) provide information on the eligibility requirements for such program;

''(iii) in the case of applicants identified under clause (i) who have received benefits under a federally funded benefit program during the most recent 2 years, notify such applicants of the requirements to renew, reenroll, or maintain enrollment in such a program;

''(iv) coordinate efforts among institutions of higher education, and each such appropriate Federal or State agency to en-

roll or maintain enrollment of potentially eligible applicants in such federally funded benefit programs, including prescreening or preliminary determinations of eligibility; and

''(v) design and update written or electronic communications to potentially eligible applicants and institutions of higher education regarding the benefit programs in accordance with this subparagraph.

''(B) CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT INFORMATION.—Any person who receives information provided through a data sharing agreement under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) shall use the information only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, carrying out the requirements of clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) may not disclose the information for any other purpose (such as the conduct of criminal or civil investigations, proceedings, or prosecutions).''.

(b) FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFIT PROGRAMS.—Section 483(a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII) of the Higher Education

Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''received any of the following means-tested Federal benefits'' and inserting ''received benefits under any of the following federally funded benefit programs'';

(2) by striking items (aa) through (jj) and inserting the following:

''(aa) The supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), a nutrition assistance program carried out under section 19 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2028), or a nutrition assistance program carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture in the Northern Mariana Islands.

''(bb) The supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

''(cc) The program of block grants to States for temporary

assistance for needy families under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

''(dd) The special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

''(ee) The Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

''(ff) Federal housing assistance programs, including tenant-based assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), and public housing, as defined in section 3(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(1)).

''(gg) Federal child care assistance programs, including assistance under the Child Care

and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.) and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under section 419N.

''(hh) The free and reduced price school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

''(ii) Refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(jj) The Earned Income Tax Credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(kk) The Child Tax Credit under section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(c) INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—Section 483(a)(3)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(A)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) A notification of the federally funded benefit programs described in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(XVII) for which the applicant may be eligible, including relevant links and information on how to apply for, renew, or maintain eligibility for such programs, in accordance with the data sharing agreements specified in subsection (c)(3).''.

(d) INFORMATION ON FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS.—Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) INFORMATION ON FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFIT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving an application under this section from an applicant whom the Secretary determines (in accordance with paragraph (2)) may be eligible for a federally funded benefit program described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII), the Secretary shall send to such applicant, in written and electronic form, information on, and the application for, each such federally funded benefit program for which the applicant may be so eligible (including a brief description of the appropriate resources or methods to apply for each such benefit program).

''(2) DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—In determining whether an applicant may be eligible for a federally funded benefit program pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make such determination solely on the basis of the information submitted on the application described by subsection (a), and available through the data sharing agreements under subsection (c)(3), and without regard to enrollment intensity, income, work, or community participation requirements that may be needed to formally determine eligibility for such a program.''.

(e) FURTHER INFORMATION ON FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS.—Section 483(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(2))) is amended—

(1) by amending subparagraph (D)(ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE TO BENEFITS PROGRAMS.—An applicant and, if necessary, the parents or spouse of the applicant shall be provided, concurrently with the provision of the authorization described in clause (i), the opportunity to authorize the disclosure to each appropriate Federal or State agency that han-

dles applications for federally funded benefit programs described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(XVII) all information provided by the applicant on the application described by this subsection, as well as such applicant's student aid index, scheduled Federal Pell Grant award, or receipt of other Federal financial aid, to assist in identification, outreach, and application efforts for such federally funded benefits programs.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) an authorization under subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, disclose the information described under such subparagraph—

''(I) in the case of an authorization under subparagraph (D)(i), to each entity specified by the applicant, in order for the applicant's eligibility for Federal, State, or institutional student financial aid programs to be estimated or determined; and

''(II) in the case of an authorization under subparagraph (D)(ii), to each appropriate State or Federal agency that handles applications for federally funded benefit programs described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(XVII) in order for the applicant's eligibility for such federally funded benefit programs to be estimated or determined; or''.

SEC. 202. NATIONAL REPORT ON STUDENT BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY.

(a) REPORT ON STUDENT FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY.—Section 483(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) REPORT ON STUDENT FOOD, HOUSING, AND BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY.—The Secretary shall produce—

''(A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the BASIC Act, and at least once every four years thereafter, a public report with nationally-representative statistics based on a survey of students who have applied for Federal financial aid and who enroll at institu-

tions of higher education and are experiencing basic needs insecurity, including food, housing, transportation, child care, or other needs determined by the Secretary, disaggregated, to the extent available in existing Federal databases, by—

''(i) race and ethnicity;

''(ii) income quintile;

''(iii) status as a first generation college student (as defined in section 402A(h));

''(iv) Federal Pell Grant eligibility status;

''(v) disability status;

''(vi) status as a student parent;

''(vii) sex;

''(viii) military or veteran benefit status; and

''(ix) to the maximum extent practicable, the State in which the student attended higher education; and

''(B) not later than one year after enactment of the BASIC Act, a report to the authorizing committees and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and

the Senate, on the progress of the Secretary in carrying out the directives of this subsection related to connecting students to federally funded benefit programs, including any areas of concern and potential problem issues uncovered that may hamper such implementation and solutions determined to address such issues.''.

SEC. 203. QUESTIONS ON BASIC NEEDS IN NATIONAL POSTSECONDARY STUDENT AID STUDY.

The Secretary of Education shall permanently add to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study validated questions that measure food security, housing security, and homelessness.

SEC. 204. GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE BASIC NEEDS OF STUDENTS.

Title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART BB—GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE BASIC NEEDS OF STUDENTS

''SEC. 899. GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE BASIC NEEDS OF STUDENTS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BASIC NEEDS.—The term 'basic needs', with respect to a student, means the physiological

and safety necessities that are central conditions for the student to learn, including—

"(A) nutritious and sufficient food;

"(B) safe, secure, and adequate housing (including to sleep, to study, to cook, and to shower);

"(C) health care to promote sustained mental and physical well-being;

"(D) high-quality and affordable childcare;

"(E) affordable technology and internet access;

"(F) accessible transportation;

"(G) personal hygiene and clothing; and

"(H) other costs described in paragraphs (2) through (14) of section 472(a).

"(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'community college' means—

"(i) a public institution of higher education at which—

"(I) the highest degree awarded is an associate degree; or

"(II) an associate degree is the most frequently awarded degree, in-

cluding a 2-year Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316);

''(ii) a public postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)); or

''(iii) at the designation of the Secretary, in the case of a State in which there is no community college operated or controlled by the State that meets a definition under clause (i) or (ii), a college or similarly defined and structured academic entity—

''(I) that was in existence before the date of enactment of this part;

''(II) within a public 4-year institution of higher education; and

''(III) at which—

''(aa) the highest degree awarded is an associate degree; or

''(bb) an associate degree is the most frequently awarded degree.

''(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term 'eligible institution' means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 or 102(a)(1)(B)).

''(b) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award planning grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions to conduct research and planning in accordance with paragraph (2)—

''(A) to reduce incidences of—

''(i) student food insecurity;

''(ii) student housing insecurity; and

''(iii) students experiencing homelessness; and

''(B) to meet other basic needs of students.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible institution receiving a grant under this subsection shall use grant funds to carry out the following activities:

''(A) Establish a basic needs steering committee that will be—

''(i) responsible for developing and approving the basic needs strategy described in subparagraph (C); and

''(ii) comprised of relevant stakeholders, such as—

''(I) students who have experienced challenges in meeting basic needs;

''(II) student government representatives;

''(III) staff of the eligible institution representing the areas of student financial aid, housing, dining, student affairs, academic advising, equity support services, accessibility services, campus security, legal services, and health and well-being services (including counseling or psychological services);

''(IV) faculty;

''(V) relevant administrators, including local human services administrators;

''(VI) community-based and other nonprofit organizations; and

''(VII) representatives from State or local governmental agencies.

''(B) Conduct research regarding—

''(i) the level of unmet basic needs at the eligible institution, disaggregated by

race and ethnicity, income quintile, status as a first generation college student (as defined in section 402A(h)), Federal Pell Grant eligibility status, disability status, status as a student parent, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or other subgroup as determined by the eligible institution;

''(ii) the presence of institutional barriers (such as award displacement) and current institutional interventions to address basic needs insecurity;

''(iii) the presence of administrative barriers for students in applying, certifying eligibility, and renewing applications for federally funded benefit programs, and interventions to address such barriers;

''(iv)(I) the resources and activities available to address basic needs of students, both on campus and off campus, as of the date of the research; and

''(II) the impact of such resources and activities; and

''(v) opportunities for coordination and collaboration between the eligible insti-

tution and Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies or community-based organizations, such as—

''(I) the local office that administers benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and carries out employment and training programs under that Act, or the temporary assistance for needy families program and subsidized programs that meet the work requirements under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

''(II) organizations that participate in the Federal work-study program under part C of title IV; or

''(III) low-income housing assistance organizations, including such organizations assisting with tenant-based assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), and pub-

lic housing (as defined in section 3(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b))).

''(C) Develop a basic needs strategy that describes the means by which the eligible institution will—

''(i) seek to address or meet the basic needs of students through on-campus and off-campus providers; and

''(ii) incorporate the research conducted under subparagraph (B), including with respect to the subgroups identified under clause (i) of that subparagraph, into the basic needs strategy.

''(D) Implement the strategy described in subparagraph (C), including by—

''(i) conducting outreach to encourage students to participate in programs that provide basic needs or reduce basic needs insecurity;

''(ii) educating students about Federal, State, local, and Tribal assistance programs, supporting student applications for those programs, and providing case management and training for students to maximize the assistance that students and

their families receive to reduce basic needs insecurity;

''(iii) coordinating and collaborating with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies or community-based organizations;

''(iv) hiring and training personnel to build infrastructure and implement programming to reduce basic needs insecurity at the eligible institution; and

''(v) carrying out other matters determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(3) GRANT AMOUNTS; DURATION.—

''(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this subsection shall be not more than $200,000.

''(B) DURATION.—A grant under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 2 years.

''(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the planning grant period under this subsection, each eligible institution that receives such a grant shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the outcomes of the planning grant, regardless of whether the eligible institution intends to apply for an implementation grant.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

''(1) AWARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award implementation grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions to develop infrastructure to meet the basic needs of students by—

''(i) implementing—

''(I) a basic needs strategy developed under subsection (b)(2)(C); or

''(II) another existing basic needs plan approved by the Secretary; and

''(ii) carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2).

''(B) ONGOING EXTERNAL FUNDING.—To be eligible to receive an implementation grant under this paragraph, an eligible institution shall identify, in the application for the grant, an ongoing non-Federal funding mechanism to support the activities carried out using grant funds after the expiration of the grant period.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible institution receiving a grant under this subsection shall use the grant funds to carry out at least 2 of the following activities:

''(A) Providing to eligible students free or subsidized food, secure sleeping arrangements, temporary housing, priority access to existing on-campus child care, and other basic needs.

''(B) Conducting outreach to students to reduce stigma associated with, and educate and encourage students to participate in, programs and services (including programs and services provided through grant funding) to meet basic needs.

''(C)(i) Educating students about federally funded benefit programs described in section 483(a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII) and, to the extent determined appropriate by the institution, other State and local benefit programs.

''(ii) Supporting student applications for those programs.

''(iii) Providing case management and training for students to maximize the public assistance that students and their families receive to meet basic needs.

''(D) Coordination and collaboration between the eligible institution and Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies or community-based organizations, such as the local, State, or

regional offices that administer benefits through the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), or a low-income housing assistance organization.

''(E) Purchasing materials, equipment, transportation, or facilities to reduce incidences of food and housing insecurity and address the basic needs of students at the eligible institution.

''(F) Hiring and training personnel to build and improve basic needs infrastructure and implement programming to provide assistance in applying for, and accessing, direct support services, financial assistance, or federally funded benefit programs to meet the basic needs of students.

''(G) Other activities or services determined to be appropriate by the Secretary for meeting the basic needs of students.

''(3) GRANT AMOUNTS; DURATION.—

''(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this subsection shall be not more than $5,000,000 for each 5-year period.

''(B) DURATION.—A grant under this subsection shall be for a period of 5 years.

''(4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that describes—

''(A) the impact on eligible students of grants provided under this subsection;

''(B) the obstacles faced by recipients of grants under this subsection;

''(C) successful outcomes of grants under this subsection;

''(D) best practices for the provision of basic services to eligible students; and

''(E) Federal and State policy barriers to meeting the basic needs of students at institutions of higher education.

''(5) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall disseminate to eligible institutions information about best practices, as described in paragraph (4)(D).

''(6) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—For the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of funds awarded under this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of each grant under this subsection to determine the impact on students, including retention, progression, transfer, attainment, and basic needs security, as applicable. The information from the

evaluation shall be made public through a report after the first year and every four years thereafter. The report should highlight best practices for continuous improvement in retention, credit accumulation and progression, transfer, credential attainment, and basic-needs security, and demonstrate cost-per-outcome efficiency.

''(d) RESERVATION; PRIORITY; EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—

''(1) RESERVATION.—In awarding grants under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall reserve—

''(A) an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the total amount available for grants under those subsections for grant awards to community colleges; and

''(B) an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the total amount available for grants under those subsections for grant awards to historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall give priority to the following:

''(A) Eligible institutions with respect to which not fewer than 25 percent of enrolled students are students that are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant under subpart 1 of part A of title IV.

''(B) Eligible institutions described in section 371(a).

''(3) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall ensure an equitable distribution of grant awards to eligible institutions in States, based on State population.

''(e) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—For each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated under subsection (g), the Secretary shall obligate the funds for grants under this section and make such grants available for expenditure by eligible entities not later than 60 days after such funds are appropriated.

''(f) PROHIBITION.—An eligible institution receiving a grant under this section may not reduce a student's eligibility for, or the amount of, an institutional grant provided to the student by such institution on the basis of such student's receipt of a benefit under a federally funded benefit program listed in section 483(a)(2)(B)(ii)(XVII).

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2033, of which—

''(1) $40,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to provide planning grants under subsection (b); and

''(2) $960,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to provide implementation grants under subsection (c).''.

SEC. 205. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.