

sharpen relevant workforce skills and align them with the needs of employers in their communities. Traditional four-year colleges, on-line institutions, and non-traditional educational outlets also can play an essential role in providing training opportunities. To prepare students for 21st-century jobs, these institutions need to develop flexible, affordable, and responsive training programs that meet regional and national economic needs. An important way to ensure that training programs meet such needs is through partnerships between these institutions and labor unions, small businesses, and other regional employers. As educational institutions develop these innovative programs, we should assess what works and what does not, so that we reward excellent outcomes and true innovation that meets the needs of entrepreneurs and other employers in every part of the country, from rural communities to urban centers.

Therefore, I am establishing a task force to develop skills for America's future by identifying, developing, and increasing the scale of promising approaches to improving the skills of our Nation's workers. By coordinating the work of relevant agencies with that of non-profits, labor unions, and private sector organizations, and by leveraging the assets of these entities, this effort will build better partnerships between businesses, community colleges, and other training providers to get Americans trained for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

SECTION 1. Establishment. There is established an interagency Task Force on Skills for America's Future (Task Force) to ensure that Federal policies promote innovative training programs and curricula, including successful public-private partnerships, at community colleges as well as in other settings, that will prepare the American workforce for 21st-century jobs. The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

SEC. 2. Membership. In addition to the Co-Chairs, the Task Force shall consist of the following members, or any senior official designated by one of the following members who is a part of the member's department, agency, or office, and who is a full time employee of the Federal Government:

- (a) the Secretary of Defense;
- (b) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (c) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (d) the Secretary of Labor;
- (e) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (f) the Secretary of Transportation;
- (g) the Secretary of Energy;
- (h) the Secretary of Education;
- (i) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (j) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (k) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- (l) the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and
- (m) the heads of other executive departments, agencies, or offices as the Co-Chairs may designate.

SEC. 3. Administration. The Council of Economic Advisers shall provide administrative support for the Task Force to the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations.

SEC. 4. Mission and Functions. The Task Force shall work across executive departments and agencies to ensure that Federal policies facilitate, and offer incentives for, innovative career-training and education opportunities at community colleges as well as in other settings, and that these opportunities are directly related to skills and job requirements across a range of industries. Using the best evidence available regarding effective practice, the Task Force shall develop recommendations and options for meeting the following objectives:

- (a) improved public-private collaboration to develop career pathway and training programs with effective

curricula, certifiable skills, and industry-recognized credentials and degrees;

(b) identification of opportunities to amplify, accelerate, or increase the scale of, successful public-private partnerships that match trained workers with prospective employers;

(c) identification and development of stackable credentials that provide entry to and advancement along a career pathway in an in-demand occupation;

(d) outreach to relevant stakeholders—including industry, the adult workforce, younger students, educational institutions, labor unions, policymakers, and community leaders—with expertise in skill development;

(e) alignment of workforce training programs funded by the Departments of Education and Labor, as well as other Federal agencies, with innovative practices and regional market demands, to build on effective skills-based training for adult workers and younger students, including individuals with disabilities;

(f) partnership with appropriate non-profit entities to engage the private sector in developing effective training programs that provide students with recognizable and portable skills that are needed in the marketplace; and

(g) greater use of technology to improve training, skills assessment, and labor market information.

SEC. 5. General Provisions.

(a) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of any necessary appropriations.

(b) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(c) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Task Force, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Task Force. Each executive department, agency, and office shall bear its own expenses of participating in the Task Force.

(d) The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA.

§ 3272. Definitions

In this subchapter:

(1) Adult education

The term “adult education” means academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual's ability to—

- (A) read, write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities necessary for the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;
- (B) transition to postsecondary education and training; and
- (C) obtain employment.

(2) Adult education and literacy activities

The term “adult education and literacy activities” means programs, activities, and services that include adult education, literacy, workplace adult education and literacy activities, family literacy activities, English language acquisition activities, integrated English literacy and civics education, workforce preparation activities, or integrated education and training.

(3) Eligible agency

The term “eligible agency” means the sole entity or agency in a State or an outlying area

responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and literacy activities in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively.

(4) Eligible individual

The term “eligible individual” means an individual—

- (A) who has attained 16 years of age;
- (B) who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and
- (C) who—
 - (i) is basic skills deficient;
 - (ii) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an equivalent level of education; or
 - (iii) is an English language learner.

(5) Eligible provider

The term “eligible provider” means an organization that has demonstrated effectiveness in providing adult education and literacy activities that may include—

- (A) a local educational agency;
- (B) a community-based organization or faith-based organization;
- (C) a volunteer literacy organization;
- (D) an institution of higher education;
- (E) a public or private nonprofit agency;
- (F) a library;
- (G) a public housing authority;
- (H) a nonprofit institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education and literacy activities to eligible individuals;
- (I) a consortium or coalition of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H); and
- (J) a partnership between an employer and an entity described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (I).

(6) English language acquisition program

The term “English language acquisition program” means a program of instruction—

- (A) designed to help eligible individuals who are English language learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and
- (B) that leads to—
 - (i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and
 - (ii) transition to postsecondary education and training; or
 - (ii) employment.

(7) English language learner

The term “English language learner” when used with respect to an eligible individual, means an eligible individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and—

- (A) whose native language is a language other than English; or
- (B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

(8) Essential components of reading instruction

The term “essential components of reading instruction” means explicit and systematic instruction in—

- (A) phonemic awareness;
- (B) phonics;
- (C) vocabulary development;
- (D) reading fluency, including oral reading skills; and
- (E) reading comprehension strategies.

(9) Family literacy activities

The term “family literacy activities” means activities that are of sufficient intensity and quality, to make sustainable improvements in the economic prospects for a family and that better enable parents or family members to support their children’s learning needs, and that integrate all of the following activities:

- (A) Parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, and economic self-sufficiency.
- (B) Interactive literacy activities between parents or family members and their children.
- (C) Training for parents or family members regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.
- (D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

(10) Institution of higher education

The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 1001 of title 20.

(11) Integrated education and training

The term “integrated education and training” means a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

(12) Integrated English literacy and civics education

The term “integrated English literacy and civics education” means education services provided to English language learners who are adults, including professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries, that enables such adults to achieve competency in the English language and acquire the basic and more advanced skills needed to function effectively as parents, workers, and citizens in the United States. Such services shall include instruction in literacy and English language acquisition and instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic participation, and may include workforce training.

(13) Literacy

The term “literacy” means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems, at levels of pro-

iciency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society.

(14) Postsecondary educational institution

The term “postsecondary educational institution” means—

(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

(B) a tribally controlled college or university; or

(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

(15) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(16) Workplace adult education and literacy activities

The term “workplace adult education and literacy activities” means adult education and literacy activities offered by an eligible provider in collaboration with an employer or employee organization at a workplace or an off-site location that is designed to improve the productivity of the workforce.

(17) Workforce preparation activities

The term “workforce preparation activities” means activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment.

(Pub. L. 113–128, title II, §203, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1609; Pub. L. 114–95, title IX, §9215(c), Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2166.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Par. (8). Pub. L. 114–95, which directed general amendment of “Paragraph (8) of section 203 of the Adult Education and Literacy Act”, was executed by amending par. (8) of this section, which is section 203 of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Pub. L. 113–128, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The term ‘essential components of reading instruction’ has the meaning given the term in section 6368 of title 20.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114–95 effective Dec. 10, 2015, except with respect to certain noncompetitive programs and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 114–95, set out as a note under section 6301 of Title 20, Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113–128, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

§ 3273. Home schools

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect home schools, whether a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent or family member engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and literacy activities.

(Pub. L. 113–128, title II, §204, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1611.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113–128, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

§ 3274. Rule of construction regarding postsecondary transition and concurrent enrollment activities

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit or discourage the use of funds provided under this subchapter for adult education and literacy activities that help eligible individuals transition to postsecondary education and training or employment, or for concurrent enrollment activities.

(Pub. L. 113–128, title II, §205, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1612.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113–128, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

§ 3275. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter \$577,667,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$622,286,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$635,198,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$649,287,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$664,552,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$678,640,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(Pub. L. 113–128, title II, §206, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1612.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113–128, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

PART A—FEDERAL PROVISIONS

§ 3291. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments

(a) Reservation of funds

From the sum appropriated under section 3275 of this title for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

(1) shall reserve 2 percent to carry out section 3332 of this title, except that the amount so reserved shall not exceed \$15,000,000; and

(2) shall reserve 12 percent of the amount that remains after reserving funds under paragraph (1) to carry out section 3333 of this title.