

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To reauthorize the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “_____ Act of
5 _____”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

2

TITLE I—IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES LEADING TO
EMPLOYMENT

- Sec. 101. Strengthening partnerships to improve results for families.
- Sec. 102. Increasing State incentives to help individuals secure employment.
- Sec. 103. Strengthening measurement of recipient participation.
- Sec. 104. Supporting treatment and rehabilitation to prepare recipients for employment and support employment.
- Sec. 105. Demonstration projects and improved data collection to improve engagement and outcomes.

TITLE II—STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

- Sec. 201. Uniform work requirement for single-parent and married families.
- Sec. 202. Supporting families by ending the marriage penalty.

TITLE III—RESTORING THE INTEGRITY OF TANF

- Sec. 301. Strengthening State requirements to engage recipients in employment and employment preparation activities.
- Sec. 302. Measuring TANF spending on families receiving assistance and on low-income families.

TITLE IV—REAUTHORIZING THE TANF PROGRAM

- Sec. 401. 3-year reauthorization.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 501. Technical Corrections to Data Exchange Standards to Improve Program Coordination.
- Sec. 502. Effective date.

1 SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
6 section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

1 **TITLE I—IMPROVING PARTICI-**
2 **PATION IN ACTIVITIES LEAD-**
3 **ING TO EMPLOYMENT**

4 **SEC. 101. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE**
5 **RESULTS FOR FAMILIES.**

6 Section 408(b) (42 U.S.C. 608(b)) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 “(b) INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY PLANS.—

9 “(1) ASSESSMENT.—The State agency respon-
10 sible for administering a State program funded
11 under this part or any other State program funded
12 with qualified State expenditures (as defined in sec-
13 tion 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) shall make an initial assess-
14 ment of the skills, prior work experience, and em-
15 ployability of each individual who is an adult or a
16 minor child head of household recipient of assistance
17 under the program (and, at State option, any other
18 adult who is a member of the household of the indi-
19 vidual) as well as of the well-being of the children
20 in the family of the individual.

21 “(2) CONTENTS OF PLANS.—On the basis of
22 the assessment required by paragraph (1) with re-
23 spect to an individual, the State agency, in consulta-
24 tion with the individual, shall develop a customized

1 individual opportunity plan with the individual that
2 contains the following:

3 “(A) IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND RE-
4 SOURCES.—Information that—

5 “(i) specifies the immediate needs of
6 the individual and the family;

7 “(ii) describes the resources the indi-
8 vidual and the family has to meet imme-
9 diate needs, including—

10 “(I) individual resources, such as
11 income and assets identified in the ap-
12 plication process, education, and work
13 experience;

14 “(II) household and family re-
15 sources that may assist the individual,
16 such as parents, children, siblings,
17 and others; and

18 “(III) other resources and how
19 they may help the individual meet im-
20 mediate needs; and

21 “(iii) describes the assistance and
22 services the State will provide to help the
23 individual meet immediate needs and im-
24 prove the well-being of the children in the
25 family.

1 “(B) INDIVIDUAL AND STATE RESPON-
2 SIBILITIES.—Information on the respective re-
3 sponsibilities of the individual and the State
4 that—

5 “(i) includes a personal responsibility
6 agreement signed by the individual in
7 which the individual acknowledges receipt
8 of publicly-funded benefits and responsi-
9 bility to comply with program requirements
10 in order to receive the benefits;

11 “(ii) sets forth an employment goal
12 chosen by the individual with assistance
13 from the State and a plan, jointly devel-
14 oped by the individual and the State, for
15 moving the individual into employment;

16 “(iii) sets forth the obligations of the
17 individual, including specific and measur-
18 able benchmarks for success that will help
19 the individual become and remain em-
20 ployed;

21 “(iv) to the greatest extent possible, is
22 designed to move the individual into the
23 employment the individual is capable of
24 performing as quickly as possible, and in-
25 crease the responsibility and amount of

1 work the individual is to perform over
2 time;

3 “(v) describes the services the State
4 will provide the individual so that the indi-
5 vidual will be able to obtain and maintain
6 employment;

7 “(vi) may direct the individual to un-
8 dergo appropriate treatment for substance
9 abuse or other treatment if the individual,
10 in consultation with the State, identifies
11 such treatment as necessary to obtain and
12 maintain employment; and

13 “(vii) specifies a timeline for meeting
14 the benchmarks contained in the plan with
15 short-, medium-, and long-term goals, in-
16 cluding a description of incentives for the
17 individual if the individual meets or ex-
18 ceeds the obligations specified in the plan,
19 and penalties that will apply if the indi-
20 vidual fails without good cause to comply
21 with the plan.

22 “(3) TIMING.—The State agency shall comply
23 with paragraph (1) and (2) with respect to an indi-
24 vidual—

1 “(A) in the case of an individual who, on
2 October 1, 2020, is a recipient of assistance
3 under the State program funded under this
4 part or any other State program funded with
5 qualified State expenditures (as defined in sec-
6 tion 409(a)(7)(B)(i)), at the first periodic re-
7 view for the individual that occurs after that
8 date; or

9 “(B) in the case of an individual who, after
10 October 1, 2020, is determined to be eligible for
11 assistance under the State program funded
12 under this part or any other State program
13 funded with qualified State expenditures (as so
14 defined), within 60 days after the individual is
15 determined to be eligible for such assistance.

16 “(4) PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE BY INDI-
17 VIDUAL.—In addition to any other penalties required
18 under the State program funded under this part or
19 any other State program funded with qualified State
20 expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)),
21 the State may reduce, by such amount as the State
22 considers appropriate, the amount of assistance oth-
23 erwise payable under the State program to a family
24 that includes an individual who fails without good
25 cause to comply with an individual opportunity plan

1 developed pursuant to this subsection, that is signed
2 by the individual.

3 “(5) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The State shall de-
4 velop a plan to, not less frequently than every 90
5 days—

6 “(A) review the individual opportunity plan
7 developed for the individual;

8 “(B) review with the individual the
9 progress made by the individual in achieving
10 the goals specified in the plan (in person or
11 through another communication method allow-
12 ing for discussion of progress made); and

13 “(C) update the plan, as necessary, to re-
14 flect any changes in the circumstances of the
15 individual since the plan was last reviewed.”.

16 **SEC. 102. INCREASING STATE INCENTIVES TO HELP INDI-**
17 **VIDUALS SECURE EMPLOYMENT.**

18 (a) WORK-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY A
19 PERFORMANCE-BASED ENTITY, WORKING OR TRAINING
20 FOR A SPECIFIC JOB OFFER.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(c)(2) (42
22 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)), as amended by section 201(a)(3),
23 is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
2 through (D) as subparagraphs (B) through (E),
3 respectively; and

4 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B)
5 (as so redesignated by paragraph (1)), the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(A) WORK-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL SERVED
8 BY A PERFORMANCE-BASED ENTITY FOCUSED
9 ON WORK, WORKING IN SUBSIDIZED EMPLOY-
10 MENT, OR TRAINING FOR A SPECIFIC JOB
11 OFFER DEEMED TO BE MEETING WORK RE-
12 QUIREMENTS.—For purposes of calculating the
13 number described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), a
14 work-eligible individual is deemed to be engaged
15 in work for a month in a fiscal year if—

16 “(i) the work-eligible individual is par-
17 ticipating in activities under the super-
18 vision of an entity funded by the State fo-
19 cused on moving work-eligible individuals
20 into employment and at least 50 percent of
21 the payment made to the entity is contin-
22 gent on work-eligible individuals becoming
23 employed or retaining employment;

24 “(ii) the work-eligible individual is
25 participating in an activity described in

1 subsection (d)(2) for at least 80 hours per
2 month and the State program funded
3 under this part pays for at least 25 per-
4 cent of the individual's wage during the
5 countable period (not to exceed 6 months
6 with respect to any individual); or

7 “(iii) the work-eligible individual is
8 participating for not more than 3 months
9 in an activity described in paragraph (4),
10 (5), (8), or (9) of subsection (d), the indi-
11 vidual is making adequate progress, and
12 an employer has entered into an agreement
13 to hire the individual upon successful com-
14 pletion of the work experience or training
15 program (as applicable).”.

16 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph
17 (E) of section 407(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)), as
18 redesignated by subsection (a)(1)(A), is amended—

19 (A) by striking “For purposes of” and in-
20 serting the following:

21 “(i) LIMITATION.—For purposes of”;

22 and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(ii) EXCLUSION.—The 30 percent
25 limit under clause (i) shall be determined

1 without regard to any work-eligible indi-
2 vidual who is deemed to be engaged in
3 work for a month under subparagraph
4 (A)(iii) by reason of participation in voca-
5 tional educational training.”.

6 (b) VERIFICATION OF ENGAGEMENT.—Section 407(i)
7 (42 U.S.C. 607(i)) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(3) VERIFICATION OF ENGAGEMENT FOR
10 WORK-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY A PER-
11 FORMANCE-BASED ENTITY FOCUSED ON WORK,
12 WORKING IN SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAIN-
13 ING FOR A SPECIFIC JOB OFFER.—In addition to the
14 regulations and State procedures required under
15 paragraphs (1) and (2), not later than October 1,
16 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations,
17 and States shall establish procedures consistent with
18 such regulations, for purposes of reporting and
19 verifying participation in activities described in sub-
20 section (c)(2)(A). In the case of activities described
21 in clause (i) of such subsection, such regulations and
22 procedures shall include information with respect to
23 the following:

24 “(A) How a State using performance-based
25 contracts will report how they use such con-

1 tracts to engage work-eligible individuals and
2 move them into work.

3 “(B) How a State will report demographic
4 characteristics of the work-eligible individuals
5 the State is serving through such contracts and
6 how such characteristics compare with those of
7 individuals not served through such contracts.

8 “(C) How a State will assess the effective-
9 ness of such contracts.”.

10 **SEC. 103. STRENGTHENING MEASUREMENT OF RECIPIENT**
11 **PARTICIPATION.**

12 (a) ALLOWING STATES TO RECEIVE LIMITED CRED-
13 IT FOR PARTIAL PARTICIPATION.—Section 407(c)(1)(B)
14 (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(1)(B)), as amended by section
15 201(a)(3), is amended to read as follows:

16 “(B) CREDIT FOR FAMILIES PARTICI-
17 PATING FOR LESS THAN THE MINIMUM HOURS
18 REQUIRED.—If a family includes a work-eligible
19 individual who has participated in work activi-
20 ties for an average of fewer than 30 hours per
21 week during a month, but at least 15 hours (or
22 10 hours, in the case of a single parent speci-
23 fied in paragraph (2)(C) of this subsection) per
24 week of which are attributable to an activity de-
25 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (9) of sub-

1 section (d), the family shall count as 0.5 of a
2 family for purposes of calculating the number
3 described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) for the
4 month.”.

5 (b) STATE OPTION TO USE UNIVERSAL WORK PAR-
6 TICIPATION RATE CALCULATION; DEFINITION OF WORK-
7 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 407(b) (42 U.S.C.
9 607(b)), as amended by section 201(a)(2), is amend-
10 ed—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
12 through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), re-
13 spectively;

14 (B) by striking all that precedes paragraph
15 (4) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (A))
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(b) CALCULATION OF PARTICIPATION RATES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(A) AVERAGE MONTHLY RATE.—For pur-
20 poses of subsection (a), the participation rate
21 for all families of a State for a fiscal year is the
22 average of the participation rates for all fami-
23 lies of the State for each month in the fiscal
24 year.

1 “(B) MONTHLY PARTICIPATION RATES.—

2 The participation rate of a State for all families
3 of the State for a month, expressed as a per-
4 centage, is—

5 “(i) the number of families in the
6 State that include a work-eligible indi-
7 vidual who is engaged in work for the
8 month; divided by

9 “(ii) the total number of families in
10 the State that include a work-eligible indi-
11 vidual during the month.

12 “(2) UNIVERSAL WORK PARTICIPATION RATE
13 CALCULATION.—

14 “(A) APPLICATION.—A State may apply to
15 the Secretary to apply this paragraph with re-
16 spect to the State for a fiscal year.

17 “(B) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The
18 Secretary may approve the application if the
19 State demonstrates to the Secretary (in accord-
20 ance with such guidelines as the Secretary shall
21 establish) that the State has systems and mech-
22 anisms in place to record individual hours of
23 participation in work activities that accurately
24 reflect the number of hours of participation of

1 the individuals required to participate in the ac-
2 tivities.

3 “(C) CALCULATION.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State whose ap-
5 plication under this paragraph is approved
6 by the Secretary for a fiscal year shall be
7 considered to be in compliance with sub-
8 section (a) for a month in the fiscal year
9 if the total number of countable hours of
10 work participation activities of work-eligi-
11 ble individuals in the State for the month
12 is not less than the target number of hours
13 of work participation activities for the
14 State for the month.

15 “(ii) TARGET NUMBER OF HOURS OF
16 WORK PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES.—For
17 purposes of clause (i), the target number
18 of hours of work participation activities for
19 a State for a month in a fiscal year is the
20 amount equal to the number of weeks in
21 the month multiplied by the product of—

22 “(I) the percentage equal to the
23 minimum participation rate in effect
24 under subsection (a) for the fiscal
25 year (after the application of any re-

1 “(aa) In the case of an indi-
2 vidual to whom the State applies
3 subsection (c)(2)(A) for the
4 month, 30 times the number of
5 weeks in the month (or 20 times
6 the number of weeks in the
7 month in the case of a single par-
8 ent or caretaker relative de-
9 scribed in subsection (c)(2)(C)).

10 “(bb) In the case of a single
11 parent or caretaker relative to
12 whom the State applies sub-
13 section (c)(2)(C) for the month,
14 the lesser of the actual number of
15 hours for which the single parent
16 or caretaker relative participates
17 in work activities in the month
18 and 20 times the number of
19 weeks in the month.

20 “(cc) In the case of a single
21 teen head of household or mar-
22 ried teen to whom the State ap-
23 plies subsection (c)(2)(D)(i) for
24 the month, 20 times the number
25 of weeks in the month.

1 “(dd) In the case of a single
2 teen head of household or mar-
3 ried teen to whom the State ap-
4 plies subsection (c)(2)(D)(ii) for
5 the month, the lesser of the ac-
6 tual number of hours for which
7 the teen participates in education
8 directly related to employment
9 and 20 times the number of
10 weeks in the month.

11 “(ee) In the case of any
12 other individual, the lesser of the
13 actual number of hours for which
14 the individual participates in
15 work activities in the month and
16 30 times the number of weeks in
17 the month.

18 “(II) DISREGARD OF CERTAIN
19 WORK PARTICIPATION HOURS.—In
20 calculating the countable hours of
21 work participation activities of a
22 work-eligible individual in a State for
23 a month, the State shall disregard any
24 hour of participation that would not
25 be countable if the participation rate

1 of the State for the month were deter-
2 mined without regard to this para-
3 graph.

4 “(iv) SOURCE OF DATA.—The number
5 of work-eligible individuals in a State and
6 the number of hours of participation of the
7 individuals in work activities shall be deter-
8 mined on the basis of information reported
9 monthly under section 411.”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(7) STATE OPTION TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS
12 FORMERLY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE PARTICIPATING
13 IN SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT.—In determining the
14 participation rate under this section, a State may in-
15 clude, on a case-by-case basis and for not more than
16 6 months, a former recipient of assistance partici-
17 pating in subsidized employment if the individual
18 began participation in subsidized employment while
19 receiving assistance but is no longer a recipient due
20 to their participation in subsidized employment.”.

21 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (A) Section 407(b)(5) (42 U.S.C.
23 607(b)(5)) (as redesignated by paragraph
24 (1)(A), is amended—

1 (i) by striking “paragraph (1)(B)”
2 and inserting “calculating a participation
3 rate under this section”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “that include a work-
5 eligible individual” before “that are receiv-
6 ing”.

7 (B) Each of the following provisions is
8 amended by striking “recipient” each place it
9 appears and inserting “work-eligible indi-
10 vidual”:

11 (i) Section 407(c)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C.
12 607(c)(1)).

13 (ii) Section 407(c)(2)(C) (42 U.S.C.
14 607(c)(2)(C)) (as redesignated by section
15 102(a)(1)(A)).

16 (iii) Section 407(c)(2)(D) (42 U.S.C.
17 607(c)(2)(D)) (as so redesignated).

18 (iv) Paragraphs (10) and (11) of sec-
19 tion 407(d) (42 U.S.C. 607(d)).

20 (C) Subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E)(i) of
21 section 407(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)), (as re-
22 designated by section 102(a)(1)(A) and amend-
23 ed by subparagraph (B)) are each amended by
24 striking “determining monthly participation

1 rates under” and inserting “calculating the
2 number described in”.

3 (c) CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTIONS FROM PARTICI-
4 PATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 407(b)(6) (42 U.S.C.
5 607(b)(6)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)(A)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking all that precedes “any fiscal
8 year” and inserting the following:

9 “(6) EXEMPTIONS FROM PARTICIPATION RE-
10 QUIREMENT.—

11 “(A) STATE OPTION TO DISREGARD SIN-
12 GLE CUSTODIAL PARENT CARING FOR A CHILD
13 UNDER AGE 1.—For”; and

14 (2) by adding after and below the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(B) DISREGARD OF WORK-ELIGIBLE INDI-
17 VIDUAL IN FAMILY SUBJECT TO PENALTY FOR
18 REFUSING TO ENGAGE IN WORK.—In calcu-
19 lating a participation rate under this section, a
20 State shall disregard a work-eligible individual
21 in a family that is subject to a penalty imposed
22 pursuant to subsection (e)(1) but has not been
23 subject to the penalty for more than 3 months
24 in the preceding 12-month period.”.

1 **SEC. 104. SUPPORTING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION**
2 **TO PREPARE RECIPIENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT**
3 **AND SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT.**

4 Section 407(c)(2)(B) (42 U.S.C. 607(c)(2)(B)), (as
5 so redesignated by section 102(a)(1)(A)), is amended—

6 (1) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting
7 “AND JOB READINESS ASSISTANCE” after “JOB
8 SEARCH”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(iii) PARTICIPATION IN TREATMENT
11 OR REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES TO PRE-
12 PARE RECIPIENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND
13 SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT.—Notwithstanding
14 any limitation specified in clause (i), if an
15 individual participates in substance abuse
16 treatment, mental health treatment, or re-
17 habilitation activities, the need for which
18 has been determined to be necessary by a
19 qualified independent medical, substance
20 abuse, or mental health professional to
21 prepare the individual for employment or
22 to support the individual in employment,
23 up to 6 weeks of such participation (or, if
24 the unemployment rate of the State is at
25 least 50 percent greater than the unem-
26 ployment rate of the United States or the

1 State is a needy State within the meaning
2 of section 403(b)(5)), 12 weeks), shall be
3 disregarded for purposes of applying the
4 limitation under clause (i).”.

5 **SEC. 105. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND IMPROVED**
6 **DATA COLLECTION TO IMPROVE ENGAGE-**
7 **MENT AND OUTCOMES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 415 (42 U.S.C. 615) is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 415. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND IMPROVED**
11 **DATA COLLECTION TO IMPROVE ENGAGE-**
12 **MENT AND OUTCOMES.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES.—The term
15 ‘engagement strategies’ means, with respect to a
16 State carrying out a demonstration project under
17 subsection (b), such policies, procedures, and activi-
18 ties as the State and Secretary shall determine nec-
19 essary to achieve the desired outcomes of the
20 project.

21 “(2) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘poverty line’
22 has the meaning given that term in section
23 2110(e)(5).

24 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the mean-
25 ing given that term in section 419(5) and includes

1 an Indian tribe with a tribal family assistance plan
2 approved under section 412.

3 “(4) STATE TANF PROGRAM.—The term ‘State
4 TANF program’ means the State program funded
5 under this part and includes a tribal program car-
6 ried out under section 412.

7 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

8 “(1) SELECTION OF DEMONSTRATION
9 PROJECTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Octo-
11 ber 1, 2019, from the amounts reserved under
12 paragraph (7) to carry out this subsection, the
13 Secretary shall select and award grants to up to
14 10 States and, subject to paragraph (2)(E), up
15 to 3 Indian tribes, to develop and carry out
16 demonstration projects for purposes of evalu-
17 ating the impact of allowing for alternative en-
18 gagement strategies in State TANF programs
19 on employment, earnings, family stability, and
20 other outcomes for individuals who receive as-
21 sistance under such programs.

22 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting and
23 awarding grantees, the Secretary shall prioritize
24 regional diversity and select demonstration

1 projects that represent both urban and rural
2 populations.

3 “(C) APPLICATIONS.—In order to be se-
4 lected to carry out a demonstration project
5 under this subsection, a State shall submit an
6 application to the Secretary, at such time, in
7 such manner, and containing such information
8 as the Secretary shall require.

9 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(A) SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AND MEAS-
11 URES.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the
12 States and Indian tribes selected to carry out
13 demonstration projects under this subsection,
14 shall determine a core set of outcomes and
15 measures that the States and Indian tribes car-
16 rying out such projects shall report on. At a
17 minimum, the core set of outcomes and meas-
18 ures shall include the following:

19 “(i) The percentage of former partici-
20 pants in the State TANF program who are
21 in unsubsidized employment during the 2d
22 quarter after exiting from the program (as
23 determined in accordance with subpara-
24 graph (F)).

1 “(ii) The percentage of former partici-
2 pants in the State TANF program who are
3 in unsubsidized employment during the 4th
4 quarter after exiting from the program (as
5 so determined).

6 “(iii) The median earnings of former
7 participants in the State TANF program
8 who are in unsubsidized employment dur-
9 ing the 2d quarter after exiting from the
10 program (as so determined).

11 “(iv) Standard measures of employ-
12 ment, earnings, program participation,
13 poverty, and deep poverty that have been
14 included in previous evaluations of this
15 type for the 4th quarter ending after the
16 quarter in which such individuals first par-
17 ticipated in the project.

18 “(B) OTHER MEASURES.—In addition to
19 the core set of outcomes and measures, a State
20 carrying out a demonstration project under this
21 subsection may select and specify supplemental
22 targeted outcomes the State seeks to achieve
23 through the demonstration project and how
24 such outcomes shall be measured.

1 “(C) CASELOAD.—All individuals partici-
2 pating in a demonstration project carried out
3 under this subsection must be receiving assist-
4 ance under the State TANF program when the
5 individual’s participation in the demonstration
6 project begins and may continue to participate
7 in the demonstration project without regard to
8 whether the individual continues to receive such
9 assistance.

10 “(D) CONTROL GROUP.—A State carrying
11 out a demonstration project under this sub-
12 section shall establish a valid and rigorously de-
13 signed random assignment control group on be-
14 half of whom the State (or, if applicable, a
15 county or other political subdivision of the
16 State) or the Indian tribe shall continue to op-
17 erate the traditional State TANF program in
18 order to compare outcomes for participants in
19 the demonstration project with outcomes for in-
20 dividuals in the control group.

21 “(E) TRIBAL PROJECTS.—In addition to
22 the up to 10 States selected to carry out a dem-
23 onstration project under this subsection, the
24 Secretary shall select at least 1, but not more
25 than 3, Indian tribes with a tribal family assist-

1 ance plan approved under section 412 to carry
2 out a demonstration project under this sub-
3 section.

4 “(3) DURATION.—Each State carrying out a
5 demonstration project under this subsection shall
6 carry out the project for not more than 5 years from
7 the date on which any individuals first begin to par-
8 ticipation in the project.

9 “(4) SUSPENSION AUTHORITY.—With respect
10 to the individuals participating in a demonstration
11 project carried out under this subsection, the Sec-
12 retary shall suspend compliance with any require-
13 ment of the State TANF program for individuals
14 participating in the project which, if applied, would
15 prevent the State from carrying out the demonstra-
16 tion project or prevent the State from effectively
17 achieving the purposes of the project for the period
18 during which the project is carried out.

19 “(5) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, through
20 grant, contract, or interagency agreement, shall
21 evaluate the demonstration projects carried out
22 under this subsection by comparing the employment,
23 earnings, program participation, poverty, deep pov-
24 erty, and other specific outcomes of individuals par-
25 ticipating in the projects with the employment, earn-

1 ings, and same specific outcomes for the individuals
2 in the control groups for the projects, along with
3 such other criteria as the Secretary determines ap-
4 propriate.

5 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than October 1,
6 2022, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
7 port containing the initial results of the evaluation
8 required by subsection (c) as well as—

9 “(A) an analysis of the demographic char-
10 acteristics of the individuals who participated in
11 the demonstration projects carried out under
12 this subsection with the demographics of the in-
13 dividuals in the control groups for the projects;

14 “(B) analyses of the design, interventions,
15 and objectives of the projects;

16 “(C) the results of the evaluation described
17 in paragraph (5); and

18 “(D) recommendations for such legislation
19 and administrative action as the Secretary de-
20 termines appropriate.

21 “(7) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year in which
22 demonstration projects are developed or carried out
23 under this subsection, the Secretary shall use
24 amounts made available under section 413(h)(1) for
25 the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

1 “(c) EVALUATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
2 AND IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION TO IMPROVE ENGAGE-
3 MENT AND OUTCOMES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
5 into an agreement to evaluate the outcomes achieved
6 under the demonstration projects carried out under
7 subsection (b) with the outcomes achieved in State
8 TANF programs.

9 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The evaluation shall ana-
10 lyze the relationships between engagement, perform-
11 ance measures, and impacts. The evaluation shall in-
12 clude analyses explaining which program perform-
13 ance systems produced the most optimal outcomes of
14 the demonstration projects carried out under sub-
15 section (b) and how program performance may be
16 tied to fiscal incentives to improve outcomes.

17 “(3) INFORMATION.—To assist with the evalua-
18 tion required under this subsection, the Secretary
19 shall periodically provide information to the entity
20 carrying out the evaluation on the levels of engage-
21 ment, impacts, and outcomes measured in the dem-
22 onstration projects carried out under subsection (b)
23 and the information reported by States under sec-
24 tion 411(a)(7) (as added by section 105(b)(1) of the
25 **【insert short title】** Act).”.

1 (b) IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION TO STRENGTHEN
2 LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT.—

3 (1) DATA COLLECTION.—Section 411(a) is
4 amended—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
6 paragraph (8); and

7 (B) by inserting after paragraph (6), the
8 following:

9 “(7) INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND
10 EARNINGS OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING
11 OR FORMERLY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(A) REPORTING AGREEMENT.—Each eli-
13 gible State and the Secretary shall enter into an
14 agreement specifying the manner by which the
15 information and data described in this para-
16 graph shall be collected and reported to the
17 Secretary.

18 “(B) OUTCOMES FOR FORMER RECIPI-
19 ENTS.—Information and data regarding individ-
20 uals who formerly received assistance under the
21 State program funded under this part or under
22 any State program funded with qualified State
23 expenditures (as defined in section
24 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) and were adults, minor heads

1 of households, or other work-eligible individuals,
2 and their families, with respect to the following:

3 “(i) The following data determined for
4 the 1st full quarter ending after the quar-
5 ter of exit from assistance:

6 “(I) The percentage of such indi-
7 viduals who have any level of earn-
8 ings.

9 “(II) The percentage of such in-
10 dividuals who have earnings at or
11 below 50 percent of the poverty line
12 applicable to the quarter.

13 “(III) The distribution of income
14 and earnings of such individuals rel-
15 ative to the poverty line.

16 “(IV) The percentage of such in-
17 dividuals receiving supplemental nutri-
18 tion program benefits (as defined in
19 section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition
20 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(t)) for
21 the quarter.

22 “(V) The percentage of such in-
23 dividuals receiving medical assistance
24 under a State plan or a waiver of such
25 plan under title XIX for the quarter.

1 “(ii) The percentage of such individ-
2 uals who are in unsubsidized employment
3 during the 2d quarter after exiting from
4 the program.

5 “(iii) The percentage of such individ-
6 uals who are in unsubsidized employment
7 during the 4th quarter after exiting from
8 the program.

9 “(iv) The median earnings of such in-
10 dividuals who are in unsubsidized employ-
11 ment during the 2d quarter after exiting
12 from the program.

13 “(C) ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF
14 CURRENT RECIPIENTS.—In the case of individ-
15 uals who received assistance under the State
16 program funded under this part or under any
17 State program funded with qualified State ex-
18 penditures (as defined in section
19 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) and who are adults, minor
20 heads of households, or other work-eligible indi-
21 viduals, the following information and data rel-
22 ative to a reference quarter:

23 “(i) Employment and earnings in each
24 of the 4 quarters prior to the reference
25 quarter.

1 “(ii) Standard measures of employ-
2 ment and earnings as well as information
3 on participation in work activities (as de-
4 fined in section 407(d)) in the 4th quarter
5 following the reference quarter.

6 “(D) OTHER INFORMATION.—With respect
7 to the populations described in subparagraph
8 (B) or(C)—

9 “(i) such other information or data as
10 the Secretary may require; and

11 “(ii) such other measures of employ-
12 ment, earnings, program participation, and
13 poverty as the Secretary may require and
14 which, to the greatest extent practicable,
15 shall be based on the information required
16 for State performance reports under sec-
17 tion 116(d)(2) of the Workforce Innovation
18 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
19 3141(d)(2)).

20 “(E) STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENT MODEL
21 FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.—The Secretary
22 of Labor and the Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services, in consultation with relevant
24 experts, shall develop and disseminate an objec-
25 tive statistical model that shall be used to make

1 adjustments to the data and information re-
2 ported under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of sub-
3 paragraph (B) for actual economic conditions
4 and characteristics of participants. To the ex-
5 tent practicable, the statistical adjustment
6 model shall be based on the statistical adjust-
7 ment model developed under subparagraph
8 (A)(viii) of section 116(b)(3) of the Workforce
9 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
10 3141(b)(3)(A)(viii)) and, with respect to a
11 State, the State adjusted levels of performance
12 established for the State under that section.”.

13 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (8)
14 of section 411(a), as redesignated by paragraph
15 (1)(A), is amended by inserting “and with respect to
16 the information required under paragraph (7)” be-
17 fore the period.

18 **TITLE II—STRENGTHENING** 19 **FAMILIES**

20 **SEC. 201. UNIFORM WORK REQUIREMENT FOR SINGLE-PAR-** 21 **ENT AND MARRIED FAMILIES.**

22 (a) ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE PARTICIPATION
23 RATE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2-PARENT FAMILIES.—Sec-
24 tion 407 (42 U.S.C. 607) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking all through “A State” the
2 1st place it appears and inserting the following:

3 “(a) PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIREMENTS.—A
4 State”; and

5 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
8 “RATES” and inserting “RATE”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
10 “(a)(1)” and inserting “(a)”;

11 (C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(2) **【Reserved.】**”;

14 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “para-
15 graphs (1)(B) and (2)(B)” and inserting “para-
16 graph (1)(B)”;

17 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “rates”
18 and inserting “rate”; and

19 (3) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
21 graph (B) and inserting the following:

22 “(B) **【Reserved.】**”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (2)(D)—

1 (i) by striking “paragraphs (1)(B)(i)
2 and (2)(B) of subsection (b)” and insert-
3 ing “subsection (b)(1)(B)(i)”; and

4 (ii) by striking “in all families and in
5 2-parent families, respectively,”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The paragraph
7 heading for section 409(a)(3) (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(3)) is
8 amended by striking “RATES” and inserting “RATE”.

9 **SEC. 202. SUPPORTING FAMILIES BY ENDING THE MAR-**
10 **RIAGE PENALTY.**

11 (a) DISREGARD OF INCOME AND RESOURCES OF A
12 NEW SPOUSE.—Section 408(a) (42 U.S.C. 608(a)) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(13) NO MARRIAGE PENALTY.—For a period
15 of at least 12 months beginning with the month fol-
16 lowing the marriage date, a State to which a grant
17 is made under section 403 shall disregard the in-
18 come and resources of a new spouse of an individual
19 receiving assistance under the State program funded
20 under this part or any other State program funded
21 with qualified State expenditures (as defined in sec-
22 tion 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) in determining the eligibility of
23 the family for, and the amount of, assistance.”.

24 (b) PENALTY.—Section 409(a) (42 U.S.C. 609(a)) is
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(17) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REDUCE MAR-
2 RIAGE PENALTY.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary deter-
4 mines that a State to which a grant is made
5 under section 403 in a fiscal year has violated
6 section 408(a)(13) during the fiscal year, the
7 Secretary shall reduce the grant payable to the
8 State under section 403(a)(1) for the imme-
9 diately succeeding fiscal year by an amount
10 equal to not more than 5 percent of the State
11 family assistance grant.

12 “(B) PENALTY BASED ON SEVERITY OF
13 FAILURE.—The Secretary shall impose reduc-
14 tions under subparagraph (A) with respect to a
15 fiscal year based on the degree of noncompli-
16 ance.”.

17 (c) IDENTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION OF POLI-
18 CIES DIFFERING FOR SINGLE-PARENT AND TWO-PARENT
19 FAMILIES.—Not later than October 1, 2020, each State
20 with a State plan approved under part A of title IV of
21 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607 et seq.) shall re-
22 port to the Secretary of Health and Human Services infor-
23 mation regarding the eligibility criteria applied by the
24 State to 2-parent families applying for or receiving assist-
25 ance under the State program funded under such part or

1 under any other State program funded with qualified
2 State expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)
3 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(i))) that are not ap-
4 plied to single-parent families applying for or receiving
5 such assistance, as well as provide an explanation as to
6 how such differences do not impose additional barriers for
7 2-parent families or what efforts the State is undertaking
8 to ensure any such eligibility criteria do not disadvantage
9 2-parent families.

10 **TITLE III—RESTORING THE**
11 **INTEGRITY OF TANF**

12 **SEC. 301. STRENGTHENING STATE REQUIREMENTS TO EN-**
13 **GAGE RECIPIENTS IN EMPLOYMENT AND EM-**
14 **PLOYMENT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.**

15 Section 407(b) (42 U.S.C. 607(b)), as amended by
16 section 103(b)(1)(C), is amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(8) MINIMUM STATE ENGAGEMENT REQUIRE-
19 MENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this
20 section, the minimum participation rate for purposes
21 of subsection (a) of this section shall be not less
22 than 10 percent in fiscal year 2020 and 20 percent
23 in fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

1 **SEC. 302. MEASURING TANF SPENDING ON FAMILIES RE-**
2 **CEIVING ASSISTANCE AND ON LOW-INCOME**
3 **FAMILIES.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 411 (42 U.S.C. 611) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) STATE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT SPENDING
7 ON FAMILIES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AND ON LOW-IN-
8 COME FAMILIES.—Not later than July 1, 2020 and, with
9 respect to each fiscal year beginning after that date, not
10 later than such date as the Secretary shall require, each
11 eligible State shall report annually the following:

12 “(1) The amount and percent of the State
13 spending of the grant made under section 403(a)(1)
14 and any qualified State expenditures (as defined in
15 section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) that the State spent on
16 families receiving assistance by category of spending.

17 “(2) An estimate of the amount and percent of
18 State spending of the grant made under section
19 403(a)(1) and any qualified State expenditures (as
20 so defined) that consists of benefits and services—

21 “(A) for families in the State whose in-
22 come is below the income official poverty line
23 (as defined by the Office of Management and
24 Budget, and revised annually in accordance
25 with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget

1 Reconciliation Act of 1981) applicable to a fam-
2 ily of the size involved; and

3 “(B) for families in the State whose in-
4 come is below twice the income official poverty
5 line (as so defined) applicable to a family of the
6 size involved.”.

7 (b) STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.—Section
8 402(a)(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

10 “(vi) The document shall include in-
11 formation explaining who is eligible for as-
12 sistance in the State and the specific cri-
13 teria used to determine eligibility for as-
14 sistance.”.

15 **TITLE IV—REAUTHORIZING THE** 16 **TANF PROGRAM**

17 **SEC. 401. 3-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION.**

18 (a) FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—Section
19 403(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(1)) is amended in each of
20 subparagraphs (A) and (C) by striking “2017 and 2018”
21 and inserting “2019 through 2021”.

22 (b) HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROMOTION AND RESPON-
23 SIBLE FATHERHOOD GRANTS.—Section 403(a)(2)(D) (42
24 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)(D)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “2017 and 2018” and inserting
2 “2019 through 2021”; and

3 (2) by striking “for fiscal year 2017 or 2018”.

4 (c) CONTINGENCY FUND.—Section 403(b)(2) (42
5 U.S.C. 603(b)(2)) is amended by striking “for fiscal year
6 2018” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2019
7 through 2021”.

8 (d) TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—Para-
9 graphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of section 412(a) (42 U.S.C.
10 612(a)) are each amended by striking “2017 and 2018”
11 and inserting “2019 through 2021”.

12 (e) CHILD CARE.—Section 418(a)(3) (42 U.S.C.
13 618(a)(3)) is amended by striking “and 2018” and insert-
14 ing “through 2021”.

15 (f) GRANTS TO THE TERRITORIES.—Section
16 1108(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1308(b)(2)) is amended by striking
17 “2017 and 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2021”.

18 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

19 **SEC. 501. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO DATA EXCHANGE** 20 **STANDARDS TO IMPROVE PROGRAM COORDI-** 21 **NATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 411(d) (42 U.S.C.
23 611(d)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(d) DATA EXCHANGE STANDARDS FOR IMPROVED
25 INTEROPERABILITY.—

1 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall, in
2 consultation with an interagency work group estab-
3 lished by the Office of Management and Budget and
4 considering State government perspectives, by rule,
5 designate data exchange standards to govern, under
6 this part—

7 “(A) necessary categories of information
8 that State agencies operating programs under
9 State plans approved under this part are re-
10 quired under applicable Federal law to elec-
11 tronically exchange with another State agency;
12 and

13 “(B) Federal reporting and data exchange
14 required under applicable Federal law.

15 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The data exchange
16 standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the ex-
17 tent practicable—

18 “(A) incorporate a widely accepted, non-
19 proprietary, searchable, computer-readable for-
20 mat, such as the eXtensible Markup Language;

21 “(B) contain interoperable standards devel-
22 oped and maintained by intergovernmental
23 partnerships, such as the National Information
24 Exchange Model;

1 “(C) incorporate interoperable standards
2 developed and maintained by Federal entities
3 with authority over contracting and financial
4 assistance;

5 “(D) be consistent with and implement ap-
6 plicable accounting principles;

7 “(E) be implemented in a manner that is
8 cost-effective and improves program efficiency
9 and effectiveness; and

10 “(F) be capable of being continually up-
11 graded as necessary.

12 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
13 this subsection shall be construed to require a
14 change to existing data exchange standards found to
15 be effective and efficient.”.

16 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than the date that
17 is 24 months after the date of the enactment of this sec-
18 tion, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
19 issue a proposed rule that—

20 (1) identifies federally required data exchanges,
21 include specification and timing of exchanges to be
22 standardized, and address the factors used in deter-
23 mining whether and when to standardize data ex-
24 changes; and

1 (2) specifies State implementation options and
2 describes future milestones.

3 **SEC. 502. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
5 (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect
6 as if enacted on October 1, 2018.

7 (b) IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES LEAD-
8 ING TO EMPLOYMENT.—The amendments made by sec-
9 tions 101, 102, 103, 104, and 301 take effect on October
10 1, 2019.