

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7591

To support the health and well-being of current and former foster care youth transitioning into adulthood.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2020

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support the health and well-being of current and former foster care youth transitioning into adulthood.

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 “Fostering Healthy
5 Transitions into Adulthood Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to foster healthy adult out-
8 comes for current and former foster care youth aging out

1 of the foster care system and transitioning into adulthood.
2 This Act also strengthens the direct responsibility of the
3 Federal Government for foster care youth transitioning
4 out of care.

5 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Nearly 25,000 foster youth become too old
8 to receive foster care assistance and benefits—or
9 “age out”—every year.

10 (2) Youth aging out of foster care and
11 transitioning to independent living require consider-
12 able support from local, State, and Federal Govern-
13 ment to ensure a smooth transition into healthy,
14 independent adulthood.

15 (3) Foster youth are more likely to have been
16 exposed to childhood and adolescent trauma, sub-
17 jected to multiple chronic health challenges, and di-
18 agnosed with poorer mental and physical health out-
19 comes than their peers. Additionally, foster youth
20 are more vulnerable to suffer from persistent anx-
21 iety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and
22 other severe challenges to their health.

23 (4) As a result, youth aging out of foster care
24 experience tremendous difficulty in completing edu-
25 cation, obtaining gainful employment, accessing and

1 receiving basic health care, maintaining stable hous-
2 ing, and avoiding the criminal justice system.

3 (5) Studies indicate that more than 80 percent
4 of foster youth transitioning into adulthood are un-
5 able to support themselves financially.

6 (6) Only 4 percent of youth aging out of foster
7 care earn a college degree by age 26, as compared
8 to 36 percent of individuals who never experience
9 foster care.

10 (7) On average, youth aging out of foster care
11 earn approximately half the income of their similarly
12 educated peers and are employed at significantly
13 lower rates.

14 (8) Accordingly, individuals transitioning out of
15 foster care are often linked with homelessness and
16 housing instability. One national study estimated
17 that approximately 66 percent of former foster
18 youth experience a homeless episode within 6
19 months after transitioning out of care.

20 (9) Moreover, youth aging out of foster care are
21 less likely to seek health and mental care services
22 that are often desperately needed.

23 (10) Nearly 60 percent of young men who have
24 aged out of foster care and of emancipated young
25 men have been convicted of a crime.

1 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATIONS TO FEDERAL FOSTER CARE REIM-**
2 **BURSEMENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **EXPANSION OF AGE OF ELIGIBILITY.—**

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 475(8) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 “(8) The term ‘child’ means—

8 “(A) an individual who has not attained 18
9 years of age; and

10 “(B) an individual who has attained 18
11 years of age but has not attained 21 years of
12 age, but only in the case of an individual—

13 “(i) who is in foster care under the
14 responsibility of the State;

15 “(ii) with respect to whom an adop-
16 tion assistance agreement is in effect
17 under section 473 if the child had attained
18 16 years of age before the agreement be-
19 came effective; or

20 “(iii) with respect to whom a kinship
21 guardianship assistance agreement is in ef-
22 fect under section 473(d) if the child had
23 attained 16 years of age before the agree-
24 ment became effective.”.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part E of
2 title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670
3 et seq.) is amended—

4 (A) by amending section 473(a)(4)(A)(i) of
5 such Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(4)(A)(i)) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(i) who has attained 21 years of
8 age;”;

9 (B) in section 471(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of such
10 Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(9)(C)(i)(I)), by striking
11 “18 years of age or such older age as the State
12 has elected under section 475(8) of this Act”
13 and inserting “21 years of age”;

14 (C) in section 472(c)(2) of such Act (42
15 U.S.C. 672(c)(2)), by striking “18” and insert-
16 ing “21”; and

17 (D) in section 475(5)(I) of such Act (42
18 U.S.C. 675(5)(I)), by striking “18 years of age
19 or such greater age as the State has elected
20 under paragraph (8)” and inserting “21 years
21 of age”.

22 (b) PLACEMENT AND INTERACTION OF SIBLINGS IN
23 FOSTER CARE.—Section 471(a)(31) of the Social Security
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(31)) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
2 by striking “reasonable” and inserting “all avail-
3 able”; and

4 (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(B) in the case of siblings removed from
7 their home who are not so jointly placed—

8 “(i) to place each such sibling at a
9 distance that is in close proximity to the
10 placement location of, and permits fre-
11 quent, in-person contact with, all other sib-
12 lings; and

13 “(ii) to provide for frequent visitation
14 or other ongoing interaction between the
15 siblings, including by making available to
16 each such sibling at all times detailed up-
17 to-date contact information for each other
18 sibling who is or has previously been in
19 foster care in the State,

20 unless the State documents that such placement
21 or interaction would be contrary to the safety or
22 well-being of any of the siblings; and

23 “(C) to provide adults who were formerly
24 in foster care and removed from their homes
25 with assistance in locating siblings and to facili-

1 tate contact between siblings if both parties
2 consent to contact.”.

3 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR OLDER FOSTER YOUTH.—

4 Section 475(1)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 675(1)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(D) For a child who has attained 14
7 years of age or over, a written description, de-
8 veloped in consultation with the child, updated
9 on an annual basis until the child attains 17
10 years of age, and, if necessary, coordinated with
11 a transition plan under subparagraph (5)(H),
12 of the programs and services which will help
13 such child prepare for the transition from foster
14 care to a successful adulthood, including spe-
15 cific options on—

16 “(i) education, including identifying
17 personalized goals for the child in terms of
18 academic performance, course selection,
19 and college admission as well as any coun-
20 seling, tutoring, or other support needed to
21 meet those goals;

22 “(ii) extracurricular activities and op-
23 portunities, including those offered both at
24 the child’s school and in the child’s com-
25 munity;

1 “(iii) local opportunities for mentors
2 and other continuing support services;

3 “(iv) behavioral or mental health serv-
4 ices, including trauma-informed counseling;
5 and

6 “(v) assistance, if requested by the
7 child, in finding a part-time job, that does
8 not require more than 10 hours of work
9 per week when school is in session or 20
10 hours of work per week when school is not
11 in session.”.

12 (d) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSITION PLANNING.—
13 Section 475(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14 675(5)) is amended—

15 (1) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(H) on an annual basis during each year
18 of the period beginning on the date the child at-
19 tains 17 years of age and ending on the date
20 the child is discharged from foster care, a case-
21 worker on the staff of the State agency, and, as
22 appropriate, other representatives of the child
23 provide the child with assistance and support in
24 developing a transition plan that—

1 “(i) is personalized at the direction of
2 the child and is as detailed as the child
3 may elect;

4 “(ii) includes specific options on hous-
5 ing, health insurance, education, local op-
6 portunities for mentors and continuing
7 support services, and work force supports
8 and employment services;

9 “(iii) includes information about join-
10 ing the Armed Services, AmeriCorps, the
11 Peace Corps, or Job Corps, or partici-
12 pating in any program under the Work-
13 force Innovation and Opportunity Act or
14 section 10 of the Fostering Healthy Tran-
15 sitions into Adulthood Act of 2020;

16 “(iv) includes information about the
17 importance of designating another indi-
18 vidual to make financial and health care
19 treatment decisions on behalf of the child
20 if the child becomes unable to participate
21 in such decisions and the child does not
22 have, or does not want, a relative who
23 would otherwise be authorized under State
24 law to make such decisions; and

1 “(v) provides the child with the option
2 to execute a durable power of attorney for
3 finances, and a health care power of attor-
4 ney, health care proxy, or other similar
5 document recognized under State law;
6 and”;

7 (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting after
8 “REAL ID Act of 2005,” the following: “certified
9 copies of any legal documents pertaining to custody
10 of the child or the child’s status in foster care, bank-
11 ing and financial information related to any ac-
12 counts opened by the child or on behalf of the
13 child,”.

14 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

16 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDE-**
17 **PENDENCE PROGRAM.**

18 (a) EXPANSION OF AGE OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section
19 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “16” and
22 inserting “14”;

23 (2) by striking “18” each place it appears (ex-
24 cept in subsection (b)(3)(C)) and inserting “21”;

1 (3) by striking “21” each place it appears (ex-
2 cept in subsection (f)) and inserting “26”; and

3 (4) by striking “23” each place it appears and
4 inserting “28”.

5 (b) IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR QUALIFYING
6 FOSTER YOUTH.—Section 477(b)(3) of such Act (42
7 U.S.C. 677(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(L) A certification by the chief executive
10 officer of the State that the State will not
11 charge youths eligible for services under the
12 State program of any State under this section
13 tuition for attendance at a public institution of
14 higher education (as defined in section 101 of
15 the Higher Education Act of 1965) or a post-
16 secondary vocational institution (as defined in
17 section 102(c) of such Act) in the State at a
18 rate that is greater than the rate charged for
19 residents of the State for such attendance.”.

20 (c) IMPROVED SERVICES FOR TRANSITIONING
21 YOUTH.—Section 477(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
22 677(b)(3)), as amended by subsection (b), is further
23 amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “absti-
2 nence education programs” and inserting “com-
3 prehensive sexual education programs”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (K)—

5 (A) by inserting “financial and” before
6 “health care treatment”; and

7 (B) by inserting “a durable power of attor-
8 ney for finances, and” before “a health care
9 power of attorney”; and

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

11 “(M) A certification by the chief executive
12 officer of the State that the State will—

13 “(i) ensure that each youth partici-
14 pating in the program under this section is
15 provided with—

16 “(I) a financial education that
17 helps the youth understand basic fi-
18 nancial topics, including budgeting,
19 managing bank accounts, interest
20 rates, savings, credit, retirement, in-
21 vestment, insurance, mortgages, loans,
22 and identity theft and protection;

23 “(II) assistance with establishing
24 a checking account and a savings ac-
25 count at no cost to the youth; and

1 “(III) information about partici-
2 pating, and assistance with enrolling,
3 in an individual development account
4 (as defined in section 404(5) of the
5 Assets for Independence Act (42
6 U.S.C. 604(5)); and

7 “(ii) designate at least 10 percent of
8 the amount paid to the State from its al-
9 lotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal
10 year to provide for an additional State
11 match of the youth’s contributions to an
12 individual development account (as so de-
13 fined).

14 “(N) A certification by the chief executive
15 officer of the State that the State will ensure
16 that each youth participating in the program
17 under this section is provided with information
18 about identifying and applying for public and
19 private scholarships, grants, and loans to con-
20 tinue education or career training, including (if
21 requested by the youth) individualized assist-
22 ance with completing the Free Application for
23 Federal Student Aid.

24 “(O) A certification by the chief executive
25 officer of the State that the State will ensure

1 that each youth participating in the program
2 under this section is provided with information
3 about the availability of various mental and be-
4 havioral health services in the youth’s commu-
5 nity and an explanation of how those services
6 generally benefit youth who have experienced
7 foster care.

8 “(P) A certification by the chief executive
9 officer of the State that, if the State has a
10 voter registration requirement for any voter in
11 the State with respect to an election for Federal
12 office, the State will ensure that each youth
13 participating in the program under this section
14 who is a United States citizen and who meets
15 the qualifications to be a voter under State law
16 is, on an annual basis and not later than three
17 months before the earlier of the date of the gen-
18 eral election or the date that is the deadline for
19 registration for a general election, provided with
20 written notice of the youth’s voter registration
21 status and, if the youth is not registered to
22 vote, provided with the opportunity to register
23 to vote.

24 “(Q) A certification by the chief executive
25 officer of the State that the State will ensure

1 that each youth participating in the program
2 under this section who is not a citizen of the
3 United States is provided with information
4 about maintaining or acquiring legal status, in-
5 cluding information about how to begin or com-
6 plete the process of naturalization.

7 “(R) A certification by the chief executive
8 officer of the State that the State will ensure
9 that each youth participating in the program
10 under this section has the opportunity to par-
11 ticipate, at no expense to the youth, in a men-
12 toring program or another program designed to
13 build personal and emotional connections be-
14 tween adults and children aging out of foster
15 care, and that each youth is provided with in-
16 formation about participating in such a pro-
17 gram on no less than an annual basis, which
18 shall include an explanation of how such pro-
19 grams and connections generally benefit youth
20 who have experienced foster care.

21 “(S) A certification by the chief executive
22 officer of the State that the State will—

23 “(i) inquire of each individual con-
24 victed of a State offense (including juve-
25 niles), if such individual, at the time of

1 conviction, was in foster care, or was pre-
2 viously in foster care at any point;

3 “(ii) inquire of each individual con-
4 victed of a State offense who is or was in
5 foster care the circumstances and duration
6 of foster care;

7 “(iii) inform each individual convicted
8 of a State offense who is or was in foster
9 care of the right to decline to answer ques-
10 tions under clause (ii); and

11 “(iv) report to the Secretary on an
12 annual basis, in such form as the Sec-
13 retary may require—

14 “(I) the number of individuals
15 convicted of a State offense in the
16 preceding year, disaggregated by type
17 of conviction;

18 “(II) the number of individuals
19 convicted of a State offense in the
20 preceding year who are or were in fos-
21 ter care, disaggregated by type of con-
22 viction;

23 “(III) the number of individuals
24 held in incarceration for a Federal of-

1 fense in the preceding year,
2 disaggregated by type of conviction;

3 “(IV) the number of individuals
4 held in incarceration for a Federal of-
5 fense in the preceding year who are or
6 were in foster care, disaggregated by
7 type of conviction;

8 “(V) the total estimated cost of
9 incarceration for each person who is
10 or was in foster care; and

11 “(VI) such other information as
12 the Secretary may require.”

13 (d) INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
14 TIONS.—Section 477(h) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(h))
15 is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking
17 “\$140,000,000, or, beginning in fiscal year 2021,
18 \$143,000,000” and inserting “\$429,000,000”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking
20 “\$60,000,000” and inserting “\$180,000,000”.

21 (e) EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING
22 VOUCHERS.—Section 477(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
23 677(i)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may” and in-
25 serting “shall”;

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking “16” and inserting “14”;

3 and

4 (B) by striking “may” and inserting
5 “shall”;

6 (3) in paragraph (3)—

7 (A) by striking “may allow” and inserting
8 “shall allow”;

9 (B) by striking “26” and inserting “28”;
10 and

11 (C) by striking “, but in no event may a
12 youth participate in the program for more than
13 5 years (whether or not consecutive)” and in-
14 serting “, except that the State shall allow
15 youths participating in the voucher program
16 who attain 28 years of age to complete their
17 postsecondary education or training program”;

18 (4) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(4) The voucher or vouchers provided for an
21 individual under this section shall be available for,
22 and in an amount that shall not exceed, the cost of
23 attendance (as defined in section 472 of the Higher
24 Education Act of 1965) at an institution of higher
25 education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher

1 Education Act of 1965) or a postsecondary voca-
2 tional institution (as defined in section 102(c) of
3 such Act).”; and

4 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “may” and in-
5 serting “shall”.

6 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall take effect on June 1, 2021, except
9 that the amendments made by subsection (d) shall
10 apply with respect to fiscal years beginning with fis-
11 cal year 2021.

12 (2) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND DEADLINE.—If a
13 State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-
14 retary that it is necessary to amend State law in
15 order to change a particular practice that is incon-
16 sistent with this Act, the Secretary may extend the
17 compliance date for the State a reasonable number
18 of days after the close of the first State legislative
19 session beginning after the date of the enactment of
20 the Fostering Healthy Transitions into Adulthood
21 Act of 2020.

22 **SEC. 6. FOSTER CARE TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

23 Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
24 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
25 477 the following:

1 **“SEC. 477A. FOSTER CARE TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE**
2 **GRANTS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In coordination with assistance
4 provided under the programs under sections 477 and
5 477B, the Secretary shall—

6 “(1) administer the programs described in this
7 section; and

8 “(2) develop professional guidelines and na-
9 tional standards to be made available for use by fos-
10 ter care transitional services and related programs
11 receiving Federal funding.

12 “(b) IMPROVED FEDERAL INFORMATION RESOURCES
13 FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.—

14 “(1) WEBSITE FOR CURRENT AND FORMER
15 FOSTER YOUTH.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
17 develop and maintain a website designed to pro-
18 vide specific information about Federal, State,
19 and local resources available to current and
20 former foster youth.

21 “(B) INFORMATION GUIDELINES.—The
22 website shall include information about the
23 availability of, and the eligibility requirements
24 for, all public resources available to current and
25 former foster youth, including—

1 “(i) information about transition plan-
2 ning requirements required by section
3 475(5)(H);

4 “(ii) assistance with any program
5 under this section, section 477, or section
6 477B;

7 “(iii) assistance with any program es-
8 tablished under the Fostering Healthy
9 Transitions into Adulthood Act of 2020;

10 “(iv) the Free Application for Federal
11 Student Aid and other information about
12 Federal financial aid;

13 “(v) Pell Grants;

14 “(vi) Federal TRIO programs;

15 “(vii) waivers for applications to insti-
16 tutions of higher education;

17 “(viii) job training programs available
18 to current or former foster youth;

19 “(ix) Medicaid; and

20 “(x) programs offered by State and
21 local governments aimed at assisting cur-
22 rent or former foster youth.

23 “(C) ACCESSIBILITY.—The website shall
24 be—

1 “(i) accessible with a simple website
2 address that can be used in advertisements
3 and easily remembered;

4 “(ii) searchable from the public
5 websites of the Department of Health and
6 Human Services, the Department of Edu-
7 cation, the Department of Housing and
8 Urban Development, and the Department
9 of Labor;

10 “(iii) compliant with all applicable
11 laws and regulations regarding accessi-
12 bility, data protection, and privacy for
13 Federal websites; and

14 “(iv) able to be easily navigated and
15 understood by current and former foster
16 youth.

17 “(2) HOTLINE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 develop and maintain a telephone hotline de-
20 signed to provide specific information about
21 Federal, State, and local resources available to
22 current and former foster youth.

23 “(B) INFORMATION GUIDELINES.—The
24 hotline shall—

1 “(i) accept calls from current foster
2 youth, former foster youth, and assisting
3 adults; and

4 “(ii) answer questions and provide
5 guidance about the availability of, and an
6 individual’s eligibility for, all public re-
7 sources available to current and former
8 foster youth described in paragraph
9 (1)(B).

10 “(C) ACCESSIBILITY.—The hotline shall
11 be—

12 “(i) accessible with a toll-free number
13 that can be used in advertisements and
14 easily remembered;

15 “(ii) compliant with all applicable laws
16 and regulations regarding accessibility,
17 data protection, and privacy for Federal
18 telephone systems; and

19 “(iii) able to be easily navigated and
20 understood by current and former foster
21 youth.

22 “(3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the re-
23 sources required by this section, the Secretary shall
24 consult with—

25 “(A) the Secretary of Education;

1 “(B) the Secretary of Housing and Urban
2 Development;

3 “(C) the Secretary of Labor;

4 “(D) other Federal agencies serving cur-
5 rent or former foster youth;

6 “(E) State and local government child wel-
7 fare agencies;

8 “(F) State Medicaid agencies;

9 “(G) State and local government education
10 and labor agencies;

11 “(H) advocacy groups representing current
12 and former foster youth; and

13 “(I) nonprofit organizations serving cur-
14 rent or former foster youth.

15 “(4) PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—After es-
16 tablishing the website and telephone hotline as re-
17 quired by this subsection, the Secretary shall col-
18 laborate with agencies and stakeholders identified in
19 paragraph (3) to publicize the website and the hot-
20 line to current foster youth, former foster youth,
21 caseworkers, service providers, mentors, school coun-
22 selors, foster parents, adoptive parents of former
23 foster youth, and other concerned adults.

1 “(5) DEADLINES.—The requirements of this
2 subsection shall be fully implemented not later than
3 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 “(c) BASIC HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOW-
5 ANCE FOR TRANSITIONAL FOSTER CARE INDIVIDUALS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5),
7 the Secretary shall provide to eligible individuals (as
8 described in paragraph (3)) a basic monthly allow-
9 ance for housing and transportation in the amount
10 determined under paragraph (2), to be paid in ad-
11 vance on the day preceding the first day of each
12 month in the individual’s independent living transi-
13 tion period.

14 “(2) AMOUNTS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
16 subparagraphs (B), the amount of a basic
17 monthly allowance for housing and transpor-
18 tation with respect to an eligible individual for
19 a month in the individual’s independent living
20 transition period shall be an amount equal to
21 the applicable percentage (as determined under
22 subparagraph (C)) of the sum of the following:

23 “(i) The average monthly cost (as de-
24 termined by the Secretary in coordination
25 with the Secretary of Housing and Urban

1 Development) of a one-bedroom apartment
2 in the geographic area in which the eligible
3 individual resides during such month, in-
4 cluding the cost of—

5 “(I) rent;

6 “(II) utilities, including elec-
7 tricity, natural gas, heating oil, water,
8 sewer, trash, recycling, cable tele-
9 vision, telephones, and internet access;

10 “(III) maintenance fees or other
11 fees commonly paid in connection with
12 a residential property; and

13 “(IV) renter’s insurance or a
14 similar product.

15 “(ii) The average monthly cost (as de-
16 termined by the Secretary in coordination
17 with the Secretary of Transportation) of
18 automobile ownership in the geographic
19 area in which the eligible individual resides
20 during such month, including the cost of—

21 “(I) automobile operation, main-
22 tenance, registration, and insurance;

23 “(II) licensing and insuring a
24 driver;

1 “(III) property, ad valorem, or
2 other State or local taxes paid in rela-
3 tion to owning or operating an auto-
4 mobile; and

5 “(IV) parking an automobile.

6 “(B) INITIAL MONTH INSTALLMENT PAY-
7 MENT.—In the case of an eligible individual
8 who receives a basic monthly allowance under
9 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide
10 the individual an initial installment payment for
11 the first month of the individual’s independent
12 living transition period, in an amount equal to
13 and in addition to the basic monthly allowance
14 for such month, for the purpose of paying a se-
15 curity deposit, application fee, or related ex-
16 penses.

17 “(C) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
18 purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable
19 percentage shall be—

20 “(i) 100 percent for any month in the
21 1st year of the individual’s independent liv-
22 ing transition period;

23 “(ii) 75 percent for any month in the
24 2nd year of the individual’s independent
25 living transition period;

1 “(iii) 50 percent for any month in the
2 3rd year of the individual’s independent
3 living transition period; and

4 “(iv) 25 percent for any month in the
5 4th year of the individual’s independent
6 living transition period.

7 “(D) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
8 AMOUNTS.—In addition to amounts otherwise
9 provided to an eligible individual under this
10 paragraph, the Secretary may use amounts
11 made available to carry out this subsection to
12 make a one-time payment to any eligible indi-
13 vidual to purchase items and services and pay
14 fees necessary to establish a household. An eli-
15 gible individual seeking such a payment shall
16 apply in such a manner and at such time as the
17 Secretary shall prescribe not later than 6
18 months after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act.

20 “(E) NO REQUIREMENT RELATING TO
21 AUTOMOBILE OWNERSHIP.—Nothing in this
22 paragraph shall be construed to require an eli-
23 gible individual who receives a basic monthly al-
24 lowance under subparagraph (A) to own, oper-
25 ate, maintain, license, permit, insure, park, or

1 pay taxes on an automobile, or license or insure
2 the eligible individual as a driver thereof, in
3 order to receive such allowance.

4 “(F) NO REDUCTION BASED ON CHANGES
5 IN AVERAGE HOUSING OR TRANSPORTATION
6 COST.—The amount of a basic monthly allow-
7 ance for housing and transportation with re-
8 spect to an eligible individual may not be re-
9 duced in any month as a result of changes in
10 the average monthly costs, in the geographic
11 area in which the eligible individual resides, of
12 a one-bedroom apartment or automobile owner-
13 ship, as such costs are described in subpara-
14 graph (A).

15 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual eligible to re-
16 ceive a basic allowance for housing and transpor-
17 tation for a month under this subsection is an indi-
18 vidual—

19 “(A) who is a former foster care recipient
20 who has attained 21 years of age;

21 “(B) who is living independently and not
22 residing—

23 “(i) at a Federal, State, local, or pri-
24 vate foster home, group home, or similar
25 transitional living facility; or

1 “(ii) with a parent, foster parent, or
2 legal guardian; and

3 “(C) who is—

4 “(i) completing secondary education
5 or a program leading to an equivalent cre-
6 dential;

7 “(ii) enrolled in an institution that
8 provides postsecondary or vocational edu-
9 cation;

10 “(iii) actively seeking employment or
11 participating in a program or activity de-
12 signed to promote, or remove barriers to,
13 employment;

14 “(iv) employed for at least 80 hours
15 per month; or

16 “(v) incapable of doing any of the ac-
17 tivities described in clauses (i) through (iv)
18 due to a medical condition demonstrated
19 by regularly updated information sub-
20 mitted to the Secretary.

21 “(4) INDEPENDENT LIVING TRANSITION PE-
22 RIOD.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
23 ‘independent living transition period’ means, with re-
24 spect to an eligible individual, the 4-year period be-
25 ginning with the month after the month during

1 which the individual aged out of foster care or left
2 foster care for independent living.

3 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to
5 be appropriated \$217,000,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2021 through 2025.

7 “(d) FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent amounts are
9 made available to carry out this subsection, the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 “(A) award grants to eligible entities to es-
12 tablish, expand, or support programs for eligi-
13 ble individuals as described in paragraph (2);

14 “(B) ensure that any such programs re-
15 ceiving funding under this subsection use evi-
16 dence-informed or evidence-based models, prac-
17 tices, and methods that are culturally and lin-
18 guistically appropriate and can be replicated in
19 other appropriate settings; and

20 “(C) provide technical assistance to eligible
21 entities in applying for and administering a
22 grant made under this subsection.

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may
24 use amounts awarded under a grant under para-
25 graph (1) to—

1 “(A) provide information or services re-
2 lated to housing, nutrition assistance, financial
3 assistance, academic tutoring and guidance,
4 mental health support services, child care, or
5 career preparatory services for eligible individ-
6 uals;

7 “(B) provide training to employees of eligi-
8 ble entities in promising and evidence-based
9 practices and models for the education of cur-
10 rent and former foster youth; and

11 “(C) evaluate outcomes of current and
12 former foster youth enrolled in institutions of
13 higher education (as defined in section 101 of
14 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
15 1001)).

16 “(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES.—
17 In this subsection:

18 “(A) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term
19 ‘eligible individual’ means an individual at least
20 14 years of age—

21 “(i) who—

22 “(I) is in foster care; or

23 “(II) was formerly in foster care
24 at any time after attaining 14 years
25 of age;

1 “(ii) is enrolled at an institution of
2 higher education (as defined in section 101
3 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1001)) or a postsecondary voca-
5 tional institution (as defined in section
6 102(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))).

7 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
8 ble entity’ means an institution of higher edu-
9 cation (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or a
11 postsecondary vocational institution (as defined
12 in section 102(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
13 1002(c)).

14 “(4) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking
15 a grant under paragraph (1) shall submit to the
16 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
17 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
18 retary may require.

19 “(5) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may
20 not award a grant under this subsection to an eligi-
21 ble entity unless the eligible entity agrees, with re-
22 spect to the costs to be incurred by the eligible enti-
23 ty in carrying out the activities described in para-
24 graph (2), to make available non-Federal contribu-
25 tions (in cash or in kind) toward such costs in an

1 amount that is not less than 10 percent of the total
2 amount of Federal funds provided in the grant.

3 “(6) COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL TRIO PRO-
4 GRAMS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under
5 this subsection that also operates a program that re-
6 ceives assistance under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of
7 title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) shall coordinate activities
9 under each such program to ensure that current or
10 former foster youth have maximum access and in-
11 volvement in such activities.

12 “(7) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, by
13 grant, contract, or interagency agreement, conduct
14 rigorous and well-designed evaluations of the pro-
15 grams for which a grant is made under this section.

16 “(8) REPORTS.—

17 “(A) TO THE SECRETARY.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
19 awarded a grant under this section shall—

20 “(I) submit interim reports to
21 the Secretary on the activities carried
22 out under the project, including the
23 number of applications received and
24 the number of participants enrolled;
25 and

1 “(II) on the conclusion of the
2 project, a final report on the activi-
3 ties, including the number of partici-
4 pants who successfully completed the
5 program.

6 “(ii) DATA ON PARTICIPANT OUT-
7 COMES.—Each such report shall include
8 data on participant outcomes related to
9 employment, educational or credential at-
10 tainment, participant demographics, and
11 such other data as may be specified by the
12 Secretary.

13 “(B) TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than
14 December 31 of each calendar year, the Sec-
15 retary shall submit to the appropriate Congres-
16 sional committees a report for the preceding fis-
17 cal year on activities funded under this sub-
18 section, including—

19 “(i) the demographics of the partici-
20 pants in the projects for which a grant is
21 made under this subsection;

22 “(ii) the amount of funds spent on
23 complying with subparagraphs (A) and (B)
24 of paragraph (2) of this subsection, respec-
25 tively;

1 “(iii) the employment and educational
2 credentials acquired by project partici-
3 pants;

4 “(iv) the employment of participants
5 on completion of activities under the
6 projects, and the earnings of participants
7 at entry into employment;

8 “(v) best practices and promising
9 practices used by grantees;

10 “(vi) the nature of any technical as-
11 sistance provided to grantees under this
12 subsection;

13 “(vii) with respect to the period since
14 the period covered in the most recent prior
15 report submitted under this paragraph—

16 “(I) the number of applications
17 submitted under this subsection and
18 the number of applications that were
19 approved; and

20 “(II) the number of eligible indi-
21 viduals who applied, enrolled, and re-
22 mained enrolled in programs operated
23 by each eligible entity; and

24 “(viii) the 10 individual applications
25 not approved for a grant under this sub-

1 section that showed the greatest potential
2 to meet the goals of this subsection, in-
3 cluding the estimated number of bene-
4 ficiaries of each such application.

5 “(C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
6 MITTEES.—In this paragraph, the term ‘appro-
7 priate Congressional committees’ means—

8 “(i) the Committee on Education and
9 Labor of the House of Representatives;

10 “(ii) the Committee on Ways and
11 Means of the House of Representatives;

12 “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-
13 tions of the House of Representatives;

14 “(iv) the Committee on Health, Edu-
15 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

16 “(v) the Committee on Finance of the
17 Senate; and

18 “(vi) the Committee on Appropria-
19 tions of the Senate.

20 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to
22 be appropriated \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2021 through 2025.

24 “(e) FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION PREPARATION AS-
25 SISTANCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent amounts are
2 made available to carry out this subsection, the Sec-
3 retary shall—

4 “(A) make grants to eligible entities to
5 provide assistance to eligible individuals for
6 costs associated with preparing for postsec-
7 ondary education; and

8 “(B) provide technical assistance to eligible
9 entities in applying for and administering a
10 grant made under this subsection.

11 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance provided to
13 an eligible individual by a grantee under this
14 subsection may be used for—

15 “(i) the cost of an examination re-
16 quired for admission to an institution of
17 higher education (as defined in section 101
18 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1001)) or a postsecondary voca-
20 tional institution (as defined in section
21 102(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(c)));

22 “(ii) the cost of a preparatory course
23 for an examination required for admission
24 to such an institution;

1 “(iii) the cost of visiting such an insti-
2 tution prior to attendance, including the
3 associated costs of lodging, transportation,
4 and food;

5 “(iv) the cost of a preparatory course
6 for a professional licensing or certification
7 examination; or

8 “(v) the cost of any applicable appli-
9 cation fees for enrollment in such an insti-
10 tution.

11 “(B) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The
12 amount of assistance provided to an eligible in-
13 dividual by a grantee under this subsection may
14 not exceed—

15 “(i) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,000; and

16 “(ii) for each succeeding fiscal year,
17 \$1,000 multiplied by the percentage (if
18 any) by which the consumer price index for
19 all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the fiscal
20 year preceding such fiscal year exceeds the
21 CPI-U for fiscal year 2020.

22 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
23 in this paragraph permits the use of assistance
24 provided to an eligible individual under this sec-

1 tion to pay for tuition at a private elementary,
2 middle, or secondary school.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES.—

4 In this subsection:

5 “(A) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term
6 ‘eligible individual’ means an individual who—

7 “(i) is in foster care or was formerly
8 in foster care and is participating in the
9 program under section 477; and

10 “(ii) is actively seeking or preparing
11 to seek admission to an institution of high-
12 er education (as defined in section 101 of
13 the Higher Education Act of 1965) or a
14 postsecondary vocational institution (as de-
15 fined in section 102(c) of such Act).

16 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
17 ble entity’ means an entity eligible to receive
18 grants under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of title IV
19 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.).

21 “(4) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In mak-
22 ing grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall
23 ensure that at least one grantee is an eligible entity
24 from which assistance is available to all eligible indi-
25 viduals in the United States.

1 “(5) VERIFICATION.—Not later than 6 months
2 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
3 retary shall provide guidance to eligible entities—

4 “(A) to regulate the process by which an
5 eligible individual receives assistance or reim-
6 bursement from an eligible entity; and

7 “(B) to ensure that such process is as sim-
8 ple and coordinated for the eligible individual as
9 possible.

10 “(6) COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL TRIO PRO-
11 GRAMS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under
12 this subsection that also operates a program that re-
13 ceives assistance under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of
14 title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) shall coordinate activities
16 under each such program to ensure that current or
17 former foster youth have maximum access and in-
18 volvement in such activities.

19 “(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to
21 be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2021 through 2025.

23 **“SEC. 477B. FOSTER YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent amounts are made
25 available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) award grants to eligible entities to develop,
2 maintain, or enhance foster youth mental health pro-
3 motion, intervention, and treatment programs for el-
4 igible individuals;

5 “(2) ensure that any such programs receiving
6 funding under this section use evidence-informed or
7 evidence-based models, practices, and methods that
8 are culturally and linguistically appropriate and can
9 be replicated in other appropriate settings; and

10 “(3) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
11 ties in applying for and administering a grant made
12 under this section.

13 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
14 amounts awarded under a grant under subsection (a) to—

15 “(1) provide age-appropriate mental health pro-
16 motion, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment serv-
17 ices, including social and behavioral services, for eli-
18 gible individuals;

19 “(2) provide training—

20 “(A) to health care professionals with ex-
21 pertise in the mental health care of foster youth
22 and youth suffering traumatic experiences in
23 appropriate and relevant integration with other
24 disciplines such as primary care clinicians, early
25 intervention specialists, child welfare staff,

1 home visitors, and others who work with chil-
2 dren, adolescents, and young adults; and

3 “(B) to mental health clinicians in prom-
4 ising and evidence-based practices and models
5 for foster youth mental health treatment, in-
6 cluding practices for identifying and treating
7 mental illness and behavioral disorders of foster
8 youth resulting from exposure or repeated expo-
9 sure to adverse experiences or trauma; and

10 “(3) provide comprehensive services, including
11 transportation, child care, and replacement of lost
12 wages, to eligible individuals in care in order to fa-
13 cilitate activities described in paragraph (1).

14 “(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES.—In this
15 section:

16 “(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘eligi-
17 ble individual’ means an individual at least 5 years
18 of age but not more than 26 years of age—

19 “(A) who—

20 “(i) is in foster care; or

21 “(ii) was formerly in foster care at
22 any time after attaining 5 years of age;

23 “(B) is at risk for, shows early signs of, or
24 has been diagnosed with a mental illness, in-
25 cluding a serious emotional disturbance; and

1 “(C) may benefit from intervention, mental
2 health treatment programs, or other services
3 provided by an eligible entity.

4 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means a State agency or nonprofit entity
6 that—

7 “(A) employs licensed mental health pro-
8 fessionals who have specialized training and ex-
9 perience in childhood or adolescent mental
10 health promotion, assessment, diagnosis, trau-
11 ma-informed care, and treatment services;

12 “(B) is accredited or approved by the
13 State to provide such services for individuals
14 who are or were in foster care at any point be-
15 tween the ages of 5 and 26; and

16 “(C) provides such services using methods
17 that are evidence-based or that have been sci-
18 entifically demonstrated to show promise but
19 would benefit from further applied development.

20 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
21 grant under subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary
22 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
23 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

1 “(e) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this
2 section, the Secretary may give priority to eligible entities
3 located in or serving areas with—

4 “(1) insufficient access to behavioral or mental
5 health services despite demonstrated need, especially
6 among vulnerable populations; or

7 “(2) the largest populations of individuals in
8 foster care.

9 “(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may not
10 award a grant under this subsection to an eligible entity
11 unless the eligible entity agrees, with respect to the costs
12 to be incurred by the eligible entity in carrying out the
13 activities described in subsection (b), to make available
14 non-Federal contributions (in cash or in kind) toward such
15 costs in an amount that is not less than 10 percent of
16 the total amount of Federal funds provided in the grant.

17 “(g) COORDINATION WITH MEDICAID.—An eligible
18 entity awarded grant under this section shall coordinate
19 activities under each such program with the State Med-
20 icaid program to ensure that current or former foster
21 youth have maximum access and involvement in such ac-
22 tivities.

23 “(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, by grant,
24 contract, or interagency agreement, conduct rigorous and

1 well-designed evaluations of the programs for which a
2 grant is made under this section.

3 “(i) REPORTS.—

4 “(1) TO THE SECRETARY.—(A) An eligible enti-
5 ty awarded a grant under this section shall submit
6 interim reports to the Secretary on the activities car-
7 ried out under the project, including the number of
8 eligible individuals served, and on the conclusion of
9 the project, shall submit a final report to the Sec-
10 retary on the activities carried out under a grant
11 made under this section.

12 “(B) Each such report shall include data on
13 participant outcomes related to earnings, employ-
14 ment, education, credential attainment, participant
15 demographics, and other data specified by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(2) TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than De-
18 cember 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit
19 to the appropriate Congressional committees a re-
20 port for the preceding fiscal year on—

21 “(A) the demographics of the participants
22 in the projects for which a grant is made under
23 this section;

24 “(B) results of the evaluations required by
25 subsection (h);

1 “(C) best practices and promising practices
2 used in the projects;

3 “(D) the nature of any technical assistance
4 provided to grantees under this section; and

5 “(E) the 10 individual applications not ap-
6 proved for a grant under this subsection that
7 showed the greatest potential to meet the goals
8 of this subsection, including the estimated num-
9 ber of beneficiaries of each such application.

10 “(3) PUBLICATION.—Upon submission to Con-
11 gress of a report under this subsection, the Sec-
12 retary shall make such report available to the public
13 on an internet website of the Department of Health
14 and Human Services in a manner that is user
15 friendly and able to be searched and downloaded by
16 users of the website.

17 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
18 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-
19 priated \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
20 2025.

21 **“SEC. 477C. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO OLDER FOSTER**
22 **YOUTH.**

23 “(a) PROGRAMMATIC FLEXIBILITY.—During any
24 qualifying emergency period, the following rules apply with

1 respect to areas affected by such qualifying emergency pe-
2 riod:

3 “(1) ELIMINATION OF AGE LIMITATIONS ON
4 ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—Eligibility for serv-
5 ices or assistance under a State program operated
6 pursuant to sections 477 or 477A shall be provided
7 without regard to the age of the recipient.

8 “(2) SUSPENSION OF WORK AND EDUCATION
9 REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE EDUCATION AND
10 TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM.—Sections 477(i)(3),
11 477A(c)(3)(C), and 477A(d) shall be applied and ad-
12 ministered without regard to any work or education
13 requirement.

14 “(3) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE LIMITATION ON
15 PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS USED FOR HOUSING ASSIST-
16 ANCE.—The Secretary shall apply and administer
17 section 477 without regard to subsection (b)(3)(B)
18 of such section.

19 “(4) SUSPENSION OF APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE
20 OF INDEPENDENT LIVING PERIOD.—The applicable
21 percentage described in section 477A(c)(2)(C) shall
22 be 100 percent.

23 “(b) STATE DEFINED.—In subsection (a), the term
24 ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 1101(a)
25 of the Social Security Act for purposes of title IV of such

1 Act, and includes an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or
 2 tribal consortium with an application and plan approved
 3 under section 477(j) of such Act for fiscal year 2020.

4 “(c) QUALIFYING EMERGENCY DEFINED.—For pur-
 5 poses of subsection (a), the term ‘qualifying emergency pe-
 6 riod’ means the period beginning on the date on which
 7 an emergency is declared under section 319 of the Public
 8 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) or under section 401
 9 or section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
 10 and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and ending
 11 on the date that is 180 days after the date on which such
 12 emergency terminates.”.

13 **SEC. 7. IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH**
 14 **AND FOSTER YOUTH; COORDINATION WITH**
 15 **CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

16 (a) INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES FOR FOSTER
 17 YOUTH.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the
 19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011 et
 20 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following
 21 new section:

22 **“SEC. 124. SERVICES FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER**
 23 **YOUTH.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—No institution of higher edu-
 25 cation shall be eligible to receive funds or any other form

1 of financial assistance under any Federal program, includ-
2 ing participation in any federally funded or guaranteed
3 student loan program, unless the institution certifies to
4 the Secretary that the institution—

5 “(1) provides flexibility and assistance to help
6 eligible youth complete the application and admis-
7 sion process for the institution, including by waiving
8 application fees and facilitating the process of enroll-
9 ment for such youth;

10 “(2) designates a single point of contact to—

11 “(A) meet with eligible youth and assist
12 them identifying and utilizing available support
13 services for current or former foster youth, in-
14 cluding academic supports, financial assistance,
15 and professional or internship opportunities;
16 and

17 “(B) coordinate programs with relevant
18 on- and off-campus stakeholders, including
19 State child welfare agencies and nonprofit orga-
20 nizations, to increase the enrollment of eligible
21 youth at the institution and align services at
22 the institution for such youth;

23 “(3) adjusts the cost of attendance for eligible
24 youth to include the cost of housing during periods
25 of non-enrollment and assists such youth in identi-

1 fying housing resources available during such peri-
2 ods;

3 “(4) subsidizes any fees for eligible youth asso-
4 ciated with orientation, offers free transportation to
5 college orientation or move-in week, offers free lodg-
6 ing if necessary for the purposes of traveling for ori-
7 entation or move-in week, and offers free transpor-
8 tation for one person to accompany each eligible
9 youth on such travel;

10 “(5) ensures the availability of robust health
11 services for students, including physical and mental
12 health services, that meet the specific needs of eligi-
13 ble youth;

14 “(6) establishes or expands early alert systems
15 to identify and support eligible youth who may be
16 struggling academically;

17 “(7) provides eligible youth with emergency
18 grants to subsidize reasonable, unanticipated ex-
19 penses that are not included in the cost of attend-
20 ance for the institution or that may not be covered
21 by other forms of student financial assistance; and

22 “(8) collects, reviews, and monitors data for
23 program improvement.

24 “(b) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—In this section, the term ‘el-
25 igible youth’ means an individual who—

1 “(1) is in foster care; or

2 “(2) is receiving services under section 477 or
3 477A of the Social Security Act.”.

4 (2) APPLICABILITY.—Section 124 of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965, as added by paragraph (1),
6 shall apply with respect to the eligibility of institu-
7 tions of higher education to participate in Federal
8 programs for academic years beginning after the
9 date of enactment of this Act.

10 (b) IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR HOMELESS
11 YOUTH AND FOSTER YOUTH.—Section 135 of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015d) is amended—

13 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MEM-**
14 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE**
15 **DUTY, SPOUSES, AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN**”
16 and inserting “**CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS**”;

17 (2) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by striking “In the case” and inserting
19 the following:

20 “(1) ARMED FORCES.—In the case”; and

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

22 “(2) HOMELESS YOUTH AND FOSTER YOUTH.—
23 In the case of a homeless youth or a foster youth,
24 such State shall not charge such individual tuition
25 for attendance at a public institution of higher edu-

1 cation in the State at a rate that is greater than the
2 rate charged for residents of the State.”; and

3 (3) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and in-
4 serting the following:

5 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

6 “(1) ARMED FORCES.—With respect to an indi-
7 vidual described in subsection (a)(1), this section
8 shall remain in effect as it was in effect on the day
9 before the date of enactment of the Fostering
10 Healthy Transitions into Adulthood Act of 2020.

11 “(2) HOMELESS YOUTH AND FOSTER YOUTH.—

12 With respect to an individual described in subsection
13 (a)(2) or (a)(3), this section shall take effect at each
14 public institution of higher education in a State that
15 receives assistance under this Act for the first period
16 of enrollment at such institution that begins during
17 the first full award year following the date of enact-
18 ment the Fostering Healthy Transitions into Adult-
19 hood Act of 2020.

20 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ARMED FORCES.—The terms ‘armed
22 forces’ and ‘active duty for a period of more than 30
23 days’ have the meanings given those terms in section
24 101 of title 10, United States Code.

1 “(2) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term ‘homeless
2 youth’ has the meaning given the term ‘homeless
3 children and youths’ in section 725 of the McKin-
4 ney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5 11434a).

6 “(3) FOSTER YOUTH.—The term ‘foster youth’
7 means an individual who—

8 “(A) is in foster care; or

9 “(B) is receiving services under section
10 477 or 477A of the Social Security Act.”.

11 (c) COORDINATION WITH FOSTER CARE TRANSI-
12 TIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—Section 402A(c)(6) of the
13 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a-
14 11(c)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following:
15 “The Secretary shall ensure that any recipient of funds
16 under a program authorized by this chapter that also re-
17 ceives funds under section 477A of the Social Security Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 677A) shall coordinate activities carried out
19 under this chapter with activities carried out under such
20 section 477A to ensure that current or former foster youth
21 have maximum access to and involvement in such activi-
22 ties.”.

23 (d) INFORMATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH ON DEPART-
24 MENT WEBSITE.—Section 485E(b) of the Higher Edu-

1 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092f(b)) is amended by
2 adding at the end the following:

3 “(5) INFORMATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH ON DE-
4 PARTMENT WEBSITE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 include on the Department’s website informa-
7 tion for current and former foster youth regard-
8 ing such youth’s potential eligibility for Federal
9 student aid, including the specific Federal pro-
10 grams under which such youth may be eligible
11 to receive assistance.

12 “(B) COORDINATION WITH SECRETARY OF
13 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The posting
14 of the information required by subparagraph
15 (A) on the website and via the hotline estab-
16 lished by section 477A of the Social Security
17 Act shall satisfy the requirement established by
18 this paragraph”.

19 **SEC. 8. EXPANSION OF WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT**
20 **ELIGIBILITY TO CURRENT AND FORMER FOS-**
21 **TER YOUTH.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 51 of the Internal Rev-
23 enue Code (26 U.S.C. 51) is amended in subsection
24 (d)(1)—

25 (1) by striking “, or” in subparagraph (I);

1 (2) by striking the period and inserting “, or”
2 in subparagraph (J); and

3 (3) by inserting at the end the following new
4 subparagraph:

5 “(K) an individual who—

6 “(i) receives or is eligible to receive
7 benefits under section 477 or section 477A
8 of the Social Security Act;

9 “(ii) who has aged out of foster care;
10 or

11 “(iii) has been in foster care at any
12 point after age 14.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The changes made by this
14 section shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

15 **SEC. 9. FOSTER CARE DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of sub-
17 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
18 1986 (relating to refundable credits) is amended by add-
19 ing after section 36B the following new section:

20 **“SEC. 36C. CREDIT FOR FOSTER CARE DEVELOPMENT.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual,
22 there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed
23 by this subtitle for any taxable year an amount equal to
24 50 percent of the contributions made by the taxpayer for

1 the taxable year to an individual development account for
2 a current or former foster youth.

3 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

4 “(1) CURRENT OR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.—

5 The term ‘current or former foster youth’ means any
6 individual—

7 “(A) currently in foster care;

8 “(B) who was in foster care at any point
9 after age 14; or

10 “(C) receiving services under section 477
11 or section 477A of the Social Security Act.

12 “(2) INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT.—

13 The term ‘individual development account’ has the
14 meaning given such term in section 404(5) of the
15 Assets for Independence Act (42 U.S.C. 604(5)).”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
18 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by in-
19 serting after the item relating to section 36B the following
20 new item:

Sec. 36C. Credit for foster care development.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall apply with respect to taxable years begin-
23 ning after December 31, 2019.

1 **SEC. 10. WORKFORCE GRANTS FOR CURRENT OR FORMER**
2 **FOSTER YOUTH.**

3 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and
4 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 173. WORKFORCE GRANTS FOR CURRENT OR**
7 **FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall—

9 “(1) make four-year grants on a competitive
10 basis to eligible entities to design and implement
11 programs to improve the self-sufficiency, education
12 attainment, and employment skills of eligible individ-
13 uals;

14 “(2) ensure that any such programs receiving
15 funding under this subsection use evidence-informed
16 or evidence-based models, practices, and methods
17 that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and
18 can be replicated in other appropriate settings;

19 “(3) develop best practices for serving current
20 and former foster youth in the workforce;

21 “(4) offer recommendations to Congress and
22 States about improving workforce conditions for cur-
23 rent and former foster youth; and

24 “(5) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
25 ties in applying for and administering a grant made
26 under this section.

1 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
2 amounts awarded under a grant under subsection to pro-
3 vide—

4 “(1) job training or other workforce develop-
5 ment programming for eligible individuals;

6 “(2) comprehensive services, including coun-
7 seling, transportation, and child care, to participants
8 in order to facilitate successful completion of activi-
9 ties described in paragraph (1);

10 “(3) training to businesses and employers who
11 have dedicated programs to hiring current or former
12 foster youth; and

13 “(4) training to workforce development profes-
14 sionals about best practices for counseling and serv-
15 ing current or former foster youth in training and
16 successful, long-term job placement.

17 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, an eligible
18 entity is defined as—

19 “(1) a State;

20 “(2) a local government;

21 “(3) a labor organization;

22 “(4) a nonprofit organization that trains work-
23 ers or serves current or former foster youth;

1 “(5) an institution of higher education (as de-
2 fined in section 101 or section 102(a)(1)(B) of the
3 Higher Education Act of 1965); or

4 “(6) a partnership of one or more of the above
5 entities.

6 “(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, an eli-
7 gible individual is defined as—

8 “(1) a youth older than 16 years of age who is
9 aging out of foster care; or

10 “(2) an individual older than 16 years of age
11 who was in foster care at any point after age 14 who
12 is receiving services under section 477 or section
13 477A of the Social Security Act.

14 “(e) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
15 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
16 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
17 such information as the Secretary may require.

18 “(f) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this
19 section, the Secretary may give priority to applications
20 serving youth in areas with the largest foster care popu-
21 lations.

22 “(g) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may not
23 award a grant under this section to an eligible entity un-
24 less the eligible entity agrees, with respect to the costs to
25 be incurred by the eligible entity in carrying out the activi-

1 ties described in subsection (b), to make available non-
2 Federal contributions (in cash or in kind) toward such
3 costs in an amount that is not less than 10 percent of
4 the total amount of Federal funds provided in the grant.

5 “(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, by grant,
6 contract, or interagency agreement, conduct rigorous and
7 well-designed evaluations of the programs for which a
8 grant is made under this section.

9 “(i) REPORTS.—

10 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY REPORT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
12 awarded a grant under this section shall—

13 “(i) submit interim reports to the Sec-
14 retary on the activities carried out under
15 the project, including the number of appli-
16 cations received and the number of partici-
17 pants enrolled; and

18 “(ii) on the conclusion of the project,
19 a final report on the activities, including
20 the number of participants who success-
21 fully completed the program.

22 “(B) DATA REQUIREMENT.—Each such re-
23 port shall include data on participant outcomes
24 related to earnings, employment, education, cre-

1 dential attainment, participant demographics,
2 and other data specified by the Secretary.

3 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL REPORT.—Not later than
4 December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall sub-
5 mit to the appropriate Committees of Congress a re-
6 port for the preceding fiscal year on—

7 “(A) the demographics of the participants
8 in the projects for which a grant is made under
9 this section;

10 “(B) the rate of which project participants
11 completed all activities under the projects;

12 “(C) the employment credentials acquired
13 by project participants;

14 “(D) the employment of project partici-
15 pants on completion of activities under the
16 projects, and the earnings of project partici-
17 pants at entry into employment;

18 “(E) best practices and promising prac-
19 tices used in the projects;

20 “(F) the nature of any technical assistance
21 provided to grantees under this section;

22 “(G) with respect to the period since the
23 period covered in the most recent prior report
24 submitted under this paragraph—

1 “(i) the number of applications sub-
2 mitted under this section and the number
3 of applications that were approved; and

4 “(ii) the number of eligible individuals
5 who applied, enrolled, and remained en-
6 rolled in programs operated by each eligi-
7 ble entity; and

8 “(H) the 10 individual applications not ap-
9 proved for a grant under this section that
10 showed the greatest potential to meet the goals
11 of this section, including the estimated number
12 of beneficiaries of each such application.

13 “(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
14 GRESS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘appropriate
15 Committees of Congress’ means—

16 “(A) the Committee on Education and
17 Labor of the House of Representatives;

18 “(B) the Committee on Ways and Means
19 of the House of Representatives;

20 “(C) the Committee on Appropriations of
21 the House of Representatives;

22 “(D) the Committee on Health, Education,
23 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

24 “(E) the Committee on Finance of the
25 Senate; and

1 “(F) the Committee on Appropriations of
2 the Senate.

3 “(j) APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
4 there are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for
5 each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

6 **SEC. 11. FOSTER YOUTH IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the following the
9 new section:

10 **“§ 4015. Foster care reporting**

11 “(a) The Attorney General shall inquire of each indi-
12 vidual convicted of a Federal offense, including juveniles,
13 if such individual is currently or was at any point in foster
14 care.

15 “(b) In the case of an individual convicted of a Fed-
16 eral offense who is or was in foster care, the Attorney Gen-
17 eral shall further inquire about the circumstances around
18 and duration of the time spent in foster care, except than
19 the Attorney General shall inform each such individual of
20 the right to decline to answer, and an individual may de-
21 cline to answer any such inquiry.

22 “(c) Not later than December 31 of each year, the
23 Attorney General shall issue a report to the Committee
24 on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the
25 Committee of Finance of the Senate, and the Committees

1 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and of
2 the Senate that includes—

3 “(1) the number of individuals convicted of a
4 Federal offense during the preceding year,
5 disaggregated by—

6 “(A) the classification of the offense under
7 section 3559(a);

8 “(B) whether the offense was a crime of
9 violence (as such term is defined in section 16);

10 “(C) whether the offense was a felony drug
11 offense (as such term is defined in section 102
12 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.
13 802); and

14 “(D) whether the offense was committed
15 by a juvenile;

16 “(2) the number of individuals convicted of a
17 Federal offense during the preceding year who are
18 or were in foster care, disaggregated by the types of
19 convictions described in paragraph (1);

20 “(3) the number of individuals who were serv-
21 ing a term of imprisonment for a Federal offense
22 during the preceding year, disaggregated by the
23 types of convictions described in paragraph (1);

24 “(4) the number of individuals who were serv-
25 ing a term of imprisonment for a Federal offense

1 during the preceding year who, at the time of convic-
 2 tion, were in foster care, or were previously in foster
 3 care at any point, disaggregated by the types of con-
 4 victions described in paragraph (1); and

5 “(5) the total cost of incarcerating individuals
 6 who were in foster care at the time of conviction or
 7 previously were in foster care at any point.

8 “(d) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
 9 ment of this section, the Attorney General shall issue rules
 10 to implement this section.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 12 for chapter 301 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-
 13 ed by inserting after the item related to section 4014 the
 14 following:

“4015. Foster care reporting.”.

15 **SEC. 12. HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER**
 16 **YOUTH.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1002 of
 18 the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public
 19 Law 115–271) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(a) COVERAGE CONTINUITY FOR FORMER FOSTER
 21 CARE CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Section
 23 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX) of the Social Security Act (42
 24 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(IX)) is amended—

25 “(A) in item (bb)—

1 “(i) by striking ‘are not described in
2 or enrolled under’ and inserting ‘are not
3 described in and are not enrolled under’;
4 and

5 “(ii) by adding ‘and’ at the end;

6 “(B) in item (cc), by striking ‘responsi-
7 bility of the State’ and all that follows through
8 ‘475(8)(B)(iii); and’ and inserting ‘responsi-
9 bility of a State on the date of attaining 21
10 years of age, were in such care at any age but
11 subsequently left such care to enter into a legal
12 guardianship with a kinship caregiver (without
13 regard to whether kinship guardianship pay-
14 ments are being made on behalf of the child
15 under part E of title IV), or were emancipated
16 from such care prior to attaining age 21;’; and

17 “(C) by striking item (dd).

18 “(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
19 made by this subsection shall apply with respect to
20 eligibility determinations made on or after the date
21 of enactment of the Fostering Healthy Transitions
22 into Adulthood Act of 2020.”.

23 (b) SECRETARIAL NOTIFICATION PROCESS.—Not
24 later than January 1, 2021, the Secretary of Health and
25 Human Services, in coordination with State Medicaid

1 agencies and State agencies responsible for administering
2 the State plan under part E of title IV of the Social Secu-
3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.), shall have in place a
4 process—

5 (1) to notify each foster child and each indi-
6 vidual under 26 years of age who was previously in
7 foster care in any State that such child or individual
8 may be eligible to enroll in the State plan approved
9 under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
10 seq.) of the State in which such child or individual
11 resides (or under a waiver of such plan); and

12 (2) to provide each such child and individual
13 with information on how to submit an application to
14 enroll in such State plan (or under such a waiver).

○