



April 13, 2026

Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

### **INVEST IN WHAT WORKS COALITION FY 2027 REQUESTS**

Dear Chairs Collins, Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We want to once again thank you for your continued leadership in advancing the use of evidence and data to guide Federal investments. Your sustained commitment to results-driven policymaking has helped ensure that taxpayer dollars are directed toward strategies that are backed by evidence-based solutions.

Our FY'27 language and funding requests reflect that same results-oriented focus. They prioritize approaches that are grounded in rigorous research, strengthened through continuous evaluation, and proven effectiveness in communities across the country. By emphasizing what works, Congress can promote innovation while maintaining strong stewardship of public funds.

Our requests are designed to reinforce this commitment across the Departments of Labor; Health and Human Services; Education; Housing and Urban Development; as well as Financial Services and General Government. Together, these language and funding requests would continue to build the evidence base and improve outcomes for young people, families, and communities nationwide.

Thank you again for your leadership and dedication to advancing evidence-based policymaking that delivers real results.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Learning Innovation  
America Forward  
American Educational Research Association  
Ampact  
Appetite For Change  
Baltimore's Promise  
BellXcel  
BluePrint Geneva, Inc.  
Bottom Line  
Center for Employment Opportunities  
Coleridge  
Connecticut Cradle to Career Coalition  
Cradle 2 Career MN  
Credential Engine  
Data Quality Campaign  
Diverse Charter Schools Coalition  
E3 Alliance  
EDGE Partners  
Education Partnerships Coalition of Minnesota  
Healthy Community Initiative  
InnovateEDU  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
KConnect  
Keys2Work  
Leading Educators  
Maycomb Capital  
Milwaukee Succeeds  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
New America, Center on Education & Labor  
New America, Higher Education Program  
New Moms  
NPower  
Oakland Promise  
Opportunity@Work  
Partners for Rural Impact  
Per Scholas  
Promise Partnership Utah  
Redefine Alliance  
Research Institute for Key Indicators Data Lab  
Results for America  
RiseUp Partnership

ROC the Future Alliance  
ServeMinnesota  
Stamford Cradle to Career  
States for Service Coalition  
StriveTogether  
Success for All Foundation  
Teach For America  
The BETTER Project  
The Children's Agenda  
The Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award  
United Way Coastal and Western Connecticut  
United Way Muscatine County  
United Way of Central Minnesota  
United Way of Salt Lake  
Wayne County Community Schools  
Workforce, Inc.  
Yakima Valley Partners for Education

David W. James, Ed.D., Summit Education Initiative

Dr. Melissa Hernandez, Cradle to Career Partnership

John Bridgeland, Former Director, White House Domestic Policy Council & CEO, Civic Enterprises

Lynn R. Cominsky, Sonoma State University

Richard Hendra, Ph.D., MDRC

Robert J. Shea, GovNavigators

Russell W. Booker, Spartanburg Academic Movement

Stuart Buck, Executive Director, Good Science Project

**FY 2027 SUMMARY OF INVEST IN WHAT WORKS COALITION REQUESTS**  
**INVESTING IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND**  
**RELATED AGENCIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

- \$12,000,000– Workforce Data Quality Initiative: provides funds to state/local governments for employment/educational outcomes.
- \$50,000,000– Advanced Workforce Development Innovation Demonstration: provides demonstration funding to accelerate the development, rigorous evaluation, and scaling of evidence-based workforce strategies.
- \$476,000,000– Reemployment Services/Eligibility Assessments: requires state plans for evidence-based interventions.
- Evidence-Based Grant Making: directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs.
- Evaluations for Continuous Grant Improvement - directs the Secretary to ensure that evaluation findings and data are used to inform decision-making and support continuous grant improvement.
- Evaluation Set-Aside: directs that 1% of discretionary funds be set-aside for program evaluations, including continuous testing and assessing to find better practices.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

- \$194,000,000– Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants: supports grants for disadvantaged/low-income children.
- \$284,000,000– Education Innovation and Research: supports field-initiated efforts for evidence-based projects.
- \$91,000,000– Promise Neighborhoods: supports youth education in distressed communities/evidence interventions
- \$443,000,000– Full-Service Community Schools: supports evidence-based models to children and family’s needs.
- \$900,000,000 – Institute of Education Sciences: supports research and evaluation to meet educator, parents/guardians, and policymaker needs.
- \$60,000,000– Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems: supports state longitudinal data systems.
- \$388,000,000– Gaining Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduates: supports students pursuing postsecondary education.
- \$55,000,000– Postsecondary Student Success Grants: helps students complete higher education.
- Evidence-based Grant Making: directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs.
- Evaluations for Continuous Grant Improvement - directs the Secretary to ensure that evaluation findings and data are used to inform decision-making and support continuous grant improvement.

**RELATED AGENCY – AMERICA FIRST CORPORATION**

- \$584,948,700 – AmeriCorps State/National Grants/Eval: supports evidence-informed solutions for CBOs.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

- \$450,000,000– Choice Neighborhoods Initiative: supports evidence-based approaches to community/economic needs.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- Guidance on Evidence of Effectiveness -Requires all Federal departments/agencies to include these provisions in NOFOs, RFPs, and grant announcements.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND  
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION**

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. – The Committee has included \$12,000,000 for the Workforce Data Quality Initiative to support competitive grants to develop and enhance longitudinal data systems that integrate education and workforce data. This initiative will help build State and local capacity and coordinate with organizations to track employment and educational outcomes of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) program participants, including those with disabilities, and provide information about job success rates and training programs.

Advanced Workforce Development Innovation Demonstration. — The Committee provides \$50,000,000 for an Advanced Workforce Development Innovation Demonstration Project and directs the Secretary to use these funds to accelerate the development, rigorous evaluation, and scaling of evidence-based workforce strategies, programs, and tools that improve workers’ long-term economic outcomes. The Secretary shall structure the demonstration using three funding tiers —early-stage development, mid-tier validation, and expansion of proven models—to ensure successful strategies advance from demonstration to widespread implementation. In carrying out this initiative, the Secretary shall prioritize projects that incorporate strong evaluation designs that demonstrate sustained earnings gains, employment retention, or measurable productivity improvements for employers. The Secretary shall model the structure of the demonstration on the tiered evidence framework authorized under Section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 7261) and shall ensure awards are made through a transparent, competitive process. The Secretary shall ensure that a broad array of entities are eligible to participate, including State and local workforce development boards, non-governmental organizations, tribal organizations, institutions of higher education.

The Fund shall also support the development and implementation of complementary infrastructure to accelerate research and development in the workforce field to expedite and evaluate projects under the Fund and otherwise. This infrastructure shall include technical assistance; privacy and cybersecurity assistance; the implementation of linked, open, and interoperable data, and and the development of a secure enclave or platform that leverages privacy-protecting technologies to connect data on workforce development participation and outcomes, including data on earnings and employment.

**STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS**

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA). – The Committee recommends \$476,000,000 for the RESEA program, \$117,000,000 in base funding and an additional \$350,000,000 made available pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115– 123). The Committee continues to support the RESEA program and urges the Department to focus its efforts on requiring States to submit a plan with a description of evidence-based interventions and policies to help the unemployed find work and reduce the rate of improper payments in the unemployment insurance system.

**DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistant and support activities for applicants. Noncompetitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities. Noncompetitive formula grant funds

have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Evaluations for Continuous Grant Improvement. – It has been brought to the Committee’s attention that grant evaluations are not consistently integrated into program management. The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evaluation findings and ongoing performance data are systematically used to inform decision-making and support continuous grant improvement.

### **GENERAL PROVISION**

Evaluation Set-Aside. – The bill continues to use a set-aside funding mechanism to support the evaluation of employment and training programs. Instead of directly providing funds for evaluation, the Committee recommendation supports evaluation activities and has increased the set aside from 0.75 percent to 1.0 percent for all training and employment programs. These funds ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluation and applied research activities in consultation with the Department’s chief evaluation officer, who oversees the evaluation program. Results will inform policy, advance the Department’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

#### **EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED**

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants: The Committee provides \$194,000,000 for the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants program. This program provides competitive grants to SEAs that then subgrant at least 95 percent of such funds to eligible entities to support efforts to improve the literacy skills of children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need schools and early education programs in a State for each of several age bands through implementation of evidence-based practices and interventions.

#### **INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT**

Education Innovation and Research. - The Committee provides \$284,000,000 for the Education Innovation and Research [EIR] program. This program supports the creation, development, implementation, replication, and scaling up of evidence-based, field-initiated State and local innovations designed to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students. EIR incorporates a tiered evidence framework that provides early-phase, mid-phase, and expansion and replication grants. This supports interventions throughout the pipeline, from smaller grants for early-stage projects that are willing to undergo rigorous evaluation to test their efficacy to larger grants to scale-up proven- effective interventions that have demonstrated significant impacts through at least one rigorous evaluation.

#### **SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZEN EDUCATION**

Promise Neighborhoods. – The Committee recommends \$91,000,000 for the Promise Neighborhoods competitive grant program for not-for-profit, community-based organizations to develop comprehensive neighborhood programs designed to meet the unique needs of the community, combat poverty, and improve educational outcomes for children and youth, from birth through college. The committee urges the Secretary to prioritize the use of evidence-based practices and interventions when making grant awards.

#### **SCHOOL SAFETY NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Full-Service Community Schools. –The Committee has included \$443,000,000 for Full-Service Community Schools for competitive grants to support school-based comprehensive services for students, families, and communities. The Committee directs the Department to prioritize applicants that implement evidence-based interventions supported by rigorous research and that include measurable performance outcomes and continuous improvement strategies to meet the holistic needs of children and families.

## **INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES**

Institute of Education Sciences. – The Committee includes \$900,000,000 to support research, rigorous evaluation to identify effective evidence-based practices to provide policymakers, educators, teachers, parents/guardians, and students with the necessary tools to meet the problems and challenges faced by today's schools.

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. -- The Committee directs \$60,000,000 for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) to support the development, maintenance, and expansions of Statewide longitudinal data systems. SLDS funds play an essential role in assisting states with the design, development, implementation, and use of longitudinal data systems. This funding level supports the initiation of a new SLDS grant competition focused on creating comprehensive P-20W (early learning through workforce) data systems that foster the generation and use of accurate and timely data, support analysis and informed decision-making across the education and workforce systems, increase the efficiency with which data may be analyzed, facilitate research, and simplify the processes for making data transparent through Federal and public reporting. The Committee also directs the IES and NCES (with Department input as necessary) to maintain the resources and FTEs necessary to meet all statutory deadlines, duties and requirements of the Education Sciences Reform Act related to implementing the statewide longitudinal data system grant program.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). — The Committee provides \$388,000,000 for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), an evidence-based program authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act. GEAR UP provides grants to States and partnerships of low-income middle and high schools, institutions of higher education, and community organizations to target entire grades of students and provide the academic preparation, advising, mentoring, financial aid information, and scholarships necessary to increase secondary school completion and postsecondary enrollment and success. Rigorous evaluations and longitudinal data have demonstrated the program's effectiveness in improving college awareness, academic readiness, high school graduation, and postsecondary participation among low-income and first-generation students.

The Committee continues bill language allowing the Department to maintain the GEAR UP evaluation set-aside at 1.5 percent to work with the GEAR UP community and grantees to standardize data collection, including through the use of third-party data systems, and to strengthen the evidence base and continuous improvement of the program. Additionally, the Committee continues to direct the Department to ensure that no request from a State Grant applicant to receive an exception to the GEAR UP scholarship (as described in section 404E(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act) shall be denied on the basis of 34 CFR 694.14(c)(3).

Postsecondary Student Success Grants. – The Committee has included \$55,000,000 for competitive Postsecondary Student Success Grants to scale evidence-based practices and reforms that improve postsecondary enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion rates among underserved students. Grants support States and institutions of higher education in implementing or expanding evidence-based, statewide, and institutional-level strategies that improve outcomes for students of color, from low-income families, with disabilities, requiring remediation, first-generation college students, homeless and foster youth, and student parents. The Committee directs the Department to continue administering this program as a tiered-evidence

competition and to require rigorous, independent evaluations of funded projects. The Secretary shall prioritize awards to institutions serving high percentages of Pell-eligible or other low-income students and demonstrating a strong commitment to implementing and scaling evidence-based strategies that measurably improve student outcomes.

## **DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building, with prioritization for causal evidence, is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistant and support activities for applicants. Noncompetitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities. Noncompetitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Evaluations for Continuous Grant Improvement. -It has been brought to the Committee’s attention that grant evaluations are not consistently integrated into program management. The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evaluation findings and ongoing performance data are systematically used to inform decision-making and support continuous grant improvement.

## **RELATED AGENCY - AMERICA FIRST CORPORATION**

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – The Committee recommends \$584,948,700 to support grants to community-based organizations and agencies to address local education, public safety, health, and environmental needs. Funds support evidence-informed and evidence-based community solutions to provide a pathway to economic and educational opportunities for AmeriCorps members. The Committee directs the Chief Executive Officer to emphasize the use of evidence when making grant awards. The Committee has also included \$6,250,000 to continue its research and evaluation agenda and to implement the effective policies, practices, and program initiatives to build strong evidence and improve outcomes. Funded \$557,094,000 in FY’26.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND**

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. – The Committee includes \$450,000,000 for competitive grants to address community and economic development needs through evidence-based approaches to public safety, early learning, and after-school programs to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Grants are provided to local governments, assisted housing owners, community development corporations, non- and for-profit entities as well as public housing and tribally designated housing entities.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS - (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

General Provision. - The Committee includes a new general provision that applies to all Federal departments and agencies funded through the appropriations process. The provision requires that all Notice of Funding Opportunities, Requests for Proposals, and grant announcements, where applicable, shall include guidance making evidence of program effectiveness and responsiveness to community needs priorities for selection criteria for all competitive grant awards. Also included is a language which further requires each grant to be subject to rigorous evaluation, including the collection and reporting of findings and performance data, to inform continuous program improvement.

Bill Language: SEC. \_\_\_ All Federal departments and agencies, funded through this Act or any other appropriations Act, shall (a) require that all Notice of Funding Awards, Requests for Proposals, and grant announcements, where applicable, shall include guidance making evidence of program effectiveness and responsiveness to community needs priorities for selection criteria for all competitive grant awards: Provided further, that each grant be subject to rigorous evaluation, including the collection and reporting of findings and performance data, to inform continuous program improvement.