

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to increase the number of public-private partnerships that coordinate with programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service to effectively address food security issues in State and local communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to increase the number of public-private partnerships that coordinate with programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service to effectively address food security issues in State and local communities.

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 “Partnerships to Pre-
5 vent Poverty Act of 2018” or the “P3 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) in 2016, an estimated 41,200,000 people in
2 the United States, including 12,900,000 children,
3 lived in food-insecure households where food was not
4 always provided due to a lack of resources;

5 (2) food insecurity is prevalent in the 9,100,000
6 households that have an income of 185 percent or
7 greater below the poverty line;

8 (3) the Food and Nutrition Service administers
9 15 nutrition programs to end hunger and obesity in
10 the United States;

11 (4) public-private partnerships—

12 (A) produce cost savings;

13 (B) increase State and local ownership of
14 program implementation;

15 (C) improve the coordination of programs
16 to promote economic self-sufficiency;

17 (D) develop solutions that are
18 contextualized to the needs of a community;

19 and

20 (E) enhance trust among the participating
21 entities;

22 (5) community-based organizations can connect
23 individuals in need with existing public benefit pro-
24 grams that can offer—

25 (A) food assistance; and

1 (B) education and training;

2 (6) the coordination of operations between a
3 public agency and a community-based organization
4 can be challenging; and

5 (7) public-private partnerships can help over-
6 come that challenge by—

7 (A) improving the effectiveness and impact
8 of public benefit programs;

9 (B) encouraging community involvement;
10 and

11 (C) strengthening the capacity of commu-
12 nities to address food insecurity and poverty.

13 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

14 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
15 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 30. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term ‘business
19 entity’ means a corporation, association, partnership,
20 limited liability company, limited liability partner-
21 ship, or other legal entity.

22 “(2) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
23 term ‘community-based organization’ means a non-
24 governmental organization that, as determined by
25 the Secretary—

1 “(A) represents a community or a substan-
2 tial part of a community; and

3 “(B) is dedicated to combatting hunger in
4 that community.

5 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
6 tity’ means—

7 “(A) a State;

8 “(B) a unit of local government;

9 “(C) a nonprofit organization;

10 “(D) a community-based organization;

11 “(E) an institution of higher education;

12 and

13 “(F) a school district.

14 “(4) FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The
15 term ‘Federal nutrition program’ means a nutrition
16 program administered by the Secretary.

17 “(5) LEAD ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘lead or-
18 ganization’ means the lead organization designated
19 by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1).

20 “(6) MEMBER.—The term ‘member’ means a
21 business entity, community-based organization, non-
22 profit organization, or public agency that—

23 “(A) is a member of a public-private part-
24 nership that is participating in the pilot pro-
25 gram; and

1 “(B) is not the recipient of a grant under
2 subsection (e)(1).

3 “(7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
4 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization de-
5 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
7 501(a) of that Code.

8 “(8) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
9 gram’ means the pilot program established under
10 subsection (b).

11 “(9) PROJECT.—The term ‘project’ means a
12 project carried out by an eligible entity under sub-
13 section (e)(1).

14 “(10) PUBLIC AGENCY.—The term ‘public
15 agency’ means a department, agency, instrumen-
16 tality, or other unit of Federal, State, or local gov-
17 ernment.

18 “(11) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.—The
19 term ‘public-private partnership’ means a collabora-
20 tion between a public agency and an eligible entity—

21 “(A) to—

22 “(i) connect individuals in need with
23 existing public benefits, such as food as-
24 sistance; and

1 “(ii) strengthen systems that admin-
2 ister public benefits;

3 “(B) that includes 1 or more members in
4 addition to the public agency and eligible entity;
5 and

6 “(C) as determined by the Secretary.

7 “(12) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means the
8 geographic region—

9 “(A) for which an eligible entity applies to
10 receive a grant under the pilot program; and

11 “(B) that comprises a county, munici-
12 pality, town, township, village, city, or State.

13 “(13) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
14 means the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
15 trator of the Food and Nutrition Service.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The
17 Secretary shall establish a pilot program to increase the
18 number of public-private partnerships that coordinate with
19 Federal nutrition programs to increase food security.

20 “(c) DESIGNATION OF LEAD ORGANIZATION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall des-
22 ignate a lead organization to facilitate the pilot pro-
23 gram, which shall operate in accordance with this
24 section.

1 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to be des-
2 ignated as a lead organization under paragraph (1),
3 an entity shall demonstrate to the Secretary—

4 “(A) research of and programmatic experi-
5 ence in Federal nutrition programs;

6 “(B) experience in building partnerships
7 between public and private entities;

8 “(C) organizational experience in engaging
9 with communities at a grassroots level through
10 local offices and direct services to assess com-
11 munity hunger;

12 “(D) an ability to provide capacity-building
13 technical assistance to community feeding
14 groups and antihunger groups by connecting
15 community stakeholders with public agencies;
16 and

17 “(E) an ability to combine empirical evi-
18 dence with research to develop and inform pol-
19 icy recommendations.

20 “(3) DUTIES.—The lead organization shall—

21 “(A) compile research and data to evaluate
22 the pilot program; and

23 “(B) provide technical assistance and pol-
24 icy and management recommendations to—

1 “(i) an eligible entity that receives a
2 grant under subsection (e)(1); and

3 “(ii) a public-private partnership that
4 is participating in a project.

5 “(d) DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNER-
6 SHIP MODEL.—After the designation of the lead organiza-
7 tion, the Secretary, in consultation with the lead organiza-
8 tion, shall develop a model for organizing and imple-
9 menting a public-private partnership that—

10 “(1) is based on—

11 “(A) existing research; and

12 “(B) demonstrated impact and metrics;

13 and

14 “(2) describes a public-private partnership
15 that—

16 “(A) uses data, research, and best prac-
17 tices to develop and implement a strategic plan
18 for addressing food insecurity in a particular
19 geographic area; and

20 “(B) works with an eligible entity to facili-
21 tate the public-private partnership.

22 “(e) GRANTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
24 grants under the pilot program to eligible entities in
25 accordance with this subsection to carry out projects

1 to increase the number of public-private partnerships
2 that coordinate with Federal nutrition programs to
3 increase food security.

4 “(2) TERM OF GRANTS.—A grant under para-
5 graph (1) shall be available for expenditure for a pe-
6 riod of 42 months.

7 “(3) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
9 ceive a grant under paragraph (1), an eligible
10 entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
11 tion at such time, in such manner, and con-
12 taining such information as the Secretary may
13 require, including the information described in
14 subparagraph (B).

15 “(B) APPLICATION.—An application under
16 subparagraph (A) shall include—

17 “(i) a description of—

18 “(I) the physical presence of the
19 eligible entity in the region;

20 “(II) food insecurity in the re-
21 gion, including an analysis of relevant
22 data and the implementation of Fed-
23 eral nutrition programs in the region;

1 “(III) the experience of the eligi-
2 ble entity in addressing food insecu-
3 rity in the region;

4 “(IV) the public-private partner-
5 ship that would participate in the
6 project; and

7 “(V) the importance of the rep-
8 resentation of each member in the
9 public-private partnership that would
10 participate in the project; and

11 “(ii) the project implementation plan,
12 which shall include—

13 “(I) a description of the project;

14 “(II) a description of the in-
15 tended outcome of the project;

16 “(III) a description of the dem-
17 onstrated ability of the eligible entity
18 to implement the project;

19 “(IV) a description of the tech-
20 nical assistance that would be re-
21 quested from the Secretary and lead
22 organization to support the pro-
23 grammatic needs of the public-private
24 partnership that would participate in
25 the project;

1 “(V) a budget for the expenses
2 necessary to implement the project;
3 and

4 “(VI) a plan to assess the in-
5 tended outcome of the project, includ-
6 ing—

7 “(aa) any demonstrated
8 positive impact of the project;
9 and

10 “(bb) the metrics by which
11 the intended outcome of the
12 project will be evaluated.

13 “(4) CRITERIA.—After the development of a
14 public-private partnership model under subsection
15 (d), the Secretary shall establish criteria for the allo-
16 cation of grants under paragraph (1).

17 “(5) TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND DECI-
18 SION.—

19 “(A) SUBMISSION.—An eligible entity may
20 submit an application for a grant under para-
21 graph (3) during the 90-day period beginning
22 on the date on which the criteria are established
23 under paragraph (4).

24 “(B) DECISION.—After receiving an appli-
25 cation under subparagraph (A), the Secretary,

1 in consultation with the lead organization,
2 shall—

3 “(i) approve the application and
4 award the grant; or

5 “(ii) notify the applicant of the deci-
6 sion of the Secretary to deny the applica-
7 tion.

8 “(6) IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANT.—Not later
9 than 180 days after the date on which an eligible en-
10 tity is awarded a grant under paragraph (1), the
11 Secretary, in consultation with the lead organization,
12 shall—

13 “(A) evaluate the project implementation
14 plan submitted under paragraph (3)(B)(ii);

15 “(B) provide technical assistance and feed-
16 back to the eligible entity;

17 “(C) not later than 180 days after receiv-
18 ing technical assistance and feedback under
19 subparagraph (B), require the eligible entity to
20 submit a revised plan that incorporates the
21 technical assistance and feedback into the
22 project implementation plan submitted under
23 paragraph (3)(B)(ii); and

24 “(D) based on the revised plan described
25 in subparagraph (C), select a date on which the

1 eligible entity shall begin to implement the
2 project.

3 “(7) USES OF GRANTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that
5 receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall use
6 the grant funds—

7 “(i) to implement a public-private
8 partnership that is committed to strength-
9 ening local participation in and access to a
10 Federal nutrition program in the region;

11 “(ii) to collect and analyze data on
12 community hunger to develop community
13 assessments in the region;

14 “(iii) to refine and execute the revised
15 plan described in paragraph (6)(C) to in-
16 clude a plan for—

17 “(I) outreach;

18 “(II) marketing; or

19 “(III) hosting a public event;

20 “(iv) to carry out an assessment of
21 the outcomes of the project, which shall
22 be—

23 “(I) presented to the community
24 in the region; and

1 “(II) submitted to the Secretary;

2 and

3 “(v) for other uses, as determined by
4 the Secretary.

5 “(8) NUMBER OF GRANTEES.—The Secretary
6 shall provide grants under paragraph (1) to not
7 more than 25 eligible entities.

8 “(9) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary shall
9 establish a process by which a project shall be termi-
10 nated if the eligible entity carrying out the project
11 is noncompliant with the criteria established under
12 paragraph (4).

13 “(10) NO EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER
14 FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—Any benefit received by an
15 individual or a household under a project shall not
16 be considered in determining eligibility for any other
17 Federal antihunger or antipoverty program.

18 “(f) ALLOCATION.—

19 “(1) LEAD ORGANIZATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
21 allocate funds under the pilot program to the
22 lead organization for—

23 “(i) in the case of technical assistance
24 and policy recommendations under the
25 pilot program—

1 “(I) technical assistance per-
2 sonnel based in the lead organization
3 that shall provide training and con-
4 sultation to public-private partner-
5 ships that participate in the pilot pro-
6 gram;

7 “(II) testing and identification of
8 best practices for working in a com-
9 munity;

10 “(III) policy analysis and the de-
11 velopment of research-based policy
12 recommendations; and

13 “(IV) project management; and

14 “(ii) in the case of research and eval-
15 uation under the pilot program—

16 “(I) data collection and manage-
17 ment by the lead organization; and

18 “(II) evaluation of the pilot pro-
19 gram.

20 “(B) AMOUNT.—Of the amounts made
21 available under subsection (i), the Secretary
22 shall allocate \$4,250,000 for each fiscal year to
23 the lead organization to carry out subparagraph
24 (A).

1 “(2) GRANTS.—Of the amounts made available
2 under subsection (i), the Secretary shall allocate
3 \$33,750,000 for grants awarded under subsection
4 (e)(1).

5 “(g) REPORT.—During the 90-day period ending on
6 the date of termination of the pilot program, the Sec-
7 retary, in consultation with the lead organization, shall
8 submit to Congress a report on the pilot program that in-
9 cludes—

10 “(1) a summary of the activities conducted
11 under the pilot program by each eligible entity and
12 the lead organization;

13 “(2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
14 pilot program; and

15 “(3) an overview of best practices regarding the
16 use of public-private partnerships to improve the ef-
17 fectiveness of public benefit programs to address
18 food insecurity.

19 “(h) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
20 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the estab-
21 lishment of the pilot program.

22 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$55,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through
25 2023.”.