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.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Partnerships to Pre-
vent Poverty Act of 2018” or the “P3 Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

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

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

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

(4) public-private partnerships—
   (A) produce cost savings;
   (B) increase State and local ownership of program implementation;
   (C) improve the coordination of programs to promote economic self-sufficiency;
   (D) develop solutions that are contextualized to the needs of a community; and
   (E) enhance trust among the participating entities;

(5) community-based organizations can connect individuals in need with existing public benefit programs that can offer—
   (A) food assistance; and
(B) education and training;

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

(7) public-private partnerships can help overcome that challenge by—

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

(B) encouraging community involvement;

and

(C) strengthening the capacity of communities to address food insecurity and poverty.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

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

“SEC. 30. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term ‘business entity’ means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity.

“(2) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘community-based organization’ means a non-governmental organization that, as determined by the Secretary—
“(A) represents a community or a substantial part of a community; and

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

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a State;

“(B) a unit of local government;

“(C) a nonprofit organization;

“(D) a community-based organization;

“(E) an institution of higher education;

and

“(F) a school district.

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

“(5) LEAD ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘lead organization’ means the lead organization designated by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1).

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

“(A) is a member of a public-private partnership that is participating in the pilot program; and
“(B) is not the recipient of a grant under subsection (e)(1).

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

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

“(9) PROJECT.—The term ‘project’ means a project carried out by an eligible entity under subsection (e)(1).

“(10) PUBLIC AGENCY.—The term ‘public agency’ means a department, agency, instrumentality, or other unit of Federal, State, or local government.

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

“(A) to—

“(i) connect individuals in need with existing public benefits, such as food assistance; and
“(ii) strengthen systems that administer public benefits;

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

“(C) as determined by the Secretary.

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

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

“(B) that comprises a county, municipality, town, township, village, city, or State.

“(13) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service.

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

“(c) DESIGNATION OF LEAD ORGANIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate a lead organization to facilitate the pilot program, which shall operate in accordance with this section.
“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to be designated as a lead organization under paragraph (1), an entity shall demonstrate to the Secretary—

“(A) research of and programmatic experience in Federal nutrition programs;

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

“(C) organizational experience in engaging with communities at a grassroots level through local offices and direct services to assess community hunger;

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

“(E) an ability to combine empirical evidence with research to develop and inform policy recommendations.

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

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

“(B) provide technical assistance and policy and management recommendations to—
“(i) an eligible entity that receives a grant under subsection (e)(1); and

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

“(d) DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL.—After the designation of the lead organization, the Secretary, in consultation with the lead organization, shall develop a model for organizing and implementing a public-private partnership that—

“(1) is based on—

“(A) existing research; and

“(B) demonstrated impact and metrics;

and

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

“(A) uses data, research, and best practices to develop and implement a strategic plan for addressing food insecurity in a particular geographic area; and

“(B) works with an eligible entity to facilitate the public-private partnership.

“(e) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants under the pilot program to eligible entities in accordance with this subsection to carry out projects
to increase the number of public-private partnerships
that coordinate with Federal nutrition programs to
increase food security.

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

“(3) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

“(i) a description of—

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

“(II) food insecurity in the re-
region, including an analysis of relevant
data and the implementation of Fed-
eral nutrition programs in the region;
“(III) the experience of the eligible entity in addressing food insecurity in the region;

“(IV) the public-private partnership that would participate in the project; and

“(V) the importance of the representation of each member in the public-private partnership that would participate in the project; and

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

“(I) a description of the project;

“(II) a description of the intended outcome of the project;

“(III) a description of the demonstrated ability of the eligible entity to implement the project;

“(IV) a description of the technical assistance that would be requested from the Secretary and lead organization to support the programmatic needs of the public-private partnership that would participate in the project;
“(V) a budget for the expenses necessary to implement the project; and

“(VI) a plan to assess the intended outcome of the project, including—

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

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

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

“(5) TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND DECISION.—

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

“(B) DECISION.—After receiving an application under subparagraph (A), the Secretary,
in consultation with the lead organization, shall—

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

“(ii) notify the applicant of the decision of the Secretary to deny the application.

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

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

“(B) provide technical assistance and feedback to the eligible entity;

“(C) not later than 180 days after receiving technical assistance and feedback under subparagraph (B), require the eligible entity to submit a revised plan that incorporates the technical assistance and feedback into the project implementation plan submitted under paragraph (3)(B)(ii); and

“(D) based on the revised plan described in subparagraph (C), select a date on which the
eligible entity shall begin to implement the project.

“(7) USES OF GRANTS.—

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

“(i) to implement a public-private partnership that is committed to strengthening local participation in and access to a Federal nutrition program in the region;

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

“(iii) to refine and execute the revised plan described in paragraph (6)(C) to include a plan for—

“(I) outreach;

“(II) marketing; or

“(III) hosting a public event;

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

“(I) presented to the community in the region; and
“(II) submitted to the Secretary;
and
“(v) for other uses, as determined by
the Secretary.
“(8) NUMBER OF GRANTEES.—The Secretary
shall provide grants under paragraph (1) to not
more than 25 eligible entities.
“(9) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary shall
establish a process by which a project shall be terminated if the eligible entity carrying out the project
is noncompliant with the criteria established under
paragraph (4).
“(10) NO EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER
FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—Any benefit received by an
individual or a household under a project shall not
be considered in determining eligibility for any other
Federal antihunger or antipoverty program.
“(f) ALLOCATION.—
“(1) LEAD ORGANIZATION.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
allocate funds under the pilot program to the
lead organization for—
“(i) in the case of technical assistance
and policy recommendations under the
pilot program—
“(I) technical assistance personnel based in the lead organization that shall provide training and consultation to public-private partnerships that participate in the pilot program;

“(II) testing and identification of best practices for working in a community;

“(III) policy analysis and the development of research-based policy recommendations; and

“(IV) project management; and

“(ii) in the case of research and evaluation under the pilot program—

“(I) data collection and management by the lead organization; and

“(II) evaluation of the pilot program.

“(B) Amount.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (i), the Secretary shall allocate $4,250,000 for each fiscal year to the lead organization to carry out subparagraph (A).
“(2) GRANTS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (i), the Secretary shall allocate $33,750,000 for grants awarded under subsection (e)(1).

“(g) REPORT.—During the 90-day period ending on the date of termination of the pilot program, the Secretary, in consultation with the lead organization, shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program that includes—

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

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

“(3) an overview of best practices regarding the use of public-private partnerships to improve the effectiveness of public benefit programs to address food insecurity.

“(h) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the establishment of the pilot program.

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