116TH CONGRESS
2D Session

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To help charitable nonprofit organizations provide services to meet the increasing demand in community needs caused by the coronavirus pandemic, preserve and create jobs in the nonprofit sector, reduce unemployment, and promote economic recovery.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Klobuchar (for herself, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Brown, Mr. Carper, Mr. Markey, Mr. Merkley, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Blumenthal, and Mr. Coons) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To help charitable nonprofit organizations provide services to meet the increasing demand in community needs caused by the coronavirus pandemic, preserve and create jobs in the nonprofit sector, reduce unemployment, and promote economic recovery.

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 “Work Opportunities
and Resources to Keep Nonprofit Organizations Well Act”
or the “WORK NOW Act”.

714 PC 2C4
SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Charitable nonprofit organizations serve on our society’s frontlines in good times and bad. Collectively, nonprofit organizations employ more than 12,000,000 Americans.

(2) As the nation confronts the coronavirus pandemic and the attendant economic crisis and recovery, communities throughout the United States will rely on nonprofit organizations more than ever to help more people in more challenging circumstances.

(3) Nonprofit shelters, food banks, domestic violence services, early childhood care and education centers, and after-school facilities are being called to feed, house, and care for the people whose lives have been disrupted by illness, job loss, and closures.

(4) Charitable nonprofit organizations are being confronted by a combination of contradictory forces: exponentially increasing demand and devastating decreases in revenues.

(5) At the same time that need is soaring, many nonprofit organizations are unable to host fundraising events, which threatens an essential source of revenue. Charitable giving has also become
more precarious as American families conserve resources in the face of the economic crisis.

(6) Without immediate and longer-term resources to keep their doors open to meet ever-increasing needs, many nonprofit organizations will cease to exist for people in local communities throughout the country.

(7) In order to meet the needs of the coronavirus pandemic and drive recovery, many nonprofit organizations must innovate and create new models of service delivery.

(8) More than 36,000,000 American workers lost their jobs and filed for unemployment benefits in the 8 weeks following March 15, 2020.

(9) Providing these newly unemployed workers the opportunity to find employment at nonprofit organizations in their local communities will benefit these workers, nonprofit organizations, and the people these organizations serve.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The term “eligible nonprofit organization” means an entity that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(2) **Indian Tribe.**—The term “Indian Tribe”
has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in
section 102 of the Housing and Community Devel-

(3) **Intermediary.**—The term “intermediary”
means a national or regional nonprofit organization
that provides administrative and supportive services
to its network of affiliates, members, or branches,
which may include pass-through funding, training,
and technical assistance.

(4) **Local Government.**—The term “local
government” has the meaning given the term “unit
of local government” in section 102 of the Housing
and Community Development Act of 1974 (42

(5) **Secretary.**—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of the Treasury.

(6) **State.**—The term “State” has the mean-
ing given the term in section 102 of the Housing
and Community Development Act of 1974 (42
SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK NOW GRANT PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish a program in accordance with this Act to award grants for the purpose of providing emergency relief to eligible nonprofit organizations, particularly those organizations whose workers are serving public needs that have increased as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the attendant economic crisis, by helping such organizations scale their services and put unemployed individuals back to work serving their communities.

SEC. 5. GRANTS TO STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) Formula.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall distribute 78 percent of the amounts appropriated under section 10 as block grants to States and local governments, based on a formula developed by the Secretary that is consistent with the formula under section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306), for distribution through grants to eligible nonprofit organizations.

(2) Indian tribes.—The Secretary shall distribute 2 percent of the amounts appropriated under section 10 as block grants to Indian Tribes based on a formula developed by the Secretary that is con-
sistent with the formula for the Indian Community
Development Block Grant Program authorized
under title I of the Housing and Community Devel-
opment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), not-
withstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act (42
U.S.C. 5306(a)(1)), for distribution through grants
to eligible nonprofit organizations.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible nonprofit organiza-
tion seeking a grant from a State, local government, or
Indian Tribe receiving funding under subsection (a) shall
submit an application to the State, local government, or
Indian Tribe at such time, in such manner, and containing
such information as the State, local government, or Indian
Tribe may reasonably require.

(c) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—In awarding
grants under this section, a State, local government, or
Indian Tribe receiving funding under subsection (a) shall
have discretion to set the size of each grant to an eligible
nonprofit organization, except each such grant shall not
exceed $3,000,000.

(d) SELECTION.—A State, local government, or In-
dian Tribe receiving funding under subsection (a), in
awarding grants to eligible nonprofit organizations,
shall—
(1) give priority to such organizations that serve public needs that have increased as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and associated economic crisis, including—

(A) organizations that provide housing and emergency shelter;

(B) organizations that provide food insecurity; and

(C) direct services organizations that provide services to individuals in order to help them stabilize their lives and find self-sufficiency through providing for basic needs, such as housing, emergency shelter, food, water, clothing, transportation, child care, and out-of-school time youth service providers;

(2) give priority to such organizations located in rural areas; and

(3) ensure that a significant proportion of such grants are awarded to eligible nonprofit organizations that are able to scale services quickly and hire new workers.

SEC. 6. GRANTS TO INTERMEDIARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall distribute 20 percent of the amounts appropriated under section 10 through grants to intermediaries.
(b) APPLICATIONS.—An intermediary seeking a grant under this section—

(1) may seek such grant on behalf of—

(A) the intermediary;

(B) the network of affiliates, members, or branches of the intermediary; or

(C) the intermediary and the network described in subparagraph (B); and

(2) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including an assurance that the intermediary has systems in place to disburse funds efficiently.

(c) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), in awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall have the discretion to determine the amount of each grant.

(2) LIMITATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed $100,000,000.

(3) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section that exceeds the maximum amount under paragraph (2), but does not exceed
$300,000,000, if the intermediary demonstrates in the application under subsection (b) that the intermediary intends to use the difference between the amount awarded through the grant and the maximum amount under paragraph (2) for hiring employees after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) SELECTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) give the same priority to intermediaries as States, local governments, and Indian Tribes are required to give to eligible nonprofit organizations under section 5(d)(1);

(2) ensure that all intermediaries that receive grants under this section are able to scale services quickly and hire new workers; and

(3) give special consideration to intermediaries with a history of dispersing funds, staffing that is sufficient to ensure compliance, and a history of working with communities most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

SEC. 7. USES OF FUNDS.

(a) EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), each eligible nonprofit organization or intermediary receiving funding under this Act (and any entity re-
ceiving funding through such intermediary) shall  
(subject to subsection (c)) use not less than 60 per-
cent of the funds of the grant for employee com-
pensation costs, including—

(A) wages and salaries, not to exceed $50,000; and

(B) benefits, including paid sick leave; and

(C) worker protections, including protective personal equipment.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The employee comp-
pensation costs described in paragraph (1) shall, with respect to an eligible nonprofit orga-
nization or intermediary receiving funding under this Act (and any entity receiving fund-
ing through such intermediary) that is not de-
scribed in subparagraph (B), shall only be for employees hired after the date of enactment of this Act, including any such employee with whom the organization, intermediary, or entity has terminated employment, or placed on fur-
lough, at any time prior to such date of enact-
ment.

(B) ORGANIZATIONS IN FINANCIAL DIS-
tress.—
(i) In general.—The employee compensation costs described in paragraph (1) may, with respect to an eligible nonprofit organization or intermediary receiving funding under this Act (and any entity receiving funding through such intermediary) that is described in clause (ii), be for employees described in subparagraph (A) or employees who were hired prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) Demonstration of financial distress.—An eligible nonprofit organization or intermediary receiving funding under this Act (or any entity receiving funding through such intermediary) is described in this clause if—

(I) the organization, intermediary, or entity asserts in the application submitted under section 5(b), or section 6(b), as applicable, that the use of such funds to pay employee costs for employees hired prior to the date of enactment of this Act is necessary due to financial limitations re-
sulting from the coronavirus pandemic and attendant economic crisis; and

(II) the State, local government, or intermediary awarding the funds agrees with the assertion under subclause (I), considering such criteria and under such procedures as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) GUIDANCE ON EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.—The Secretary may provide guidance on items that are included as employee compensation under paragraph (1).

(b) OPERATING AND PROGRAMMATIC COSTS.—Each eligible nonprofit organization or intermediary receiving funding under this Act (and any entity receiving funding through such intermediary) may use not more than 40 percent of the funding to cover operating costs (such as rent, utilities, insurance policies, and maintenance) and programmatic costs, including costs associated with online service delivery.

(c) INNOVATIVE MODELS.—Any eligible nonprofit organization or intermediary receiving a grant under this Act (and any entity receiving funding through such intermediary) may use a portion of the funds awarded through such grant for employee compensation costs under sub-
section (a) to innovate and create new service delivery models to meet the needs of the crisis resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

SEC. 8. OVERSIGHT, SUPERVISION, AND REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall supervise the distribution of funding under this Act to ensure that such funding is being used for purposes consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(b) SHARING.—Each State, local government, or Indian Tribe that receives funding under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a list of all recipients of grants under this Act that were made by the State, local government, or Indian Tribe. The Secretary shall make all such lists publicly available.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—The Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury shall conduct monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and use of funds made available under this Act in the same manner as the Inspector General conducts monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and use of funds made available under 601(f) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

SEC. 9. TIMING AND PROGRAM DURATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall disburse
funding to States, local governments, and Indian Tribes under section 5.

(b) Grants to Eligible Nonprofit Organizations.—Not later than 60 days after receiving funding from the Secretary under section 5, each State, local government, or Indian Tribe receiving such funding shall award grants to eligible nonprofit organizations that apply for such grants in accordance with such section.

e) Intermediaries.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall disburse grants to intermediaries that apply for a grant under section 6 in accordance with such section.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $50,000,000,000 to remain available through the date that is 1 year after the date on which such funds are appropriated.