

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1283

To provide grants to cities to establish teen resource and education centers to provide education, employment, recreation, social, and cultural awareness assistance to at-risk youth.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 1995

Ms. WATERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

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## A BILL

To provide grants to cities to establish teen resource and education centers to provide education, employment, recreation, social, and cultural awareness assistance to at-risk youth.

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 “Gang Prevention and  
5 Youth Recreation Act of 1995”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO CITIES TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, EM-**  
2 **PLOYMENT, RECREATION, SOCIAL, AND CUL-**  
3 **TURAL AWARENESS ASSISTANCE TO AT-RISK**  
4 **YOUTH.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in con-  
6 sultation with the Secretary of Education, shall, from  
7 amounts appropriated under section 10, provide grants to  
8 not more than 10 selected cities for the purpose of assist-  
9 ing such cities in establishing and operating teen resource  
10 and education centers in such cities to provide education,  
11 employment, recreation, social, and cultural awareness  
12 assistance to at-risk youth.

13 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION.**

14 To receive a grant under section 2, a city shall submit  
15 to the Secretary an application in such form and contain-  
16 ing such information as the Secretary may require.

17 **SEC. 4. TEEN RESOURCE AND EDUCATION CENTERS.**

18 The Secretary may not make a grant under section  
19 2 to a city unless the city agrees that it will use all  
20 amounts received from such grant to establish and oper-  
21 ate, in conjunction with local social service agencies, at  
22 least 2 teen resource and education centers in such city  
23 to provide education, employment, recreation, social, and  
24 cultural awareness assistance to at-risk youth. Teen re-  
25 source and education centers established and operated

1 using amounts from a grant under section 2 shall, at a  
2 minimum, meet the following requirements:

3 (1) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The teen re-  
4 source and education centers shall provide edu-  
5 cational assistance to at-risk youth for the purpose  
6 of—

7 (A) providing information on institutions  
8 of higher education to at-risk youth interested  
9 in attending such institutions;

10 (B) establishing a scholarship search and  
11 resource program at the centers to provide as-  
12 sistance to such youth in the preparation of fi-  
13 nancial aid applications, scholarship applica-  
14 tions, and other relevant forms and applica-  
15 tions; and

16 (C) establishing and carrying out pre-  
17 paratory courses for high school equivalency ex-  
18 aminations and college entrance examinations  
19 at the center.

20 (2) EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS TRAINING AS-  
21 SISTANCE.—The teen resource and education centers  
22 shall provide employment and skills training assist-  
23 ance to at-risk youth by hiring teen peer counselors  
24 to—

1 (A) provide training to such youth in basic  
2 job skills, including interviewing, personal ap-  
3 pearance, and communication with coworkers  
4 and superiors;

5 (B) provide job referral services to such  
6 youth; and

7 (C) establish job banks for such youth by  
8 providing listings of job openings in local busi-  
9 nesses.

10 (3) RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.—The teen  
11 resource and education centers shall provide rec-  
12 reational opportunities for at-risk youth by—

13 (A) establishing sports teams for such  
14 youth and seeking financial support or sponsor-  
15 ship of such teams from local businesses;

16 (B) establishing and carrying out coopera-  
17 tive work activities at such centers, such as a  
18 garden to give such youth a chance to work to-  
19 gether to achieve positive results from their ef-  
20 forts and to distribute the food harvested from  
21 such garden to the families of such youth and  
22 to neighborhood soup kitchens;

23 (C) establishing and carrying out creative  
24 activities, such as writing, music, media, and  
25 visual art classes to provide such youth with the

1 opportunity to channel creative energies and  
2 develop creative talents; and

3 (D) establishing and carrying out a read-  
4 ing program to introduce such youth to the  
5 importance of reading.

6 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SKILLS.—The  
7 teen resource and education centers shall provide for  
8 the development of the social skills of at-risk youth  
9 by—

10 (A) hiring adult counselors and providing  
11 support groups at such centers for the purpose  
12 of counseling such youth on social and personal  
13 issues, including issues relating to—

14 (i) problems facing young minorities;

15 (ii) teen-age pregnancy and early par-  
16 enthood, including pregnancy prevention  
17 and pregnancy management, family plan-  
18 ning, and sex education, including edu-  
19 cation relating to acquired immune defi-  
20 ciency syndrome (AIDS);

21 (iii) job preparedness and unemploy-  
22 ment; and

23 (iv) crime; and

1 (B) sponsoring trips for such youth to mu-  
2 seums, State capitals, concerts, plays, and other  
3 cultural and educational settings and events.

4 (5) CULTURAL AWARENESS.—The teen resource  
5 and education centers shall assist in raising the cul-  
6 tural awareness of at-risk youth by—

7 (A) establishing and carrying out classes  
8 on the history and culture of African-Ameri-  
9 cans, Hispanics, and other cultural groups to  
10 supplement courses taught in elementary and  
11 secondary schools and to bolster the social and  
12 personal self-esteem and pride of such youth;  
13 and

14 (B) encouraging such youth to produce  
15 plays, stories, and artwork that reflect their cul-  
16 tural heritage and pride.

17 (6) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COLLEGE GRAD-  
18 UATES WORKING AT TEEN RESOURCE AND EDU-  
19 CATION CENTERS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The teen resource and  
21 education centers shall provide financial assist-  
22 ance from amounts received from a grant under  
23 section 2 to graduates of institutions of higher  
24 education who work full-time at such centers  
25 for the purpose of assisting such graduates to

1            repay student loans obtained by such graduates  
2            to attend such schools.

3            (B) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The center  
4            may provide financial assistance under subpara-  
5            graph (A) in an amount equal to not more than  
6            25 percent of the total amount owed by a grad-  
7            uate during any year that such graduate is  
8            working at such center for the repayment of  
9            student loans of such graduate. Such assistance  
10           may be provided to a graduate for up to 4 years  
11           that such graduate is working at such center.

12 **SEC. 5. CITY REPORT.**

13           The Secretary may not make a grant under section  
14 2 to a city unless the city agrees that it will submit, for  
15 any fiscal year in which such city receives a grant under  
16 such section, a report to the Secretary describing the use  
17 of such grant, including—

18           (1) the number of at-risk youth receiving assist-  
19           ance at each teen resource and education center es-  
20           tablished in such city under section 4;

21           (2) the types of services and referrals received  
22           by such at-risk youth; and

23           (3) any other information the Secretary deter-  
24           mines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 6. SELECTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select cities  
3 to receive grants under section 2 which have a large num-  
4 ber of at-risk youth.

5 (b) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the extent prac-  
6 ticable, the Secretary shall make grants to cities under  
7 section 2 in a manner which will equitably distribute such  
8 grants among the various regions of the United States.

9 **SEC. 7. ALLOCATION.**

10 The Secretary may not make a grant under section  
11 2 in a fiscal year to any city in an amount totaling more  
12 than 10 percent of amounts appropriated under section  
13 10 for that fiscal year.

14 **SEC. 8. REPORTS.**

15 (a) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than February 1,  
16 1998, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress an in-  
17 terim report containing—

18 (1) a compilation of the information contained  
19 in the city reports received by the Secretary pursu-  
20 ant to section 5; and

21 (2) a process evaluation of the effectiveness of  
22 the grant program.

23 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than February 1,  
24 1999, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a final  
25 report containing the information described in subsection  
26 (a).

1 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the following definitions  
3 apply:

4 (1) AT-RISK YOUTH.—The term “at-risk youth”  
5 means individuals who have attained the age of 10  
6 but have not attained the age of 23 and who live in  
7 a city in which—

8 (A) drug and gang activity, or other vio-  
9 lent community activity, are prevalent;

10 (B) a large number of youth are unlikely  
11 to complete an elementary or secondary edu-  
12 cation;

13 (C) a large number of youth are runaway  
14 or homeless youth;

15 (D) a large number of individuals receive  
16 public assistance; and

17 (E) a large number of individuals are sin-  
18 gle parents.

19 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
20 term “institution of higher education” has the  
21 meaning given such term under section 1201(a) of  
22 the Higher Education Act of 1965.

23 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
3 priated \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1996  
4 and 1997 to carry out section 2.

5 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under  
6 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

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