



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 18, 2003

### **S. 196** **Digital and Wireless Network Technology Program Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation on March 13, 2003*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 196 would create a new grant program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for educational institutions that serve minority students. Eligible institutions could use the funds to improve instructional capabilities and infrastructure related to digital and wireless technologies. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$250 million for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for this program and would require grant recipients to provide matching funds under certain conditions. A new Office of Digital and Wireless Network Technology would administer the program with guidance from a special advisory council.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 196 would cost \$823 million over the 2004-2008 period. CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

S. 196 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 196 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will occur at rates similar to other NSF programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	0	250	250	250	250	250
Estimated Outlays	0	30	130	200	228	235

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

S. 196 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by authorizing \$250 million per year, for fiscal years 2004 through 2008, for institutions of higher education, including public universities, to strengthen their capacity to provide instruction in digital network technologies. Any costs incurred by public universities to create annual reports, provide requested data to NSF, or to match federal funds, would be voluntary. Any costs incurred by state and local education agencies that participate in joint ventures with the grantees also would be voluntary.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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