

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7590

To reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2022

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

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 “Economic Development
5 Promotion and Resiliency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

7 (a) PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—Title II of the
8 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42

1 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
2 207 the following:

3 **“SEC. 208. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

4 “(a) PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—On the applica-
5 tion of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make
6 grants or cooperative agreements for—

7 “(1) community asset mapping;

8 “(2) training;

9 “(3) technical assistance and organizational de-
10 velopment;

11 “(4) feasibility, environmental, and market
12 studies;

13 “(5) demonstration projects;

14 “(6) organizational capacity building;

15 “(7) organizing and facilitating convenings;

16 “(8) site preparation and infrastructure;

17 “(9) permitting, including professional services;

18 and

19 “(10) other predevelopment activities deter-
20 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

21 “(b) APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a
22 project carried out with a grant under this section that
23 provides assistance to one or more eligible entities with
24 low organizational capacity, the Secretary may waive sec-
25 tion 213.”.

1 (b) GRANT RATE FOR PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

2 Section 204(c)(3) of the Public Works and Economic De-
3 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

4 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “AND
5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE” and inserting “TECHNICAL
6 ASSISTANCE, AND PREDEVELOPMENT”; and

7 (2) by striking “section 207” and inserting
8 “sections 207 or 208”.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) DIRECT EXPENDITURE OR REDISTRIBUTION
11 BY RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the Public Works
12 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
13 3154c(a)) is amended by striking “or 207” and in-
14 serting “207, or 208”.

15 (2) POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section
16 601(a)(12) of the Public Works and Economic De-
17 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3211(a)(12)) is
18 amended by striking “section 207” and inserting
19 “sections 207 and 208”.

20 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
22 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended
23 by inserting after the item related to section 207 the fol-
24 lowing:

“Sec. 208. Predevelopment grants.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 218 of the Public Works
3 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
4 3154d) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 218. STRONG COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOP-**
6 **MENT CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
8 lish a program, to be known as the ‘Strong Communities
9 Economic Development Capacity Building Pilot Program’,
10 under which the Secretary shall provide grants, on a com-
11 petitive basis, to an eligible recipient to hire 1 or more
12 qualified economic development professionals to assist the
13 eligible recipient in implementing certain projects and pri-
14 orities.

15 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
17 grant under this section, an eligible recipient shall
18 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
19 in such manner, and containing such information as
20 the Secretary may require.

21 “(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each application under this
22 subsection shall include—

23 “(A) a demonstration of need for economic
24 development staffing, support, and technical as-
25 sistance; and

1 “(B) an explanation of the means for
2 which the eligible recipient would use the serv-
3 ices of each qualified economic development
4 professional hired using a grant under this sec-
5 tion.

6 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible recipient shall use
7 a grant provided under this section to hire 1 or more
8 qualified economic development professionals to assist the
9 eligible recipient in—

10 “(1) implementing projects and priorities, in-
11 cluding—

12 “(A) a comprehensive economic develop-
13 ment strategy;

14 “(B) a locally-derived economic develop-
15 ment strategic plan other than a comprehensive
16 economic development strategy;

17 “(C) projects carried out with grants
18 awarded under this Act;

19 “(D) a predevelopment project;

20 “(E) a public-private partnership initiative;

21 “(F) business retention and expansion ef-
22 forts;

23 “(G) entrepreneur and small business de-
24 velopment activities;

1 “(H) real estate development and reuse
2 projects;

3 “(I) financial and credit analysis resources;

4 “(J) a workforce and economic develop-
5 ment program; and

6 “(K) other projects and priorities related
7 to core economic development practices;

8 “(2) identifying and using other Federal and
9 State economic development programs;

10 “(3) leveraging private and philanthropic in-
11 vestment; and

12 “(4) carrying out economic development activi-
13 ties in accordance with professional economic devel-
14 opment best practices.

15 “(d) REQUIREMENTS.—A grant provided under this
16 section shall be—

17 “(1) in an amount equal to not more than
18 \$500,000; and

19 “(2) provided for a term of—

20 “(A) not less than 3 years; and

21 “(B) not more than 5 years.

22 “(e) LIMITATION.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)—

24 “(A) a grant recipient may use a grant
25 provided under this section to pay an amount

1 equal to 80 percent of the salary of a qualified
2 economic development professional hired using
3 the grant; and

4 “(B) the Secretary may permit such grant
5 recipient to pay an amount equal to 100 per-
6 cent of the salary of such professional if the
7 Secretary determines that the extent of distress
8 in the community receiving such grant warrants
9 the payment in such amount.

10 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant provided
11 under this section may not be used to pay more than
12 \$100,000 of the salary of a qualified economic devel-
13 opment professional hired using the grant.

14 “(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘quali-
15 fied economic development professional’ means an indi-
16 vidual—

17 “(1) with not less than 4 consecutive years of
18 economic development experience; and

19 “(2) with relevant professional training ob-
20 tained from an accrediting organization, or who is
21 committed to obtaining such training from an ac-
22 crediting organization.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
24 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
25 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is further

1 amended by striking the item relating to section 218 and
 2 inserting the following:

“218. Strong communities economic development capacity building pilot program.”.

3 **SEC. 4. COVID-ERA FUNDING AVAILABILITY.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
 5 amounts made available to carry out the Public Works and
 6 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et
 7 seq.) during the period for which the public health emer-
 8 gency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human
 9 Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service
 10 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect
 11 to COVID–19 is in effect shall be available until Sep-
 12 tember 30, 2030.

13 **SEC. 5. TRAVEL, TOURISM, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**
 14 **STABILIZATION GRANTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
 16 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
 17 seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 **“SEC. 219. TRAVEL, TOURISM, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**
 20 **STABILIZATION GRANTS.**

21 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
 22 lish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to
 23 support outdoor recreation, tourism, hospitality, or special
 24 event activities to spur economic development.

1 “(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
3 may be used to—

4 “(A) pay costs associated with obtaining
5 State, county, city, community, or regional
6 tourism marketing and promotion campaigns,
7 including through nonprofit or quasi-govern-
8 mental destination marketing organizations;

9 “(B) carry out workforce training pro-
10 grams that support the travel, tourism, hospi-
11 tality, and outdoor recreation industries to im-
12 prove the skills of, and job opportunities for,
13 employees in such industries;

14 “(C) carry out projects to improve regional
15 economies in developing travel, tourism, hospi-
16 tality, and outdoor recreation industries, includ-
17 ing projects to assist small businesses, entre-
18 preneurs, and small and rural communities;

19 “(D) pay costs associated with upgrades
20 and retrofits to existing travel, tourism, hospi-
21 tality, and outdoor recreation infrastructure,
22 such as convention centers, to increase travel
23 and tourism activity or to make such infrastruc-
24 ture more functional under social distancing
25 conditions due to a public health emergency;

1 “(E) carry out construction activities at a
2 facility or property that is related to tourism
3 and owned by the eligible recipient;

4 “(F) pay costs associated with providing
5 information to visitors about the health and
6 safety protections, guidance, or requirements of
7 Federal, State, or local governments and busi-
8 nesses to reduce the spread of a public health
9 emergency;

10 “(G) pay the increased costs of filtration
11 and sanitation, including physical modifications
12 to a convention center, large event space, or
13 community attraction associated with pre-
14 cautions to provide for safe work, travel, or
15 event environments; and

16 “(H) establish local programs to provide
17 assistance to a small business operating in the
18 travel, tourism, hospitality, outdoor recreation,
19 or special events industries—

20 “(i) for development or expansion of
21 such small business; or

22 “(ii) to recover from the impacts of a
23 public health emergency.

24 “(2) PROHIBITION.—A grant provided under
25 this section may not be used—

1 “(A) for recruitment efforts to bring in or
2 host a particular event, such as a sporting com-
3 petition; or

4 “(B) to pay costs associated with obtaining
5 a marketing and promotion campaign described
6 in paragraph (1)(A) if such campaign is carried
7 out for the benefit of a private company.

8 “(c) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients
10 that seek to carry out an activity that—

11 “(1) is based on long-term, regionally oriented,
12 coordinated, and collaborative economic development
13 or redevelopment strategies that foster economic
14 growth and resilience;

15 “(2) promotes workforce development;

16 “(3) involves a minority-owned, rural, or other-
17 wise underserved small business; or

18 “(4) implements strong labor standards, includ-
19 ing project labor agreements and community benefit
20 agreements that include local hire provisions to pro-
21 mote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality
22 infrastructure projects.

23 “(d) REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing grants under
25 this section, the Secretary shall select eligible recipi-

1 ents in each region served by the Economic Develop-
2 ment Administration.

3 “(2) REGIONAL AMOUNTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
5 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
6 shall allocate an amount for each region served
7 by the Economic Development Administration
8 in an amount equal to the proportion that—

9 “(i) the average employment in the
10 leisure and hospitality sectors in a region
11 for fiscal years 2015 through 2019; bears
12 to

13 “(ii) the total employment and gross
14 domestic product in such region for such
15 fiscal years.

16 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In cases in which
18 the data described in subparagraph (A) is
19 not available for a territory in a region, the
20 Secretary shall establish an allocation
21 amount for such region using any other
22 data that the Secretary determines reliably
23 measures the impact of tourism, hospi-
24 tality, and special events on the economy
25 of such region.

1 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In establishing an
2 allocation amount under clause (i) to ac-
3 count for unavailable data for a territory
4 in a region, the Secretary may establish an
5 allocation amount for such region that is
6 not more than 10 percent higher than the
7 amount that would be allocated for such
8 region pursuant to the formula described
9 in subparagraph (A).

10 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall de-
11 termine the amount of each grant provided to an eli-
12 gible recipient in a region served by the Economic
13 Development Administration based on the allocation
14 for such region under paragraph (2).

15 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
16 amounts made available pursuant to section 701(a) for
17 each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027, \$100,000,000
18 shall be made available to carry out this section.

19 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term ‘out-
21 door recreation’ means all recreational activities un-
22 dertaken for pleasure that—

23 “(A) involve some level of intentional phys-
24 ical exertion; and

1 “(B) occur in outdoor nature-based envi-
2 ronments.

3 “(2) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term
4 ‘public health emergency’ means a public health
5 emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services pursuant to section 319 of the Pub-
7 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

8 “(3) TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, OR SPECIAL
9 EVENT ACTIVITY.—The term ‘tourism, hospitality, or
10 special event activity’ means any economic activity
11 that primarily serves to encourage recreational or
12 business travel within the United States or from an-
13 other country, including—

14 “(A) tourist attractions; and

15 “(B) venues that support conventions or
16 entertainment events.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
18 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
19 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is further
20 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
21 218 (as amended by this Act) the following:

“Sec. 219. Travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation stabilization grants.”.

