

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7451

To establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. GUEST) 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 establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, 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 “Revitalizing Small and
5 Local Businesses Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVITALIZING BUSINESS DISTRICTS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
3 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
4 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 219. REVITALIZING BUSINESS DISTRICTS PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) NATIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—

8 The term ‘national nonprofit organization’ means a
9 nonprofit organization that—

10 “(A) operates, including through affiliates,
11 membership networks or partnerships with
12 third party entities, in each geographic area
13 served by a regional office of the Economic De-
14 velopment Administration; and

15 “(B) has experience and expertise in pro-
16 viding technical assistance and capacity build-
17 ing programs in support of community-based
18 organizations that focus on revitalizing business
19 districts and commercial corridors, including
20 through support of underserved small busi-
21 nesses.

22 “(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
23 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that
24 is—

1 “(A) described in paragraph (3), (4), (5),
2 or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
3 Code of 1986; and

4 “(B) exempt from taxation under section
5 501(a) of that Code.

6 “(b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a na-
7 tional program under which the Secretary shall award
8 grants on a competitive basis to national nonprofit organi-
9 zations to carry out place-based programs, in partnership
10 with locally-based nonprofit or public community and eco-
11 nomic development partners, to provide specialized tech-
12 nical assistance, capacity building, and related services
13 that support small businesses and business district revital-
14 ization in low-income, rural, and minority communities.

15 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish
16 reasonable caps on administrative costs and activities nec-
17 essary for awardees to implement activities funded under
18 the program established under subsection (b).

19 “(d) APPLICATION.—A national nonprofit organiza-
20 tion seeking a grant under this section shall submit an
21 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
23 quire. Applications shall include a strategy for distribu-
24 tions of grant funds to local business district organizations

1 or similar place-based business or economic development
2 organizations.

3 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In order to receive a grant
4 under this section, a national nonprofit organization shall
5 demonstrate a track record of supporting local business
6 district organizations or similar place-based business or
7 economic development organizations and serving disadvan-
8 taged businesses or communities that are socially and eco-
9 nomically disadvantaged, including rural communities.

10 “(f) PRIORITIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 206
11 in selecting grant recipients under this section, the Sec-
12 retary shall ensure a broad geographic distribution of
13 award activities, and give priority to an applicant—

14 “(1) that would serve communities that are so-
15 cially and economically disadvantaged, including
16 rural communities; and

17 “(2) that has the demonstrated capacity to
18 serve multiple States or multiple geographies within
19 a State.

20 “(g) REPORTING.—Awardees must submit to the
21 Secretary (at such time and in such manner as the Sec-
22 retary may prescribe, but no more frequently than annu-
23 ally) a report specifying—

1 “(1) the names and addresses of the local busi-
2 ness development or economic development organiza-
3 tions funded by the awardee;

4 “(2) the use of funds, both by the awardee and
5 by each funded entity;

6 “(3) the total number of small businesses re-
7 ceiving direct or indirect assistance through the
8 funding and the number of employees at those busi-
9 ness;

10 “(4) the total number of such small businesses
11 that qualify as disadvantaged businesses or are in
12 communities that are socially or economically dis-
13 advantaged, including rural communities, and the
14 number of employees at such businesses; and

15 “(5) such other information as the Secretary
16 may require.

17 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry
18 out this section through the headquarters office of the
19 Economic Development Administration.

20 “(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
22 and (3) and notwithstanding section 204 or any
23 other provision of law, the Federal share of the cost
24 of a project carried out with assistance under this
25 section shall be not more than 80 percent.

1 “(2) USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—A
2 grant recipient may use other Federal funds pro-
3 vided to the grant recipient to increase the Federal
4 share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent, as the
5 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

6 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase the
7 Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 per-
8 cent if the Secretary determines that the grant re-
9 cipient is unable to pay, or would experience signifi-
10 cant financial hardship if required to pay, the non-
11 Federal share.

12 “(j) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amounts made
13 available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the
14 Secretary may use not more than 2 percent for the admin-
15 istrative costs of carrying out this section.

16 “(k) FUNDING.—Out of any unobligated funds pro-
17 vided to the Economic Development Administration, the
18 Secretary may expend up to \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
19 years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until ex-
20 pended, to carry out this section.”.

21 (b) DIRECT EXPENDITURE OR REDISTRIBUTION BY
22 RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the Public Works and
23 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154c(a))
24 is amended by striking “or 207” and inserting “207, or
25 219”.

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
3 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended
4 by inserting after the item relating to section 218 the fol-
5 lowing new item:

“Sec. 219. Revitalizing business districts program.”.

