

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6923

To establish a program so that small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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 program so that small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Small
3 Business Growth Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACCELERATING BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Transportation.

8 (2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
9 “small business concern” has the meaning given the
10 term in section 11101(e)(2) of the Infrastructure In-
11 vestment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58).

12 (3) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVAN-
13 TAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “socially and eco-
14 nomically disadvantaged individuals” has the mean-
15 ing given the term in section 11101(e)(2) of the In-
16 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law
17 117–58).

18 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
19 a competitive grant program to provide financial assist-
20 ance to eligible entities to establish and carry out innova-
21 tive programs so that small business concerns owned and
22 controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged indi-
23 viduals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal
24 basis, for contracts and subcontracts in projects carried
25 out with financial assistance from the Secretary.

1 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
2 ceive financial assistance under this section is—

3 (1) a State or territory;

4 (2) a political subdivision of a State or local
5 government;

6 (3) a Tribal government;

7 (4) a special purpose district or public authority
8 with a transit function;

9 (5) a port authority;

10 (6) a metropolitan planning organization; or

11 (7) a group of entities described in paragraphs
12 (1) through (6).

13 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in
14 the program under this section, an eligible entity shall
15 submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
16 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
17 retary may require.

18 (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out activities with
19 a grant under this section, an eligible entity may partner
20 with—

21 (1) 1 or more nonprofit organizations; and

22 (2) 1 or more institutions of higher education.

23 (f) REQUIRED REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
25 an eligible entity is awarded a grant under this sec-

1 tion, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
2 a report that includes—

3 (A) a description of the activities carried
4 out with the grant; and

5 (B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
6 those activities in meeting the objectives de-
7 scribed in subsection (b).

8 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each report sub-
9 mitted under paragraph (1) shall be made available
10 on a public internet website managed by the Sec-
11 retary.

12 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
14 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
15 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate a report that evaluates the program under this sec-
18 tion, including—

19 (1) a description of the number of grants
20 awarded;

21 (2) the amount of each grant;

22 (3) the activities carried out with grants under
23 this section; and

24 (4) the effectiveness of those activities in meet-
25 ing the objectives described in subsection (b).

1 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

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