

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6760

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Manufacturing Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. MELJER, and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Manufacturing Communities Support Program, 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 “Made in America Man-
5 ufacturing Communities Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (1) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUM.—The term “eligi-
9 ble consortium” means a consortium that meets the

1 eligibility criteria established by the Secretary under
2 subsection (c)(2)(A).

3 (2) INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING COMMU-
4 NITIES PARTNERSHIP; IMCP.—The term “Investing
5 in Manufacturing Communities Partnership” or
6 “IMCP” means the initiative of the United States
7 Economic Development Association for the purpose
8 of helping communities cultivate an environment for
9 businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs
10 in regions across the United States.

11 (3) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY.—The term
12 “manufacturing community” means an eligible con-
13 sortium designated by the Secretary under sub-
14 section (c)(1).

15 (4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
16 “nonprofit organization” means an organization ex-
17 empt from taxation as defined in paragraph (3), (5),
18 or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code.

20 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
21 the Manufacturing Communities Support Program
22 authorized under subsection (b)(1).

23 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Commerce.

1 (7) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
2 “small business concern” means the term as defined
3 under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
4 U.S.C. 632).

5 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
7 appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a pro-
8 gram to be known as the “Manufacturing Commu-
9 nities Support Program”, under which the Secretary
10 may designate and support eligible consortiums as
11 manufacturing communities.

12 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program
13 shall be to strengthen the manufacturing base of the
14 United States by making long-term investments in
15 manufacturing communities by supporting—

- 16 (A) critical skills;
- 17 (B) facilities;
- 18 (C) research and development; and
- 19 (D) small business concerns.

20 (c) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMU-
21 NITIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufacturing
23 Communities Support Program, the Secretary shall
24 designate an eligible consortium as a manufacturing
25 community through a competitive process.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
3 tablish criteria for a consortium to be eligible
4 for a designation as a manufacturing commu-
5 nity under paragraph (1).

6 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing eli-
7 gibility criteria under subparagraph (A), the
8 Secretary shall consider the merits of—

9 (i) including members from academia,
10 commercial industry, nonprofit organiza-
11 tions, and State and local governmental or-
12 ganizations;

13 (ii) supporting efforts in geographical
14 regions that have capabilities in key tech-
15 nologies or manufacturing base supply
16 chains that the Secretary determines to be
17 critical to codifying the supply chains of
18 the United States; and

19 (iii) the optimal composition and size
20 of a consortium to promote effectiveness,
21 collaboration, and efficiency.

22 (3) DURATION.—Each designation under para-
23 graph (1) shall be for a 5-year period.

24 (4) RENEWAL.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
2 renew a designation made under paragraph (1)
3 for not more than 2 additional 2-year periods.

4 (B) CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 establish criteria for the renewal of a des-
7 ignation under subparagraph (A).

8 (ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In estab-
9 lishing criteria for a renewal under clause
10 (i) the Secretary shall consider, with re-
11 spect to the manufacturing community
12 seeking a renewal—

13 (I) the performance of the manu-
14 facturing community in meeting the
15 established goals of the Program;

16 (II) the progress the manufac-
17 turing community has made with re-
18 spect to project-specific metrics, par-
19 ticularly with respect to metrics de-
20 signed to help manufacturing commu-
21 nities track their own progress;

22 (III) whether any changes to the
23 composition of the manufacturing
24 community or revisions of the plan of
25 the manufacturing community would

1 improve the capabilities of the manu-
2 facturing base of the United States;
3 and

4 (IV) any other criteria the Sec-
5 retary determines appropriate.

6 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
8 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall
9 submit an application to the Secretary at such
10 time and in such manner as the Secretary may
11 require.

12 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing ap-
13 plication procedures under subparagraph (A),
14 the Secretary shall consider the inclusion of,
15 with respect to an eligible consortium—

16 (i) a description of the regional
17 boundaries of the eligible consortium and
18 the manufacturing capacity of the region;

19 (ii) an evidence-based plan for en-
20 hancing the manufacturing base in the
21 United States through the efforts of the el-
22 igible consortium;

23 (iii) the investments the eligible con-
24 sortium proposes and the strategy of the

1 eligible consortium to address gaps in the
2 manufacturing base of the United States;

3 (iv) a description of the outcome-
4 based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones
5 that will track and the evaluation methods
6 that will be used to gauge performance of
7 the eligible consortium;

8 (v) a plan to ensure that members of
9 the eligible consortium are representative
10 of the proposed location of the manufac-
11 turing community;

12 (vi) a community that had previously
13 received a designation by the IMCP; and

14 (vii) any other matters the Secretary
15 determines appropriate.

16 (C) STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—

17 The Secretary shall provide strategic planning
18 assistance for eligible consortiums that lack ex-
19 perience applying for Federal assistance to en-
20 sure such eligible consortiums may submit an
21 application that meets the procedures estab-
22 lished by the Secretary under this paragraph.

23 (d) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—As appropriate and for pur-
25 poses of the Program, the Secretary may award fi-

1 nancial or technical assistance to a member of an el-
2 igible consortium that has been designated as a
3 manufacturing community.

4 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of financial or
5 technical assistance under paragraph (1) shall use
6 the financial or technical assistance to support an
7 investment that will improve the manufacturing base
8 of the United States.

9 (3) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments
10 supported under this subsection may include activi-
11 ties relating to—

12 (A) equipment or facility upgrades;

13 (B) workforce training, retraining, or re-
14 cruitment and retention, including for women,
15 underrepresented minorities, and veterans (as
16 such term is defined in section 101 of title 38,
17 United States Code);

18 (C) business incubators;

19 (D) advanced research and commercializa-
20 tion, including with Federal laboratories and
21 depots;

22 (E) supply chain development; and

23 (F) assistance for small business concerns.

24 (e) OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
25 may make a Federal point of contact available to each eli-

1 gible consortium designated as a manufacturing commu-
2 nity to help such consortium and the members of such
3 consortium access Federal financial and technical assist-
4 ance.

5 (f) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Sec-
6 retary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary
7 from the head of an agency or a State or local govern-
8 mental organization to carry out this section.

9 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
11 to the Congress, and make publicly available, a report that
12 identifies the best practices for an eligible consortium—

13 (1) to be designated as a manufacturing com-
14 munity; and

15 (2) to renew the manufacturing community des-
16 ignation.

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