

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1109

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities that promote minority business ownership and entrepreneurship, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 2021

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities that promote minority business ownership and entrepreneurship, 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 “Minority Entrepre-
3 neurship Grant Program Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Adminis-
7 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-
8 ness Administration.

9 (2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Mi-
10 nority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board established
11 under section 4(a).

12 (3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
13 the National Director of the Minority Business De-
14 velopment Agency.

15 (4) **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-**
16 **VERSITY.**—The term “historically Black college or
17 university” means a part B institution, as that term
18 is defined in section 322 of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

20 (5) **MINORITY.**—The term “minority” includes
21 an individual who is—

22 (A) Black or African American;

23 (B) Hispanic or Latino;

24 (C) Native or Indigenous American;

25 (D) Asian;

1 (E) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Is-
2 lander;

3 (F) Native Alaskan; or

4 (G) a member of a group that the Minority
5 Business Development Agency of the Depart-
6 ment of Commerce determines under part 1400
7 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, as in
8 effect on November 23, 1984, is a socially dis-
9 advantaged group eligible to receive assistance.

10 (6) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
11 term “minority-serving institution” means any of
12 the following:

13 (A) A Hispanic-serving institution, as that
14 term is defined in section 502(a) of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

16 (B) A Tribal College or University, as that
17 term is defined in section 316(b) of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

19 (C) An Alaska Native-serving institution,
20 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1059d(b)).

23 (D) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution,
24 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1059d(b)).

3 (E) A Predominantly Black Institution, as
4 that term is defined in section 318(b) of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1059e(b)).

7 (F) A Native American-serving, nontribal
8 institution, as that term is defined in section
9 319(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)).

11 (G) An Asian-American and Native Amer-
12 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as that
13 term is defined in section 320(b) of the Higher
14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)).

15 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
16 the grant program established under section 3(a).

17 (8) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
18 “small business concern” has the meaning given the
19 term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15
20 U.S.C. 632(a)).

21 (9) STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR.—The term
22 “student entrepreneur” means a student who is—

23 (A) a minority;

1 (B) enrolled at a minority-serving institu-
2 tion or a historically Black college or university;
3 and
4 (C) seeking to establish or develop a busi-
5 ness.

6 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in
9 consultation with the Director, shall establish a grant pro-
10 gram within the Small Business Administration, the pur-
11 pose of which shall be to create or expand programs at
12 minority-serving institutions and historically Black col-
13 leges and universities that foster, promote, and increase
14 opportunities for minority business ownership.

15 (b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—A minority-serving in-
16 stitution or a historically Black college or university seek-
17 ing a grant under the Program shall submit to the Admin-
18 istrator an application that contains a description of—

19 (1) the need for the grant funds to promote mi-
20 nority entrepreneurship and business ownership
21 among student entrepreneurs enrolled at the minor-
22 ity-serving institution or the historically Black col-
23 lege or university;

24 (2) how the grant funds will be used to carry
25 out the activities described in paragraph (1);

1 (3) how the programs created or expanded with
2 the grant funds will provide support to student en-
3 trepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving institu-
4 tion or historically Black college or university who—

5 (A) seek support for an established busi-
6 ness; or

7 (B) need assistance in establishing a busi-
8 ness; and

9 (4) how the minority-serving institution or his-
10 torically Black college or university will create or ex-
11 pand programs or initiatives that—

12 (A) increase minority business ownership;
13 and

14 (B) expand business resources to student
15 entrepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving
16 institution or historically Black college or uni-
17 versity.

18 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant made to a minor-
19 ity-serving institution or a historically Black college or
20 university under the Program shall be not less than
21 \$250,000.

22 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—With a grant received
23 under the Program, a minority-serving institution or a his-
24 torically Black college or university shall support the cre-
25 ation or expansion of programs or initiatives that offer

1 business development resources that support student en-
 2 trepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving institution or
 3 historically Black college or university, such as—

4 (1) free legal, accounting, human resources, in-
 5 formation technology, marketing, training, coun-
 6 seling, networking, and technical assistance; and

7 (2) access to capital resources, such as the
 8 costs associated with forming a new business enter-
 9 prise.

10 (e) MSI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.—A minority-
 11 serving institution or historically Black college or univer-
 12 sity to which a grant is made under the Program shall,
 13 each year, submit to the Administrator a mid-year and
 14 year-end report, each of which shall contain, for the period
 15 covered by the report, the number of—

16 (1) student entrepreneurs trained, assisted, and
 17 counseled with the grant funds;

18 (2) businesses created through the expenditure
 19 of the grant funds, including, with respect to each
 20 such business—

21 (A) the name of the business;

22 (B) a description of the business; and

23 (C) the amount of grant funds expended in
 24 creating the business;

1 (3) student entrepreneurs referred to other re-
2 sources of the Small Business Administration; and

3 (4) student entrepreneurs participating in pro-
4 grams created or expanded through the expenditure
5 of the grant funds, which, to the extent possible,
6 shall be disaggregated by sex, race, and ethnicity.

7 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
8 months after the date on which the first grant is made
9 under the Program, and annually thereafter, the Adminis-
10 trator shall submit to Congress a report that contains in-
11 formation regarding the minority-serving institutions and
12 historically Black colleges or universities to which grants
13 were made under the Program for the period covered by
14 the report, which shall include—

15 (1) the name of each such minority-serving in-
16 stitution and historically Black college or university
17 and the amount of each such grant;

18 (2) the number of student entrepreneurs
19 trained, assisted, and counseled with Program grant
20 funds—

21 (A) at each minority-serving institution
22 and historically Black college or university to
23 which a grant was made under the Program;
24 and

25 (B) in total under the Program;

1 (3) the number of businesses created through
2 the expenditure of Program grant funds—

3 (A) with respect to each minority-serving
4 institution and historically Black college or uni-
5 versity to which a grant was made under the
6 Program; and

7 (B) in total under the Program;

8 (4) the number of student entrepreneurs re-
9 ferred to resources of the Small Business Adminis-
10 tration—

11 (A) at each minority-serving institution
12 and historically Black college or university to
13 which a grant was made under the Program;
14 and

15 (B) in total under the Program;

16 (5) the number of student entrepreneurs par-
17 ticipating in programs created or expanded through
18 the expenditure of Program grant funds at each mi-
19 nority-serving institution and historically Black col-
20 lege or university to which a grant was made under
21 the Program, and in total under the Program,
22 which, to the extent possible, shall be disaggregated
23 by sex, race, and ethnicity; and

24 (6) a statement regarding whether any amounts
25 made available to carry out this section remain un-

1 expended, as of the date on which the report is sub-
2 mitted.

3 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
5 \$50,000,000 to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY BOARD.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall es-
9 tablish a Minority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board to
10 develop recommendations regarding how minority-serving
11 institutions and historically Black colleges and universities
12 can better serve minority businesses and entrepreneurs.

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD.—The members of the
14 Board shall be—

15 (1) appointed by the Administrator; and

16 (2) individuals with—

17 (A) outstanding qualifications;

18 (B) knowledge regarding the needs of
19 small business concerns that are owned by mi-
20 norities; and

21 (C) experience—

22 (i) working with startups; or

23 (ii) in providing consultation to small
24 business concerns.

1 (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
2 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
3 ministrator shall submit to Congress the recommendations
4 developed by the Board under subsection (a).

5 (d) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advi-
6 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with
7 respect to the Board or the activities of the Board.

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