

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3928

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2022

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Small
5 Business Growth Act”.

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

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 (2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
6 “small business concern” has the meaning given the
7 term in section 11101(e)(2) of the Infrastructure In-
8 vestment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 101 note; Public
9 Law 117–58).

10 (3) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVAN-
11 TAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “socially and eco-
12 nomically disadvantaged individuals” has the mean-
13 ing given the term in section 11101(e)(2) of the In-
14 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C.
15 101 note; Public Law 117–58).

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

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

26 (1) a State or territory;

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

3 (3) a Tribal government;

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

6 (5) a port authority;

7 (6) a metropolitan planning organization; or

8 (7) a group of entities described in paragraphs
9 (1) through (6).

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

15 (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out activities with
16 a grant under this section, an eligible entity may partner
17 with—

18 (1) 1 or more nonprofit organizations; and

19 (2) 1 or more institutions of higher education.

20 (f) REQUIRED REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
22 an eligible entity is awarded a grant under this sec-
23 tion, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
24 a report that includes—

1 (A) a description of the activities carried
2 out with the grant; and

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

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

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

17 (1) a description of the number of grants
18 awarded;

19 (2) the amount of each grant;

20 (3) the activities carried out with grants under
21 this section; and

22 (4) the effectiveness of those activities in meet-
23 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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