

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1838

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women’s business centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2009

Ms. FALLIN (for herself, Ms. CLARKE, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women’s business centers, 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. NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF**
4 **GRANT AMOUNTS.**

5 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)
6 is amended by adding the following new subsection at the
7 end thereof:

8 “(o) NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF
9 GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall disburse

1 funds to a women’s business center not later than one
2 month after the center’s application is approved under this
3 section. At the end of each fiscal year the Administrator
4 (acting through the Office of Women’s Business owner-
5 ship) shall publish on the Administration’s website a re-
6 port setting forth the total amount of the grants made
7 under this Act to each women’s business center in the fis-
8 cal year for which the report is issued, the total amount
9 of such grants made in each prior fiscal year to each such
10 center, and the total amount of private matching funds
11 provided by each such center over the lifetime of the cen-
12 ter.”.

13 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS.**

14 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
15 656), as amended, is further amended by adding the fol-
16 lowing new subsection at the end thereof:

17 “(p) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Administrator shall
18 establish, by rule, a standardized process to communicate
19 with women’s business centers regarding program admin-
20 istration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory
21 matters, and programmatic changes. The Administrator
22 shall notify each women’s business center of the oppor-
23 tunity for notice and comment on the proposed rule.”.

1 **SEC. 3. FUNDING.**

2 (a) **FORMULA.**—Section 29(b) of the Small Business
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—

5 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may
6 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-
7 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of
8 small business concerns owned and controlled by
9 women. The projects shall provide—

10 “(A) financial assistance, including train-
11 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-
12 cure business credit and investment capital,
13 preparing and presenting financial statements,
14 and managing cash flow and other financial op-
15 erations of a business concern;

16 “(B) management assistance, including
17 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-
18 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-
19 ity and function of a small business concern;
20 and

21 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-
22 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-
23 menting domestic and international market op-
24 portunities, preparing and executing marketing
25 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating
26 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,

1 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-
2 tising techniques.

3 “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide
4 assistance under paragraph (1) in 3 tiers of assist-
5 ance as follows:

6 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-
7 year project in a situation where a project has
8 not previously been conducted. Such a project
9 shall be in a total amount of not more than
10 \$150,000 per year.

11 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a
12 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier
13 project is being completed. Such a project shall
14 be in a total amount of not more than
15 \$100,000 per year.

16 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a
17 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier
18 project is being completed. Such a project shall
19 be in a total amount of not more than
20 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants shall be
21 renewable subject to established eligibility cri-
22 teria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

23 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
24 made available for assistance under this subsection,
25 the Administrator shall allocate—

1 “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier
2 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

3 “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects
4 under paragraph (2)(B); and

5 “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects
6 under paragraph (2)(C).

7 “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER
8 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under
9 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use
10 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the
11 community and on the performance of the applicant.
12 The benchmarks shall include—

13 “(A) the total number of women served by
14 the project;

15 “(B) the proportion of low income women
16 and socio-economic distribution of clients served
17 by the project;

18 “(C) the proportion of individuals in the
19 community that are socially or economically dis-
20 advantaged (based on median income);

21 “(D) the future fund-raising and service
22 coordination plans;

23 “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

1 “(F) geographic distribution within and
2 across the 10 regions of the Small Business Ad-
3 ministration.”.

4 (b) MATCHING.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-
5 tion 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
6 656(c)(1)) are amended to read as follows:

7 “(A) For the first and second years of the
8 project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal
9 dollars.

10 “(B) Each year after the second year of
11 the project—

12 “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each
13 Federal dollar; or

14 “(ii) if the center is in a community
15 at least 50 percent of the population of
16 which is below the median income for the
17 State or United States territory in which
18 the center is located, 1 non-Federal dollar
19 for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 20 of the Small Busi-
21 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting
22 the following new subsection after subsection (e):

23 “(f) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—There is au-
24 thorized to be appropriated for purposes of grants under
25 section 29 to women’s business centers not more than

1 \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and not more than
2 \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2011.”.

3 **SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE AND PLANNING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small
5 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)) is amended by strik-
6 ing the “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), redesi-
7 gnating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D), and in-
8 serting the following new subparagraphs after subpara-
9 graph (A):

10 “(B) establish performance measures, tak-
11 ing into account the demographic differences of
12 populations served by women’s business centers,
13 which measures shall include—

14 “(i) outcome-based measures of the
15 amount of job creation or economic activity
16 generated in the local community as a re-
17 sult of efforts made and services provided
18 by each women’s business center, and

19 “(ii) service-based measures of the
20 amount of services provided to individuals
21 and small business concerns served by each
22 women’s business center;

23 “(C) require each women’s business center
24 to submit an annual plan for the next year that
25 includes the center’s funding sources and

1 amounts, strategies for increasing outreach to
2 women-owned businesses, strategies for increas-
3 ing job growth in the community, and other
4 content as determined by the Administrator;
5 and”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 29(h)(1) of
7 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)), as amend-
8 ed, is further amended by adding the following at the end
9 thereof:

10 “The Administrator’s evaluation of each women’s
11 business center as required by this subsection shall
12 be in part based on the performance measures under
13 subparagraphs (B) and (C). These measures and the
14 Administrator’s evaluations thereof shall be made
15 publicly available.”.

16 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL.**

17 The Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 is
18 amended as follows:

19 (1) In section 409(a) (15 U.S.C. 7109(a)), add
20 the following at the end thereof: “Such studies shall
21 include a study on the impact of the 2008–2009 fi-
22 nancial markets crisis on women-owned businesses,
23 and a study of the use of the Small Business Admin-
24 istration’s programs by women-owned businesses.”.

1 (2) In section 410(a) (15 U.S.C. 7110(a)),
2 strike out “2001 through 2003” and insert “2010
3 and 2011”.

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