

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9486

To establish a grant program within the Small Business Administration to provide funds for eligible accelerators or eligible incubators that provide services to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and rural small business concerns, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

Ms. STANSBURY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To establish a grant program within the Small Business Administration to provide funds for eligible accelerators or eligible incubators that provide services to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and rural small business concerns, 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 “Innovation and Em-
5 powerment for Startups Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) There is a growing emphasis to bolster
2 small business concerns owned and controlled by
3 women (as defined in section 3 of the Small Busi-
4 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) and rural small business
5 concerns (as defined in this Act).

6 (2) There are significant disparities that lead to
7 unequal outcomes for rural small business concerns
8 and small business concerns owned and controlled by
9 women.

10 (3) Small business concerns owned and con-
11 trolled by women are less likely than small business
12 concerns owned and controlled by men to obtain
13 funding, even though women and men are equally
14 likely to achieve business success.

15 (4) Rural entrepreneurs are more likely than
16 non-rural entrepreneurs to experience higher costs of
17 doing business, and rural entrepreneurs struggle
18 with more expenses related to running a business.

19 (5) Small business concerns owned and con-
20 trolled by women and rural small business concerns
21 gain entrepreneurial knowledge, network building,
22 and entrepreneurial self-efficacy during their partici-
23 pation in accelerators and incubators.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE ACCELERATORS**
2 **OR ELIGIBLE INCUBATORS THAT PROVIDE**
3 **SERVICES TO CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS**
4 **CONCERNS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
6 Small Business Administration, acting through the head of
7 the Office of Entrepreneurial Development of the Admin-
8 istration, shall establish a grant program to provide funds
9 to eligible entities that provide services to small business
10 concerns owned and controlled by women and rural small
11 business concerns.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
13 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Adminis-
14 trator an application containing the following:

15 (1) The effect the eligible entity has had on the
16 success of small business concerns owned and con-
17 trolled by women and rural small business concerns.

18 (2) The diversity and inclusivity efforts of the
19 eligible entity with respect to the staff of a small
20 business concern assisted by such eligible entity.

21 (3) The plans of the eligible entity to help en-
22 sure the sustainability of a small business concern
23 assisted by such eligible entity.

24 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under
25 this section shall use amounts of such grant for the fol-
26 lowing:

1 (1) To provide consulting, training, shared fa-
2 cilities and resources, or assistance with access to
3 capital to small business concerns owned and con-
4 trolled by women and rural small business concerns.

5 (2) To provide workshops, seminars, networking
6 events, and individual consultations to such con-
7 cerns.

8 (3) To provide educational opportunities to
9 such concerns on topics such as marketing strategy,
10 public relations, website marketing and social media,
11 business planning, financial planning and analysis,
12 and other opportunities, as determined by such re-
13 cipient.

14 (4) To advertise the services offered by such re-
15 cipient.

16 (d) AMOUNT.—An award made under this section
17 shall be for exactly \$250,000.

18 (e) REPORTS.—

19 (1) TO ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 1 year
20 after receipt of an award under this section, a grant
21 recipient shall submit to the Administrator a report
22 that includes the following:

23 (A) Use of grant amounts.

24 (B) The effect of programs or services pro-
25 vided using grant amounts on small business

1 concerns owned and controlled by women or
2 rural small business concerns.

3 (2) TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of the enactment of this section and every
5 5 years thereafter until 5 years after the date on
6 which the last grant is made under this section, the
7 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Small
8 Business of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
10 of the Senate a report that includes a summary of
11 the activities and outcomes associated with grants
12 made under this section.

13 (f) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Adminis-
14 trator shall implement procedures to monitor the effective-
15 ness of the program established under this section to de-
16 termine whether to extend the program.

17 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
19 Small Business Administration \$1,250,000,000, to remain
20 available until expended for purposes of carrying out this
21 section, of which 10 percent is authorized to be allocated
22 for grants to covered businesses.

23 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED BUSINESS.—The term “covered
25 business” means a small business concern that is as-

signed a North American Industry Classification
System code as follows:

(A) Beginning with 11 (relating to agriculture).

(B) Beginning with 7111 (relating to creative industries).

(C) Beginning with 7211 (relating to hospitality).

(D) Beginning with 7223, 7224, or 7225 (relating to food services).

(E) 541611 (relating to management).

(F) 711510 (relating to artisans and craft makers).

(G) 541211 or 541219 (relating to accounting).

(H) 624410 (relating to childcare).

(2) ELIGIBLE ACCELERATOR.—The term “eligible accelerator” means an entity that conducts business in the United States and that has a demonstrated track record of successfully—

(A) assisting entrepreneurs in starting up or expanding small business concerns owned and controlled by women and rural small business concerns;

1 (B) providing mentorship to such entre-
2 preneurs;

3 (C) facilitating access to capital for such
4 entrepreneurs; and

5 (D) fostering connections, as relevant,
6 among such entrepreneurs.

7 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means an eligible accelerator or an eligible incu-
9 bator.

10 (4) ELIGIBLE INCUBATOR.—The term “eligible
11 incubator” means an entity that offers shared re-
12 sources and services for startup businesses, which
13 may include office space, consultants, mentors, tech-
14 nical support, and access to capital.

15 (5) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The
16 term “rural small business concern” means a small
17 business concern located in a rural area (as defined
18 in section 1393(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code
19 of 1986).

20 (6) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND
21 CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term “small busi-
22 ness concern owned and controlled by women” has
23 the meaning given in section 3(n) of the Small Busi-
24 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 632(n)).

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