

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9810

To amend the Small Business Act to make improvements to the Small Business Development Center Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2026

Mrs. McIVER (for herself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to make improvements to the Small Business Development Center 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 “Small Business Devel-
5 opment Centers Improvement Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVEL-**
7 **OPMENT PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15
9 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50;
2 and

3 (2) by inserting after section 48 the following
4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 49. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVEL-**
6 **OPMENT PROGRAMS.**

7 “(a) EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
9 provision of law and except as provided in subsection
10 (c), the Administrator—

11 “(A) shall only deliver covered activities
12 through a program of the Administration that
13 was established before the date of the enact-
14 ment of this section; and

15 “(B) may not establish a program after
16 the date of the enactment of this section to pro-
17 vide covered activities without explicit authority
18 provided by an Act of Congress.

19 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall
20 notify Congress before providing any covered activi-
21 ties described in paragraph (1)(A).

22 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall in-
23 clude in the annual report required under section 10(a)
24 the following information:

1 “(1) A list of all covered activities undertaken
2 through a program of the Administration during the
3 fiscal year preceding the date of the report, includ-
4 ing—

5 “(A) a description and operating details
6 for each such program and the covered activi-
7 ties conducted under each such program;

8 “(B) operating circulars, manuals, notices
9 of awards, notices of funding opportunities, and
10 standard operating procedures for each such
11 program and the covered activities conducted
12 under each such program;

13 “(C) a description of the process used to
14 provide awards for covered activities conducted
15 under each such program;

16 “(D) the total amount of funding obligated
17 for each such program and the covered activi-
18 ties conducted under each such program for the
19 fiscal year preceding the date of the report; and

20 “(E) the names and titles of the individ-
21 uals responsible for carrying out each such pro-
22 gram.

23 “(2) A list of each recipient of an award under
24 a program of the Administration during the fiscal

1 year preceding the date of the report that includes
 2 the amount of such award.

3 “(c) EXCEPTION.—This section does not apply to
 4 covered activities to assist small business concerns owned
 5 by an Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section
 6 8(a)(13)).

7 “(d) COVERED ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this section,
 8 the term ‘covered activity’ means entrepreneurial develop-
 9 ment services, entrepreneurial education, or support for
 10 the development and maintenance of the Regional Innova-
 11 tion Clusters Program (or similar business training serv-
 12 ices).”.

13 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 49 of
 14 the Small Business Act, as added by this section, shall
 15 apply with respect to the first annual report required
 16 under section 10(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 639(a)) after
 17 October 1, 2026.

18 **SEC. 3. DATA COLLECTION BY THE SMALL BUSINESS DE-**
 19 **VELOPMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION, WOM-**
 20 **EN’S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small
 22 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “as provided in this section
 24 and” and inserting “as provided in this section,”;
 25 and

1 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
2 following: “, and (iv) governing data collection ac-
3 tivities related to applicants receiving grants under
4 this section”.

5 (b) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLEC-
6 TION.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of
8 the Small Business Administration shall establish a
9 group to be known as the “Data Collection Working
10 Group” consisting of—

11 (A) recipients of grants that are women’s
12 business centers (as described under section 29
13 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)),
14 small business development centers (as defined
15 in section 3 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), and
16 chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
17 tives (established under section 8(b)(1)(B) of
18 such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)));

19 (B) associations and organizations rep-
20 resenting such recipients;

21 (C) contractors that handle data systems
22 for women’s business centers, small business
23 development centers, and chapters of the Serv-
24 ice Corps of Retired Executives; and

1 (D) the Associate Administrators of the
2 Small Business Administration for—

3 (i) the Office of Entrepreneurial De-
4 velopment;

5 (ii) the Office of Small Business De-
6 velopment Centers; and

7 (iii) the Office of Women’s Business
8 Ownership.

9 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Data Collection
10 Working Group shall—

11 (A) determine the best methods for con-
12 ducting data collection activities for the Small
13 Business Development Center Program, wom-
14 en’s business centers, and chapters of the Serv-
15 ice Corps of Retired Executives; and

16 (B) develop recommendations to create or
17 revise existing systems dedicated to data collec-
18 tion for the Small Business Development Cen-
19 ter Program, women’s business centers, and
20 chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
21 tives.

22 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Data Col-
24 lection Working Group shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on Small Business
2 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report con-
3 taining the findings and determinations of the Data
4 Collection Working Group pursuant to paragraph
5 (2), including—

6 (A) the recommendations developed under
7 paragraph (2)(B); and

8 (B) a proposed plan for the Administrator
9 of the Small Business Administration to imple-
10 ment such recommendations.

11 **SEC. 4. MARKETING OF SERVICES.**

12 Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
13 648), as amended by section 14, is further amended by
14 adding at the end the following:

15 “(q) NO PROHIBITION OF MARKETING OF SERV-
16 ICES.—An applicant receiving a grant under this section
17 may use up to 10 percent of grant amounts to market
18 and advertise the services of such applicant to individuals
19 and small business concerns.”.

20 **SEC. 5. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

21 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
22 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(D) FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND
25 COSPONSORSHIPS.—A small business development

1 center that participates in a private partnership or
 2 cosponsorship, in which the Administrator or des-
 3 ignee of the Administrator also participates, may
 4 collect fees or other income related to the operation
 5 of such private partnership or cosponsorship.”.

6 **SEC. 6. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ACCRED-**
 7 **ITATION.**

8 Subclause (I) of section 21(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Small
 9 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)(I)) is amended
 10 to read as follows:

11 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the
 12 amounts made available in any fiscal
 13 year to carry out this section, not
 14 more than \$600,000 may be used by
 15 the Administration to pay expenses
 16 described in subparagraphs (B)
 17 through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

18 **SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.**

19 Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15
 20 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

- 21 (1) by striking “or telephone number” and in-
 22 serting “, telephone number, or email address”; and
 23 (2) by inserting “, or the nature or content of
 24 such assistance, to any State, local, or Federal agen-

1 cy, or to any third party” after “receiving assistance
2 under this section”.

3 **SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS TO SMALL**
4 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Small Business
6 Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended by this Act, is further
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

9 (A) by striking “any women’s business
10 center operating pursuant to section 29,”;

11 (B) by striking “or a women’s business
12 center operating pursuant to section 29”; and

13 (C) by striking “and women’s business
14 centers operating pursuant to section 29”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(r) LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS.—Except
17 for an institution of higher education (as defined in section
18 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1001)) and notwithstanding any other provision of law,
20 the Administrator may not award a grant or contract to,
21 or enter into a cooperative agreement with, an entity
22 under this section unless that entity—

23 “(1) received a grant or contract from, or en-
24 tered into a cooperative agreement with, the Admin-

1 istrator under this section before the date of the en-
2 actment of this subsection; and

3 “(2) seeks to renew such a grant, contract, or
4 cooperative agreement after such date.”.

5 (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The amendments
6 made by this section may not be construed as prohibiting
7 a women’s business center (as described under section 29
8 of the Small Business Act) from receiving a subgrant from
9 an entity receiving a grant under section 21 of the Small
10 Business Act.

11 **SEC. 9. MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**

12 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
13 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)), as amended by section 5, is further
14 amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
16 by striking “upon, with full participation of both
17 parties,” and inserting “upon with the full participa-
18 tion of all parties (including the association author-
19 ized in subparagraph (A)), and carried out”;

20 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and de-
21 velop” and inserting “and negotiate the development
22 of”; and

23 (3) in subparagraph (C)—

24 (A) by striking “Whereas”;

1 (B) by inserting “Program” after “Center”;
 2

3 (C) by striking “National” and inserting
 4 “national”; and

5 (D) by moving such subparagraph 2 ems
 6 to the left.

7 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOR-**
 8 **MULA GRANTS RECEIVED BY STATES.**

9 Section 21(a)(4)(C) of the Small Business Act (15
 10 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

11 (1) in clause (vii), by striking “this subpara-

12 graph” and all that follows through the period at the

13 end and inserting “this subparagraph \$175,000,000

14 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.”; and

15 (2) in clause (viii)—

16 (A) by striking “shall reserve not less than

17 \$1,000,000” and inserting “shall reserve not

18 more than \$2,000,000”; and

19 (B) by striking “shall not exceed

20 \$100,000” and inserting “shall not exceed

21 \$200,000”.

22 **SEC. 11. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO MATCHING FUNDS.**

23 Section 21(a)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act (15
 24 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the
 25 following new sentence: “The applicant shall provide to the

1 Administrator good faith certifications and representa-
 2 tions of the availability of matching funds before the close-
 3 out date of such grant, and the applicant may expend Fed-
 4 eral funds before receipt of such matching funds.”.

5 **SEC. 12. CONTRACT PREREQUISITES.**

6 Section 21(a)(5)(B) of the Small Business Act (15
 7 U.S.C. 648(a)(5)(B)) is amended by adding at the end
 8 the following: “If the Associate Administrator fails to
 9 issue a determination of an approval for a contract within
 10 10 days after receipt of a request for such determination,
 11 such contract shall be deemed to be approved.”.

12 **SEC. 13. DUTIES OF THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR**
 13 **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

14 Section 21(h)(2) of the Small Business Act (15
 15 U.S.C. 648(h)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the
 16 following new subparagraph:

17 “(C) **MARKETING.**—The Associate Admin-
 18 istrator for Small Business Development Cen-
 19 ters shall market and advertise the Small Busi-
 20 ness Development Center Program and partici-
 21 pants in such Program as a resource available
 22 to any Federal program providing assistance to
 23 small business concerns.”.

1 **SEC. 14. ANNUAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT ACTIVITIES.**

3 Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648)
4 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(p) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AN-
7 NUAL REPORT.—Beginning on the first December 1 after
8 the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Adminis-
9 trator shall annually submit to the Committee on Small
10 Business of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the
12 Senate a report on the entrepreneurial development activi-
13 ties undertaken during the fiscal year preceding the date
14 of the report through the Small Business Development
15 Center Program (in this subsection referred to as the
16 ‘Program’), including—

17 “(1) the total number of hours of counseling
18 and training services provided through the Program;

19 “(2) to the extent practicable, the demographics
20 of participants in the Program, which shall include
21 the gender, race, and age of each such participant;

22 “(3) the number of participants in the Program
23 who are veterans;

24 “(4) the number of new businesses started by
25 participants in the Program;

1 “(5) to the extent practicable, the number of
2 jobs created or retained with assistance from the
3 Program;

4 “(6) to the extent practicable, the amount of
5 capital secured by participants in the Program, in-
6 cluding through loans and equity investment;

7 “(7) the number of participants in the Program
8 receiving financial assistance, including the type and
9 dollar amount, under a loan program of the Admin-
10 istration;

11 “(8) an estimate of gross receipts, including (to
12 the extent practicable) a description of any change
13 in revenue, of small business concerns assisted
14 through the Program;

15 “(9) the number of referrals of individuals
16 counseled or trained through the Program to other
17 resources and programs of the Administration;

18 “(10) the results of satisfaction surveys of par-
19 ticipants in the Program, including a summary of
20 any comments received from such participants; and

21 “(11) any recommendations by the Adminis-
22 trator or the National Small Business Development
23 Center Advisory Board (established under subsection

- 1 (i)) to improve the delivery of services by the Pro-
- 2 gram.”.

○