

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3495

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to modify eligibility requirements under an emergency preparedness demonstration program to assist disadvantaged communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to modify eligibility requirements under an emergency preparedness demonstration program to assist disadvantaged communities.

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. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DEMONSTRA-**
4 **TION PROGRAM TO ASSIST DISADVANTAGED**
5 **COMMUNITIES.**

6 Section 629 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
7 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5197h) is
8 amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 629. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DEMONSTRATION**
2 **PROGRAM TO ASSIST DISADVANTAGED COM-**
3 **MUNITIES.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish an
5 emergency preparedness demonstration program to re-
6 search and promote the capacity of disadvantaged commu-
7 nities to carry out programs to provide data, information,
8 and awareness education by providing grants to or exe-
9 cuting contracts or cooperative agreements with eligible
10 nonprofit organizations to establish and conduct such pro-
11 grams.

12 “(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—An eligible nonprofit
13 organization may use a grant, contract, or cooperative
14 agreement awarded under this section—

15 “(1) to conduct research into the status of
16 emergency preparedness and disaster response
17 awareness in households of disadvantaged individ-
18 uals located in urban and rural communities, par-
19 ticularly in those States and regions most impacted
20 by natural and manmade disasters and emergencies;
21 and

22 “(2) to develop and promote awareness of emer-
23 gency preparedness education programs within dis-
24 advantaged communities, including development and
25 preparation of culturally competent educational and
26 awareness materials that can be used to disseminate

1 information to organizations and institutions serving
2 disadvantaged individuals.

3 “(c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—An organization
4 shall be eligible to be awarded a grant, contract, or cooper-
5 ative agreement under this section with respect to a pro-
6 gram if the organization is a nonprofit organization that
7 is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and exempt from tax
9 under section 501(a) of such Code, whose primary mission
10 is to provide services to disadvantaged communities, and
11 that can demonstrate a partnership with a disadvantaged
12 business enterprise, including enterprises located in a
13 HUBZone, with respect to the program.

14 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant, con-
15 tract, or cooperative agreement awarded under this section
16 may only use the proceeds of the grant, contract, or agree-
17 ment to—

18 “(1) acquire expert professional services nec-
19 essary to conduct research in disadvantaged commu-
20 nities, including African American and Hispanic
21 communities;

22 “(2) develop and prepare informational mate-
23 rials to promote awareness among disadvantaged
24 communities about emergency preparedness and how

1 to protect their households and communities in ad-
2 vance of disasters;

3 “(3) establish consortia with national organiza-
4 tions serving disadvantaged individuals, institutions
5 of higher education serving disadvantaged individ-
6 uals, and faith-based institutions to disseminate in-
7 formation about emergency preparedness to dis-
8 advantaged communities; and

9 “(4) implement a joint project with an institu-
10 tion serving disadvantaged individuals, including a
11 part B institution (as defined in section 322(2) of
12 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 1061(2))), an institution described in subparagraph
14 (A), (B), or (C) of section 326(e)(1) of that Act (20
15 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)(A), (B), or (C)), and a His-
16 panic-serving institution (as defined in section
17 502(a)(5) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5))).

18 “(e) APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE.—To
19 be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative
20 agreement under this section, an organization must sub-
21 mit an application to the Director at such time, in such
22 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Di-
23 rector may reasonably require. The Director shall estab-
24 lish a procedure by which to accept such applications.

1 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
2 definitions apply:

3 “(1) DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTER-
4 PRISE.—The term ‘disadvantaged business enter-
5 prise’ means a business enterprise owned and con-
6 trolled by disadvantaged individuals.

7 “(2) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term
8 ‘disadvantaged community’ means a community pre-
9 dominately populated by disadvantaged individuals.

10 “(3) DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUAL.—The term
11 ‘disadvantaged individual’ means a socially or eco-
12 nomically disadvantaged individual as defined by
13 section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
14 637(a)).

15 “(4) HUBZONE.—The term ‘HUBZone’ has
16 the meaning given such term in section 3(p) of the
17 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)).

18 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2004
21 through 2007. Such sums shall remain available until ex-
22 pended.”.

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